

## SAS NOTES/DIARY

2230 – 0115 hours went to a nightclub at the Ramsis Hilton. Soher Zaki was performing balle dancing. I had first and last seen her perform in 1964 when I was Ambassador in Cairo. She has aged naturally but has lost none of her Charm, agility and grace.

N.B: Around 2030 Juma + Laila Hamid called from London

### **Monday, February 23, 1987**

At 0700 hours we left Cairo for Algiers via Lyon and Paris by air France flight .... (Airbus) We were seen off at Cairo Airport by Egyptian Foreign office officials led by Ambassador Ahmed Hatuta and Embassy officials led by Ambassador Foum.

The trip to Lyon took 3 and half hours (half an hour less than scheduled) and after 20 minutes transit we proceed to Paris which took 50 minutes. From CDG Airport where we were joined by the Embassy staff led by Ambassador Tatu Nuru we went to ORCY airport where at 1530 hours we left for Algiers by Algerian Airline.

We arrived in Algiers at 1720 local time and were met by Senior Defence & armed Forces officials led by Secretary General of the Presidency.

### **Tuesday, February 24, 1987**

Today has been a fully utilised day. We had two working Sessions with the Secretary General of the Defence Ministry and his senior collaborators; a meeting with the Vice Minister of Defence & Chief of the General Staff and accrue all a meeting with President Chadli Benjedid, Secretary General of the FLN and Minister of Defence. Thus to all practical purposes these has been a climax of my three day working and friendly visit to Algeria.

#### First Working Session

Prior to this session we went to the Mantlyre's Monument where I laid a wreath. This solemn ceremony took place between 0935 and 0950 hours. There after we proceeded to the Defence Ministry to meet formally with the Secretary General of the National Defence and his colleagues.

General Mustapha Cheloufi, Secretary General of the National Defence Ministry is a member of the Central Committee of the FLN Party and in defalo in charge for the day to day functioning of the Ministry since the actual Minister of Defence is the President of the Republic himself. After a brief tet - a tete at a small lounge. We proceed to a formal session in a Conference Room. Participant on the Algerian side were:

- |                                |   |   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. General Kamel Abderrahimq   | - | Member of the CC & Vice Chief of the General Staff responsible for operations, Organisation and Logistics |
| 2. Genral AbdelMalik Guenaizia | - | Member of the Central Committee and Commander of the Air Force  |
| 3. General Medjoub Lakhel Ayat | - | Member of Central Committee and Central Director, Military Secretary                                      |

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4. Lt. Colonel Larbi Bendahmane	-	Director Central de Telecommunications
5. Lt. Co. Abderrahmane Zighoud	-	Director Central des Infrastructure Military
6. Lt. Col. Beldjelti Abderrezak Hassan		Director of Foreign Affairs
7. Lt. Co. Mohamed Tayeb Bourezag		Director Central du Material
8. Major DIH Zine	-	Director Central d L'Interndance
9. Major Djaballah Mezerlkad	-	Chief de Bureau Cooperation and Secretariat General
10. Captain Henai Sebti	-	Aide de Camp
11. Captain Najib Mohamed	-	Interpreter
12. Lieutenant Zehraoui Achour	-	Interpreter

Participant on the Tanzania side were COT, Brigadier Luhanga; Director Tibaijuka; DPM + MOD, Lt. Col. Rashid and Mohamed Maharage Juma of our Embassy in Paris.

The substantive session began at 1025 hours and was interrupted at 1145 hours when word came that President Chadli would be receiving me shortly. It was then agreed to continue the session in the afternoon.

