



OAU Chairman, President Moi of Kenya

I was happy that President Daniel T. Arap Moi of the Republic of Kenya and Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, addressed the United Nations. His statement was not couched in subtlety as was Secretary Haig's or in accusations by Foreign Minister Gromyko.

President Moi came in peace and civility to plead for the freedom of our people from South Africa — the last vestige of racism on his continent.

This sturdy, ebony colored African with a regal bearing — a man who had been reared in the great knowledge and vision of his late leader, President Jomo Kenyatta — let it be known he of the OAU represented a full one-third of the Membership of the United Nations.

He reminded the General Assembly that his group respected and adhered to the Charter of the United Nations. He pleaded that others would sincerely do the same.

President Moi mentioned that the OAU had played positive roles in the border dispute between Nigeria and the Cameroon, Chad and Western Sahara, etc. He admitted that there were other situations which required constant negotiations; among these the Horn of Africa.

But for me, President Moi was really eloquent when he invited the Big Powers to help get Africa out of the clutches of a brutal, militaristic, bad, racist South Africa. He said:

"To be frank, I frequently find it impossible to comprehend where the big powers stand on this matter of South Africa. There have been promises to 'exert pressure' as a means of securing some solution, but all such assurances have proved to be empty of meaning. The big powers have in fact positively declined to inject, or even to support, the kind of influence which, emanating from such sources, could not fail to make an instant impact. And then they have said to us that we should never think or plan in terms of military force or in terms of economic sanctions or even in terms of psychological pressure. Instead, they still exhort us after all this time to fall back upon the comfortable and unproductive cushions which suit them so well of moderation, tolerance and patience. I can only urge, with due respect for sensitivities within this body, that this hypocritical approach be brought to an immediate end. Further, it is abundantly clear that unless that is done, relations between nations will rapidly grow sour, with immense dangers to all, at a time when all those who want peace and stability should be working even more closely together.

I repeat that Africa believes that there is a moral duty devolving upon all peoples and all nations to defend and sustain above all else the fundamentals of human dignity and human rights, for these are the prerequisites for any worthwhile evolution and destiny of mankind. Those who deny that such a duty exists should at least have the courage to make their viewpoint plain, so that we would know where sanity is enshrined and where evil is befriended. Now, we in Africa are determined to destroy by whatever means the last vestiges of segregation and discrimination within our continent. This is the basic aim of the United Nations, and unless it is upheld steadfastly and without modification, the United Nations will become a mockery of the faith, hope and treasure invested in it by mankind."

He had this to say about apartheid:

"In the broadest context of the tense situation now prevailing in southern Africa, the main obstacle to progress has been the militant fabric encouraged and nurtured from outside the Republic of South Africa itself. In confronting all these threats and outrages that have so far been manifested, the sincerity of the United Nations has never been brought into question. But the efforts and objectives of the United Nations have constantly been undermined by hypocrisy and subterfuge which continue to prevent any tangible progress in the establishment of human rights for all in that part of the world.

"And so, during this session of the General Assembly, we must all clarify our minds with regard to our purpose and the hindrances before us as far as the situation in southern Africa is concerned. The system of apartheid has been rightly condemned by all those, including the vast majority of those in South Africa, who want peace for themselves and others and who recognize that human rights for all and in every part of the globe are an essential element in securing that peace. However, after decades of condemnation and protest, we are still faced in South Africa by the evil and inhuman system of apartheid which embraces the total denial of political rights and of human outlet of expression.

United Nations From The Super Powers, Disturbing Utterances— From Africa, The Challenge Of President Moi Part III By Curtis T. Perkins

"Across the whole spectrum of impact and meaning, apartheid lies as an anguish upon the conscience of all civilized men. It violates those universal principles of human dignity and conduct which the United Nations has been authorized to codify and to harness. And there is no doubt that it affronts the very foundation of international law. On these three grounds alone, and there are many more, the only conclusion to be reached is that apartheid must be destroyed. In any case, there should never be any compromise with evil — and apartheid is, in every aspect, evil.

"The OAU demands the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African forces from Angola. We are confident that this Assembly has no alternative but to support that demand, for not to do so would betray the very principles for which the United Nations stands.

