



**SALIM**  
UN Photo by M. Grant

## United Nations

### U.S. Racism and Russian Shenanigans Thwart African In U.N. Secretary General Bid

#### An Analysis

By Curtis T. Perkins

against the middle for its own selfish interests in not really supporting Mr. Salim. Russia sees the big shadow of China where hundreds of thousands of its troops are massed at the borders of the People's Republic. Frankly, Russia feels more comfortable with Mr. Waldheim.

China is standing up valiantly for the Third World in vetoing Mr. Waldheim in behalf of the Tanzanian.

Small groups, these days cluster and talk in animated tones in the corridors, lounges and outside the meeting halls of the United Nations. Times are rough here in this citadel of world opinion. The process of electing a Secretary-General is taking its toll. Strategy is the course of the day.

Salim Ahmed Salim, the Foreign Minister of Tanzania, is certainly an attractive and viable candidate to succeed Kurt Waldheim, age 62, of Austria. Minister Salim is 39 and is the shining hope of especially the Organization of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Group 77. The Third World, The League of Arab States and the Islamic Conference — over 100 nations of the 156 members of the U.N. seem committed to Mr. Salim. I have talked to scores of representatives from mostly Africa and occasionally elsewhere. I sense the determination that they want this African who is more qualified to lead the world than Waldheim of anyone else — in my opinion.

Minister Salim could be the voice of the developed and bridge a gap between them and the industrialized countries. The United States which has an anti-Third World bias doesn't even entertain his qualifications and proven abilities. A cloud of racism compels our consistent vetoes every time the U.N. Security Council meets on the nomination of Mr. Salim versus Secretary General Waldheim.

The Soviet Union as usual plays all ends

Time is on Mr. Salim's side and if his supporters can hold on for a while possibly, my country will see the folly of its ways and abstain.

I feel some pertinent facts should be set forth on Minister Salim which should help clear the air for our bigots in the White House, the State Department and in the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

When this Tanzanian was leader of the General Assembly he was considered very fair and mostly conceived as being consistently impartial. At a press conference near the completion of his term, he put his ability to be objective in this view:

...By and large, indeed, in my experience, without exception — member states have demonstrated a tremendous amount of confidence in me. They know perfectly well that I am an African, a representative of Tanzania, but also that I have, as far as is humanly possible, always

drawn a difference between Salim, the Tanzanian, and Salim, the President of the General Assembly. And I can assure you that on occasion, I have bent over backwards to make sure that Salim, the President of the General Assembly was not confused on issues with Salim, the representative of Tanzania.

President Salim hued to his scrupulously in not taking sides. His candidacy was enhanced by such adherence. He did earn the respect of the West, the non-aligned and the Communist members of the U.N.

As President of the General Assembly in

1980, Ambassador Salim was remembered for starting the sessions on time and urging in private for briefer speeches by his fellow diplomats. He was known to have persuaded the Fourth Committee dealing with the Zimbabwe-Rhodesia question to defer to negotiations on majority rule being conducted by Great Britain between all parties at Lancaster House in London. England held elections with Robert Mugabe, co-chairman of the Patriotic Front, who became Zimbabwe's first black prime minister.

Other vital matters having to be dealt with by Mr. Salim as President of the General Assembly included:

- the fight between Cuba and Colombia for a seat on the U.N. Security Council which stalemated after 150 ballots were cast. The seat finally went to Mexico.

- the visit of Pope John II and who addressed a receptive and supportive General Assembly.

- the fight over the seat of Kampuchea (Cambodia) in the Assembly. The Pol Pot group, backed by the People's Republic of China, won over the Samarian Government supported by Vietnam and Russia. Mr. Salim also had the Assembly tackle the issue of starvation in Cambodia with many countries supplying medicine, food and funds.

- review of the U.N. Charter but Mr. Salim defended the present structure as being adequate and capable of maintaining peace. No changes are being contemplated.

- global negotiations being initiated between developed and developing nations.

- the "Decade for Women" pursued its target with a meaningful conference held at Copenhagen.

- called in the Polish Ambassador — unprecedented by an Assembly President — urged the release of a U.N. staff member, Ms. Alicia Wesolowski, who was being held in prison under unspecified charges in Poland. Ms.

