



*Organization of African Unity*  
*The Secretary General*

Ref. CAB/GM/69/21.91

Addis Ababa, November 12, 1991

His Excellency  
President George Bush  
The White House  
Washington D.C.  
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Dear Mr. President,

The process of electing the new Secretary General of the United Nations has now reached an advanced if not decisive stage. In these elections the position of the United States as a Permanent Member of the Security Council and the most powerful and influential power in the world is clearly pivotal.

You are aware, Mr. President, of Africa's great desire and fervent hope that this time round, a qualified African would be elected to head the United Nations. This desire and expectation on the part of the African States is motivated not just by the fact that no African has had such an honour and opportunity, but more importantly by the belief that Africa does have people of calibre whose competence, commitment and integrity would be an invaluable asset to our Organization. Indeed, these are the considerations which led the African Heads of State and Government at their Summit in Abuja, Nigeria in June this year, to call for the election of an African to the post and to appeal to the international community to make that possible.

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The Security Council has before it a number of qualified candidates presented by our Continent for the position. These candidates combine experience in government, diplomacy and international organizations. Above all they can be relied upon to serve the best interests of the United Nations at a time when the UN's role has become especially crucial, considering the challenges and opportunities of the day. It is Africa's hope that your great country will find it possible to support the candidature of an African.

I wish to take this opportunity to appeal to you personally, Mr. President, to give Africa a chance. I do so conscious of your commitment to the principles of fairness and justice. I do so also in the knowledge of your friendship towards our continent and our people. But above all I do so with the full understanding of your own personal commitment to the United Nations. In making this appeal for the support of the United States I am also reflecting the sentiments and aspirations of all Member States of the OAU who are clearly looking forward to an election of an African to this position.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration and personal esteem.

Salim Ahmed Salim