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ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY, H.E. MR. SALIM AHMED SALIM TO THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES
TUNIS, MARCH 11, 1990

MR. CHAIRMAN,
HONOURABLE MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION,
MR. SECRETARY GENERAL,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES THE AMBASSADORS,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

ALLOW ME TO EXTEND MY WARM AND FRATERNAL GREETINGS AND TO CONVEY A MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY TO THE NINETY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES. MAY I IN THE SAME BREADTH THANK MY BROTHER CHEDLI KLIBI FOR HAVING HONOURED ME WITH AN INVITATION TO ADDRESS THIS DISTINGUISHED GATHERING.

I AM PLEASED WITH THIS SINGULAR OPPORTUNITY THAT I AM THUS PROVIDED TO TAKE THE FLOOR BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES JUST AFTER THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IN WHICH I PARTICIPATED, FOR THE FIRST TIME, AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION. IT IS ALL THE MORE GRATIFYING BECAUSE THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES, WHOSE HONOURABLE COUNCIL I HAVE THE HONOUR TO ADDRESS TODAY, IS A SISTER ORGANIZATION OF THE OAU WITH WHICH IT SHARES A COMMON GEOGRAPHICAL SPHERE AND CIVILIZATION.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

THE ARAB WORLD AND AFRICA ARE BOUND BY A COMMON DESTINY BUILT ON A SHARED HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY. THIS COMMON HISTORY AND DESTINY HAVE BEEN REFLECTED IN THE SOLIDARITY THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS AND GIVEN A FORMAL STAMP OF APPROVAL DURING THE 1977 AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT IN CAIRO.

ON THE POLITICAL FRONT, THIS SOLIDARITY HAS BEEN EXHIBITED IN THE MUTUAL SUPPORT FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES UPHELD BY EACH OF THE GROUPS AND THROUGH THE COORDINATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. POLITICAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ARAB WORLD AND AFRICA WAS MOST EFFECTIVELY DEMONSTRATED IN THE JOINT AND VEHEMENT CONDEMNATION OF THE REPREHENSIBLE SYSTEM OF APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA AND OF ISRAEL'S POLICIES IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE.

RECENT EVENTS HAVE PROVIDED A GLARING EVIDENCE OF SUCH SOLIDARITY IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE WITH THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT YASSER ARAFAT TO LUSAKA TO MEET NELSON MANDELA WHO WAS JUST COMING OUT OF A LENGTHY INCARCERATION IN THE

PRETORIA JAILS AND PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA'S TOUR TO SOME ARAB COUNTRIES DURING THE SAME PERIOD. APART FROM THE FORTUNATE COINCIDENCE, THE HIGHLY SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF BOTH TRIPS IN THE COMMON STRUGGLE OF THE ARAB AND AFRICAN PEOPLES TO ENSURE RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY OF MAN AND PEOPLES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE NEEDS TO BE UNDERSCORED.

IT WAS WITHIN THIS PURVIEW THAT THE FIFTY-FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ALSO DWELT ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND REASSERTED ITS UNWAVERING STAND IN SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE. ABOVE ALL, IT REAFFIRMED THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN STATE IN PALESTINE WITH JERUSALEM AS ITS CAPITAL. IT REITERATED ITS FULL BACKING FOR THE MASS UPRISING OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE - THE INTIFADA - AND CONFIRMED ITS ENDORSEMENT OF THE EFFORTS TO CONVENE AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PLO AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THE COUNCIL FURTHER DENOUNCED, VEHEMENTLY, THE EXPANSIONIST SETTLEMENTS POLICY PURSUED BY ISRAEL IN PALESTINE

PARTICULARLY THE IMMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS AND THEIR SETTLEMENT IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE COUNCIL ALSO APPEALED FOR RECONCILIATION AMONG THE LEBANESE PEOPLE SO THAT THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON COULD BE PRESERVED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TAEF AGREEMENT AND PAID TRIBUTE TO THE COMMENDABLE EFFORTS MADE BY THE TRIPARTITE ARAB HIGH COMMITTEE. IT EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PEACEFUL DEMARCHES BEING MADE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 598 PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND ENTENTE BETWEEN IRAQ AND IRAN.