Wesolowski, however, remained in custody. • held sessions on independence for Namibia; sanctions against South Africa; nuclear proliferation, food, refugees, energy, Palestinian rights, communications, resources of the sea, disarmament, etc.

#### ABOUT IRAN

One of the most dramatic sessions presided over by President Salim was the matter of American hostages being held in Iran at that time. This meeting was called at the insistence of the American Ambassador Donald McHenry and soundly rebuked Iran for its action in the violation of the U.N. Charter. Sanctions were voted against Iran and on this rare occasion, the United States got the sympathy of the world. The U.N. has been credited with paving the way for the release of the hostages, months later — having involved the Algerian Ambassador to the U.N. Mohammed Bejjajoui.

#### WALDHEIM RUNNING HARD

Mr. Waldheim, a bland Austrian and a career diplomat, seems to have an excellent following at this time. He has been careful not to offend and has skillfully cultivated support in all the complex groupings at the U.N. Although these assumptions and visible popularity are untested, the Africans expect Mr. Salim to upset these appearances.

The former President of the U.N. General Assembly and Mr. Waldheim seem to have gotten along well together. Yet rumors were always current that Mr. Salim would be the opponent of Mr. Waldheim in 1982.

Secretary General Waldheim has orchestrated his relationship with particularly black Africans by endorsing their appointments to high posts. These include K.K.S. Dadzie of Ghana, a Director General for Development and Economic Cooperation (considered the number two job at the U.N.); James C.

Jonah of Sierra Leone, Assistant Secretary for Personnel and Issafou Saidou Djermakoye of Niger, Commissioner for Technical Cooperation; Dr. Davidson Michol is Director General of UNITAR and Augustus F. Caine of Liberia is Executive Director of the Commission for Namibia. There are other Africans influenced by Mr. Waldheim in other important slots in the U.N. Secretariat. All of these Africans also qualify for their jobs on their own merit.

It was Mr. Waldheim who named Mrs. Mathruin Mair, a seasoned diplomat from Jamaica, as Assistant Secretary for the "Decade For Women". Mrs. Mair is now special consultant to UNICEF. Judge Angie Brooks of Liberia and a former President of the U.N. General Assembly, is now a consultant to the U.N.

Of course, Secretary General Waldheim has stood up for statehood for Namibia majority rule in South Africa, a homeland for the Palestinians, aid to refugees and a litany of many positive approaches which not only appeal to Africans but the other non-developed nations of the world.

There are some Africans who dispute Mr. Waldheim's posture of success — pointing out his inability to get things done in a substantive fashion. This criticism will perhaps become more profound as the contest for Secretary General heats up.

#### TIME FOR AN AFRICAN

Anyone familiar with the workings of the United Nations knows that regional leadership is a tradition and incumbent in the U.N. the presidencies of the General Assembly and Security Council rotate. Jobs at the U.N. are shared by all nations. Some of these leaders as Salim A. Salim make their mark in history in the growth and achievements in this world body.

The first Secretary General of the U.N. was Trygve Lie of Norway from 1946 to 1953. His successor was Dag Hammarskjold of Sweden who was killed in an airplane crash in the Congo, now Zaire, in 1961. U. Thant of Burma followed Mr. Hammarskjold and left the U.N. in 1971. Many feel that Mr. U. Thant's success as a great Secretary General had the genius and counsel of Dr. Ralph Bunche, his trusted Under Secretary General — a black American.

Mr. Lie had organizational pains but with a limited number of members had a fairly smooth tenure.

It was Mr. Hammarskjold who faced violence during his term — in the Middle East, the Congo, Cyprus and other trouble-spots throughout the world. He is known also to have relied on Dr. Bunche for his many achievements in cease fires and the establishment of new states, etc.

The OAU points out that three Europeans and one Asian have held this highest and most powerful position at the United Nations.

They emphasize that it's time for an African and Mr. Waldheim should retire gracefully.

But many observers at the U.N. feel Mr. Waldheim will try for another stint.

