

SAS/SG/OAU: DIARY/NOTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1994 (13th Ramadhan)

This is my second day in South Africa but my first full day. It is also the 13th day of Ramadhan. On the latter aspect, I did not fast yesterday and today. I am unlikely to fast for the duration of my visits.

Today has been a very full day. It started very early in the morning when I received in my hotel suite, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General, former Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhadari Brahimi. The meeting which was scheduled to begin at 0815 hours in effect did not start until 0830 hours as Minister Brahimi was caught in a traffic jam on his way to see me. Our meeting was thus very brief lasting 20 minutes as I had to hurry for my next meeting.

This second meeting was with the President of the ANC, Nelson Mandela which started at 0900 hours.

My meeting with Mandela was subsequently followed by my meeting with the PAC leadership at 1030 hours with the Heads of International Observer Missions at UNOMSA Headquarters at 1500 hours; followed by my meeting with the leader of the Afrikaner Volksfront, General Constand Viljoen and at 1655 hours and finally a TV interview with SABC Agenda at SABC studio at 1930 hours.

Meeting with the President of the ANC, Nelson Mandela

The meeting took place at the impressive ANC Headquarters at Johannesburg in Mr. Mandela's Office. The ANC President was initially only with me during the session but two others joined him shortly. I was accompanied by Messrs. Mbita, Bah, Djinnit, Dagash, Legwaila, Ibok and Baboa.

President Mandela welcomed me with a big embrace. This was followed by a photo opportunity for the many press people who were there. Then we started the substantive discussion but in doing so the ANC legendary leader apologized that our meeting would not be as long as he would have wanted as he had to leave for an important meeting with senior military security personnel scheduled to take place in Pretoria at 1030 hours followed by another meeting with senior Police Generals also in Pretoria at 1430 hours.

President Mandela nonetheless gave me an exhaustive briefing on the political situation in the country with special emphasis on the threats by the Right Wing of both the Afrikaner Volksfront and the Inkhatha Freedom party. To this end, President Mandela gave me a resume of the efforts he has made to engage the Right Wing in a dialogue and some of the politico-security problems that are relevant and real.

In an attempt to address the Afrikaner Rightwing concerns, he has met and discussed with various influential personalities & forces. These include the Broderband; the leaders of the South African Dutch Reformed Church, Farmers Organizations; Army and Police senior officials as well as with former President R.F. Botha. The latter agreed to meet with the Government, the ANC and the Right Wing. But when he discussed this with President de Klerk, the latter discouraged it. He will nonetheless continue to pursue this and other efforts.

- He is aware from the discussion with the top and the Police that in Transvaal and Organe Free State, the Security Forces will not do much to confront the Right Wing. The Police seem uncertain of what will happen and some of them are being tempted by the Right Wing. That is why his efforts at reassuring them are important.

Mandela stressed that he and the ANC will continue to persevere in their efforts. At the same time however, he is making it clear that if the Right Wing proceeds on a suicide path they will be crushed.

On the King of the Zulus, he saw no problem in guaranteeing his role in the constitution. But such demands as for sovereignty are unacceptable.

The ANC is having a dialogue with the King's own aides. It is not difficult to accommodate the King. But the problem with the King is that he is really in a sort of prison of Buthelezi. Even the King's telephones are being controlled by Buthelezi, his conversations being eavesdropped etc.

Responding on my calls for dialogue and attempts to make Buthelezi to see reason, President Mandela said that the ANC has had dialogue with him; he himself has met with him, Prime Minister John Major and Chancellor Kohl of Germany have all invited him and talked to him but to no avail. Buthelezi according to Mandela, is beyond redemption.

The President of the ANC called for a strong participation of the OAU Member States in the elections of April 27 as observers. He is prepared to talk to President Clinton so that the United States could consider assisting the OAU in order to facilitate greater participation by OAU. I explained to President Mandela that African states have already begun to respond and an impressive list is expected at the expenses of Member States themselves with the OAU funding logistic support.

At the same time I told Mandela of the concerns expressed to me earlier in the morning by Lackhadari Brahimi and shared by my Special Representative on the lack of access to ANC leaders by the

UN and the OAU Chief . I told the President that this is not helpful. Couldn't he consider designating one of his senior collaborators to be easily and reliably accessible. The President of the ANC took note of this, expressed regrets and promised to ask Thabo Mbeki to make amends.

The meeting with President Mandela lasted half an hour from 0900 to 0930 hours.

Immediately thereafter, Mr. Mandela and I met the press and we separately made short statements and then Mandela answered a few questions relating to the domestic situation. What is clearly going to make headlines is the assertion that he has briefed the OAU Secretary General on the difficulties of the Right Wing; of efforts made to ensure a spirit of dialogue and understanding but at the same time that thewill not be allowed to obstruct the process.

Following is a resume of my discussion with President Mandela as reported by Sam Ibok.

(Insert Ibok's Minutes).