THE DIFFICULTIES CONNECTED WITH THE CONVENING OF THE SUPREME ORGANS OF AFRO-ARAB CO-OPERATION, WHICH WE HOPE WILL SOON BE REMOVED, SHOULD NOT BECOME AN UNAVOIDABLE OBSTACLE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES THAT HAS BEEN JOINTLY ADOPTED. THE STANDING COMMISSION ON AFRO-ARAB CO-OPERATION SHOULD DEFINITELY BE PUT TO MORE DYNAMIC USE. IT IS SUCH USE WHICH WILL DETERMINE OUR SERIOUSNESS.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

NOW THAT THE EAST/WEST IDEOLOGICAL RIFT WHICH DICTATED THE PACE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SINCE THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IS FADING AWAY, THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE NORTH/SOUTH CLEAVAGE WILL TAKE ON A NEW DIMENSION. THE NEW POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CLIMATE THAT NOW PREVAILS BETWEEN THE TWO PREVIOUSLY ANTAGONISTIC SUPER-POWERS WILL BRING TO THE FORE THE FLAGRANT ECONOMIC DISSIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED NORTH HENCEFORTH TOGETHER AND THE POOR SOUTH LEFT TO ITS OWN DEVICES. THIS MAKES IT URGENTLY NECESSARY TO RESTORE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE ON A MORE DYNAMIC FOOTING AND ESTABLISH SOUTH/SOUTH CO-OPERATION WHOSE AFRO-ARAB DIMENSION WOULD DEFINITELY PROVE A MAJOR BOOST TO ITS OPERATION.

IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, THERE IS CAUSE TO BE WORRIED THAT CLEAVAGES BASED ON RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS MAY BE REKINDLED IF NOT ENCOURAGED BY THOSE WHOSE DESIGNS ARE THWARTED BY THE ENTENTE AMONG THE PEOPLES OF THE THIRD WORLD AND PARTICULARLY BETWEEN AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD. WE MUST BE MOST ALERT TO SUCH DANGERS THAT HAUNT OUR COUNTRIES WHOSE UNITY IS STILL FRAGILE AND WHICH COULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE AFRICAN UNITY AND HENCE AFROARAB SOLIDARITY. WITH THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRISIS IN AFRICA,

SOME FISSURES HAVE INDEED APPEARED IN THIS ARMOUR OF SOLIDARITY. THEY SHOULD BE CEMENTED SO THAT THE PRESENT TREND WHICH SERIOUSLY THREATENS THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFROARAB SOLIDARITY SHOULD BE REVERSED.

IT IS DEFINITELY IMPORTANT TO ENCOURAGE A MORE OBJECTIVE MUTUAL AWARENESS OF THE REALITIES OF BOTH GROUPS AND ESCHEW, ANY REFERENCE TO PREJUDICES AND CLICHES THAT ARE OFTEN FABRICATED BY PARTIES THAT ARE FOREIGN TO BOTH GROUPS. AFRO-ARAB RELATIONS SHOULD, IN OTHER WORDS, THRIVE IN AN ATMOSPHERE DEVOID OF AMBIGUITY AND UNWARRANTED PROBLEMS AND TAKE ON THE STRATEGIC DIMENSION TO WHICH IT SHOULD RIGHTFULLY ASPIRE. THE HUGE VOLUME OF CONCRETE PROJECTS THAT ARAB AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES CAN JOINTLY REALIZE IN THE INTEREST OF THEIR PEOPLES AND IN ESTABLISHING AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND ENTENTE CANNOT BE OVERSTRESSED.

PERHAPS NO SINGLE FACTOR HOLDS THE KEY TO THE FULL REALIZATION OF AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION THAN KEEN KNOWLEDGE OF EACH OTHER. EACH OF THE TWO PEOPLES HAVE DIFFERENT PROBLEMS, HOPES AND ANXIETIES. WE CAN NOT ASSUME TO KNOW EACH OTHER UNTIL WE TAKE THE TROUBLE TO DO SO. WE CANNOT

THEREFORE ALSO ASSUME THAT WE CAN PROCEED TO APPLY A STANDARD FORMULA TO OUR COOPERATION AND NEITHER CAN WE ASSUME THAT ALL THE PEOPLE RESPOND THE SAME WAY TO THAT FORMULA. TO BE RELEVANT, WE SHOULD ENDEAVOUR TO ADOPT PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CHARACTERISTICS UNIQUE TO EACH COMMUNITY AND WHICH ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS.

