

SALIM'S PERSONAL NOTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1990

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT YOWERI MUSEVENI

I was originally scheduled to meet with the OAU Current Chairman, President Museveni of Uganda, last Saturday, September 29 at 1700 hours. But while at the Mayor's lunch, Foreign Minister Ssemogerere told me that the President's appointments have interrupted and that he will call me in my Hotel suite to confirm. By 1645 hours, Amb. Sy and Bandora were in my Hotel. We waited for the Foreign Minister's telephone but it never came.

Then at midnight last night the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the UN telephoned me to inform me that President Museveni would like to see me this morning at 0800 hours prior to our joint meeting with President Bush scheduled for 0915 hours today.

The Ugandan Ambassador came to my hotel at 0740 hours and at 0855 we were at President Museveni's Suites at the Plaza Hotel.

I met with President Museveni from 0820 to 0845 hours. I was accompanied by Ambassador Ibrahima Sy, the OAU Executive Secretary. Also in attendance were the Ugandan Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Rusita and the Ugandan Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Professor

The Foreign Minister of Uganda, Dr. Ssemogerere arrived to join us just when we were about to conclude the meeting.

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President Museveni explained that the central purpose of our meeting was to discuss what issues should be raised with President Bush. He wanted to hear my views on this. To which I replied that considering the limitations of time (the meeting was expected to last less than half an hour) it would be advisable that we should focus on three major themes. These were :

- (1) Conflict situations in Africa and Africa's (the OAU's) efforts at resolving them. The particular situation of Liberia should be highlighted.
- (2) Africa's economic recovery efforts and the burden of debt.
- (3) The situation in South Africa and the need to maintain pressures including those of sanctions.

President Museveni was agreeable to these themes.

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH

Before I left Addis Ababa for New York, the US Chargé d'Affaires had informed my private office that arrangements have been made for the current Chairman of the OAU and myself to call on President George Bush today at 0915 hours. This appointment was reconfirmed immediately upon my arrival in New York.

The meeting with the US President started punctually at 0915 hours and it lasted twenty five i.e. until 0940 hours. President Bush welcomed us warmly. He was particularly expressive in his recollections of our days together in New York when both of us were Permanent Representatives of our respective countries to the United Nations.

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After the pleasantries were over and the TV and photographers had gone out, the discussion focussed on the following:

- President Museveni explained that in our Continent we at the OAU are trying to address ourselves to the conflict situations such as those of the Horn of Africa and Liberia. On Liberia the President expressed the hope that the United States can be supportive in efforts aimed at ending the conflict and also in providing humanitarian assistance.

President Bush said the US will do what it can. But he has yet to read the brief on the recent visit and efforts of Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen. Here Cohen made reference to his visit to Liberia and some West African States. He felt that the circumstances were now right to bring the parties to the conflict together. He mentioned the ECOWAS initiative and the reservations and even opposition of some ECOWAS members to the same.

President Museveni stated that the OAU will convene a meeting of all the parties. (N.B. What he meant was that the OAU will work to facilitate the convening of such a meeting. This is a point which I clarified to Cohen immediately after the meeting. I also advised President Museveni to make that clarification to President Jawara which he did).

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President Bush said that they were in favour of an African initiative and role in this.

Mr. Cohen in response to President Museveni's urgings on relief assistance stated that as soon as peace is restored, the United States is prepared to be very supportive in providing humanitarian assistance.

President Bush then referred to the situation in Angola. He said that he had been talking to the Prime Minister of Portugal on the progress of the negotiations between the Angolan Government and UNITA. The Portuguese Prime Minister seemed optimistic. There remains only a small point to be ironed out - the recognition of the UNITA as a political force (Party).

Here Secretary of State, James Baker interjected and said that African States and the OAU can assist in this process by urging on the Angolan Government to agree to this demand.

President Museveni said that he will consult with the Leaders of Southern Africa in order to be properly apprised of the situation. He will then communicate with the United States on this.

