

SALIM'S PERSONAL NOTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1991

DAY FIVE OF THE GULF WAR

THE OAU INITIATIVE/APPEAL

Today is the fifth day of the Gulf War.

Pursuant to my consultations with the Ambassadors of Algeria and Tunisia over the weekend, I today pursued in earnest the initiative with respect to the Gulf Crisis so that Africa does not marginalise itself by appearing indifferent to what is going on.

I reflected on what is the best course of action and decided that a Joint appeal by President Museveni in his capacity as the OAU Current Chairman and myself would be the best approach. I also decided that contrary to my thinking over the weekend it was best to confine other appeals to President Saddam Hussein and President George Bush - after all in the real sense they are the principal factors in this war.

Before consulting with the Current Chairman I called in the Ambassador of Uganda, H.E. Swaibu Musoke who came to see me at 1000 hrs. I discussed with him my proposal including the contents of the appeal and he was fully supportive.

From 1030 to 1230 together with my Director of cabinet and J.T. we went through the two texts of the appeals to President Saddam Hussein and President Bush separately. I went through the texts again and again making modifications and choosing every word carefully.

Then at 1250 hours I spoke over the telephone with the Current Chairman President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda. The

Salim's Personal Notes**Monday, January 21, 1991**

President was at State House, Entebbe and our conversation lasted twenty five minutes. I explained to the President what I had in mind and he fully supported me. Then I read out the full texts of the two messages. The President made two changes in the text to President Saddam Hussein. One was to add the word "grievances" where I refereed to "differences" between Iraq and Kuwait can be sorted out when Kuwait's sovereignty has been restored. The second amendment was to urge me to tone down the text where we called for Iraqi withdrawal instead to stipulate "Iraq should accept to withdraw"

With this done, the Current Chairman accepted both the texts and that they should go as joint appeals.

Now the urgent thing was how to transmit the message to President Saddam Hussein given that it was impossible to communicate directly to Baghdad from here. And to compound our situation the Headquarters was immobilised due to power failure. This took several hours. After hectic efforts and repeated telephone calls to our office in Geneva and New York we were able to do the following :

- (a) Even though the Chargé d'Affaires of Iraq in Ethiopia has closed shop as the Embassy has been closed, we discovered that the Chargé d'Affaires himself was still in town and in fact he was only leaving tomorrow for Khartoum where he is to be posted in the Iraqi Embassy in Sudan. Fortunately, we were able to locate him. And at 1730 hours I met with him in the presence of Ambassador Haggag, ASG, Coordination and Missions. I gave the Chargé d'Affaires of Iraq the message addressed to President Saddam Hussein.

Salim's Personal Notes

Monday, January 21, 1991

- (b) On the recommendation of our Mission in Geneva which had contacted the Iraqi Mission we sent the message addressed to President Hussein to the Embassy of Iraq in Amman, Jordan. This we did in two ways namely by telegram and by fax.
- (c) In order to make sure that the message reaches its destination, I also sent the text of the message to Ambassador Hached to deliver the same to the Ambassador of Iraq in Geneva who is reportedly a half brother of President Saddam Hussein. Later in the evening Ambassador Hached telephoned me at my residence and confirmed that the message had been received by the Iraqi Ambassador although initially the Iraqis were reluctant to receive it until it was explained to them that we have also addressed a separate appeal to President George Bush.

At 1945 hours I met with the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Mr. Robert Houdek and handed to him our message to President George Bush. The Chargé d'Affaires undertook to deliver the message promptly to Washington. Also present at this meeting were Ambassador Ahmed Haggag, ASG, Coordination and Missions.

Earlier in the afternoon around 1505 hours, I met with Ambassador Robert Iskander of Egypt and apprised him of our initiative. The Egyptian envoy was supportive of both the initiative and the contents of the appeal.

The two messages to President Saddam Hussein and George Bush read as follows :

Salim's Personal Notes

Monday, January 21, 1991

ADDIS ABABA, 21 JANUARY, 1991.

HIS EXCELLENCY
MR SADDAM HUSSEIN
PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF IRAQ
BAGHDAD

YOUR EXCELLENCY

WE, THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THE ESCALATION OF HOSTILITIES IN THE GULF REGION, HAVE DECIDED TO LAUNCH THIS JOINT AND SOLEMN APPEAL TO YOUR EXCELLENCY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ONGOING WAR IN THAT REGION STOP IN MAKING THIS URGENT APPEAL WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR PARTICULARLY THE LOSS OF LIVES AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AND INFRASTRUCTURE STOP WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION AND ITS FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE STABILITY AND SECURITY OF THE REGION AND THE WORLD STOP

YOUR EXCELLENCY

IN MAKING THIS APPEAL AT THIS VERY LATE HOUR WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE SOLID AND BROTHERLY RELATIONS BETWEEN YOUR COUNTRY AND THE COUNTRIES OF AFRICA STOP WE ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED BY THE PROFOUND COMMITMENT OF YOUR COUNTRY TO THE STRUGGLE OF OUR

