

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
WASHINGTON, D. C. - ARRIVAL STATEMENT

Jan. 11, 1968

Mrs. Humphrey and I return this evening from two weeks of discovery -- discovery of a vast and diverse continent where nations and people are striving for much the same things we Americans seek.

Over these past two weeks -- in nine African countries -- we have met leaders and people dedicated to building strong and free societies through self-help.

Everywhere there was genuine and abundant good will for the United States and sincere appreciation and gratitude for our assistance and support.

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Everywhere we went, we were encouraged to see a dedication to national independence. We saw, too, new efforts toward African regional cooperation and peace among neighbors . . . and a willingness to work long and hard in the cause of social and economic development. African nations are lifting themselves.

In Africa, we made clear our country's dedication to -- and support for -- nation-building, both at home and abroad.

We emphasized our commitment to Self-determination; majority rule; National independence within an interdependent Africa; National Security with international cooperation; National Development with Regional

3 *and International ~~Cooperation~~ framework*

We explained some of the things happening in America. We listened and we learned about things happening in Africa. And we reaffirmed America's dedication to equality of opportunity . . . to social and economic progress . . . to the hard daily work of human betterment not only in our own country, but wherever people share those ideals.

Africans do share these ideals. And, within our priorities and means, they deserve our help.

I shall give a full report to President Johnson. I shall report that Africa is on the right road, although its long journey has only begun.

I shall report that Africa wants America and its help.

I shall report that our welcome everywhere was warm ~~and~~ sincere *and often enthusiastic. Literally thousands of people greeted us everywhere.*

As we return, we are struck once again by the growing interdependence of this shrinking world. Our neighbors today live not only in our own American communities, but in a million towns and villages where ordinary people reach out for their place in the sun.

Our future -- and theirs -- may well depend on how we meet the test of these next few years . . . on whether we Americans play a strong and vital role in the world ~~or whether~~ we withdraw and turn inward.

I believe we can and shall continue to meet our responsibilities of leadership.

It's good to be home.

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