

SAS/SG/OAU : DIARY/NOTES
WEDNESDAY, 29, 1995

Second Telephone Conversation of
the Day with Emil Ognimba

From 2120 to 2125 hours, Emil Ognimba again telephoned me from Bujumbura. He briefed me of the meeting which they had with the President, the Prime Minister and France's Minister of Cooperation. The French Minister had proposed a Joint Declaration to be signed by both the President and the Prime Minister committing themselves, inter-alia, to work for the implementation of the Covention of Government and for the next three years to devote themselves to the restoration of peace and security. The President was ready to sign the Declaration today. But the Prime Minister wanted more time to consult with his allies - the Opposition Parties. Another meeting is to be held tomorrow morning at 1100 hours - Burundi time. It is expected that the Declaration will be signed by then.

Other Matters

- a) At 1900 hours, Muhamed Ali Fom accompanied by Ambassador Liundi, came to visit us. Fom is here on a one day transit en route to Cairo to where he is leaving tomorrow. Fom and Liundi stayed until 2130 hours. They had dinner with us;
- b) At 1945, Khamis Suedi telephoned me from Geneva. He briefed me on a message which was supposed to be conveyed to me y Tanzania's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Abdul Kadir.

The message, inter-alia, is reportedly coming from Hamza Aziz, Idi Simba, Abbas Sykes and Ambassador Abdalla Suedi. I told Khamis that I have had no contacts from Abdul Kadir;

- c) Earlier in the afternoon around 1430 hours, Jenerali Ulimwengu, MP, Editor of RAI telephoned me from Dar-es-Salaam. He asked me questions relating to developments in Burundi and what the OAU has been doing as well as the proposed mission of Foreign Ministers to Burundi scheduled for early April, 1995.

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Then Ulimwengu raised rather unexpectedly the issue of the forthcoming Presidential Elections scheduled for October 1995.

He prefaced his question with an explanation that the presidential race has now very much heated up. Many names were being mentioned. And that one of the names being mentioned prominently is my own. This, he said has gained considerable momentum in the aftermath of the recent Press Conference by Mwalimu Nyerere at the Kilimanjaro Hotel Tea Room during which the Founding Father of the Tanzania Nation had elaborated on the qualities which, in his view, are required for a person to qualify to occupy the position as the Third President of the United Republic of Tanzania. There was therefore legitimate national interest to know my views on the issue. He went on to say that some people were utilising the remarks I made in Zanzibar on the issue as demonstrating total lack of interest and concern over what is happening in the country. He therefore strongly urged that I put my position for record purposes.

I told Jeneral Ulimwengu as follows :-

My position remains as that adumbrated while I was in Zanzibar. I am not a candidate. In any case, the question as to who should be a candidate will be properly determined by the Political Parties in the country. I have a role here in Addis Ababa as Secretary-General of the OAU. But this position should in no way be misconstrued as lack of interest on my part over developments in Tanzania. I follow events at home very closely. My main interest is to see that the country continues on the path of stability, understanding and security. I am only too conscious that Tanzania's stability is crucial for my own role as Secretary-General of the OAU.

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I am not a candidate. But I am also conscious of the fact that I have over the years played a role in national politics. So while I am not a candidate, I believe that neither Tanzanians nor Africans elsewhere will understand, were I to say that under no circumstances will I consider to play a role in the country should such a situation be an overwhelming desire on the part of Tanzanians. (The next day when I spoke to Rahma, she told me that RAI had a front page Headline : SALIM IS NOT A CANDIDATE BUT...

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THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1995**

I had today several engagements - the majority of which dealt with developments in Burundi. These included separate meetings in my office with : (i) the Ambassador of France, also speaking on behalf of the European Union; (ii) the Ambassador of Belgium, the former colonial power of Burundi and (iii) the Ambassador of Canada. I also received a telephone call from the Secretary-General of International ALERT based in London, Mr. Kumar Rupesinghe who also talked to me on the situation in Burundi.

Another important meeting was with the Chairman of the Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA), Mr. Ali Mahdi Muhamed and members of his delegation.

Meeting with the Ambassador of France, H.E. Louis Amigues

The meeting with Ambassador Louis Amigues which took place in my office lasted from 1100 to 1140 hours. In attendance were the OAU Secretary-General's Special Representative in Burundi, Amb. Bassole and the Senior Political Officer in the Conflict Management Division, Mr. Sam Ibok.