Salim's Personal Notes**Monday, January 21, 1991**

CONTINENT TOWARDS ITS POLITICAL LIBERATION AND ITS ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION STOP WE ARE EQUALLY CONSCIOUS OF THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL LINKS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD AND THEIR COMMON DESTINY STOP WE SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT THERE IS STILL HOPE AND CHANCE FOR PEACE AND DIALOGUE AND THAT THE WAR CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS THE ONLY SOLUTION STOP WE EQUALLY BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO EXPLORE NEW AVENUES FOR PEACE STOP

CONSEQUENTLY WE WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR VOICES TO THOSE WHO HAVE CALLED FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER DESTRUCTION AND LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE AND TO ALLOW FOR NEW EFFORTS AIMING AT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS STOP WE THEREFORE WISH TO APPEAL TO YOUR EXCELLENCY TO ACCEPT THE WITHDRAWAL OF IRAQI TROOPS FROM KUWAIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL STOP

WE BELIEVE THAT ONCE KUWAIT'S SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IS RESTORED AND PEACE IS RESTORED, CONDITIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN CREATED FOR THE RESOLUTION OF WHATEVER GRIEVANCES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES STOP THIS CAN BE DONE EITHER THROUGH INTERNATIONAL MEANS OR THROUGH ARAB MEDIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PRACTISE STOP WE ARE MAKING THIS APPEAL ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRIES OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT WHO ARE ATTACHED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND WHO ARE ENTIRELY COMMITTED TO INTERNATIONAL LEGALITY STOP

Salim's Personal Notes

6

Monday, January 21, 1991

WE DO BELIEVE THAT THIS DECISION WILL FACILITATE THE CREATION OF A MORE PROPITIOUS INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION WHICH WE CONSIDER AS CENTRAL TO THE CONFLICT SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST STOP YOUR EXCELLENCY IS FULLY AWARE OF THE FIRM AND UNEQUIVOCAL COMMITMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION STOP WE FULLY SUPPORT THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE STOP WE RECOGNIZE THAT A DURABLE, JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT A RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION STOP AND AFRICA HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE CONVENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO SECURE THAT OBJECTIVE STOP WE BELIEVE THAT, SOON AFTER AN END IS PUT TO THE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE GULF, CONDITIONS WOULD BE PROPITIOUS AND INDEED COMPELLING FOR THE CONVENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE STOP

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THIS EXCEPTIONAL COURAGE WHICH WILL BE SEEN AS A MANIFESTATION OF A VERY HIGH SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY BOTH IN THE ARAB WORLD AND ABROAD STOP FINALLY WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR READINESS TO MAKE OUR HUMBLE CONTRIBUTION TO ANY EFFORTS WHICH MIGHT BE INITIATED TOWARDS PEACE STOP PLEASE ACCEPT YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF OUR HIGHEST CONSIDERATION FULLSTOP

YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF UGANDA AND CURRENT
CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY

SALIM AHMED SALIM
SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY

Salim's Personal Notes

Monday, January 21, 1991

Ref. CAB/CONT/61/51.91

21 January 1991

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. GEORGE BUSH
President of the
United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Your Excellency,

We, the Current Chairman and the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity have the honour to inform you that we have today, addressed an urgent and solemn appeal to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq on behalf of the people and countries of the African Continent. We consider it our duty, at this rather late hour, to join our voice to those who have called for cessation of hostilities in order to avoid further destruction and loss of human life and allow for new efforts aiming at a peaceful solution of the crisis. We, have therefore appealed to President Saddam Hussein to accept the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

In deciding to do so, we are conscious of the devastating consequences of the prevailing war, particularly, the loss of lives and destruction of property. We are also aware of the gravity of the situation and its far reaching implications for the stability and security of the region and the world.

Salim's Personal Notes
Monday, January 21, 1991

8

CAB/CONT/61/51.90

We sincerely believe that it is not too late to explore new avenues for peace and that every opportunity should be seized to achieve the objectives of the United Nations without further suffering and destruction. Our belief is based on the conviction that it is never too late to make an extra effort in the interest of peace.

In making this appeal to President Saddam Hussein, we are mindful of the profound attachment of the African people and the countries of our Continent to the principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity and their commitment to international legality. It was indeed against this background that African countries took a clear and firm position against the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and for the restoration of legality, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait.

Your Excellency, we are aware of and encouraged by your personal commitment to the establishment of a new international order based on sovereign equality, peace and security. In this respect, we believe that you will do everything possible and spare no effort to ensure an end to further destruction and loss of human life. We also make this appeal to Your Excellency as the leader of the international coalition with immense responsibility at this crucial hour.

Salim's Personal Notes

Monday, January 21, 1991

9

CAB/CONT/61/51.91

We do understand the exceptional and difficult position your country has assumed in the present war. We are fully aware of all the efforts you and many others undertook to avoid the outbreak of the present war and to have the decision of the Security Council on the restoration of the sovereignty of Kuwait implemented by peaceful means. We are confident however, that you will spare no effort at a slightest opportunity to give peace another chance.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA AND CURRENT CHAIRMAN
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY

SALIM AHMED SALIM
SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY