

Discussion and Dinner with President Ali Hassan Mwinyi at State Lodge, Arusha

I had intended to meet with President Mwinyi earlier that morning in Dar es Salaam but was unable to do so as the President had a Cabinet meeting. I was thus scheduled to see him this evening when both of us were in Arusha. But by 1930 hours word came that the President was inviting me to have dinner with him at the State Lodge.

I was at the State Lodge around 2040 hours. I had a tête-à-tête with President Mwinyi from that time to 2130 hours when we went to dinner.

At the dinner which lasted from 2130 to 2210 hours, we were joined by Mama Khadija Mwinyi, the Regional Commissioner and his spouse, Mrs. Kiwanaka and some family members of the President - Mama Khadija's side.

In the course of the dinner, I extended an invitation to Mama Khadija Mwinyi to visit Addis Ababa and stay with us some time during the early part of 1995. I was in effect transmitting Amne's invitation. She had been told by Mama Khadija previously that she would like to visit Addis. The invitation was accepted by both Mama Khadija and President Mwinyi.

In the discussion I had with President Mwinyi prior to the dinner which lasted some 40 minutes, three issues were covered. These were (i) Rwanda; (ii) the impact and repercussions of Mwalimu's book. "Uongozi wetu na Hatima ya Tanzania" and (iii) the issue of the 1995 Presidential Elections in the country.

On Rwanda I brought up the subject. I recalled our discussion in New York early last month. During that meeting the President had told me he would be going to Zaire on the 10th or 11th October to meet with President Mobutu. I had then encouraged him to do so stressing the importance of getting the cooperation of President Mobutu in the resolution of the crises of both Rwanda and Burundi. But it turned out President Mwinyi did not go to Zaire. He explained to me that he thought that before he went to Zaire it was better that the Foreign Ministers should first have consultations on the preparation for the Regional Summit. Yet nothing much has happened in this direction.

I told the President that I still feel very strongly that it was important for him to get in touch with President Mobutu and get him to play a constructive role in the Central African region i.e. Rwanda and Burundi situation.

At this juncture, the President said that an envoy of

President Mobutu was coming to see him tomorrow morning. The envoy is expected to extend an invitation by President Mobutu for a Regional Summit to be held in Zaire in the course of this month. I told the President that I hoped that he would accept the invitation. The President said that he would but the dates proposed coincide with a Summit of East African leaders. Thus more consultations would be needed.

Then the President went on to discuss the current situation in the aftermath of Mwalimu's book which strongly indicted and called for the resignation of Prime Minister John Malecela and CCM Secretary General Howard Kokimba. He said that Mwalimu's book has had mixed reactions. He maintained that coming as it did, it has made his (the President's) situation/position more difficult in terms of effecting changes. He implied that any change that he might wish to effect at the level of the PM and or party SG will be seen as influenced by Mwalimu. He said that he had repeatedly told Mwalimu to give him more time since he would be making changes at his own time. But this notwithstanding, it was still his intention to effect changes. He might do that as soon as during the forthcoming session of the National Assembly.

Then the President turned to the issue of a Presidential Candidate for the 1995 Elections. And to my complete surprise he maintained that I represented the best possible option in the interests of the country, the unity of the United Republic and in terms of general acceptability by both parts of Tanzania i.e. both the mainland and Zanzibar. More specifically the President in his own words inter alia told me the following: "Hali ya nchi (kisiasa) sinzuri. Chuki zimezidi. Kuna wale wanaowataka wazanzibari. Kuna wale wanaochukia waislamu na kutumia upinzani kwa wazanzibari kama kisingizio. Kuna wale wanaopinga muungano - wale wa bara na wale wa visiwani. Huko Zanzibar Rais Salmini ameamua kwamba kuna wengi huku bara wanaotaka muungano uvunjike basi naye anaonekana kama kujitayarisha kwa "eventuality" hiyo. Kwa maana nyingine hafanyi chochote au kuchukua hatua yeyote ile ambayo kwa kweli yeye muelekeo wa kusimamisha muungano. Na Seif Sharif naye msimamo wake juu ya muungano unaeleweka. Katika mazinsui haya tunahitaji Rais ambaye ataweza sio tu kudumisha umoja wetu basi pia kuwa kiungo cha kuunganisha badala ya kuwagana. Pia tunahitaji mtu ambaye ataweza kupambana na vurumai la wale wanaotaka kudumisha na kuseleleza chuki na mgawano".

Akiendelea Rais Mwinyi aliniambia, "sijapata kumwambia mtu yeyote haya nnayokwambia sasa. Na kwa hiyo nakwambia on a confidential basis. Mimi naamini kwamba mtu ambaye ataweza kutusaidia ni wewe. Ingawa wewe ni muislamu lakini uislamu wako si wa ushekhe kama wangu. Kwa hiyo suala la dini haliwezi kuwa ni factor dhidi yako. Wewe pia unakubalika pande zote mbili za muungano na utaweza kusaidia sana katika kukabiliana na hali ngumu inayotukabili hivi sasa."

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I was not prepared for the President's remarks. I least expected him to raise this issue. My only response was to observe that I am also from Zanzibar implying that by itself is a factor which can be used in a negative way. But I did not comment on the substance of what the President was saying. I should also point out that it was at this juncture that the ADC of the President came in to tell the President and I that dinner is served.

THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 1994

The Opening of the Ninth Session of ISDSC

The opening ceremony of the Ninth Session of the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee took place at Simba Hall of the Arusha International Conference Centre from 1000 to 1100 hours. This is a gathering of Ministers of Defence, Ministers of Interior and Ministers of Security of the Frontline States together with the principal collaborators i.e. Principal/Permanent Secretaries, Chiefs of Defence Forces, Chiefs of Police, Chiefs of National Security and Chiefs of Immigration Services. This time round however following the collapse of apartheid and the emergence of a democratic and non-racial South Africa, the participants at the meeting reflected the changed political landscape in Southern Africa. For South Africa itself was added to the list of the Frontline States joining Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Furthermore, Lesotho, Swaziland and Malawi were also invited and became full members of the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee.

The session was chaired by the outgoing Chairman, Namibia's Minister of Defence, Peter Mushehengo who was welcomed by the host of the meeting, Tanzania's Minister of State in the President's Office responsible for Defence and National Service Col. Abdul Rahman Kinana.

President Ali Hassani Mwinyi formally inaugurated the session. He was the first speaker and his address lasted some twenty minutes.

Thereafter, I delivered my keynote address. Indeed I had been specifically invited to Arusha to make such an address. The theme of my address was: "The Frontline States: A new Alliance for Peace and Development in Southern Africa". My address lasted some 35 minutes.