

SUMMIT  
CIAS/GEN/INF/13  
23 May 1963

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY H.E. SIR MILTON MARGAI  
Prime Minister of Sierra Leone

Your Imperial Majesty; Your Excellencies:

I must first of all join in the expressions of thanks to Your Imperial Majesty and to your Government and people for the warm welcome with which we have been received in this lovely city, for the gracious and generous hospitality which has been provided for us, and for all the care and thoroughness with which preparations have been made for this historic SUMMIT Conference of Independent African States.

We in Sierra Leone have never believed that Africa could not be united. We have always held the hope that the differences of approach which seemed to have the appearance of creating different groups or blocks on our continent were only temporary differences. Now we are happy that we did not hold this hope in vain. We are happy that, by the simple fact that we are meeting here from over thirty independent states, we have been able to prove to ourselves and to show to those outside Africa who, for their own reasons, would like to see us divided, that there is only ONE Africa, and that in this one Africa, we are all brothers.

I would like also to express our thanks to our foreign ministers and their delegations; who have worked patiently and well this past week to prepare our Agenda.

It is my view, Your Majesty and Your Excellencies, that if we were to go home from this Conference having reaffirmed the fundamental basis of our Unity, and having set in motion the machinery for the structural aspects of our Unity, and having declared that we WILL stay united and WILL cooperate in every way towards the full economic, social, educational, scientific and cultural development of this our potentially great continent, our meeting will have been crowned with success. In order, therefore, to achieve this success, I am prepared to enter into our discussions with a spirit of understanding and sympathy with views which may be different from my own views, and with a willingness to reach agreement through honourable compromise.

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Your Majesty; Your Excellencies: The whole world is watching us, and eagerly listening for the good news from Addis Ababa, that a UNITED AFRICA is ready to lead in the path towards world peace and security.

I thank you.