

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 118AA/81

THE STATE HOUSE,
DAR ES SALAAM,
TANZANIA.

18th August, 1981.

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

T 118AA/81

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

This letter is brought to you by Ndugu Benjamin Mkapa, now the Minister for Information and National Culture in the Tanzanian Government. I have complete trust in Ndugu Mkapa; you may speak to him with the same frankness with which you would speak to me, confident that anything you care to say to him will be reported fully and accurately to me.

You may be aware that at the Nairobi Heads of Government Conference of the Organisation of African Unity, Ndugu Salim A. Salim was unanimously and enthusiastically adopted as the African candidate for the post of United Nations Secretary-General. Ndugu Salim is a Tanzanian, and is currently the Foreign Minister of my country after spending more than ten years as Head of the Tanzanian Mission to the United Nations. But I wish to stress that he is not the Tanzanian candidate for this post; nor am I writing to you in support of him as a Tanzanian. It would be presumptuous of Tanzania to put forward a candidate for so high an international office, however highly qualified he might be in other respects. Nevertheless, I did accept the nomination of Ndugu Salim with some pride that my country has produced a person whom so many independent states felt was worthy of this great responsibility.

One of the factors which led to Africa making this nomination is a widespread feeling that it would be appropriate for the next Secretary-General to come from the Third World. This does not imply a belief that the post should be allocated on a geographical basis. On the contrary, we feel strongly that the most vital consideration, for both the Security Council and the General Assembly, should be the ability of a particular candidate to serve the needs of the United Nations

and within that framework to promote the search for world peace. Yet considerations of nationality and region of origin cannot be - and have not been - completely disregarded. It is therefore not entirely irrelevant that three of the four holders of this post so far have come from Europe, and the other one from Asia.

On a matter such as this I do realise that your Government will wish to take all factors into account, and that it is not likely to be possible for you to give any immediate expression of opinion about British policy. I would nevertheless like to express my appreciation of your readiness to receive Ndugu Mkapa - if indeed that has proved possible - and of the careful consideration which I am confident your Government will give to the unanimous African opinion relating to this post.

In conclusion, let me say that I am looking forward to meeting you again in Melbourne next month. Until then I send my personal good wishes to you.

Yours sincerely,

Julius K. Nyerere