President Bush raised the issue of South Africa. He recalled the visit of de Klerk to Washington (a week or so ago). He also referred to the earlier visit of Nelson Mandela, the Deputy President of the African National Congress. The USA President said that there seems to be optimism that change is taking place in South Africa and that this change should be encouraged. He referred to

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the "tribal fighting" and also to the case against Winnie Mandela and inquired how the OAU felt about these developments. Would Winnie's case be considered as a case of vendetta? Would it jeopardize the negotiations? Is de Klerk's sincerity accepted?

President Museveni said that there is no doubt that there have been positive changes in South Africa. There is also no doubting the role of de Klerk in helping to effect these changes. The issue of sincerity is not really the issue. "Nelson Mandela told me confidentially that he trusts de Klerk." But the issue is whether the system and especially the security services will go along with these changes or they will undermine or even torpedo them. That is why Africa insists on the maintenance of pressures including the pressure of change. This pressure must be continued until there is a definite timetable for change. "I have asked the ANC to insist on having that timetable." The issue of violence is exacerbated by the role of the elements of the South African Security Services. We have also told Mandela to meet with Buthelezi". On the question of Winnie Mandela's case this should not complicate the negotiations if it is handled properly. The President (i.e. the South African State President can always exercise his powers of clemency.)

President Bush also wanted to know the relationship between the ANC and the South African Communist Party. How strong is the latter's influence. Can't the ANC throw them out of the alliance. Will the ANC be influenced by the SACP in its post-apartheid policies. President Museveni said that the influence of the SACP should not be exaggerated. And there is no reason for the ANC to turn its back on the SACP.

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At this point I interjected for the first and only time during the discussions. I said that Winnie Mandela's case should be viewed in two dimensions. One, the fact that after three years, the South African authorities should now have chosen to press charges against her is bound to be considered with suspicion and to be viewed by many as a case of vendetta (and provocation). On the other hand, both Nelson Mandela and Winnie Mandela have repeatedly said that she, Winnie would want to have her case in court then to be villified and tried by media etc.

President Museveni raised the economic situation facing the African States and the burden of the debt. He argued for consideration to be given for these countries to be given machinery in order to develop their processing capacity and make use of their immense potential. President Bush asked his advisers to look into it.

The meeting with President Bush ended at 0940 hours.

Present at this meeting were on the US side besides President Bush; Secretary of State James Baker, Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Herman Cohen. I was with President Museveni who in turn was accompanied by Uganda's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Paul Ssemogerere.

Immediately after the meeting, President Bush, President Museveni and I together with those present at the meeting went down at the walkout at a room where President Bush had invited us for coffee and the African Heads of State who were at that time still in New York. There coffee was served accompanied by greetings and small

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talk until about 1020 hours. Those present included President Jawara of Gambia, President Viera of Guinea Bissau, President Traore of Mali, President Momoh of Sierra Leone, President Diouf of Senegal, President Habyarimana of Rwanda, General Omar El Beshir of Sudan, President Chissano of Mozambique, President Nujoma of Namibia and President Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

The meeting with President Bush was a good meeting. President Museveni raised all the issues that we had previously discussed (Salim/Museveni) in his Hotel Suite. I restrained myself from making any observations in deference to President Museveni and also due to the constraints of time. I very much wanted to intervene and elaborate on the issues of Liberia, South Africa and Angola. But I thought that it would not be prudent unless the Current Chairman invited me to. In a way this type of meeting is quite a dilemma for the OAU Secretary General as it restricts his freedom to articulate his position. Yet on balance it was a significant session and indeed a historic one at that.

MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

HERMAN COHEN

This took place at 1605 hours in the Chinese Lounge. It lasted for thirty minutes. Mr. Cohen was accompanied by a female assistant. I was with Dr. Gomez and Ms. Salimatu Khan of our Mission in New York.