"Then, as another instance, we have reaffirmed the previous Organization of African Unity insistence that one of the effective weapons for dealing with the situation in South Africa is the complete isolation of that country. The effectiveness of that weapon is blunted every time commercial ties and sporting links with that country are established, maintained or strengthened. And this is why we regret so deeply the concessions recently made by certain states which have accepted the continuation of sporting links with South Africa. As you know, Mr. President, we in Africa have an increasingly impressive record of contribution and achievement under many headings of sport and athletics. Indeed, we find no enjoyment or relish whatsoever if sport anywhere in the world is disrupted. But we cannot stand idly by without protest or countermeasures while some countries encourage South Africa through sporting links to continue with its defiance of world opinion and accepted standards of human behavior."

About Namibia, President Moi reminded the Assembly:

"I am sure that in respect of Namibia, representatives will not need the prompting of any catalogue of historical facts. It will be readily recalled that over a period of years many resolutions have been adopted, conferences have been convened, structures have been created, all in the cause of pursuing the mandated task of ushering that Territory by peaceful means toward the elementary right to self-determination.

"Yet today, despite all the decisions and the patient efforts, Namibia is still not independent. It is not hard to discern within the historical records basic reasons for this failure, but analysis of the past seems to me of far less importance than reappraisal of the future. In my submission the General Assembly must consider me earnestly and urgently whether this is a circumstance requiring the enforcement, at whatever cost, of international law and paramount principles, or whether the United Nations can safely continue to accommodate the burden of weakness and the stigma of futility. That is of course a rhetorical question. The General Assembly has no alternative but to undertake whatever steps are necessary to bring independence to Namibia on the basis of Security Council Resolution 435."

The Kenyan President and the Chairman of the OAU touched on economic development for Africa, on trade and appreciation by the West of fair prices for natural resources and fair charges for finished products by the developed countries. He too called for peace in the Middle East with a home for the Palestinians and respected borders for Israel.

I was greatly impressed with this concluding

statement from President Daniel T. Arap Moi of Kenya where his philosophy is anchored.

"I would add at this juncture that, as I mentioned before, we all belong to the human race. We in Kenya stand on three principles: peace, love and unity. There can never be unity unless there is love for the human race. There can never be understanding and confidence created unless people have love for one another. We may pass 101 resolutions in this Assembly and not achieve anything if there is no love for one another. I hope that all of us will have respect for humanity if we are truly members of the human race."

The OAU, Africa, the United Nations, black Americans and those who believe in civilization

ought to heed that statesman from Kenya now.

I quote the bright and scholarly remarks of Dr. Ishaya Adudu, External Affairs Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who spoke to the United Nations General Assembly, also, a few days ago.

His statement not only undergirds President Moi, but also realistically challenges the United Nations thusly:

"Our organization faces today, the greatest challenge throughout the history of its existence. Whether it be in the political, economic, or armament field, our world is at the brink of colossal disaster. A few nations have acquired the capacity to save the world from, or plunge it into, Armageddon. Let us hope that the leaders of these nations would rise above petty, narrow, selfish interests. Let us hope that they would refrain from being the victims of the arrogance of power. Let us hope that the peace, welfare and betterment of the human race as a whole, would be their prime concern as it is the concern of all of us as members of this World Organization.

Let us hope that together, we would be true and faithful to our great Charter in the interest of Peace, Prosperity and Progress of the whole of Mankind."

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Dialogue

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Political realists in the South and some members of the Brandt Commission now believe that the North will not make significant aid available to the South under the North's present political leadership and economic difficulties. It is even suggested that the needed aid may have to wait until the economic and political crisis in the West matures to the point where important elements of the establishment come to the realization that the continued viability of the free enterprise system is inevitably linked to the economic fortunes of the Third World.

The dramatically rising European peace crusade and growing mass hostility to governmental expenditure cuts is giving hope in important political circles that the dominant Thatcher-Reagan economic-political and military axis can be broken within the next couple of years and so open the door to economic expansion and real North-South cooperation. In the meantime, another North-South dialogue will keep the issues before the peoples of the world, who, to many observers, will be the ones to force the governments to act in a responsible and humane way.



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