

Salim's personal notes**Sunday, March 11, 1990**

to these remarks, Stanley proposed to call Tabo Mbeki so that the latter would speak to me on the phone. I declined the offer pointing out the lateness of the hour and suggested that Tabo could call me early tomorrow morning before my departure for Tripoli. Whether he did so or not or whether Tabo Mbeki did try to make a call in the morning I have no idea but I did leave Tunis without receiving any other communication from either Stanley or Tabo Mbeki.

Meeting with Arafat

At about 20.00 hours we were in the lobby of the Hilton hotel on our way to the residence of the OAU Executive Secretary, Ambassador Tchicaya, for dinner. While about to go out, I was "hijacked" by the Director of the African Affairs of the PLO, Salman, and the Ambassador of Palestine in Harare (formerly the PLO representative in Tanzania) Ali Helemei.

They asked me to go with them to meet with President Yassir Arafat. I obliged. The residence where I met with the Palestinian leader was very well guarded. While armed Palestinian fighters were guarding the place, I met with Arafat for some 30 minutes or so. Also present was the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. Our entire discussion focussed on the serious implications of the Soviet jews immigrating to Israel and settling in occupied areas. It was clear to me from the discussion with Arafat that this is an issue which the PLO is treating with utmost seriousness and grave concern.

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The PLO Chairman gave me a little map based on an Israeli coin which shows the extent of the Israeli expansionism. Among other things greater Israel is envisaged to cover some parts of Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and half of Sinai. I learnt later that the PLO leader had presented this to the Foreign Ministers of Arab countries meeting in Tunis and impressed upon them to take the issue of the Soviet Jewish immigrants as part of a larger scheme of Israeli expansionism.

Dinner with Ambassador Tchicaya

At about 21.00 hrs. we were on our way to Ambassador Tchicaya's residence where we arrived after 20 minutes drive. It is a beautiful residence and magnificently furnished. Ambassador and Mrs. Tchicaya were very gracious and generous hosts. The food was simply delicious. It was past midnight when we left the residence to our hotel.