

FOREIGN DAR ES SALAAM  
FILE: TZNY/U.11/9/34  
NTX/ 257

Following for Minister Mkapa repeated to  
Tanzanrep Addis Ababa, Tanzanrep Khartoum  
and all Tanzanreps.

The African Group met this morning to  
discuss the question of candidature for the Presidency  
of the 34th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

As is customary, all candidatures are referred  
to the Group's Candidature Committee. In this respect,  
several weeks ago the Committee had met and endorsed my  
candidature which was the only one presented. It was  
therefore generally expected that the Group's meeting  
today would be non-controversial and my candidature would  
be easily endorsed for recommendation to the Khartoum Summit.

However, this morning, the Permanent Representative  
of Mauritius, Ambassador Radha Krishna Ramphul submitted a  
formal note to the O.A.U. Office stating that his Prime  
Minister was proposing him as a candidate. In his note,  
Ambassador Ramphul claimed that at the 1973 Summit in Addis  
Ababa his Prime Minister had expressed his firm intention  
to submit the candidature of a Mauritius diplomat for the  
Presidency of the 29th Session. But they did not insist at  
that time on their intention in deference to the candidate  
of Foreign Minister Bouteflika of Algeria. He therefore



claimed that in effect their intention was an old one and on that basis submitted Ambassador Ramphul's candidature.

For your information, there is no such long-standing candidature. Furthermore, as the Permanent Representative of Sudan, who in 1973 was Sudan's Ambassador to Ethiopia, pointed out, Sudan also had the intention of submitting a candidate but did not do so. Thus it was no argument to base arguments on intentions. The truth of the matter is that all of us were in Addis Ababa and no other candidate was offered besides that of Bouteflika.

In any case, due to Ambassador Ramphul's last minute candidature, the Group was faced with the report of the Candidature Committee recommending our candidature for endorsement and the note of Ambassador Ramphul.

The meeting today was very well attended, mostly at Permanent Representative level. In the discussion there were basically two trends. The first one, which was overwhelmingly supported, was that the African Group should endorse Tanzania's candidature and recommend the Summit to approve the same. Notable among those who clearly and unambiguously supported this position were Senegal, Tunisia, Upper Volta, Liberia, Uganda, Zambia, Libya, Sudan, Burundi, Botswana, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Guinea, Algeria, Mali and Mozambique on



behalf of all the Portuguese speaking countries.

The other trend was upheld by those who were hesitant to have the Group pronounce its position at this stage in view of the last minute candidature of Ambassador Ramphul. They argued that it would be best to refer the question to the Council of Ministers and Summit without any specific recommendation. Those who upheld this view were Gabon, Ivory Coast, Morocco and Cameroon. Nevertheless, after the meeting the Ambassadors of Gabon, Ivory Coast and Cameroon assured me that their hesitation related only to the procedure and not the substance of our candidature, which incidentally, even at the meeting the Ambassador of the Ivory Coast clearly stated that they supported.

After a lengthy, and in my opinion, positive debate, the African Group adopted the following consensus:

- (a) The Group endorses the recommendation of the Candidature Committee supporting Ambassador Salim's candidature for the Presidency of the 34th Session and recommended this candidature for the approval of the OAU Council of Ministers and Summit in Khartoum.
- (b) That Mauritius is free to make reservations on this recommendation of the African Group if they wish and is free to raise its candidature directly at the Khartoum sessions, if they so choose.

Clearly the endorsement of the African Group of my candidature is an important and significant plus for us.



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It is nonetheless important for us all and in particular Foreign, Tanzanreps Addis Ababa and Khartoum to do our utmost to ensure the smooth adoption by the Summit of the African Group's recommendation of our candidature. Stop Ends.

SALIM  
/TANZANREP NEW YORK

20/6/78