THERE ARE GENUINE PROBLEMS WHICH FACE US. THEY MAY BE DIFFICULT TO TALK ABOUT AND THEY MAY INVOLVE DEEP EMOTIONAL FEELINGS. BUT THEY ARE REAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE CONTINUED TO EXARCEBATE TENSIONS AND WHICH THREATEN THE LONG TERM STABILITY OF THE EDIFICE OF AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION. THEY MAY BE PROBLEMS OF COLOUR OR RELIGION. BUT WE CANNOT WISH THEM AWAY BY SIMPLY AVOIDING TO DISCUSS THEM. I AM CONVINCED THAT THE PROSPECTS OF LONG TERM PROSPECTS FOR THE CONSOLIDATION AND GROWTH OF OUR COOPERATION WILL BE IMMENSELY ENHANCED BY CANDID AND REALISTIC APPROACH TO THESE PROBLEMS.

I SPEAK IN THESE TERMS BECAUSE I AM TOO KEENLY AWARE THAT OUR DETRACTORS, THE ENEMIES OF OUR SOLIDARITY HAVE USED THESE VERY DIFFERENCES TO CREATE CLEAVAGES BETWEEN

THE ARAB WORLD AND AFRICA. THEY HAVE SOUGHT TO WHIP UP EMOTIONS AND PLAY-UP MINOR DIFFERENCES AND IN THE PROCESS IMPART PREJUDICES IN THE WAY WE VIEW ONE ANOTHER.

THE ARAB PEOPLE MAY HAVE THEIR OWN MISCONCEPTIONS, BIASES AND PREJUDICES AND SO DO THE AFRICANS. BUT WE NEED TO COME TOGETHER AND SEEK HARMONY IN OUR DIFFERENCES AND UNITY IN OUR DIVERSITY. WE SHOULD RISE ABOVE THESE IDIEOSYNCRATIC TENDENCIES AND PROCEED ON THE PATH TO GENUINE COOPERATION. TO DO SO, HOWEVER, WE WILL NEED TO MAKE THE POLITICAL DETERMINATION TO ACCEPT AND UNDERSTAND THESE DIFFERENCES AND TO BUILD ON WHAT UNITES US.

AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION WILL MAKE MEANING ONLY IF IT IS FIRMLY ANCHORED IN PRINCIPLES AND NOT MERELY LEFT TO DRIFT IN THE UNCERTAINTIES OF POLITICAL WINDS. THE IMPERATIVE OF AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION IS BORNE OUT OF NECESSITY. THE SHARED HISTORY, CULTURE AND BONDS OF COMMON CIVILIZATION COMPEL US TO WORK TOGETHER, TO COOPERATE. THIS IS NOT A FAVOUR WE MUTUALLY EXTEND TO EACH OTHER AND WHICH WE MAY SUBJECT TO INDIVIDUAL WHIMS OR WITHDRAW AT WILL. THAT COOPERATION UNDERLINES THE ESSENCE OF THE BONDS BETWEEN US. WE CAN ONLY IGNORE IT AT OUR OWN PERIL.

AT A POLITICAL LEVEL, WE MAY GIVE IMPETUS TO THAT COOPERATION BY CLOSER SOLIDARITY AT INTERNATIONAL FORA. OVERTIME, IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT OUR STRUGGLES ARE INSEPARABLE. WHETHER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COLONIALISM AND APARTHEID IN SOUTHERN AFRICA OR AGAINST POLICIES OF EXPANSIONISM AND OCCUPATION PRACTISED BY ISRAEL WE HAVE FOUND OURSELVES IN SOLIDARITY.

