

FOREIGN NEWS

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Salim becomes premier

DARESSALAAM (UPI)—President Julius Nyerere yesterday swore in a new vice president and streamlined cabinet, increasing the powers of his new prime minister and probable heir apparent Salim Ahmed Salim.

In a ceremony at the presidential residence in Dar es Salaam, Nyerere took oaths of loyalty from Vice President Hassan Ali Mwinyi, Premier Salim Ahmed Salim and the entire cabinet.

Nyerere cut the number of ministries from 21 to 14, reshuffled and fired ministers and appointed the new vice president and prime minister late Tuesday in the most sweeping government changes since he came to power 22 years ago.

The 62-year-old president promoted Salim from his post as foreign minister to the premiership to replace Edward Sokoine, who died in a car crash two weeks ago, and

appointed Zanzibari President Mwinyi as Tanzanian vice president to replace Aboud Jumbe who resigned in January.

Tanzanian ambassador to Washington Benjamin Mkapa took over Salim's ministry. Mkapa, 45, had served as foreign minister from 1979 to 1980 when he lost foreign affairs to Salim and took over the Ministry of Information until 1982.

The prime minister's office gained considerable power in the changes, gaining responsibility for regional administration, local government, cooperative development, social welfare, cooperatives, information and housing.

Five ministers in the last cabinet lost their posts when their ministries merged, including Natural Resources and Tourism Minister George Kahama, and the Ministry of Information and Culture was scrapped.

The number of officers with cabinet rank fell by seven to 25. The last cabinet reshuffle was in February 1983.

Western diplomats said putting Salim, 42, an internationalist from Zanzibar, in the No. 3 spot in the government made him the most likely successor to Nyerere, who has said he will not run in the 1985 presidential elections. Salim lost to Javier Perez de Cuellar in the election for United Nations' secretary-generalship in 1982.

The diplomats said the reduction in the number of ministries reflected little in terms of political power plays as Nyerere was executing plans for a more efficient government prepared by his former heir apparent Sokoine.

The appointment of Mwinyi, 59, who was elected to the presidency of the semi-autonomous island of Zanzibar Thursday, to the Tanzanian vice presidency was widely



Salim Ahmed Salim

expected as his successor held both posts as well.

Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar merged in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania.

"The fact that there are now Zanzibaris in the No. 2 and 3 posts in the government is deceptive as although Salim was born on the island, he is such an internationalist that he has no real power base there," a high-ranking Western diplomat said.



● Tanzania's new Prime Minister, Mr Salim Ahmed Salim.

Nyerere names new premier

Dar-es-Salaam: President Nyerere has appointed the Foreign Minister, Mr Salim Ahmed Salim, as his new Prime Minister.

Mr Salim, aged 42, who was viewed as a serious contender for the post of UN secretary-general in 1981, replaces Edward Sokoine, aged 46, who was killed in a car accident on April 12.

Radio Tanzania said that Dr Nyerere has not yet named a foreign minister to replace Mr Salim, who is one of few Tanzanian political figures other than the President to have experience overseas.

Mr Salim established himself as a diplomatic prodigy before

he was 30, during the 1970s, he was his country's chief representative at the UN.

In addition, the new Prime Minister was chairman of the UN's special committee on decolonisation. He presided over sessions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, and was closely involved in affairs of the African group at the UN and the Non-aligned Movement. He built a reputation as one of Africa's most experienced and influential diplomats.

Mr Salim, born on the island of Pemba on January 23, 1942, had the endorsement of the organisation of African Unity and the backing of about a third of the UN membership

to succeed Dr Waldheim as secretary-general in 1981.

But permanent members of the Security Council including the US, backed Dr Waldheim for an unprecedented third five-year term. Another Third World candidate Mr Perez de Cuellar of Peru, emerged as the compromise choice.

Sokoine, as prime minister, was seen as a possible successor to Dr Nyerere, who has led Tanzania since independence from Britain in 1961.

The Radio said yesterday that Dr Nyerere also named the newly-elected President of the semi-autonomous island of Zanzibar, Mr Ali Hassan Mwinyi, as his vice-president.—AP.

Appointment of PM halts uncertainty in Tanzania

From Andrew Buckoke in Dar es Salaam

Uncertainty over the Tanzanian leadership has for the moment been resolved by President Nyerere's appointment of Mr Salim Ahmed Salim as Prime Minister. The well-known former foreign minister, previously tipped as a possible UN secretary-general, must now be considered a strong contender for the presidency if Dr Nyerere keeps to his plan to step down next year.

The uncertainty started with Aboud Jumbe's resignation from the presidency of Zanzibar and vice-presidency of the Union to take the blame for allowing outspoken secessionist views to be aired on the islands, deepened in March when Dr Nyerere confirmed his intention to step down as President next year, and became critical when the Prime Minister, Mr Edward Sokoine, at 46 the obvious candidate to succeed him, died in a car crash two weeks ago.

Alli Hassan Mwinyi, Mr Jumbe's interim successor as President of Zanzibar, was confirmed in that post by

last Thursday's election in Zanzibar, in which he won an 87 per cent Yes vote as sole candidate.

The reshuffle surrounding Mr Salim's elevation saw him appointed Vice-President of the United Republic, a post vacant since January. The post is traditionally held by the Zanzibar President, and Mr Mwinyi, widely seen as President Nyerere's protege on the islands, cannot be considered a potential successor.

An objection to the possibility of Mr Salim's succeeding President Nyerere has been that his years at the UN and the Foreign Ministry put him out of touch with domestic politics. A period as Prime Minister should rectify that and allow him to develop an internal base, especially since the Prime Minister's Office now controls local government, community development, social welfare, cooperatives, information, and housing.

Though neither he nor any other minister can be expected to deviate from the party line, the new Cabinet — reduced from 22 to 15

ministries in a search for efficiency and economy — seems to give more sway to the moderate or pragmatic side of the party.

Apart from foreign affairs, where Benjamin Mkapa is recalled from his Washington ambassadorship, the main ministries remain unchanged, though absorbing some new responsibilities, while most of the minor ones have been merged.

Though described as a major reshuffle, most of the old faces remain and none of the five ministers dropped can be considered a political heavyweight, with the possible exception of George Kahama whose widely discussed wealth and capitalist tendencies had perhaps become too much for a Socialist government to countenance. But his portfolio of natural resources and tourism, with lands added, went to Paul Bomani.

When President Nyerere said it was inevitable that the presidency change hands next year, he confirmed what he had said at the beginning of the present five-year term.