

TO: Mitch Tyson

FROM: Joy Roller

RE: Notes from the meeting at the home of Raymond Almeida  
(Director of the American Committee for Cape Verde)

DATE: November 29, 1978

Mr. Almeida explained that the interests of this group of concerned Blacks relate to policy issues and problems of domestic and international racism. He said the group is anticipating qualitative changes in state policy due to Mr. King's victory. The group wants Paul to use his leveraging power as U.S. Senator to help keep the fundamental strengths and advancements (in terms of racial problems) experienced in the Sargent and Dukakis Administrations intact.

In response to Mr. Almeida's introductory remarks Paul said he realized that to many he is recognized as the person who defeated Ed Brooke. He listed his four major priorities. He commented on the loss of progressives in the Congress in the election, and claimed that he and Ed King have different philosophical views, such as, with cities. He said that if King does not come through for the cities he will use the strength of his office to deal with the problem.

A participant said his response to Paul is positive, but he wants to make sure Paul doesn't play a double game--playing big-time liberal in Washington and then turning his back on Massachusetts because it is hard to be liberal with the old-style politics found here.

Paul explained that sometimes that is the sane thing to do, but that he wants to do what is best for the economy of the state. He said accessibility is the cornerstone of political viability.

The following are questions and answers from the evening's discussion.

Q. What is your position on building community support for a piece of legislation?

A. The vehicle of expression in the state will be the town meetings, but bills are passed in Congress and it is best to spend the time there for their passage.

Q. Given the King Administration's different style of Democratic politics, will you use the Senate office to make sure Federal funds are geared to minorities?

A. That's an easy question. Yes, I will. It's in King's political interest to broaden his base, if he has the sense to do that is the question.

Q. Will you try to influence his cabinet positions?

A. I'm going to try to do that starting tomorrow.

Q. You have mentioned you are a pragmatist and that your mind can be change. Will you elaborate on that?

A. For example on the Dellums amendment calling for troop withdrawal from Europe, I cosponsored that bill. When I was convinced that that kind of withdrawal was a signal to the Soviet Union I fought against the bill. On technical issues my mind can be changed, but on philosophical issues, like abortion, my position can't be changed.

Q. How about in regards to African policy?

A. I have been regarded as an interventionist. I have been involved for 12 years. After 12 years I can't see changing sides.

Q. It matters who you talk to.

A. I'm not that easily hoodwinked.

Q. In Africa, particularly South Africa, if the Soviet communist threat became clear, will it sway you? If you go to South Africa go aware of the severe restrictions of South Africans in terms of information. Those outside S.A. are more informed than those inside.

A. I am younger than Brooke. I think in generational terms. In 25 years things are going to be different. The Communist menace--I won't fall for that line. The Soviets are racists. In Ethiopia, they don't even speak the language.

Q. How do domestic and African Third World concerns link up in your mind?

A. I have perceived them as separate in the past. In the 5th district there is no obvious connection.

Q. The door to the U.S. Government has been closed to the African National Congress of South Africa (i.e. Vance has not met with a representative). All organizations in S. Africa agree with the nine issues in the statement of concerns. We need someone to fight for these issues. What is your response?

A. I need your help on this. I want a seat on the Foreign Relations Committee. Perhaps if any of you would contact the steering committee members it would help. Unless I get on the committee and the African sub-committee it will be hard to spend as much time on these issues as I want.

Q. If you go to Zambia, will you meet the president of the liberation movement?

A. (Didn't catch response)

Q. What would be your plan for the liberation of Zimbabwe?

A. I don't have an answer for that now. If I get on the Foreign Relations Committee, I can envision having seminars, perhaps spending Sunday mornings getting experts together and letting them go at it.

Q. The U.S. could potentially have the upper-hand in Africa. We have continued to get U.S. aid and intervention in Africa, while we can't get any money into Roxbury.

A. We should learn from Viet Nam...the focus has to be on Southern Africa with its long term implications.

Referring to Part III, page 2 of the group's statement:

Q. What problems do you have with the list of South African issues?

- A.
- 1) There's no way your going to stop all loans and finances in South Africa. The focus is on the Import Bank.
  - 2) Economic sanctions against the Rep. of S.A.--that's the topic of my law thesis.
  - 3) Yes, to cessation of all technical changes
  - 4) Yes, to full implementation of U.S. arms embargo to S.A.
  - 5) No problem with aid to emerging African nations.
  - 6) No problem initiating dialogue with A.N.C.
  - 7) No problem redefining "political refugee"
  - 8) I didn't know we don't have diplomatic recognition of Angola and Mozambique.
  - 9) I'm not knowlegable enough to comment on participation in struggle for national independence and reconstruction.

Q. How would you personally defy resistance to majority rule?

A. Administration makes that determination. How do you write a bill like that that's going to pass?

Q. In the staffing of your office make sure you choose someone with a sense of public liberation.

A. We'll hire an Africanist, an energy expert, and a foreign relations expert.

Q. I believe the fear and racism in this country bears on the neglect of African concerns. It is important to connect the problems of U.S. and African Blacks. You cannot please those wealthy people of interests you mentioned that backed your campaign, and liberation interests.

A. That's not true! What is common to both is economics.

Q. What are we going to do about the KKK and racism here?

A. Full employment, evolutionary process,...the racist are going to be there.

Q. In terms of the need for full employment, can you support the concept of expanded affirmative action to give 50% of the public construction jobs to local residents?

A. I don't care about the labor unions. They didn't back me in the last two campaigns. I have no philosophical difficulty with the proposal, but I question it since so many state and local officials don't support it. A problem may arise with being unable to have local talent to fill the needed jobs, like off-shore oil drilling in New Bedford for example.