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Information Re: Meeting with Sen. Jesse Helms (R - NC)

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**Position:**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 14, 1998

*file*

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE B. BOWLES

FROM: LARRY STEIN  
TRACEY E. THORNTON *TS*

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SENATOR JESSE HELMS (R-NC)

Attached is a memorandum from the Department of State outlining foreign policy issues of concern to the Senator. One of the White House's highest priorities is the enacted of the Africa Trade bill (Africa Growth and Opportunity Act).

• **Africa Trade Bill**

We have recently encountered another problem in trying to move this bill. The Senate Finance and Senate Foreign Relations Committees staff have worked out an informal agreement to allow the bill to be marked-up by both committees. **Senator Helms has not agreed to hold the mark-up. We need the Senator to do so quickly in order for it to have a chance to make it to the Senate floor this session.**

Suggested talking points:

-- I understand you have almost reached an agreement with Senator Robb on moving the Africa trade bill out of the committees.

-- Your agreement for sequential referral is essential to this process. This bill is key to changing our relationship with Africa to a more equal partnership by emphasizing trade and investment.

-- Africa textiles make up only .62 percent of the textile and apparel imports in the United States. Even if the industry grows 100 percent in the next five years, which is highly unlikely, imports would still only equal 1.2 percent of imports.

-- 700 million prosperous Africans will buy U.S. products in the long term. This bill is about American jobs as much as it is about helping Africa.



## United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Memo

To: Erskine Bowles  
White House Chief of Staff

From: Barbara Larkin *[Signature]*  
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

Re: Your Meeting With Senator Helms

It is our understanding that you will be paying a courtesy call on Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) Chairman Jesse Helms tomorrow, and we appreciate having the opportunity to flag some issues for your attention.

In general, the State Department's relations with Senator Helms and the SFRC are excellent, and the Committee has been very helpful to the Department and our nominees. More than twenty State nominees have been reported out of the SFRC this year and confirmed by the full Senate, and we have another 35 yet to go. The Department has a very positive relationship with the Helms staff as well, particularly with Admiral Bud Nance, the Committee's Staff Director.

Law of the Sea

Together with the Defense Department, we are attempting to convince Senator Helms to schedule a hearing, and move forward with ratification, of the Law of the Sea Convention. Helms and his staff have opposed Law of the Sea in the past, and Defense Secretary Cohen recently met with Helms to try to convince him that the problems in the Convention have been fixed. It would be helpful if you could raise Law of the Sea, and let Helms know that it is a White House priority. We will lose our seat on a rule-making body set up by the Convention if we do not become a party by November 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Loy Nomination

Frank Loy has been nominated by the President to be Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs. Senator Chuck Hagel, who will chair Loy's confirmation hearing, demanded that the Department answer 60 pages of questions on global climate change, and give him copies of numerous Administration documents, before a confirmation hearing would be scheduled. After answering the questions, Hagel scheduled a hearing for this Thursday, but he has now informed the Department that the hearing will be cancelled unless all the documents he requested are provided by then. We need Helms to encourage Hagel to de-link the Loy nomination from the document request, and Todd Stern is calling Hagel to assure him that the Administration will be as responsive as possible in producing these documents.

### CTBT

We are also waging an uphill battle to win SFRC approval of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) this year. Helms strongly opposes the Treaty, and has refused to schedule a hearing until the Administration submits the Kyoto protocol and the ABM Treaty amendments to the Senate for approval. The Administration is not prepared to submit these treaties to the Senate at this time.

### African Growth and Opportunity Act

We have been working closely with USTR to win approval of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which was approved by the House earlier this year. The Secretary recently testified at a hearing of the Senate Finance Committee on this legislation, and Finance is likely to combine the bill with the Caribbean Basin Initiative legislation. However, the SFRC is also asserting jurisdiction over the Africa trade bill, and we need to encourage Helms to work constructively with the Finance Committee and the Administration to get the legislation done this year.

### White House Pre-Clearance Information

The SFRC staff is concerned that the Administration will start to blame the SFRC if State nominees don't get done by adjournment. They have requested that we give the Committee, for each nominee, the date that the nominee's information was given to the White House Counsel's office, and the date that the nominee was approved by White House Counsel. We have consulted with Marsha Scott and Chuck

Ruff, and they have said that they have strong objections to providing this information to the Committee. We recently received the attached letter from Staff Director Bud Nance in which he indicates that John Shattuck, the President's nominee to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic, will only be put on the July 16<sup>th</sup> European hearing if we provide them with this information. If Bud Nance is there, he may raise this matter with you.

