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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Meeting with Mwalimu Nyerere on Thursday, 3 July 1980  
Freetown, Sierra Leone  
Question of United Nations Secretary-Generalship;  
Special Session on Development;  
and Olof Palme's Commission.

The meeting took place in the Conference Centre in the lounge reserved for Heads of State and Government and Heads of delegations. It lasted from 6:50 p.m. to 7:35 p.m.

The meeting was to have taken place earlier in the day but because of the intensity of the discussion on the question of Western Sahara, this was not possible. Indeed, even when I met Mwalimu at the aforementioned time, the meeting was taking place amidst the background of the continuation of very heated discussions on this question. But for the fact that I was leaving in an hours time for the airport enroute to Paris and the fact that Mwalimu made it clear that he wanted to see me before I left, this meeting could not have taken place since to all practical purposes, the timing was extremely difficult.

Though the meeting dealt with a number of issues, the area of concentration was the issue of my candidature for the United Nations Secretary-Generalship. With regard to the proposed Commission to be chaired by Mr. Olof Palme, "The New International Security Order," the President confirmed that he had been approached, while in Austria, about my joining the Commission. He said that he agreed to the recommendation that I should join but left it to me to use my discretion to make the final decision.



When I was in Dar-es-Salaam this year, after my visits to India and the Gulf States, I had two long meetings with Mwalimu. In one of these meetings we had discussed the question of the special session on Development and he had agreed, circumstances permitting, to come to New York and address the session. He now told me that he would not be able to do so as he has travelled too much this year and he has considerable domestic commitments.

(NB: Another factor is that he has been invited to visit France and other countries and it would be difficult for him to go all the way to New York without going to these countries this year).

Question of United Nations Secretary-Generalship:

Mwalimu then asked for my up-to-date evaluation and assessment of the situation on this question. In this respect it would be recalled that in one of the two meetings that I had with him in Dar-es-Salaam, the question of my possible candidature was discussed at length and the President gave his full blessing and support.

I briefed Mwalimu of the various approaches made and the numerous discussions I have held with different colleagues since we last met. I also briefed him of my encounters in South-East Asia, including the remarks made by some of the respective authorities in the Philippines and in Thailand. I also informed him of my visit to Eastern Europe and more specifically of the comments made while I was in Czechoslovakia and Romania. I further briefed him of my meeting yesterday with Foreign Minister



Ake of the Ivory Coast. Finally, I apprised him of my luncheon with the incumbent on Thursday, 26 June and of his remarks concerning his intentions. The President's enthusiastic support for my candidature was again manifested. With respect to specifics, Mwalimu made the following comments:-

(a) I should make it a point soon and using my own methods to make the Secretary-General know that I shall be a candidate;

(b) He is trying on the home front to keep things in such a way so that they do not prejudice my prospects. He hopes that our troops should be out of Uganda by September or thereabout. In any case, he will do his utmost so that our policies do not impact adversely on my possible candidature;

(c) He agreed to make his own approaches to several Heads of State soliciting their support for my candidature. Among them would be the Presidents of Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Cameroon.

(NB: He also implied that when circumstances allow, that is, after the tempers and tensions with respect to the confrontation on the Sahara question have subsided, he may also communicate with President Senghor.)

Mwalimu also said he would keep both Presidents Samora and Kaunda in the picture. He will also communicate with the leaders of India (Prime Minister Indira Gandhi) and Yugoslavia. He will also make contacts with Chairman Hua Ko Feng and will keep in touch with all permanent members.

Before the meeting ended, I informed the President on my forthcoming visits to France, Algeria, Syria and Iraq. Finally, I undertook to brief him again on the situation sometime in the middle of August when I go to Dar-es-Salaam.