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PUSH SUPPORTS AMBASSADOR SALIM
FOR
UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL POST

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, National President of Operation PUSH, is supporting His Excellency, Ambassador Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania, to become the new Secretary-General of the United Nations. Reverend Jackson is joining with African, Arab, non-aligned and other United Nations delegates in the General Assembly in support of Ambassador Salim, and is urging members of the United Nations Security Council, especially the United States, not to veto any efforts by the General Assembly to elect Ambassador Salim to the post.

Reverend Jackson said "In the next few days, the United States will have a unique opportunity to demonstrate to the world its concern and support for human rights, peace, and shared power and responsibility by joining the vast majority of the members in the United Nations in selecting and electing Ambassador Salim as the new Secretary-General of that organization. Operation PUSH and the human rights community urge the United States delegation to the U.N. to support the candidacy of Ambassador Salim.

"Above all," Reverend Jackson said, "the U.S. must not cast a veto against his nomination or selection. Ambassador Salim is the first African diplomat to be seriously considered for the post of Secretary-General. He has all the qualifications for serving with distinction in that position and the international community supports him. We welcome the nomination of Ambassador Salim and urge other individuals and organizations to send telegrams to President Reagan and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Jean Kirkpatrick, letting them know of their support for Ambassador Salim. The black community in particular will be watching the U.S. vote on this issue very carefully," declared Reverend Jackson.

Reverend Jackson also stated, "While the current occupant of that post, Secretary Kurt Waldheim of Austria, has done an admirable job, the job itself should be shared with others and others should be given an opportunity to contribute and to serve. Secretary Waldheim has just completed two five-year terms, which by tradition has become the standard tenure for past holders of that office. Consequently, the 50 African countries who are members of the organizations of African unity (OAU), the Arab League, countries who are part of the non-aligned movement and others have joined together in putting forth the candidacy of Mr. Salim. Ambassador Salim is a distinguished African statesman, an able diplomat who formerly served as President of the United Nations General Assembly and who currently is the Foreign Minister of Tanzania."

The duties of the Secretary-General include: supervising the work of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) as it relates to the problems of world hunger; overseeing the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) and its very constructive education programs of attacking ignorance and illiteracy on a world-wide basis; coordinating special United Nations Committee on Apartheid; heading special delegations to mediate crises around the world (e.g., U.S.-Iranian hostage crisis); and many other critical areas of concern that affect the well-being of the approximately four billion people throughout the world.



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