### Religious Persecution

The Administration strongly opposes House-passed legislation mandating sanctions against countries in which religious persecution exists. Due to concerns raised by SFRC Republican moderates, the legislation has yet to be reported out of committee. We have been working with SFRC staff to craft an alternative that we can all support, but we need to make it clear that the legislation as passed by the House, and as introduced in the Senate by Senator Nickles, is unacceptable to the Administration.

### China Satellites

The Department is responding to an extensive document request from the SFRC and Senator Lott on China satellite exports. Senator Lott harshly criticized the State Department (and other Departments) on the Senate floor today for insufficient cooperation in this document request. The Department is fully cooperating with the document request, but Lott and Helms are upset that we have stuck with our standard practice - used in previous Congressional investigations - of making Congressional staff examine most classified documents at the Department.

### State Department Authorization Conference Report

Congress has yet to transmit the State Department Authorization conference report to the President for his expected veto. Helms has indicated that the bill will be held until a politically appropriate time, likely the fall. You should be aware that Speaker Gingrich recently suggested to Sandy Berger that the vote on override of the Russia-Iran legislation could be postponed if the President indicated his willingness to sign the State bill.

## ERSKINE BOWLES TALKING POINTS FOR HELMS MEETING

Frank Loy

- As you know, Frank Loy has been nominated to be Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs. His confirmation hearing before Senator Hagel was originally scheduled for tomorrow (Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>).
- His hearing has been postponed due to complications surrounding questions and documents regarding climate change that your Committee has requested.
- Many of these issues concern economics, which are not in the purview of the State Department. I hope you will encourage Senator Hagel to proceed with the hearing as originally scheduled so that the Secretary can have all of the advisors she needs.

Law of the Sea

- I understand that you have assured Secretary Cohen that you would schedule a hearing on the Law of the Sea treaty in September.
- As you know, we will lose our seat on a rule-making body set up by the Convention if we do not become party to the Convention by November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- I really appreciate your willingness to proceed with this and hope that the full Senate will have an opportunity to provide its advice and consent prior to adjournment.

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- We have been working closely with your staff to craft legislation that we can all support.
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05/26/99 WED 18:49 FAX  
05/27/99 THU 06:14 FAX  
05/28/99 WED 16:58 FAX  
05/28/99 18:38 FAX  
05/28/99 WED 14:08 FAX 202 228 1338

USIA CORN AFFAIR

SENATOR HELMS

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# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 1999

cc: Tracey

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are deeply concerned about the continuing negotiations regarding China's being admitted into the WTO. In light of current events, and, specifically, the recent incidents in and by China, we are fully convinced that the most responsible and appropriate step is to set aside negotiations.

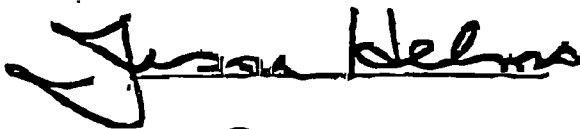
China's entrance into the WTO would have a permanent and significant effect on the American economy, not to mention the flexibility of future Administrations. Under present circumstances, the U.S. should take a step back, reconsider the current approach to China and resume negotiations only when they can be conducted without the overhang of ancillary events.

Among the issues that must be addressed is the effectiveness of our current terms of engagement with China. Recent newspaper editorials across the political spectrum have suggested that the Chinese government's sanctioning of the attacks on our embassy in Beijing, the torching of the consulate, and the attacks on U.S. businesses demonstrate clearly that our engagement policy and delinking trade from other issues such as human rights have not fostered the deep, stable and meaningful relationship between the United States and China that had been promised.

Moreover, the Chinese government's allowance (and even encouragement) of such unlawful activity against the United States emphasizes the concerns many members of Congress have expressed about China's willingness and ability to enforce the rule of law, including its WTO commitments.

In short, we are persuaded that the United States will be well served by such a "time-out." We look forward to working with you on this issue in the future and to developing an appropriate policy toward working with China.

Sincerely yours,





Ben Gilman