WHAT I WANT TO STRESS, HOWEVER, IS THAT THIS SOLIDARITY IS NOT AN ACT OF FAVOUR WE DO TO EACH OTHER AND WHICH PRESUMABLY COULD BE TRADED AS POLITICAL QUID PRO QUO. THESE STRUGGLES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE HAVE THEIR OWN MERIT AND STAND ON THEIR OWN QUITE APART FROM AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION. IT IS NOT BECAUSE OF THEM THAT WE HAVE AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION. IT IS NOT FOR SUPPORT OF AFRICA THAT THE ARAB WORLD SUPPORTS THE FIGHT AGAINST APARTHEID. SIMILARLY, IT IS NOT AN ACT OF BENEVOLENCE OR FAVOUR WHEN AFRICA SUPPORTS THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE. ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS ON THE BELIEF THAT APARTHEID IS WRONG AND MORALLY REPREHENSIBLE. IT IS ON THE CONVICTION THAT ISRAELI POLICIES OF EXPANSIONISM AND OCCUPATION ARE FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED AND UNACCEPTABLE.

THESE CONVICTIONS ARE INDEPENDENT OF AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION THOUGH THEY CAN IMMENSELY BENEFIT FROM IT. AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION MUST BE THE TOOL AND THE PROCESS BY WHICH WE SEEK TO TACKLE OUR COMMON CHALLENGES. IT IS NOT BECAUSE WE HAVE THE PALESTINIAN AND APARTHEID PROBLEMS THAT WE HAVE AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION. TO ARGUE SO WOULD SUGGEST THAT OUR COOPERATION WILL CEASE WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS. INDEED IN THAT CASE IT WILL HAVE LOST RELEVANCE.

AT THE ECONOMIC LEVEL, WE COULD GIVE IMPETUS TO COOPERATION BASED ON CONCRETE ACTION AND NOT DECLARATIONS OF INTENT AND MANY ELABORATE RESOLUTIONS WHICH HAVE REMAINED UNIMPLEMENTED LARGELY BECAUSE THEY NEVER HAD RELEVANCE TO THE ACTUAL SITUATION IN THE FIRST PLACE. BOTH AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD COULD GO INTO A PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BASED ON SHARED NEEDS AND COMPLEMENTARITY OF RESOURCES. AFRICA IS ENDOWED WITH NATURAL RESOURCES. IT HAS VAST AGRICULTURAL LANDS WITH IMMENSE POTENTIAL. IT IS BLESSED WITH WATER AND MANY MINERAL RESOURCES. THE ARAB WORLD IS BLESSED WITH ABUNDANT CAPITAL. OUR PEOPLE HAVE THE NECESSARY SKILLS AND WILL TO WORK. TOGETHER,

WE CAN BRING THESE VAST NATURAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL AND THE KNOW-HOW OF THE PEOPLE TOGETHER INTO A FORMIDABLE UNION.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY ACCORDS MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND WOULD THEREFORE HOPE THAT TANGIBLE RESULTS WILL COME OUT OF THE CO-OPERATION THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IS ALSO HIGHLY INTERESTED IN THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND INFORMATION WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE. THESE ARE AREAS OF COOPERATION WHICH CONSTITUTE THE VITAL LINK IN THE EFFORTS THAT NEED TO BE MADE ON THE PATH TO AN ENHANCED MUTUAL AWARENESS AND GREATER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA AND OF THE ARAB WORLD.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

IN THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES OF AFRO-ARAB CO-OPERATION, MY ATTENTION WAS DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AT ACTIVITIES WHICH AIM AT PROMOTING INVESTMENTS IN THE TWO REGIONS.

IN THIS RESPECT, WE SHOULD BE PLEASED WITH THE PRACTICAL STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO DRAFT A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR THE PROMOTION AND GUARANTEEING OF INVESTMENTS AND TO CONVENE THE CONFERENCE THAT WILL BRING TOGETHER AFRICAN AND ARAB INVESTORS. I MUST EXPRESS MY DEEP GRATITUDE TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE EMIR OF KUWAIT, FOR THE POSITIVE INITIATIVE HE TOOK IN PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRO-ARAB FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INSTITUTION WHOSE STATUTES WILL SOON BE CONSIDERED BY A COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS IN KUWAIT. I WOULD LIKE TO OBSERVE IN THIS RESPECT THAT ALTHOUGH IT IS NECESSARY TO ENCOURAGE THE MEMBER STATES OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS THAT ARE CONDUCIVE TO INVESTMENT, THERE IS NEED TO APPEAL TO THE ARAB AND AFRICAN INVESTORS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD AND EXHIBIT SOME UNDERSTANDING FOR THE HARDLY ATTRACTIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OF THE TWO REGIONS.