In my presentation which took the whole of the morning session, I gave an in-depth briefing to the Algerian delegation on the situation in Mozambique highlighting in the process the following factors:

- Historical expose of the destabilisation campaign against Mozambique first by the South regime and then by the Pretoria regime using the MNR/RENAMO – the armed bandits.
- The deteriorating security situation in Mozambique before and after the death of President Samora
- The current strategy of the enemy and why Zambezia has assumed a special significance;
- The repeated requests of Mozambique for assistance from President Samora to president Chissano and our initial reluctance to assist in the manor requested;
- The nature of Mozambique's request as conveyed to us and the FLS
- The conclusions, decisions & recommendation's of the Ministers of Defence and Security of the FLS through the ISDSC
- The decision of our Party and Government to assist by sending forces & the implications of this decision bearing in mind our serious economic difficulties and the magnitude of the operation considering the logistical problems involved;
- The security concerns of Tanzania independent of the Mozambican operation. Issue of mobility-Transport and communication

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- The measures we have taken to deploy forces and the other measures contemplated
- The need to train Mozambicans
- The importance of recognising that the battle for the security of Mozambique is not only military but has Socio-economic and political facets which are crucial if South Africa's strategy is to be defeated;
- I also gave them a detailed expose of the efforts we have made to mobilise international assistance and the response we have thus received. I did this by giving a country by country reaction starting with India, Cuba, Yugoslavia, Nigeria, China and USSR.

It is when I had begun summarising the impressions and outcome of the current Mission to Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt and here in Algeria there an officer came in to deliver a message about my meeting with president Chadli.

It was then agreed that we adjourn and continue our deliberations at 1600 hours today.

### Meeting with President Chadli Benjedid

The meeting took place at the Presidency; President Chadli was with the Director of the Director of the Cabinet of the President of the Republic General Larbi Belkheir and the Secretary General of the National Defence Ministry General Cheloufi. At the request of the Algerians, I was alone during the meeting. The meeting lasted for 45 minutes – from 1245 to 1330 hours.

The President welcomed me warmly with an embrace. He then enquired about the health of President Mwinyi pointing out that he had met him during the Non-aligned Summit in Harare last year. He said that he would be very happy to welcome President Mwinyi in Algeria. Thereafter he enquired about Mwalimu Nyerere, his good friend and brother. "I will be very happy if Mwalimu can also visit us. He is most welcomed in Algeria. He is a dear friend and brother. I will never forget his heroic role in Africa".

I told President Chadli that both President Mwinyi and Mwalimu Nyerere were fine and that both had asked me specifically to send him their greetings and best wishes. I also told him that I was sure President Mwinyi would be delighted to visit Algeria in the near future. As for Mwalimu he had in fact been planning to come to Algeria in March on his way to Latin America with respect to his South – South Commission. He now can't do so but is planning to make a separate visit to Algeria in the near future.

I then told the President that, both, the President, the Party Chairman and indeed our Politburo (Central Committee) had mandated me to come to Algeria and give him and Algerian leadership an elaborate, in-depth and succinct expose of the situation in Mozambique. I wanted also to express our thanks and gratitude for the prompt response given by Algeria after I had briefed the Algerian Ambassador in early December 1986.

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I then proceeded to do just that i.e. brief the President. I explained that since I had briefed General Cheloufi who must have briefed him I would only highlight certain elements of crucial importance. To this end I highlighted the following:

- The fact that Mozambique had been a permanent victim of destabilisation since independence by the armed bandits first being used by the South regime and later by the Pretoria regime;
- The escalation of these destabilisation notwithstanding the Nkomati Accord; the particular escalation
- Before and after the death of Samora Machel
- The enemy objective of capturing Zambezia and its consequences for the region as well as for the security of Tanzania.
- The request of Mozambique for military assistance and the decision of our Party and Government to respond positively.
- The complicated & costly nature of the operation
- The tremendous economic and logistic difficulties confronting us.
- The ---- & problems interims of mobility (Transport) and communication facing our Armed Forces & the need to strengthen our defence capabilities in order to confront South Africa's threats.
- The integrated nature of the support required in Mozambique – military, economic, political and social Re: The mistakes commuted by FRELIMO e.g. the neglect of the Rural areas; the elitist approach of the Party and how this had antagonised some fewer FRELIMO militants, the lack of organisation of the armed forces and thus the deficiencies demonstrated despite massive members and high quality equipment.
- President Chissano's visit to Tanzania and his objective evaluation of the problems and his intention to take measures to overcome them.