Mr. Salim, a Moslem and much younger, presents what Africans consider the right chemistry to lead the world in the era of history. They note he has the knowledge of what has to be done to build understanding between the poor, the West and the Communists.

#### THE HAZARDS

I have had the

privilege of talking with Mr. Salim and his mentor President Nyerere who spent much time in the United States espousing independence for their country. Therefore, Foreign Minister Salim is well grounded in government and international relations and the approaches which can weld the family of nations in more meaningful pursuits.

It is time that an African led the United Nations with new formulas, with resultful innovations and workable solutions.

But realistically, the task of electing Mr. Salim Secretary General over Mr. Waldheim is a hazardous task.

First, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) needs to get geared up for such a project. It needs an articulate office in New York City where its image and coordination can be improved at the U.N. headquarters.

The OAU must have its budget subscribed by its members so that an expert staff can be maintained and its program implemented.

The issues of gaining independence for Namibia and establishing majority rule in South Africa are in themselves coalescing ingredients for a great OAU.

Electing Mr. Salim is a prospective rallying vehicle.

Mr. Salim and the OAU must be warned that the Conservative Reagan Administration here in the United States is no great friend of Africa and Third World states. Already the director of the Office of Management and Budget, David Stockman, is eyeing the U.S. contributions to the U.N. and its agencies — for cuts.

My question is: Can an African attract the funds necessary to administer the many basic objectives of the United Nations?

There are prominent members of the U.S. Senate like Jesse Helms of North Carolina and Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York — a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations who frequently express their disdain for Africa and the non-aligned countries. There are also others. The U.S. also has many friends in the West who could be led to cut back their commitments.

Then there is the danger of the veto in the U.N. Security Council which could be exercised

in behalf of Secretary Kurt Waldheim or another favored by the West.

#### AFRICAN LOBBY NEEDED

But if the Africans are serious in their desire to elect Salim A. Salim of Tanzania, then they must enlist their natural allies, the forty million Afro-Americans. There is a lot of talent in our group. Our great corps of black leaders can be mobilized to tell President Ronald Reagan, Secretary Alexander Haig, Jr., of the State Department; Mrs. Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, Chief U.S. Delegate to the U.N. and Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State, that we are proud of Minister Salim. We must tell these administrative officials face to face that we must be accorded the same respect and concessions as American friends of Israel, Greece, Taiwan and scores of others.

#### OAU KEY

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) must stop being bashful. They simply cannot argue about electing Mr. Salim Secretary General or getting freedom for Namibia or establishing black majority rule at the U.N. They must go after U.S. opinion. They must persuade America aggressively to pay attention to their pertinent needs which are essential for world peace.

My point here is the OAU must set up a lobby operation in Washington. The U.S., as a world power, is the key to African progress. Further, the U.S. leads and commands the West, in particular Europe, South America and other areas.

It is good the Security Council has the scrutiny of three members from Africa. They are Ambassadors: Mr. Ide Oumarou of Niger; Mr. Taieb Slim of Tunisia and Mr. Othman Ottunwu of Uganda.

And, if all these world powers put humanity out front, the world will better for their deeds by letting this man lead them.



**WALDHEIM**  
UN Photo by D. Burnett

#### THE DARK HORSES

I feel China and Africa must stick to Mr. Salim's candidacy and not allow the Americans to peruse this third choice business. This is Africa's time in history. And even if Mr. Salim is pushed out of the picture, the world must elect an alternate African. Africa does have others with experience and dedication.

In the future, Latin America must be given its chance as many capable diplomats can be brought to the fore from this region.

The truth is Secretary Waldheim has served ten long years. He should have retired gracefully and made way for another — specifically Foreign Minister Salim.

#### BIG POWER

##### LARGESSE NEEDED

Russia should stop viewing Secretary General Kurt Waldheim as being "safer" as they discern a streak of independence in Foreign Minister Salim A. Salim. The U.S. should show good American fairness by allowing Mr. Salim to pass — and not continue on this path of obvious bigotry and prejudice. The People's Republic of China has a very popular and moral stance and should stand by Mr. Salim until he is elected. Time is on the African's side.

And, if all these world powers put humanity out front, the world will better for their deeds by letting this man lead them.

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