


OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification and Caveats RESTRICTED	Precedence/Deskby PRIORITY
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ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	RESTRICTED
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FROM FCO 191500Z JAN 84
PRE/ADD	7	TO PRIORITY DAKAR
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	YOUR LETTER OF 6 DECEMBER: OFFICIAL VISIT BY SEKOU TOURE
	10	1. Lunzer called on the Department on 9 December to say that
	11	Sekou Toure wishes to pay an official visit to the UK in
	12	advance of assuming the OAU Chairmanship in June 1984. On
	13	the same day Ian Nicholls, Managing Director of Davy Mackee Ltd
	14	called on the Department to convey a verbal message from Sekou
	15	Toure requesting an invitation. According to Nicholls, Sekou
	16	Toure did not wish to involve his Embassy in Paris until he was
	17	sure that any request would receive a positive response.
	18	Nicholls also said that Sekou Toure had stressed that he did not
	19	want Lunzer to be involved.
	20	2. Sekou Toure's influence and increasing moderation on
	21	international matters could be useful to us during his OAU
///	22	Chairmanship on such matters as Southern Africa. But there is
//	23	no possibility of arranging an official visit by him during 1984
/	24	or even 1985. You know well enough the constraints on the number
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File number	Dept WAD	Distribution Limited WAD Protocol Dept OADs PS PS/Mr Rifkind Mr Squire
Drafted by (Block capitals) A Clark		
Telephone number 233 3269		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

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2 of such visitors and we are sure that you would agree with us

3 that we should not try to substitute him for Diouf who is a

4 reserve visitor for this year.

5 3. However, subject to your views, we believe that it would

6 be best if you were to take an early opportunity to see

7 Abdoulaye Toure in Conakry and, with reference to his

8 conversation with you at the end of November during the PDG

9 Congress, speak to him on the following lines:

10 (a) When we met in Conakry you mentioned the possibility of

11 President Sekou Toure paying an official visit to the United

12 Kingdom. I understand that Mr Lunzer, the Guinean Honorary

13 Consul in London has also written to the Foreign and Commonwealth

14 Office about this matter.

15 (b) We would naturally welcome a visit. But as you are no

16 doubt aware official visits involve an enormous amount of

17 meticulous preparation and organisation. We are sure you

18 appreciated this from your own visit last September, and the

19 arrangements for a Head of State visit have to be even more

20 precise and co-ordinated. Such visits are therefore planned

21 as long as two years in advance and a programme of such visits

22 once organised is very difficult to alter because of the other

23 commitments of those involved.

24 (c) The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have looked very care-

25 fully and sympathetically at the possibility of including

26 President Sekou Toure in the programme of visits for 1984 and

27 1985. But I fear the programme is already fully committed.

28 (d) I should be grateful, therefore, if you would inform

29 the President that whilst we wish to continue to strengthen

30 our political and economic ties with the People's Republic of

31 Guinea, and were very glad to welcome you here as our guest last

32 September, we regret that it is not possible for us to ask

33 him to pay an official visit before or during his Chairmanship

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 2 of the OAU.
 3 (e) However, Ministers would be glad to see the President should
 4 he decide to make a private visit or to pass through London
 5 during his travels elsewhere (subject of course to diaries). It
 6 would clearly be useful to have as much notice as possible of
 7 any proposed visit.
 8 (f) I thought I should speak to you personally on this matter in
 9 order to explain, so that there are no misunderstandings, that
 10 whilst we do not want to place obstacles in the way of a visit,
 11 it is just not possible given the way we arrange official visits
 12 (for which there is a very long waiting list) to invite the
 13 President to London officially this year.
 14 4. We hope that a response on these lines delivered by you will
 15 be the best way of avoiding the impression of giving a rebuff.
 16 In the meantime, we are simply telling Lunzer that you will be
 17 speaking direct in Conakry as soon as you are able.
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