THIS AREA OF CO-OPERATION IS OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO AFRICA. YOU ARE INDEED AWARE OF THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC SITUATION NOW PREVAILING IN AFRICA BESET BY THE ADVERSITY OF AN INEQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT IMPOSES A DRACONIAN DECLINE IN THE TERMS OF TRADE AND AN UNBEARABLE

LEVEL OF INDEBTEDNESS ON IT. APPARENTLY, THIS IS THE RANSOM THAT AFRICA HAS TO PAY IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS DOMINATED BY THE DEVELOPED WORLD.

AFRICA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION HAS GROWN WORSE WITH THE IMPACT OF A HOSTILE CLIMATIC ENVIRONMENT. THE OAU WAS COMPELLED, IN VIEW OF THIS SITUATION, TO SET UP A SPECIAL EMERGENCY FUND FOR DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN AFRICA WHICH THRIVES ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AFRICA AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT HAS, AS OF NOW, FINANCED FORTY PROJECTS IN TWENTY AFRICAN COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY DROUGHT AND FAMINE TO THE TUNE OF US\$ 18,700,000 PROVIDED MAINLY BY MEMBER STATES OF THE OAU.

THIS SPECIAL FUND, WHICH WAS CONCEIVED AS AN INSTRUMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, IS IN CRITICAL FINANCIAL STRESS AND AN APPEAL HAS BEEN MADE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO REPLENISH ITS COFFERS.

UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS AND DESPITE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC REFORMS INTRODUCED BY AFRICAN STATES AT HEAVY COST IN SOCIAL TERMS, AFRICA'S EFFORTS AT ECONOMIC RECOVERY, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE AFRICAN PRIORITY PROGRAMME FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

ADOPTED BY THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE OAU IN 1984, STILL REMAIN IN THE REALM OF ILLUSION. THE CONTINENT IS IN URGENT NEED OF A NEW INFLUX OF CAPITAL TO SUCCESSFULLY CARRY OUT ITS STRATEGY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY. UNFORTUNATELY, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS NOT HEEDED AFRICA'S APPEAL. I PERSONALLY BELIEVE IN THE ABILITY OF THE ARAB COMMUNITY TO RESPOND TO THIS APPEAL IN KEEPING WITH ITS SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY AND BROTHERHOOD.

MR. CHAIRMAN,
EXCELLENCIES,

YOUR COUNCIL IS MEETING AT A CRUCIAL JUNCTURE IN THE HISTORY OF OUR RESPECTIVE REGIONS. IN AFRICA, NAMIBIA STANDS AT THE DOORS OF SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE. THE STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID HAS BEEN EMBOLDENED BY THE RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA. ONLY TWO DAYS AGO, WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF WELCOMING HIM TO THE OAU HEADQUARTERS IN ADDIS ABABA. THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE HAS ACQUIRED NEW HEIGHTS. THE PEOPLES UPRISING "THE INTIFADA" IS TAKING ROOT AND SHAKING THE ISRAELI ESTABLISHMENT FROM ITS VERY FOUNDATION. PALESTINIAN BOYS AND GIRLS AND INDEED CHILDREN, ARMED WITH

NOTHING BUT PEBBLES AND THEIR SHEER WILL, HAVE STOOD IN
DEFIANCE AGAINST THE ISRAELI MILITARY MACHINE.

ALL THESE ARE IMPORTANT GAINS WHICH MUST BE SUSTAINED
AND CONSOLIDATED. THEY ARE A PRODUCT OF OUR SOLIDARITY.
NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED TO CLOSE OUR RANKS AND BUILD
ON THESE GAINS. WE NEED TO SUMMON ALL OUR ENERGIES FOR
THIS FINAL AND DIFFICULT PHASE OF OUR COMMON STRUGGLES.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND I WISH YOU EVERY
SUCCESS IN YOUR PROCEEDINGS.