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Kaunda's shocking toast

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia told President Ford in an extraordinary toast at a White House state dinner last night that "Southern Africa is poised for a dangerous armed conflict."

He asked America to try to preserve peace by ending support for white minority governments.

Kaunda, who led Zambia to independence in 1964, vigorously criticized the United States for providing assistance of any kind to maintain minority white rule in Rhodesia and apartheid — legal discrimination — in South Africa.

"Southern Africa is poised for a dangerous armed conflict," Kaunda said. "Peace is at stake. A conflict with disastrous consequences can be averted, but I submit there is not much time. Urgent action is required. America must heed the call of the oppressed."

Ford and Kaunda had

spent an hour conferring yesterday afternoon. A White House statement issued afterwards said part of the meeting was devoted to "the changing political discussion in Southern Africa." It gave no hint that Kaunda had expressed the views he did in his toast.

Reporters were not permitted at the state dinner but Kaunda's remarks evidently surprised Ford.

The President, in his earlier toast, praised Kaunda for his "commitment to peaceful negotiation" of Africa's political problems

predicting "peaceful diplomacy will bear great fruit." He made no specific reference to problems in Southern Africa.

Kaunda, speaking with apparent emotion, said repeatedly that black African leaders were hopeful of achieving their objectives "by peaceful methods."

"We feel it is our moral duty to avoid bloodshed where we can," he said. "We are determined to do this — but not at any price, not at the price of freedom and justice. There we say no. No."