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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MOBUTO DEPARTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1989

Zaire is among America's oldest friends -- and its President is among my dearest friends -- on the continent of Africa. So I was honored to invite President Mobuto to be the first African head of state to come to the United States for an official visit during my Presidency. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]

I first met the President in 19___. And as Vice-President, first visited his Nation in 1982. Four years later, President Mobuto visited the United States. And always, I have been impressed by his insight and vision -- qualities again evidenced in this trip to America. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]

In our talks, the President and I have had the opportunity to review and renew the excellent bilateral relationship between our countries. And we have noted -- to our mutual pleasure -- that those ties continue to be beneficial and productive. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]

One of Africa's most experienced statesmen, President Mobuto has worked with six U.S. Presidents. Together, they -- and we -- have sought to bring to Zaire and all of Africa economic and social progress. And to pursue Africa's true independence, security, and stability as the basis for that development. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]

Over the years, President Mobuto has helped international councils from the UN to the OAU to the Non-Aligned movement address these issues reasonably, and effectively. And invariably, he has urged the peaceful resolution of conflicts, most notably in Burundi and Chad. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]

And just last week, he offered yet another example of "Blessed are the Peacemakers." For in bringing together for the first time the leadership of Angola's warring factions, he set the stage for national reconciliation. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION] Thanks to President Mobuto, we are nearer the goal long sought yet long elusive: peace and opportunity in southwestern Africa. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]

We discussed that goal in our talks here. And President Mobuto and I also examined other important aspects of the regional conflict -- especially the southern third of the African continent. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]

There, we share goals of a rapid, peaceful end to apartheid, the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 -- leading to independence for Namibia -- and the total withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION] Zaire's stake in these results is as enormous as its influence. My advisors and I found President Mobuto's analyses valuable. And we support him as he strives to peacefully resolve the problems. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]

In addition to foreign affairs and regional matters, much of our discussion focused on Zaire's efforts to reform its

economy. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION] I want to note that Zaire recently took the constructive step of signing an economic policy reform agreement with the International Monetary Fund. Because we believe that strict adherence to its terms can produce a healthy economy for Zaire, we intend to support the agreement.

[PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]

And during the President's visit, we also exchanged the instruments of ratification of a bilateral investment treaty. We hope this treaty will cause greater American investment in Zaire, leading, in turn, to greater economic development. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]

In conclusion, I want to reaffirm the strong ties of friendship and interest which bind Zaire and the United States. We thank President Mobuto for coming to the U.S. at this critical time, and for his leadership in central Africa. And we look forward to continued cooperation between our countries. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]

A writer once observed, "Friendship is a sheltering tree." Because of ties which endure and prosper, both Zaire and the United States are better for the shade. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]

Mr. President, we are proud and pleased to have you with us today. [PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]

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