

State Dinner in Honor of Lieutenant General Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, 10/11/77

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October 11, 1977

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

WORKING DINNER IN HONOR OF THE HEAD OF STATE AND COMMANDER
IN CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, LT. GENERAL
OLUSEGUN OBASANJO

Fact Sheet

Menu:

Supreme of Striped Bass

Simi Rose of Cabernet
Savignon

Roast Duckling

Wild Rice

Fresh Broccoli

Tossed Green Salad

Hanns Kornel Champagne

Chocolate Mousse

Decorations:

The table will be decorated with autumn garden flowers -- pyracantha (orange berries), bronze daisies and bronze chrysanthemums -- set in the Biddle vermeil tureens. The vermeil flatware, the Truman China and the Morgantown crystal will be used.

Entertainment:

Pianist Susan Starr, a past winner of the Silver Medal at the Second International Tchaikovsky Competition and a former student of Rudolf Serkin, will perform for the guests in the State Dining Room. Miss Starr has appeared with the major orchestras of North America and has toured throughout this country, Latin America, Europe and the Far East. Her selections will be:

"Prelude in G Minor" by Rachmaninoff

"Nocturne in D Flat" by Chopin

"La Campanella" by Liszt-Paganini

DINNER - Tuesday, October 11, 1977 at 7:30 p.m.

The President

His Excellency Lieutenant General Olusegun Obasanjo
Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Major General Martin Adamu
Commander of the Second Army Division

His Excellency Brigadier Joseph N. Garba
Commissioner for External Affairs

Group Captain Dan Suleiman
Governor of Plateau State, Nigeria

Lt. Col. S. A. Balogun
Governor of Ogun State, Nigeria

His Excellency B. O. W. Mafeni
Commissioner for Agriculture

His Excellency G. A. Ogunlade
Commissioner for Information

His Excellency Alujimi Jolaoso
Ambassador of Nigeria to the United States

His Excellency B. A. T. Balewa
Chief of Protocol, Ministry of External Affairs

His Excellency Ambassador Oladele Akadiri
Director, Africa Department, Ministry of External Affairs

His Excellency Ambassador H. B. Musa
Director of the America's Department, Ministry of External Affairs

Mr. M. Arzika
Principal Secretary, The State House

Mr. M. L. Rafindadi
Director, Research Dept., Ministry of External Affairs

Mr. B. G. Kingibe
Deputy Secretary, Political Department

Dr. Patrick D. Cole
Managing Director, The Daily Times of Nigeria

The Vice President (Walter F. Mondale)

The Secretary of State (Cyrus R. Vance)

The Secretary of Energy (James R. Schlesinger)

The Hon. Zbigniew Brzezinski
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Senator Birch Bayh (Indiana)

Senator Richard Clark (Iowa)

The Hon. Charles W. Duncan, Jr.
Acting Secretary of Defense

Rep. Charles C. Diggs, Jr. (Michigan)

Rep. Charles W. Whalen, Jr. (Ohio)

Rep. Cardiss Collins (Illinois)

Rep. Thomas J. Downey (New York)

Rep. John H. Krebs (California)

The Hon. Clifford L. Alexander, Jr.
Secretary of the Army

General Bernard W. Rogers, USA
Chief of Staff, U. S. Army

The Hon. Lucy Wilson Benson
Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance

The Hon. John E. Reinhardt
Dir., U.S. Information Agency

The Hon. Donald B. Easum
U. S. Ambassador to Nigeria

The Hon. Evan S. Dobelle
Chief of Protocol

The Hon. Richard M. Moose
Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

Lieutenant General John W. Morris, USA
Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army

The Hon. Barbara M. Watson

Administrator, Bureau of Security & Consular Affairs, Dept. of State

The Hon. Melissa F. Wells

Representative of the U.S. on the Economic and Social Council
of the United Nations

The Hon. Thomas W. M. Smith

Director, West African Affairs, Bureau of African Affairs,
Dept. of State

Mr. Henry Richardson

Staff Member, National Security Council

Coates - For fact sheet

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 7, 1977

MEMORANDUM TO: MRS. CARTER AND THE PRESIDENT

FROM: GRETCHEN POSTON

SUBJECT: ARRANGEMENTS FOR NIGERIAN DINNER
October 11, 1977
7:30 p.m.

DECORATIONS

Using the Biddle vermeil tureens, autumn garden selections will be used as centerpieces. Included are pyracantha, bronze daisies, and bronze chrysanthemums.

ENTERTAINMENT

Susan Starr, from Philadelphia, began her formal study at the age of four with Eleanor Sokoloff. Three later continued her work with Mrs. Sokoloff and Rudolf Serkin at the Curtis Institute of Music. At the age of six, she became the youngest soloist ever to appear with the Philadelphia Orchestra and, at sixteen she became the youngest artist to perform at a Philadelphia Orchestra student concert.

In 1962, Miss Starr won the Silver Medal at the Second International Tchaikovsky Competition, an achievement which established her as an international artist and brought her engagements in the major music centers of Europe. She has appeared with the major orchestras of North America, toured throughout the United States, Central and South America, and Europe. Susan Starr has just returned from her fourth State Department-sponsored tour of the Far East.

