

Personal and Confidential

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Note for the Record

Question of U.N. S.G. Discussion with Mwalimu  
at Msasani Monday February 11, 1980

After my visits to India and the Gulf States of Oman, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar in my capacity as President of the Thirty Fourth Session of the U.N. General Assembly, I went home to Tanzania.

2. I arrived in Dar es Salaam on Friday, February 8 from Muscat and stayed in Tanzania until Friday, February 15, 1980. While in Tanzania I met with Mwalimu twice - on Saturday, February 9 and on Monday, February 11. It is at the latter meeting that the issue of my possible candidature for the Secretary Generalship of the U.N. came up. Following is a brief resume of the discussion on this matter.

3. I briefed Mwalimu on the rumours, speculations and specific questions raised about my possible candidature for the post of Secretary General. I told him that hitherto I had not raised the matter with him because I felt they were mere speculations.

4. But since I assumed the Presidency of the Thirty Fourth Session, the speculations had mounted, and more importantly some Ministers, Ambassadors and other diplomatic colleagues have raised the matter with me either directly or through third parties and have sought to persuade me to present my candidature. Some have even intimated that they will do their own campaigning on my behalf. Among those who have raised the matter directly with me were the Foreign Minister of Philippines, the Deputy Prime Minister of Syria and some African Diplomatic colleagues, one or two Ambassadors from Western Europe and other group.

In addition, all the diplomatic members of my Mission in New York had collectively approached me, told me of the feelers made to them by a number of diplomats and urged me to take the matter seriously arguing that in their assesment my prospects were very bright.

5. In view of these circumstances I thought I should raise the matter with the President, give him my opinion, assesment and reaction and solicit his views and guidance.

6. As to my reaction and assesment I told Mwalimu that (a) it is clear that the incumbent Dr. Waldheim gives all indications of wanting an unprecedented **third** term, (b) election to the post of Secretary General depends on a number of factors including the state of international situation, the acceptability of the candidate by the five Permanent Members; his general acceptability to the membership as a whole; the stability of the country's candidate and support of that country for the candidate; and last but not least the question of luck and opportunity.

7. It was my considered judgement that engaging in premature campaigning can be counter productive. At the same time, if the concept of a third world candidate gains ground and momentum, then the prospects of my candidature were good. At any rate for the present, it will not be proper to place myself as being a rival to the incumbent.

8. President Nyerere listened attentively and then reacted as follows:

9. He said that in 1976 there were rumours about my possible candidature. His reaction then was that of discouraging such a possibility. Had I approached him at that time he would have discouraged me from such a course of action. His reaction at that time was based on the fact that Dr. Waldheim had just served one term and Mwalimu felt that he should have a second term.

(N.B. It is true that there were a lot of rumours and considerable speculations about my possible candidature for the post when Dr. Waldheim's first term expired. At no point however did I take those rumours seriously and I, together with many African colleagues played our part helping to ensure the re-election of Dr. Waldheim. At that time I was representing Tanzania in the Security Council and consistently voted for him.)

10. "But now the situation is different". The President went on. "Sina sababu ya ku-discourage candidature yako, indeed nina sababu ya ku-encourage. Mimi nitafurahi kama jambo hili litawezekana. Nakubaliana nawe kwamba tusionekane tuko aggressive kufanya campaign. Lakini kama ikisaidia kunong'ona nong'ona itakuwa barabara.

11. Mwalimu pia alisisitiza kwamba matatizo mengi ya sasa ni ya Third World na wazungu wameshakuwa na kiti hicho cha Ukatibu Mkuu kwa muda wa mara tatu. Alisema kwamba pengine ugomvi wetu (Tanzania), mara na Warusi (khususu Afghanistan), mara na Waingereza (khususu Rhodesia), huenda ukaleta matatizo. Mimi nilimwambia Mwalimu kwamba sidhani kuwa misimamo hiyo itatupa taabu kuhusu suala la uchaguzi. At any rate it would be wrong, I said to change or moderate our position simply because of the prospects of the election. I believe that our Non-Aligned position was understood and respected even though at times disliked and objected to by those whom Tanzania criticizes.

12. To sum up I told Mwalimu, now that I had his blessing and support, when asked, I would not hesitate to state privately that if circumstances so warrant, my candidature would be available.

SAS/hki