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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-07	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02
	CIAE-00	EB-00	DODE-00	H-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	ARA-00
	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	LAB-04	TRSE-00	PM-10
	PA-01	OMB-01	STR-17	SIL-01	INRE-00	RP-10	USIE-00
	SP-02	SR-06	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01

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INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 03709

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, OVIP, EINV, UNHRC, NI, US, CU
SUBJECT: JEB BUSH MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BABANGIDA

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION. JEB BUSH MET WITH PRESIDENT BABANGIDA TUESDAY, MARCH 7, FOR THIRTY MINUTES, ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR EXECUTIVES OF M&W PUMP CO. AND BY AMBASSADOR. PRESENT ON FMG SIDE WERE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IKE NWACHUKWU AND INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE (AND AFRC MEMBER) MOHAMMED GAMBO. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE JEB BUSH'S VISIT, BABANGIDA'S RECENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH, CUBAN HUMAN RIGHTS, AND BABANGIDA'S DESIRE TO VISIT US. END SUMMARY.

3. PRESIDENT BABANGIDA WELCOMED JEB BUSH WARMLY AND SAID HE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE PROGRESS OF HIS TRIP THROUGH THE NORTH. BABANGIDA RECALLED WITH GREAT
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PLEASURE THE MEETING HE HAD HAD WITH PRESIDENT BUSH IN

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L. DARIS
DATE/CASE ID: 18 MAR 2002 200101941

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OKYO AT WHICH SEVERAL IMPORTANT MATTERS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO FURTHER SUCH EXCHANGES. BABANGIDA SAID HE HAD ALSO BEEN FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT FOR THE TOWER NOMINATION, AND HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE MOST RECENT DEFENSE OF THE NOMINATION BY SENATOR HEFLIN. HE WISHED THE PRESIDENT SUCCESS IN THIS MATTER. BABANGIDA ASKED MR. BUSH TO GIVE HIS WARMEST REGARDS TO PRESIDENT BUSH ON HIS RETURN.

1. JEB BUSH THANKED BABANGIDA FOR THE VERY WARM WELCOME HE AND HIS DELEGATION HAD RECEIVED IN NIGERIA. HE SAID THE MEMORIES OF THIS TRIP, WITH THE HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION THROUGHOUT AND THE GRAND PAGEANTRY OF THE DURBAR AT ZOMBE, WOULD BE WITH HIM FOREVER. HE WAS PARTICULARLY MOVED BY THE LARGE FRIENDLY CROWDS, NEARLY 100,000 AT ZOMBE, THAT LINED THE STREETS AND CHEERED AND APPLAUDED WHEN THEY SAW THE CAR WITH THE AMERICAN FLAG. HE PRAISED M&W PUMP AS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION WITH NIGERIA AND A CONTRIBUTOR TO NIGERIA'S DEVELOPMENT

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA. MR. BUSH THEN SAID THAT, AS A PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZEN, HE WOULD LIKE TO RAISE A POLICY MATTER THAT CONCERNED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE GREATLY, AND THIS WAS THE ISSUE OF CUBAN HUMAN RIGHTS BEING DEBATED CURRENTLY IN THE UNHRC. MR. BUSH REVIEWED THE WORK OF THE INVESTIGATORY COMMISSION ON WHICH NIGERIA HAD BEEN A MEMBER, AND URGED NIGERIA TO JOIN WITH US IN VOTING FOR CONTINUED UNHRC SURVEILLANCE OF CUBA. IN HIS REPLY, PRESIDENT BABANGIDA SAID THAT AMBASSADOR LYMAN HAD (FEB. 27) RAISED THIS SAME MATTER

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WITH THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HE HAD READ A REPORT OF THAT MEETING. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION HAD ALREADY PUT SOME PRESSURE ON CUBA AND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION AND WOULD EXAMINE THAT OF NIGERIA. (NOTE: EMBASSY IS FOLLOWING UP AGAIN WITH MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MARCH 8, DRAWING ON THIS EXCHANGE).

6. VISIT TO US. MR. BUSH ASKED BABANGIDA WHEN HE MIGHT

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BE COMING TO THE US. BABANGIDA REPLIED EAGERLY "SOON" AND TURNED TO AMBASSADOR LYMAN TO ASK IF SUCH A VISIT COULD BE ARRANGED. "THIS TIME I WILL DEFINITELY COME", HE SAID (ALLUDING TO HIS INABILITY TO ACCEPT AN INVITATION LAST YEAR). MR. BUSH SAID HE WAS SURE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD GIVE HIM A WARM WELCOME AS HE HAD RECEIVED IN NIGERIA.

7. JEB BUSH PRESENTED PRESIDENT BABANGIDA A SOUVENIR OF THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT BUSH. BABANGIDA RECIPROCATED WITH A GIFT OF NIGERIAN ART.

8. COMMENT: THE MEETING WAS THE CAPSTONE OF AN ENORMOUSLY SUCCESSFUL FIVE DAY VISIT TO NIGERIA BY MR. AND MRS. JEB BUSH. A FULL REPORT ON THE VISIT IS BEING SENT BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. END COMMENT. LYMAN

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