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SPEECH BY NDUGU SALIM A. SALIM - PRIME MINISTER OF THE  
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AT THE STATE BANQUET IN HIS  
HONOUR DURING OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Your Excellency Comrade Zhao Ziyang,  
Members of the State Council of the Community Party of China,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

My delegation and I feel greatly honoured to be once again in this great land. Three years ago I visited China when His Excellency President Julius Kambarage Nyerere paid a State Visit to this country. That was not the first visit. Fifteen years back I was fortunate to serve as Tanzania Ambassador in this capital and although my service was shortlived, I still cherish happy memories of the excellent cooperation, friendship and understanding accorded to me by the authorities and people of this country. During that period the momentum of the revolution appeared to be still accelerating as exemplified by the zeal and dynamism of the youth. Since then the Chinese Nation under the guidance of the Communist Party and the ability of its leaders has managed to channel these energies into constructive and productive forces in line with the principles of marxism, leninism and Mao Tse-Tung thoughts. This has been a clear message to us.

On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf therefore, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the entire people of China for the warm and cordial reception given to us this morning when we landed in this beautiful city.

With us we bring fraternal greetings to you Comrade Prime Minister, to the Communist Party of China, to the Government and to the one billion people in this country from my President Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Chama cha Mapinduzi, the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The people in Tanzania have requested me to convey, through you, to their comrades in this country, their best wishes for a great success in the arduous task you have undertaken to build a new society based on equality, justice and prosperity for all.

I would also like to express my personal gratitude to you Comrade Prime Minister for this kind invitation which has come barely five months since my assumption to the office of Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania. The significance of this symbolises the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation that bind our two countries. I had therefore no qualms or hesitation in accepting this invitation which I am convinced will give us ample opportunity to exchange views with Chinese Leaders on issues of common concern in the endeavour to promote peace, stability and prosperity for all mankind as well as for our people.

Although this has been said many times, I want you to know Comrade Prime Minister that Tanzania values tremendously the friendship and the cooperation with the people of this country. For many years since we established diplomatic relations and started economic cooperation, the relations between our two countries have moved forward amicably and smoothly without any interruption. This I am convinced has been mainly due to the deep penetrating vision of our leaders and to the genuine desire for cooperation for mutual advantage, notwithstanding the barriers of distance between us and the difference in language and culture.

For it is indisputable that we share many things in common. Both of us suffered a humiliating similar colonial historical experience from which we liberated ourselves through a struggle. Both of us therefore oppose imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism. Both of us face the same task of economic development, through a socialist approach. China and Tanzania are both struggling hard to safeguard our hard won national independence and developing economies.

Both of us are in favour of increasing the South-South Cooperation, improving the North-South relation and establishing a new international economic order through global negotiations. In view of this therefore, it is vital that our cooperation should continually be enhanced.

Tanzania was happy to see China fuse into the international community from which she had been deliberately ostracised. As predicted we have witnessed with deep appreciation since that time, China play her real meaningful role in the promotion of peace and in support of the just cause for the underprivileged and oppressed and for the uplift of the dignity of man. The consistency with which China has maintained its support of the Third World in its desire to assert its rightful place in the comity of nations has won the minds and the heart of peace loving people of the world. Such selfless support has been unique and exemplary and merits our sincere approbation.

In the building of your nation and the economy too, the records have been impressive. Your Party, with membership of 40 million, has a solid base and the economy is advancing from strength to strength. We have therefore come with open mind to learn from your experience the political, economic, social and cultural setup which have given your country new drive and vitality. We shall learn about the innovations of the production responsibility system which have resulted in providing rewards to workers according to their efforts. We shall learn about the new techniques employed by peasants in agriculture, poultry, beekeeping, fish farming and dairying.

We have also come to learn how the approach to rural development is intergrated with social, cultural and economic set up. I am happy to note that this has been taken care of in the programme provided, which will give us time to see both places of economic activities and places of social and cultural interest.

I believe it is important from time to time for leaders to meet and exchange views on various matters of common concern. It was extremely gratifying to us in Tanzania when you Comrade Prime Minister paid a visit to Tanzania last year. You had the chance of meeting your counterpart and other leaders in my country with whom you held extensive talks and established contacts. I am sure this gave you a clearer picture of the problems and challenges we are facing in our region. Your visit was followed later in the year by the visit of Madam Chen Muhua - State Counsellor and Minister for Economic Relations and Trade who had held Tripartite Talks with Tanzania and Zambia on TAZARA as well as bilateral talks with authorities in my country. The two visits were very important for us for they increased the scope of understanding between our countries and thus paved the way for new areas of cooperation in the economic, technical and cultural fields.

