



Organization of African Unity
The Secretary General

Ref. CAB/GM/69/23.91

Addis Ababa, November 12, 1991

His Excellency
Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev
President of the USSR
The Kremlin
MOSCOW

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 Soviet Union as a Permanent Member of the Security Council 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.

.../



Organization of African Unity
The Secretary General

2

CAB/GM/69/23.91

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 the Soviet Union will find it possible to support the candidature of an African.

I wish to take this opportunity to appeal to you, Mr. President, to give Africa a chance. I do so conscious of the strong relations that exist between the USSR and Africa. More importantly however, I do so in the belief that you are fully aware of Africa's contribution and commitment to the United Nations. Additionally, I do so in the confident belief that the USSR will recognize that these African candidates possess the necessary competence, skills, capabilities and experience to provide leadership of the Organization.

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

Salim Ahmed Salim