Finally I stressed the point that my mission to Algeria had a twin objective. First to thank Algeria for her positive response; secondly to explore how Algeria can assist including what Algeria can do to mobilise international support. I emphasised that we were cognisant of Algeria's own economic problems and other important commitments and any assistance rendered would be all the more appreciated.

President Chadli expressed profound appreciation per the brief. He stated that Mozambique's mistakes (like the signing of the Nkomati Accord and thus compromising with the enemy) notwithstanding; she meds and merits support. Algeria understands the nature confronting the Frontline States as a result of the policies of aggression and destabilisation of the apartheid regime. "These challenges are also challenges to Algeria and to Africa".

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He said that Algeria is assisting Mozambique and will continue to do so. In respect to Tanzania "We will study together what we can do to help Tanzania in order to help Mozambique". Algeria values Tanzania's contribution and understands her difficulties.

On the Arab front, he has during the recent Islamic Conference in Kuwait spoke to several Arab leaders and urged them to support the Frontline States. He has also spoken to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, the Italians, the Swedes, the French and the Spanish and urged them to support the Africa Fund set up by the Non-aligned Movement in order to strengthen the Frontline States. He found positive reaction. He will continue to mobilise for support.

The Algerian leader again reiterated that the challenge facing the Frontline States is a "Challenge against us all". Algeria will assist in accordance with her means.

He then recalled Algeria's campaign to get President Kaunda elected the next Chairman of the OAAU in order to give a political impact to the struggle being waged by the FLS. He has spoken to several leaders of Africa including President Diouf of Senegal, President Traore of Mali and others and they were all supportive of KK's candidature. When he met President Kaunda in New Delhi for the Africa Fund Summit he spoke with him on this. The Zambian leader did not say much but made it clear that if that be Africa's wish he would be ready to serve. President Chadli said that he had heard that the Egyptians were hoping (Campaigning?) that President Mubarak becomes the next Chairman. He has asked his Foreign Minister Talib Ibrahim to speak to the Egyptians so that they do not press Mubarak's candidature and leave the position to KK. President Mubarak could be Chairman in 1988. "Please explain this to President Mwinyi". I said that I would do so but pointed out that President Mwinyi had already expressed his full support for President Kaunda when Algeria's envoy (Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry) came to Dar es Salaam last December.

In conclusion President Chadli again asked me to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Mwinyi and his dear friend Mwalimu. The interview concluded at 1330 hours.

1505 – 1605 hours meeting with the Vice Minister of Defence and Chief of the General Staff of the Algeria Armed Forces who is also a member of the Politburo of the FLN. General on fighter of Algerian independence who is in his sixties ----- a link between the Army and the Algeria Revolution. Our discussion was more general in character dealing with desirability of cooperation between Algerian & Tanzania Armed Forces, the situation in North Africa – the Chad situation, the threats against Libya; the Western Sahara question as well as developments in Southern Africa especially Mozambique.

The Chief of the General Staff presented me with a memento of Algerian Armed Forces Emblem with my name.

At the end of the meeting and before I left for the Hotel, the Secretary General pulled me aside and told me: "Be assured you would be very satisfied with your trip. We are

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going to assist. I a military man – a combatant of the Algerian War – I want to be very specific in what we can do”.

### 1615 – 1705 hours Second working session in the Defence Ministry

I concluded my presentation by explaining the outcome of my visits to Addis, Khartoum and Algiers. These referred to possibilities of Algeria's assistance and underscored the following elements:

- (i) Initially we had asked Algeria to provide us with Transport plane to ship with Bde group & Equipment but since now Ethiopia offered to do so. I would like to request Algeria to place at our disposal in Dar es Salam to be used for say six months effectively two or three months from now
- (ii) With respect to other areas of assistance I leave that to the Algerians since we have already given them a list of possible areas of assistance but our major areas of priority include transportation and communications --- provision of fuel. I stressed nonetheless we realised that it would only be appropriate for Algeria to assist us especially in those areas which they produce.
- (iii) I also stated that Algeria may consider giving us assistance outside those provided in the list.

