1. Mr Simmonds had one of his regular catch-ups with Baroness Chalker on Thursday last week, covering a wider range of her recent contacts. She was accompanied by Ross Alexander, Director at Africa Matters Ltd. Some snippets.

Namibia

2. Baroness Chalker expected that PM Geingob would take over as President at the end of the latter's term.

Nigeria

3. Lady Chalker was disappointed by Jonathan's (largely non-) showing at her HIIC in December

She thought the PDP would win the election with or without Jonathan and it was unlikely that VP Namadi Sambo would be Jonathan's running mate

The Catholic Bishop of Sokoto had asked to speak to her personally – she expected it would be about the political situation in the north. Mr Simmonds agreed to speak to Baroness Chalker after he had visited Nigeria in February.

Rwanda

4. Lady Chalker was appalled by the killing of Patrick Karagawa.

Mozambique

Chalker thought we should continue to encourage a process of dialogue in contacts with FM Baloi, DFM Banze, former President Chissano (the latter through her relations with Leonardo Simao, a former Foreign Minister).

Others in brief

6. ; both had tried to convince Tedros and Hailemariam to do so.

Baroness Chalker added that **Gabon** was doing the same for parts of central/West Africa (for e.g. Congo Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea and others). She thought that Bernard Membe was likely to succeed President Kikwete in **Tanzania**. She was interested in learning more about DFID's trade focused work there.

7. Finally, Lady Chalker expressed concern about Oxfam's 'Behind the Brands' campaign. Oxfam had told her that the FCO was fully supportive of the campaign, despite Mr Simmonds said he was unsighted, and Lady Chalker promised to follow up with this office (comment, I will speak to a member of her team this week).

Best wisnes		

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