

SAS/SG/OAU: DIARY/NOTES
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I had two major engagements today - both in relation to the President of the Peoples' Republic of China, H.E. Jiang Zemin. These were first a meeting with the Chinese Head of State at the National Palace where he was staying and secondly presiding over a meeting at Africa Hall where President Jiang Zemin delivered an address on China-Africa Relations.

President Jiang Zemin is on a state visit to Ethiopia since Saturday, May 11. His visit to Ethiopia is part of an extended tour to several African countries. The President of the Peoples' Republic of China has already visited Kenya. And from Ethiopia he will be making state visits to Egypt, Mali, Namibia and Zimbabwe before returning to China. As far as I can recollect this is the first visit of a Chinese Head of State or head of Government to Africa since the pioneering and historic visit of Premier Chou En-Lai in 1963.

This visit is therefore of historic and political significance. And earlier before embarking on the visit the Chinese Government had let it be known that they want to make contacts and discussion with the OAU as an integral part of the visit. The Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia came to see me about three week ago to request that I should meet with the President and that President Jiang Zemin would like to address the African and international community here in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the OAU. This means that as I did with the President of Germany during his state visit here, I would be issuing invitations for the function to take place at Africa Hall. I agreed to do so. Indeed, I cut short my visit to West Africa (I was supposed to go to Guinea Bissau and Gambia during my recent visit which took me to Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Guinea and Ghana) in order to return to Addis Ababa and be in town for the two activities involving the President of the Peoples' Republic of China.

Meeting with President Jiang Zemin

The meeting took place at the National Palace, Addis Ababa - opposite the Hilton Hotel. It lasted from 0900 to 0930 hours.

President Jiang Zemin was with more than a dozen senior officials and aides including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, the Minister for Economic Cooperation, the Minister of Public Security and other senior officials including the Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia, H.E. Jin Sen.

I was accompanied by Assistant Secretaries General, Pascal Gayama (ESCAS), Vijay Makhan (EDECO), Daniel Antonio (Political)

and Anatole Tiendrebeogo (Administration and Conferences) as well as by the Director of Cabinet, Said Djinnit and senior Political Officer in the Conflict Division, Bassey Ibok who acted as a note taker.

President Jiang welcomed me and my delegation warmly. He paid tribute to my role as Secretary General of the OAU and recalled that I was a great friend of China. To this end, he recalled my role as Ambassador of Tanzania to China (1969), my role as a national leader of Tanzania and my role in supporting the restoration of the lawful rights of the Peoples Republic of China to the United Nations (in 1971).

He said that his visit to China was intended to enhance relations with African countries and to enable him to gain first hand experience of the African countries and African developments. He paid tribute to the role of the OAU and asserted that China recognized and valued the OAU's role in African developments.

Later in the course of the discussion the Chinese President announced that as a manifestation of its support for the OAU's role, the Chinese Government would be contributing \$300,000.00 (Three hundred thousand United States Dollars).

In my remarks I highlighted the following:

- Welcomed the President and his delegation to Addis Ababa and to Africa and underscored the importance that I attached to his visit to Africa.
- I recalled the historical ties between Africa and China and particularly recalled the support given by the Peoples Republic of China to the African struggle for liberation from colonialism and racism including apartheid as well as the multifaceted assistance given by China to African countries in the areas of economic and technical cooperation.
- I recalled my official visit to China as Secretary General of the OAU in 1991 which have resulted in the strengthening of ties between the OAU and China.

Having made these remarks I then went on to highlight the current challenges facing the OAU.

- Peace, security and stability.
- Political and economic reforms;
- Strengthening panafrican economic cooperation and integration.
- Enhancing African Unity, solidarity and cohesion in order to

be a meaningful partner in international relations.

I made reference to OAU's concerns in different conflict situations in the continent with special reference to Liberia and Burundi. I also referred to the negative impact of continued sanctions against Libya.

Finally I concluded by proposing regular consultations between China and the OAU (Here I made reference to the fact that such consultations already prevail with other partners such as the European Union).

The following is a record of my discussion with President Jiang Zemin as prepared by Sam Bassey Ibok.

Address by the President of the Peoples Republic of China
at Africa Hall

The President of the Peoples Republic of China, Jiang Zemin arrived at the ECA at about 0940 hours and I received him accompanied by Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin. After a short stay in the room near the Africa Hall, we proceeded to Africa Hall where African and non-African diplomats, senior OAU officials and their spouses as well as other OAU and ECA officials and media and other personalities were present.

The theme of the address of President Jiang Zemin was on "China-Africa relations". Before he addressed the assembly, I invited the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. Sarr who made a short 3 minutes welcoming remarks. I then made a ten minutes or so address welcoming President Jiang Zemin and in the process paid tribute to the historic and mutually beneficial relations between the Peoples Republic of China and Africa. I introduced the Chinese Head of State as a great friend of Africa.

President Jiang Zemin delivered his address which lasted about 40 minutes. It was in Chinese with French and English simultaneous interpretation.

After his address, the Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ato Seyoum Mesfin delivered a vote of thanks.

By 1035 hours, the meeting was over. We then took a photograph in front of the tapestry of the founding fathers of the OAU.

President Jiang Zemin and his delegation left Addis Ababa in the afternoon for Cairo, the third leg of their African safari.