PROGRAM: Rachmanioff
Prelude in G Minor
Chopin
Nocturne in D flat
Liszt-Paganini
La Campanella

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND
HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT GENERAL OLUSEGUN OBASANJO
HEAD OF STATE AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

THE SOUTH GROUNDS

9:37 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: This morning we are greatly pleased and honored to have as our guest General Obasanjo, the head of state of one of the great nations of Africa, indeed one of the great nations of the world.

Historically Nigeria has been a friend of our country. This is a nation with about 80 million people, a federation like ours of 19 states, a country fairly new in its own present government.

And our distinguished guest this morning was not only a courageous fighter for liberty and independence, but in his first visit to our own nation he came here as one seeking to reconstruct the economy and the people's lives of Nigeria. He is a distinguished military man in war and also has proven himself to be a distinguished military leader in peace.

Nigeria is a country of great importance to us. There is no doubt that this is a most important nation economically in Africa. We have great trade already between our country and Nigeria, a total of about \$6 billion per year. Nigeria is a nation making great social and political progress. A new constitution has already been drafted for this great country, substantially similar to our own, providing for a President, a bicameral legislature, and a continuation of a completely independent judiciary, which has always been a part of the political life of Nigeria.

Nigeria has also moved to establish universal primary education and to use the wealth that has come from their natural resources, as has our own country in the past and at present, to enrich the lives of the people who live there.

Nigeria is a nation of great pride and also a growing leadership, not only among the nations of Africa, but throughout the developing world and indeed throughout all nations on earth.

We are very proud of the presence of this great leader. Seventeen years ago President Eisenhower met

MORE

with the Prime Minister of Nigeria. A year later President Kennedy met with the Prime Minister of Nigeria and now we have the head of state of a new and independent Nigeria. It is a great honor for us to have General Obasanjo here with us, with his leading fellow executives and diplomats to consult with me and my own Cabinet members.

We will be probing ways of increased mutual partnership in dealing with a troubled region of the world in seeking for ways to tie our countries even closer together in a mutual partnership involving politics and economics.

I am very proud that General Obasanjo has been able to come to our country. And I will be visiting his country in about six weeks. This will be the first state visit of a President to black nations of Africa and it is no coincidence that my point-up visit will be Lagos, the Capital of Nigeria.

Let me say in closing that in addition to forming mutual and compatible positions on matters of great moment to us and to the rest of the world, I will be seeking General Obasanjo's advice in how best we can orient our own foreign policy to accommodate the special needs, the special problems, and the special hopes of the great continent of Africa.

So in many ways this will be a fruitful meeting for us, for Nigeria, I believe, for the continent of Africa, and for the entire world.

General Obasanjo, we are very proud to have you here. And on behalf of 215 million Americans, I extend to you our heartiest welcome and gratitude for your superb leadership and the greatness of your country.

MORE

LIEUTENANT GENERAL OBASANJO: President Carter, your excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: I am delighted to be here in this great country and to have the opportunity of personally conveying to you, Mr. President, the Government and the people of the United States, greetings and good wishes of the government and people of Nigeria.

My present visit to the United States marks a new and favorable tone in the efforts to foster cooperation and amity between our two countries.

Mr. President, Nigeria and the United States share many common experiences. Our two countries have behind them a history of colonial rule and political struggles for independence. Both have progressive, dynamic and resourceful peoples deeply committed to freedom, equality, social justice and the pursuit of international peace and security.

Of equal importance is the element of ethnic affinity between our two countries. I have no doubt that this visit will afford both our governments the opportunity to build upon these and the many other bonds that unite us.

We also look forward to elaborating upon the initiatives and dialogue we have started regarding the many matters of crucial importance to Africa and the world. Indeed, it is only recently that the western powers as a whole have come to realize that the quest for global peace and security also involves insuring the stability and rapid development of Africa.

We in Nigeria particularly welcome such a realization on the part of the United States Government and people. We hope that our discussions will contribute toward the progress of the African continent, a process in which your government and people can make significant and welcome contributions.

In this respect, Mr. President, I am sure that we shall pay appropriate attention to the specific issues of the highly volatile and potentially dangerous situation in Southern Africa -- (Applause) -- a situation which threatens international peace and security.

Human degradation, oppression and deprivation, as rationalized and perpetuated in Southern Africa by the racist regimes there, is a crime against which not only Africa but all mankind as a whole must fight. (Applause)

Needless to say, we also attach great importance to other elements of our bilateral relations, particularly in the economic and technical spheres. We in Nigeria have embarked on a program of economic and industrial development for the period 1975 through 1980. We are happy to note that the major industrialized countries are already actually participating in this program. It is our hope that the United States, with its enormous economic and technological capabilities, will find ample opportunities in the program for fuller participation.

Mr. President, may I express the immense appreciation of myself and my delegation to you and the government and the people of the United States for inviting us to visit you. We look forward to a happy stay in your country. Thank you.

END (AT 10:47 A.M. EDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
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