The Secretary General thanked me most sincerely for a comprehensive and in-depth brief and for the sensitivity I had shown and the confidence demonstrated to Algeria. I had already met the President Chadli who has stated that Algeria would give assistance- what was now needed is concretisation of that assistance. In this respect, he proposed and I agreed that a team of our officials should meet tomorrow morning and ----- details. In this connection, he said that Algeria could assist in such areas as Uniforms, armaments, medical support (they are consulting with the Health Minister) Oil (in consultation with the Energy Minister) and food in order to provide it to the liberated areas of Mozambique. He also stated that the Algerian team would take the initiative whenever they are items which they fill could be provided but which are not included in the Tanzania List. The objective is to study the problem and give you a precise answer.

The Secretary General pointed out that in response to our original request they were considering to send a ship to ferry the Bde & Equipment. But since now the issue of immediate transport will be settled by the Ethiopians, they will consider my latest request of basing a plane in Dar es Salaam.

Before the session ended I raised the issue of cooperation between our Armed Forces independent of the operation in Mozambique. To the end I proposed and the leader of the Algerian delegation agreed that the Team of experts should took with framework and modalities of cooperation which can cover such areas as: Joint Ventures; Cooperation between the National Services; Exchange of visits & delegations; Cultural Cooperation e.g. the visit to Algeria of our Cultural groups from the Nationals Service and the TPDF as well as the possibility of Training.

1930 – 2210 hours dinner with the Inspector General of the Algerian Armed Forces

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**Wednesday, February 25, 1987**

At 0920 hours accompanied by the Inspector General of the Algeria Armed Forces General ..... I went to CHERCHEL to visit the Algerian Inter-Arms (combined) Military Academy. Cherchel is located some 90 kilometres from Algiers and we covered the distance by some 1 hour 20 minutes. All members of my delegation with the exception of Brigadier Luhanga and Lt. Col. Rashid went with me. In accordance with the agreement arrived at yesterday at the working session with General Cheloufi the Secretary General of the Algerian national Defence Ministry the last two stayed behind and had discussion with a team of Algerian officers at the Defence Ministry concerning some technical details of our requirements.

Our stay at the academy lasted a little more than three hours and included a comprehensive briefing of the Academy, course content, structure, qualifications for entry, the type of Trainees etc; a visit to different classrooms, Laboratories (e.g. Electronic) field training (e.g. APCs, Tanks – T62 and T72) a class for war college students a Museum and finally a luncheon at the officers Mess.

The Academy is a highly impressive and unique Institution in that it combines training from new officer Cadets (3 yrs after the Baccalaureate) Staff College and War College. It is well equipped; the medium of instruction is Arabic. They do have some foreign students notably from Zimbabwe [N.B. we should make it a point to have some students here preferably junior officers who can take a three year course]. The Commandant of the Academy, a Veteran of the Independence War, General presented me with:

- (a) An Album containing photos of my visit
- (b) The Academy's Emblem and
- (c) A Souvenir Plate

We left the Academy at 1345 hours and were in Algiers at 1510 hours.

### Meeting with Foreign Minister

At 1700 hours I called on Talib Ibrahim, Foreign Minister and Politburo Member of the Party of FLN. Talib is an old friend since I was Minister of Foreign Affairs. We spent 1 hour and half discussing various matters including Tanzania - Algeria relations; the struggle in Southern Africa with particular emphasis on Mozambique including the role of Tanzania and the efforts made to mobilise international assistance; the situation in Chad; the developments in the Middle East and the Palestinian struggle and the question of Western Sahara. With me were Tibaijuka and Mohamed Maharage Juma. Before I left we also discussed briefly and in private the Nigerian proposal to convene a Medium powers Conference in Lagos next month (which Talib described as unnecessary + divisive but which the Nigerian FM been determined to hold). Talib also informed me that the former FM of Sao Tome & Principe Maria was outside to meet with him. She has left her Government after disagreeing with her President. She is now teaching in Algeria. I took the opportunity to meet her briefly before I left the Foreign Ministry.

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### Meeting with the Secretary General of the National Defence Ministry

When I returned at the Hotel I was informed that General Mustapha Cheloufi will come to see me at 1900 hours to give me the response of the Government of Algeria with respect to our requests and the discussions I have held since my arrival in Algiers.

