

SUMMIT  
CIAS/GEN/INF/5  
23 May 1963

ADDRESS BY H. E. FARIK I, ABOUD  
PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL,  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SUDAN

Dear Friends,

We are gathered together today under the glow of a new dawn which makes the advent of a new era in our Continent. This Africa, the cradle of Mankind, where glorious civilizations have blossomed on the shores of mighty rivers, has been for long the prey of colonizers who enslaved her sons, disdained her cultures and exploited her wealth.

We are gathered today to strive for the liberation of those parts of this dear Continent where colonialism wages its last desperate battle and also to encounter another challenge - that of reconstruction, of combatting vestiges of economic and social backwardness, and of readapting foreign system of Government to suit our national temperament and traditions. Furthermore our multiple and complex problems have to be set in a wider perspective - We have to face them in the midst of ideological conflicts and foreign interests that threaten Africa.

This is why we meet, Dear Friends, on the outbreak of a new era, the era of African Unity - an idea that has begun to crystalize, having for long been cherished as an ideal by African Leaders and nourished as a hope by the African Peoples.

We meet in this climate of hope to defy these internal and external challenges. We meet, inspired by confidence to rally our internal resources and by faith among African Peoples and Governments. We are here to analyse, to resolve and to overcome all external obstacles; for we are inspired by this sense of the oneness of Africa.

I greet you all in the name of this Unity to which the People of the Republic of the Sudan have always aspired. The Sudanese People have longed and worked for this historic meeting through previous Conferences in which the Sudan participated; fully convinced that artificial differences cannot stand against this Continental surge for Unity.

The importance of this Unique Conference is therefore not only one of magnitude, for one of a quest for the definition of complete Unity disregarding blocks and internal divisions. It is also an expression of our

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determined efforts to wield this Unity as an effective means of constructing an African edifice which will reflect our multiple economic, social, and political endeavours and which will, equally effectively, contribute towards World Peace and stability.

All our peoples are anxiously watching us lay the cornerstone of this magnificent edifice today. They fully realize that the choice of words in drafting charters, proposals and resolutions is meaningless without the dedicated spirit with which they are to be implemented. Our Peoples expect frankness when details are discussed, and when issues are resolved. They pray for an atmosphere of confidence so that a long cherished dream may be realized. Unity is an imperative necessity for Africa today. Our problems stem from a common root and have, we believe, a common answer. Unity is not only our most effective answer but it has for us a message that is essentially and intrinsically different from a plea for Unity by others. Colonial and industrially-developed countries may regard Unity as a method of preserving the status-quo. We regard Unity as an endeavour for the creation of that which should be both ideally and practically.

Dear Friends,

Having set African Unity as our ultimate goal we may agree to differ as to the forms in which this Unity may be expressed. It may acquire various and changing shapes. Only by trial can we embark upon the most congenial and durable form. Nevertheless it is important to declare from this restroom our dedication to this Unity, both in principle and as an instrument of policy.

I am therefore proud and pleased to announce, in the name of the People of the Sudan, our unwavering determination to bring about and realise this Unity. We are more prepared to fulfill our obligations towards this ideal than to enjoy any rights that may accrue.

We are prepared to harmonize our foreign, economic, and social policies with other African policies. We are equally prepared to expand our various means of communications to strive for closer physical proximity with our neighbours and with other African States. We are equally dedicated to revive and promote spritual and moral affinities so that a unified African public opinion may emerge. We are fully prepared to work for closer cultural, technical, and social co-operation with all African Governments and Peoples.

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Dear Friends,

The Sudan does not understand Unity as an attempt to isolate Africa from the rest of the world; or to absolve ourselves from our international obligations. We believe that the reverse is true. We believe that, with Unity, the African Voice will carry more weight; that our role will be more constructive; and our contribution more positive at this critical juncture in the affairs of Mankind.

We hope thereby to constitute moral force which will direct the world towards peace and good will - a role which will be in keeping with our cultural, spiritual, and moral heritage. We believe that we can best fulfill this role by adopting the policy of non-alignment, by rejecting foreign military pacts, foreign military bases and by the outright condemnation of armament.

Through preparing to undertake this constructive role; we believe that the rest of the world will be impelled to fulfill its obligations towards us. We do not ask the Big Powers merely to refrain from interfering in our affairs or to desist from meddling in our inter-african relations. We demand that these Powers undertake and fulfill their responsibilities towards bridging the gulf which separates the haves from the have-nots. We demand fair returns for our primary products in world markets, returns which are commensurate with our efforts and which cannot be achieved by fluctuating prices. If they are truly desirous for world peace, we believe that these same Powers should devote more of their technical resources to enable us to industrialize our raw materials in order to raise the economic and social standard of our Peoples.

This campaign for national construction should not, however, divert us from an equally imperative task - The task of liberating the rest of our Continent from these remaining pockets of colonialist and racialist domination.

The Sudan is of the view that measures to achieve these ends must be practical and co-ordinative. We believe in the establishment of an all Africa organisation through which material aid to Liberation Movements should be channelled and training facilities for Freedom Fighters in our respective countries should be organized. We believe in the application of complete and effective boycott of the Governments of Portugal and the Republic of South Africa.

Brothers and Friends,

This first Meeting between the Heads of Independent African States should spell a new page in our inter-African relations. We should delve into the past only to cement our new - found Unity and open up new vistas for genuine future co-operation. The keynote for this co-operation lies within us; its stems from our faith in ourselves and trust in our neighbours and brothers.

I hope you will bare with me while I undertake a congenial and pleasant task. May I, on behalf of the Government and People of the Sudan, express our sincerest thanks to His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie the First. His personal sympathy and support, the dedication of His Government and People have made this Conference possible. Its resounding success is a tribute to the whole of Africa.

May I finally, on behalf of the People of the Sudan, convey to the People of Ethiopia our wishes for their continous happiness and prosperity. The bonds between us are an ancient and living reality which is forever strengthened by the eternal flow of the Nile.

Thank you all.