During our discussion, we will review the international situation which as you know, Comrade Prime Minister, is increasingly becoming turbulent. The super power rivalry continues, the amassing of nuclear arsenals goes on, the flash-points of conflicts in the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and the Carribeans as well as in the African Continent remain a threat to the international peace and security with no solution in sight. Certainly Tanzania and China alone cannot hope to solve these problems, but I believe that in cooperation with other peace loving peoples of the world we can make a substantial contribution towards defusing the current explosive international situation.

In saying this I am reminded of the positive role that the People's Republic of China has played in the promotion of peace. In your desire to develop relations with all countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful - Co-existence and in your determination to strengthen solidarity with the Third World and friendship with the people of all countries, you have significantly contributed to the peace and stability in the world.

The assistance provided to the liberation movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America are among the very well known examples.

But even within your own territory, the approach to the re-unification of your motherland through negotiation and peaceful means is indicative of your sincere desire to seek for peace and stability. In this respect allow me to congratulate you Comrade Prime Minister on the successful negotiations with the British Government on the future administration of Hongkong as part of Mainland China. We are also confident that before very long it will be possible to resolve the thorny issue of Taiwan by peaceful means and make it possible for the re-unification of your motherland. For the world must recognise that there is but one China under the government of the People's Republic of China which is the sole legal government and that Taiwan is a part of China.

To us too in Tanzania and Africa as a whole, the search for peace and stability is central to our foreign policy. My President has spared no efforts, time and again, to call upon the leaders of the world to exert concerted efforts in the search for international peace at this time of political and economic instability. It is only a few months ago that President Nyerere in cooperation with five other leaders of the world made a joint appeal to the super powers to halt immediately the escalation of the arms race and to return to the negotiation table. To Tanzania therefore the search for peace is cardinal.

Unfortunately some parts of Africa are still under colonial domination and oppression. The area in Africa which presents the greatest problem is Southern Africa where a minority white racist regime continues to deny the independence of Namibia and oppress its own black majority on account of their colour. The situation has been complicated by the support which this minority regime is now receiving from the U.S.A. Government. As a result the minority regime has become arrogant, defiant and aggressive towards the neighbouring countries.

Contrary to the impression that has been given by foreign media that the situation in South Africa has improved, as a result of the recent so called non-aggression pact and frequent meetings between the racists and SWAPO on the one hand and Angola on the other, the truth of the matter is that the Southern Africa situation continues to be dangerously explosive. The independence of Namibia is still illusive as America continues to link it with the withdraw of Cuban forces from Angola and also the racists continue to remain as obstinate as ever.

In the light of this there is no otherway but to continue supporting SWAPO in their struggle. The international community must increase their pressure to force the racist to comply with the U.N. Security Councils Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia which clearly states that the racists must withdraw from Namibia and allow a U.N. supervised general election to take place in that country. At the same time the world body must render all forms of economic help to the independent African Countries in Southern Africa through SADDC to sustain and strengthen their economies to enable them to resist the pressure and bullying of the racist minority regime.

In our talks Comrade Prime Minister, we shall also cover areas of bilateral cooperation. Here I must say right from the beginning, how my government is appreciative of the great assistance that China has rendered to us in various forms inspite of the tight programmes you have for the modernisation of your economy. The understanding and sympathy your country has shown to us has been of tremendous help in this time of great adversity to our economy.

We have been impressed by the far-sightedness of the Chinese economic experts in their proposals for joint venture as an alternative for a new form of economic cooperation to match with the existing conditions of our time. Our Tanzania economic experts have studied closely the new proposals and the arrangements for mutual gain and are satisfied that this new approach which has

been tried in the form of SINOTASHIP and found workable, offers tremendous opportunity for further cooperation. You may wish to know Comrade Prime Minister that following a series of meetings from both sides, agreements have already been reached to implement at least two joint ventures projects, during the current financial year.

Tanzania also appreciates that China has agreed to proposals for the rehabilitations of the industries in Tanzania which were built through Chinese loans and for the supply of the needed equipment and spareparts to the State Farms at Mbarali and Ruvu through an arrangement of commodity exchange payment. We think that this is a pragmatic approach which will revive our ailing industries and place the economy on its feet again. With the rehabilitation of the industries and the supply of equipment to State Farms, I am convinced that there should be a progressive recovery of our economy which will gradually put us in position to our obligations under these arrangements.

Comrade Prime Minister let me therefore end my speech by expressing my thanks once again for this warm reception which has been extended to us, and of which we already feel quite at home. We are conscious of the warmth, the courtesy and the kindness around us and I trust that the discussions and the visits which you have arranged for us will be equally fruitful and enlightening.

May I now request, Members of the State Council of the Communist Party of China, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen to raise your glasses and to drink to the honour of His Excellency Comrade Zhao Ziyang Prime Minister, the Party and Government Leaders of China and the People of this great country and to the continued fraternal relations between Tanzania and China.

Thank you.