

Salim lashes out at super-power criticisms

THE "TYRANNY of the majority" charge against developing countries at the United Nations must be construed as super power criticism based on false premises, Tanzania's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim, declared in Dar es Salaam on Thursday night.

Speaking at a public lecture at the Dar es Salaam University, Ambassador Salim, who is also the Chairman of the UN Decolonisation Committee (the Committee of 24) told a capacity audience that it is a fact that there is some display of anger among some members of the developed countries against the strong voice of the developing nations at the UN.

However, he pointed out that

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claims by some major powers that the developing countries are being too assertive and irresponsible had been misplaced.

"What has happened," he explained, "has nothing to do with the so-called tyranny of the majority except that the Third World countries are beginning to assert their long overdue rights."

The world could not continue to live in the past where nations simply echoed whatever decisions were made by the super powers, he said.

"The situation," he emphas-

sised, "has changed and it is a healthy change where the Third World cannot be taken for granted any more. The whole nature of super power criticisms has been based on false premises and all the Third World wants is that these powers accept reality."

On the role of the Committee of 24, Ndugu Salim said it has scored great success considering the fact that it can only play a supportive role, which is not of a reinforcement nature.

"We do not believe the UN can decolonise. It can only expedite the process as a supporting agency and it is the foremost responsibility of the colonised peoples themselves to be in the forefront

of the liberation struggle," he pointed out.

He said the thrust this year will be on Rhodesia and Namibia and there is every hope for independence within this year following the gallant peoples' struggle in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea Bissau.

Ambassador Salim urged Dar es Salaam University students to keep their spirit of supporting liberation movements and exposing the enemy.

He singled out the United States as a leading defaulter of sanctions imposed on Rhodesia and said the Committee of 24 will continue to support the liberation struggle not only in Africa but also in the Caribbean and the Pacific