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May 4, 2001 7:34 PM

TO: Honorable Colin Powell  
Honorable Condoleezza Rice

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld *DR*

SUBJECT: Procedure for Presidential Talking Points

As I mentioned to you, I was hopeful that, after completing the training for the first two Nigerian battalions and the Ghana and Senegal battalions for Sierra Leone, we could avoid having to do three more battalions in Nigeria.

As I began the process to try to get us out of that arrangement established in the prior Administration, I ran into the fact that someone had prepared talking points for the President's conversation with the president of Nigeria, wherein he, in effect, made a commitment to fulfill the prior Administration's arrangement to train three more battalions.

When things involve the Defense establishment, it could be helpful to have the talking points run by **DoD** before being given to the President, so that once we get our people **onboard** we can offer our views with respect to them before the boss makes commitments.

Thanks.

DHR:dh  
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