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REMARKS BY H.E. THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
DURING THE RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF  
THE OAU CURRENT CHAIRMAN  
CONGO HALL, 4 FEBRUARY, 1992

Your Excellency,  
President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida  
Honourable Ministers, and Members  
of the Nigerian Delegation,  
Your Excellencies, Members of the  
African Diplomatic Corps,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome H.E. President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida in this Congo Hall and express on my own behalf, on behalf of my colleagues, Assistant Secretaries General and all the Staff Members, my deep appreciation to him for having accepted our invitation to visit the Headquarters of the OAU. I would also like to welcome the distinguished Ministers and the members of your delegation.

This visit is very important for all of us. It reinforces our commitment and encourages us to serve to the best

of our ability our Continental Organization. The keen interest thus demonstrated by the Current Chairman to the life of our Organization is deeply appreciated by all of us and will definitively continue to motivate us.

I thought it was only appropriate to seize this precious opportunity to bring together the OAU family. The OAU family comprises the staff members and the African Diplomatic Corps of Addis Ababa. The Secretariat and the representatives of the Member States are the two sides of the same coin.

Mr. President,

The commitment of your country to Africa's causes and to our Continental Organization is well known. Your personal commitment was clearly demonstrated since you assumed the leadership of the Organization.

It is not my intention here to talk about the well known <sup>CONTRIBUTION</sup> ~~commitment~~ of your great country and yourself, Your Excellency. *I wish have occasion to do so later tonight after dinner.*

I would like however to make an exception and express our deep appreciation to the Nigerian Government under your able leadership for its generous contribution of 3 million dollars for the construction of the conference facility here at the Headquarters of the Organization. I wish also to thank Guinea, Mozambique, Niger, SADR, Seychelles and Liberia which had contributed a total of \$ 287,000; on the basis of the previous plan to build a fully-fledged conference centre. In addition to these, I wish equally to thank Libya, Ghana, Zaire, Botswana and Malawi which have made financial pledges. I wish to take this opportunity to tell them how much we await their contributions. Recently, Egypt has also made a pledge of furniture *to the amount of \$ 500,000 Egyptian Pounds.*

I cannot also miss this opportunity to express on my own behalf and on behalf of all the staff of the General Secretariat our most sincere thanks and gratitude for the generous hospitality extended to us during the Abuja Summit. We recall with

a very deep sense of appreciation, gratitude and pride how, during those trying moments, you personally and your esteemed government rose to the occasion and responded swiftly and decisively to our request by putting at our disposal the necessary facilities so that the families and dependents of OAU staff and of many African Missions could be evacuated to their countries. I would on a personal note like to say what a pleasant and rewarding experience it has been <sup>AND IT IS</sup> for me to work with Your Excellency as our Chairman.

- Role of Permanent Missions and Legations
- Inviting Ambassadors of the Organisation.

Before I invite the Dean of the African Ambassadors, H.E. Ambassador Mirisho Sarakikya to make his remarks on behalf of his colleagues, I have the pleasure to present to H.E. President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida the modest and symbolic gift on behalf of all the OAU staff members.