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COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

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Statement by Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary of State
Bureau of African Affairs

Political Situation in Niger

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson is deeply concerned by the February 18 events in Niger where a military officer-led group claims to have deposed the government of Mamadou Tandja. The United States places great importance on Niger's speedy return to democracy and the rule of law. The United States was deeply concerned about the illegal and unconstitutional actions that resulted in the extension of President Tandja's term of office. The group calling itself the Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy "must restore Niger to the constitutional democracy that existed prior to the creation of the 6th Republic." The Assistant Secretary offers his assurances that the United States will continue to support the hopes of the people of Niger to see restored constitutional order and a peaceful transition through prompt, fair, and transparent elections. "We will continue to monitor the situation in Niger closely as it unfolds."

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