The Meeting did take place at about 1910 hours in one of the Conference Rooms of the Hotel we were staying – Residence.

General Cheloufi was accompanied by General Kamel Abderrahim, Vice Chief of the General Staff responsible for operations, organisation and logistics, MCC of FLN Party and General Mejdoub Lakhal – Ayat, MCC, FLN, Chief of the Military Secretary (Intelligence). I was with Brigadier Luhanga and Tibajuka.

The Secretary General of the National Defence Ministry informed me that pursuant to My visit and the discussion I have had, the President of the Republic and Secretary General of the FLN Party has instructed assistance be given to Tanzania to fully equip an infantry brigade of 4000 people. The items to be supplied include armaments and ammunitions – Rifles, Sub-machine guns, RPGs, Morlars, Grenades 37m, Anti-Aircraft, Artillery 76mm; binoculars, anti-tanks; Rolling material including Trucks, Vehicles, Water Tanks, Buses, Motorcycles; Ruminant equipments; logistics including such items as Combat Uniform, Shoes, Socks, Pyjamas, over coats, Ponchos, blankets; Tents (250); Food – Pate, Beans, Tinned Sardines as well as Field Engineer equipment including, mines detonators etc.

In addition the Algerian Government has agreed to our request to make available plane to be used by our Forces for transportation of personnel & equipment for technical reasons (this plane cannot just stay in Dar es Salaam without being used) the plane will be on call and can be used anytime, their Air force will workout details with our people.

- They will also provide medical assistance. But now they have none in stock. They are studying ways to have these realised.
- They are also consulting with the organisation concerned to provide us with some prefabricated movable houses.
- On oil and gas this is unfortunately not in their domain. He proposed that I discuss the matter with the Foreign Minister (Foreign office) who can take up the issue with the Oil Minister. But there in the Defence Ministry will exert they are own pressure.

All the material & equipment will be sent to Dar es Salaam by an Algerian Ship, the Ship can also be used to ferry some of our forces and equipment to Mozambique. We should just indicate our wishes. The Ship can take up to 1000 people and equipment e.g. 200 vehicles.

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I was very moved and touched by this substantial assistance which was completely beyond our reasonable expectations. I did not hide my feelings and said so to General Cheloufi.

With respect to bilateral cooperation it was agreed to reinforce these areas of cooperation include:

- (i) Exchange of visits – I invited General Cheloufi & Service Chief & Commanders to visit Tanzania and the invitation was accepted.
- (ii) Training of our officers in Algeria Military Institution
- (iii) Exchanges of expertness
- (iv) Joint Ventures
- (v) Cultural cooperation – in this respect I proposed and it was agreed that our National Service Cultural Group will visit Algeria possibly later this year. The Algerian plane on call can transport them to & from Algeria.
- (vi) Offered to assist in expertise (can send some one in Tanzania or someone can come to Algeria) in the setting up of a Foreign affairs Bureau in MOD.

The meeting with General Cheloufi and his colleagues concluded at 2005 hours.

### Dinner in our honour

Immediately thereafter we attended an impressive Dinner in my honour held at the Hotel.

It was impressive in terms of attendance – literally a great member of the top mass – Party; Government & Armed Forces Personalities were there. Among them were Minister of Interior; Vice Chief of General Staff Director of the Cabinet of the President; various Service Chiefs, Chiefs of Police, SG, Vice Minister in charge of Cooperation – Several Generals, Regional Military Commanders, Chief of Security etc.

N.B: after dinner & white coffee was being served I had an opportunity to discuss brief with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs in Charge of Cooperation who in January this year came to Tanzania and saw President Mwinyi. The President had promised some coffee.

He explained that the team had gone to Tanzania this month + got a consentient of 1000 Tons Arabica. But this was too much for a Ship. They request 2000 tons of Robusta. He requested my assistance on the puling out that there is an acute shortage of coffee in Algeria now & these was going the serious problems. I promised to take up the matter in Dar es Salaam.

### N.B. II