

Odvar Nordli,
Prime Minister of Norway

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State Visit by His Excellency the President of
the United Republic of Tanzania,
Julius K. Nyerere.

Speech at the official Government Dinner at
Akershus Castle 29th April 1976.

Mr. President, Your Majesty, Royal Highnesses,
distinguished guests,

On behalf of my Government, it is a great privilege
and pleasure for me to welcome you all to this dinner.

Mr. President, even if your visit is too short to see
much of our country, it is my sincere hope that you and your
delegation will feel that Tanzania has many good friends in

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Norway.

Towards the end of this year your country will
celebrate it's fifteenth anniversary for it's independence.
An important step on the way to independence was the
establishment of TANU in 1954, largely as a result of your
intensive and gifted political work. I do not know how you
felt about the future of your country at that time,
Mr. President, but I have found a statement you made in
that year, where you said that it may take 25 years to
gain independence, that is in 1979. For your own sake and
for your people I am happy about the misjudgement you made
then.

Your are visiting us to-day as President of your country. Beside your constitutional and political functions we know that you take a particular interest in almost any subject of importance for your country.

I must admit that I have not seen your swahili translations of Shakespeare's dramas. And if I had seen them I would hardly have understood a word. But you would be surprised to see how widely the principles of the Arusha declaration are known and appreciated in this country.

I want to stress four points of principle in that declaration which in my view should form the cornerstones of any progressive, democratic African nation:

- the right for the people to elect their leaders,
- the importance of self reliance, and break the dependence of foreign influence,

- the emphasis on development of the rural areas where the majority of the people lives,
- the distribution of incomes to avoid the establishment of a rich powerful upper class.

It is a danger for all political leaders to consider the people as "groups" and not as individuals. I think that one important factor, may be the most important, in your leadership is your ability to maintain the contact with the people as individuals. Let me illustrate this by quoting one of your own statements about development:

"While it is possible for an outsider to build a man's house, an outsider cannot give the man pride and selfconfidence in himself as a human being. Those things a man has to create

in himself by his own actions. Development of a man can in fact, only be effected by that man; development of the people can only be effected by the people."

This philosophy of development which you have formulated, Mr. President, has taught us an important lesson in this country. It teaches us what our role in the development effort should be, and what should be yours. You decide on the strategy of development, on the plans and programmes. Our role is to make available to you some of the resources with which we are well supplied. We may assist you in implementing your own plans, programmes and projects.

Under the international economic order of yesterday and even to-day, economic resources have flown from poor countries to rich countries. We consider our development aid as an effort to reverse that flow.

You are, Mr. President, not only a leader in Tanzania, but also a leader in an African context. We know your concern for Southern Africa. Two countries there, Mozambique and Angola, have recently achieved independence. This was the combined result of the people's fight for freedom and the collapse of Portugal's dictatorship. It will probably be a more painful process to achieve a majority rule with full democratic rights for the African population in Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa.

I believe that true independence cannot be given anybody. You have to gain it for yourself. Thus, it will mainly be the responsibility for the people of Rhodesia to win the struggle for their own independence. But it is a responsibility for the friends of the people in that country

to assist them in their efforts. The Government of Norway has given and will give full political support to the campaign against the illegal regime of Rhodesia.

We have appropriated funds for humanitarian assistance to the African National Council (ANC). The release of funds has been delayed because of internal differences within ANC. We appreciate that other countries more closely located to Southern Africa give a stronger support to the liberation forces, and it is reassuring to see Tanzania's attitude to this.

After the last talks between ANC and Mr. Smith broke down, we are under the impression that physical fight appears to be the only possibility. Actually we know that physical fight is taking place to-day. Gerilla groups from the liberation forces are daily in combat.

But Mr. Smith still has the chance to realize the facts of life, and leave the rule of the country to the people. Human lives ^{have} already been sacrificed in Rhodesia. It is my sincere hope that the 5,4 million people of the country will have their true independence without many more brothers, sons and fathers losing their lives in the fight for freedom of their country.

We know that the Government of Tanzania is deeply committed to assist in the political development of Southern Africa. I want you to know, Mr. President, that we place full confidence in your ability to combine the necessary strength with political talent and never lose sight of the interests of the people concerned.

In 1959 you stated that "we, the people of Tanganyika, would like to light a candle and put it on top of Mount Kilimanjaro which would shine beyond our borders giving hope where there was despair, love where there was hate and dignity where before there was only humiliation." I can assure you, Mr. President, you have lighted that candle and it still shines brightly. For the future of Africa we share your hopes that the spirit of Tanzania will continue to shine beyond her borders.

Let me propose at toast to the health of His Excellency the President of Tanzania, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, to the progress and prosperity of Tanzania and to the friendship between our two countries.