

The main aim of the meeting was to review the work done so far in respect of Minister Salim's candidature for the post of Secretary-General this year.

The summary of the meeting is as follows:

A. Minister Salim's Account and Analysis of the Situation:

We have literally contacted every country that matters, most of them in their capitals and others here. We have talked to Lord Carrington and Mrs. Thatcher and we are continuing our encounter with them at Melbourne.

In New York, we have talked to Mexico, Panama, USSR, Spain, the Philippines, Ireland and to some extent the USA as members of the Security Council.

From each, this is what we gather:

Mexico and Panama are serious and totally committed. Spain is categorical and has informed both Dar and myself (Salim) that they support us. Ireland seems bothered with procedure, but after a thorough explanation, we think they may vote for our candidate and for Dr. Waldheim. The Soviet Union has not yet made any decision but do acknowledge the ability of our candidate. That they also do take account of our support from the OAU and the Non-Aligned Group and many

other good friends who are busy impressing on the Soviet Union to consider seriously our candidature. What is being rumoured as their choice for Dr. Waldheim is total lies. These are mere fabrications based on wrong information. The USA has not decided yet. They are however, open-minded and are aware of the tremendous skills and capabilities of our candidate. They have been contacted at the level of Vice-President Bush, Secretary of State Haig, and the State Department. All these seem to be of the same view. There is no doubt that if the USA were seriously opposed to us we should have known by now. Vibrations about such opposition would certainly have been felt. They might be awaiting the Russian reaction, but otherwise we are encouraged with their attitude. The ASEAN countries give us the following impressions: The Philippines (in our guess) might vote for both the candidates; Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia will vote yes but Japan is seemingly undecided. They maintain a wait-and-see attitude, like the USA.

B. Meeting with Secretary-General Waldheim

At the initiative of Dr. Waldheim, a meeting was arranged by the President of the 36th Session of the General Assembly Ambassador Ismut Kittani that Dr. Waldheim and Minister Salim meet in the Office of the President of the General Assembly (Salim thought that was a neutral ground). The meeting was held on 1st October 1981 from 10:10 a.m. in the presence of

Ambassador Kittani (Iraq). Briefly this is what transpired between them:

(Dr. Waldheim): He does not want any confrontation with Salim or for that matter the continent of Africa. That he is a good friend of Salim and would not like it that elections spoil their friendship. That he wanted everything conducted in a civil manner befitting the office. That all the rumours being scattered about Salim's candidature were not his own work.

(Minister Salim): He entirely agreed with him that they are good ~~family~~ friends. That it was in the best of interest for their friendship and the Organization to see to it that the election is conducted with the utmost civility. That at no time has he considered confrontation useful. That most of the rumours were being spread by Waldheim's own good friends from the 38th floor. That he should take note of the old English adage which says "God protect me from my friends, I will take care of my own enemies". He also reminded Waldheim that the African nations were very incensed by the speech of the Austrian Foreign Minister who seemed to imply that the only best UN Secretary-General must be a European.

After some 35 minutes of attending to the talks, Pre-

sident Kittani left the two of them and Dr. Waldheim had the ~~had the~~ <sup>cleared</sup> ~~had the~~ <sup>sound</sup>  
~~courage to ask and say that he did not think~~ <sup>know that</sup> Minister Salim would  
become candidate. He <sup>only</sup> ~~learned~~ <sup>of</sup> this in Nairobi from President  
Nyerere. Minister Salim said that he equally thought Dr. Waldheim  
would not consider running for a third term. That even when they  
met in April and May this year, he never indicated to Minister  
Salim his ambition to run. However, Minister Salim told him  
frankly that he was surprised to see himself in the slate for  
the post of Secretary-General even after the OAU decision at  
Nairobi when he (Salim) was ~~endorsed~~ <sup>proposed</sup> as Africa's candidate.

Dr. Waldheim also wanted to know when, in Minister Salim's  
mind, will the elections take place. Minister Salim said, that  
anytime in November or early December was alright, but this was  
a matter for the Security Council to decide. Dr. Waldheim wanted  
that their election should not be linked with the Cancun Summit  
Economic Meeting in October. Minister assured him that he shared  
the same view that Cancun had no linkage with the election of  
a UN Secretary-General. <sup>But that the elections should take place</sup>  
<sup>anytime from the end of October onwards.</sup>

C. Salim's Conclusion

After all these rounds of talks and the collective efforts  
from among African colleagues as well as the Latin and Asian  
countries, Salim would like to think thus:

- (i) That our only fight is with the two super-powers (USA and USSR)
- (ii) That the Soviets maintain an orthodox fear about having an independent Secretary-General who has an independent constituency. To them the Non-Aligned Group is a force to reckon with.
- (iii) That it is important to ensure that the big powers abstain but otherwise we should work for their affirmative votes.
- (iv) That we should seek to reassure them that a Secretary-General though independent (as expected) must work within the realities of the times and that is to work in co-operation with the permanent members of the Security Council.
- (v) That we should impress upon the Latin Americans to maintain our candidature even when the impasse comes. We should discourage them from finding a reason for a compromise candidate.

D. Remarks by H.E. Alhaji Yusuff Maitama-Sule (Nigeria)

- (i) That our success on the issue of the Secretary-Generalship