

SAS NOTES/DIARY

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1991

Brunch at my Residence with Tanzania's CDF and delegation

A Tanzania Military delegation led by the Chief of Defence Forces General E.M. KIARO passed through Addis Ababa today en route to Beijing where the delegation is making a two weeks official visit to China. They arrived at Bole International Airport from Dar es Salaam around 10.00 Hours. Their flight to Beijing leaves at 13.30 Hours.

Arrangements were made for them to come to my house at ENTOTO since the CDF whom I had worked with for four years when I was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence both when he was Division Commander of 30 DIV and later as CDF, had specifically expressed a wish of seeing me here. The CDF was accompanied by six officers including three senior officers namely Brigadier Kota, Brigadier Msuyu and Colonel Lewis.

The Tanzanian Ambassador to Ethiopia who is himself a former Chief of Defence Forces Maj. General Mirisho Sarakikya and my Cabinet Attache, Major Cuny Zongo came with the General Kiara and his party at the house. They all stayed from about 10.45 hours to 12.20 hours. During which we had Brunch together.

I was very happy to see them. For I always recall the very good and challenging times that I spent as Minister of Defence of my country. It is no exaggeration that of all positions of national responsibility that I have had during more than twenty five years of public service, my position in the Defence Ministry is the most memorable, at times difficult but always challenging and exciting. I always look back with nostalgia to those days, months and years - from November 1985 to early September 1989.