



HIS MAJESTY KING IDRIS I

Libya

Address 14

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*Today we gather with renewed hope for the unification of Africa's voice, aiming for outcomes that promote the welfare of all African peoples and resolve ongoing challenges on the continent. Our discussions aim to establish a foundation for enhanced cooperation based on mutual understanding, enabling us to work together on shared interests. We seek to unify African nations in eradicating the remnants of colonialism in all forms, including Zionism and racial discrimination. Our agenda addresses critical issues to achieve the long-desired African unity, which many view as the continent's greatest hope. It is our duty to define the principles of our unity across all sectors, especially in politics, economics, social activities, and health. In closing, I express my sincere wish for the success of this significant conference, praying that it marks a meaningful step toward African unity as all African peoples look to us with hope for a brighter future.*

*Questions for consideration: What general or specific reasons does the Crown prince give to justify his presence at this Meeting? What does Prince Crown mean when he says that "We must avoid at all costs, the formation of African groupings which tear and split the unity of Africa and create a real danger to our security and existence? What does the Crown Prince mean when he says that "Our Agenda include many important items whose object is the realization of African unity. This unity, which we have cherished for long time, is the greatest hope for all the peoples of Africa whose eyes are focused upon our conference in the expectation that this noble goal will be given concrete form"? What does the Crown Prince mean when he says that "All the African peoples look to this conference with all hopes and expectations for a brighter future for them all"? If unity is the greatest hope for all Africans, but African leaders fail to achieve unity, what will they have proven to the world, to Sub-Saharan Africans and their posterity?*

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In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, May 1963

Your Imperial Majesty:

Your Excellencies:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At this memorable and historical moment when we are all gathered here to re-affirm our unswerving solidarity and to lay sound lasting foundations for our unity, I am extremely happy to express my most sincere and heartfelt thanks to His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I who, with his well-known love for Africa, has made strenuous efforts and undertaken such remarkable diplomatic activity to convene this historical conference in His glorious Capital of Addis Ababa. Our grateful thanks and deep appreciation go also to His Imperial Majesty and His Government and to the noble and friendly people of Ethiopia for their very warm welcome and most generous hospitality which they have extended to all of us.

It is both great privilege and an honour to greet this assembly on behalf of the Kingdom of Libya and to convey to you all the greeting of King Idris I, together with his best wishes for your well-being and for a successful outcome of your deliberations. It is also my pleasure to bring brotherly greetings of the Government and people of Libya to the Governments and peoples of the participating countries. I would like to assure you that the Libyan people place great hope on the purposes of this meeting, attended as it is by the prominent leaders of those nations which got to make up this great continent. It is my earnest and sincere hope that our deliberations in this meeting be crowned with complete success and that we may at last unite the efforts of the African countries in achieving closer cooperation in all fields of human endeavour. These two factors are needed to bring about the liberation of those remaining peoples of our continent who still suffering under colonial rule and foreign oppression. Our ultimate aim must be this noble objective, for in it lies the destiny and hope of the African people. Indeed, all previous African meetings held at such high level had been dedicated to this common purpose.

It is with great joy and pleasure that I take advantage of this happy occasion to extend a very warm and brotherly welcome to the delegations of the African States who are participating with us for the first time. I would like also to extend a hearty welcome to the delegation of our sister country, Algeria, which has at last taken her rightful place amongst us, after attaining her freedom and independence through a heroic and bitter struggle. In her sacred struggle for freedom, African solidarity with our sister Algeria, was manifested itself in the finest possible form.

Your Imperial Majesty:

Your Excellencies:

Ladies Gentlemen:

Libya has always believed in the close co-operation and understanding amongst African States. This co-operation and understanding are dictated by strong common factors: the struggle for freedom and dignity, as well as by common historical ties and the need to unite and to speak with one voice in world affairs. We live in a world in which regional and international grouping play the greatest role and it is naturally difficult for any nation to proceed alone, in addition to this, there are geographical factors linking the African nations, also their common interests and their urgent need to stand together in close ranks against hostile tides which prevent Africa from playing its natural role in the international field.

Most African peoples, having achieved their freedom and independence and having liberated themselves from the yoke of colonialism, consider that it is imperative for Africa to undertake her historical role by raising herself to the standard which she deserves. Africa must play an effective part in human civilization and scientific progress, and she must catch up with the advanced nations so that she can contribute, together with the other free nations, to the advancement and the welfare of the world. Our beloved continent was for a long time deprived of its right for freedom and dignity. What Africa has now achieved is mainly due to the zeal of her loyal sons who proved to be worthy of leading their countries towards the high standards now achieved by the other advanced nations.

In fact, the African nations now occupy a prominent position in the world and their international status has become especially important. Therefore, these African States must promote more cooperation amongst their governments and peoples in order to contribute, through their sincere efforts, the achievement of world peace and prosperity, and in this they will be discharging their responsibilities towards humanity. It has always been the policy of Libya to promote close ties between all the African nations. My country passionately believes that the African continent must be an undivided unit and that co-operation must be the objective of all African nations without distinction. Guided by this noble spirit, Libya has always been happy to accept invitations to attend African meetings and conferences. Libya still believes that the African countries must speak with one voice and unite their efforts. My country spares no effort in promoting co-operation and understanding among all African countries so that the African ship may reach the shore of safety. It is for this high and noble reason that Libya attends this great gathering here.

Today we happily meet under better conditions, perceiving - as we do a glimpse of hope for the unifying of the voice of Africa. We earnestly hope that the outcome of this conference be positive and fruitful for the welfare of all the African peoples, as well as for the complete settlement of all outstanding African problems. We look forward, therefore, to seeing our conference formulate the bases for closer

co-operation in a spirit of mutual understanding, which would permit all of us to serve our common interest. Thus, we can unify the efforts of the African nations in the elimination of the remaining vestiges of colonialism in all its forms, including Zionism, racial discrimination and any other sort of tyranny and colonial rule. Mutual understanding and closer co-operation among African states is a necessity. We must avoid at all costs, the formation of African groupings which tear and split the unity of Africa and create a real danger to our security and existence. Such disunity would only aid the imperialists - to sow the seeds of discord and dissention among the African nations, to the benefit of their selfish interests and colonial objectives.

Libya was and is the Gateway to Africa. The amendments to the Libyan Constitution promulgated some weeks ago, which brought about the complete unity of our country, clearly state that Libya is an integral part of Africa. Therefore, my country is determined to fight and resist any imperialistic attempt to split Africa by using tendentious designations such "Africa south of the Sahara". Such a definition is aimed at separating Africa from its northern territories. African south of Sahara must be a bridge to unite us, not an obstacle to divide us.

Your Imperial Majesty:

Your Excellencies:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our Agenda include many important items whose object is the realization of African unity. This unity, which we have cherished for long time, is the greatest hope for all the peoples of Africa whose eyes are focused upon our conference in the expectation that this noble goal will be given concrete form. It is, therefore, our duty towards all the African peoples to lay down the principles and the bases of our unity in all the fields of human endeavour; in particular, close co-operation and solidarity in the fields of politics, economy, social activities and health. I would like to conclude by expressing again my sincere wishes for the complete success of this blessed conference. I pray Almighty God that this conference may be step forward in the path of African unity. All the African peoples look to this conference with all hopes and expectations for a brighter future for them all.

We must not forget that our brethren in South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Portuguese Guinea, Southwest Africa and in other African territories still languishing under the yoke of imperialism. They appeal to us, in the name of brotherhood solidarity, to unite and co-operate for the interests of our beloved continent against our common enemies - who persist in sowing the seeds of discord and dissention among us.

Thank You!