

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI SPEECH ON INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

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[Speech by Sudanese President Ja 'far Numayri at a ceremony in Khartoum on the 20th anniversary of the country's independence--live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, revolutionary free brothers, I give you the salute of the triumphant immortal revolution, the salute of the May revolution, the revolution of full national independence, the revolution of the stable national unity, the revolution of growth and construction, the revolution of social justice.

In your name, brothers, I salute our country's distinguished guest, His Excellency Lt Col Ibrahim Muhammad al-Hamdi [chairman of the YAR Command Council]. [applause] I salute the leader of the Yemeni revolution and the one who has rectified the situation there. I also salute, in your name, brothers, the struggle of the fraternal Arab Yemeni people for the sake of their national unity [applause], and for the sake of the reawakening of a happy, new Yemen.

Free brothers, we are today celebrating the 20th anniversary of national independence. On a day such as this, 20 years ago, the Sudanese people crowned their national struggle by wresting political independence from the hands of the oppressive colonialist authority. Brothers, the people of the Sudan realize that their national victory was just the first step on a long, hard road.

Brothers, the people are continuing the march of their struggle and are persisting in their efforts so that their national independence may turn into farms, so that their national independence may turn into factories and so that their national independence may turn into roads, schools and dispensaries. The people are continuing the march of their struggle and are persisting in their efforts so that they may feed the hungry with independence, quench the thirst of the thirsty with independence and dig up the buried treasures of the homeland, transforming them into welfare, blessings and prosperity through the spirit and strength of the people.

Brothers, the people are continuing the march of their struggle and are persisting in their efforts in order to liberate their national economy from the domination of foreign firms and from degrading subservience to colonialist monopolies so as to be able to build a new national economy whose goal is development, national construction and the leap of the entire homeland into a new era typified by production and work and shining with brilliance and hope. This march has been marked by impetuosity and stumbling, victories and defeat, and the people have paid for it with tears and blood. They have suffered deep-rooted hatred and grim ordeals, but the blood-bespattered banner has never been lowered and the seat-covered brows have never [word indistinct]. [applause]

But when the people stumbled, when the tears fell and when the sons of the people were scattered and divided by hatred and war, when they turned on each other, the 25 May revolution was sparked off. [applause] It was sparked off and it raised the banner to the heavens and gave vent to the cry for national unity, the cry for development, the cry for freedom, the cry for democracy, the cry for justice and the cry for equality. [applause]

The revolution has built up a new and cohesive nation in place of the old one, which was split and divided. Its new political and constitutional institutions have been made to reflect national unity and the alliance of the people's working forces and to give concrete form to the will of the people and their new democracy. They have replaced outmoded and obsolete institutions--the institutions of division, the institutions of separation and dissipation, the institutions of corruption and misguidance.

The revolution, brothers, is a new political system. It is based on a new democracy. It is based on the democracy of partnership [Dimuqratiyyat al-musharakah], the democracy of alliance, and the democracy of positivism and construction instead of partisan and denominational internecine strife, and instead of tribal and racial rancor. The May revolution is ushering in a new economic and social system for the entire homeland. The revolution inherited an economy subservient to colonialist monopolies and foreign firms--an economy based on exploiting [istinzaf] the toiling working majority for the good and [word indistinct] of the opulent minority.

Brothers, we are building an economy of production and producers. There will be no room for brokers, parasites or middlemen. I say today to those who oppose the policy of the revolution in the marketing of livestock and meat that the revolution is determined to protect the producer and the consumer [words indistinct] the greedy and parasitic. I say to them that the revolution will not open the door to exports, except under the control of a public meat corporation that will protect the producer, the consumer and [word indistinct].

The new year, this year of 1976, will be a year of welfare and a year of blessing, God willing. [applause] It will be a year of harvest and of numerous development projects in agriculture, industry, roads and communications. The new year will be a year of reaping, a year of achievement and a year of fruitfulness. The new year will be a year of total self-sufficiency in wheat, in rice, in vegetables, a year of partial self-sufficiency in sugar, in popular fabrics [applause] and semifinished products and sacks.

The petroleum pipeline will be opened in the new year, and much work will be done on the Khartoum-Port Sudan highway. The (Dibayrat)-Dilling-Kadugli highway will be completed. The new year will witness the start of work on the Nyala-Kas-Zalingei highway. The new year will witness the start of work on the Juba-Yei-Maridi-Tumbura-Wau highway. The new year will witness the start of work on the Juba-Torit-Kapoeta-Mombasa highway, God willing. [applause] The new year will witness the solution of all land, air, river and sea transport bottlenecks. [applause]

Free brothers, we are building our national economy at a time when the world economy is bad. Inflation and stagnation on Western markets are increasing the prices of our imports and lowering the prices of our exports. Brothers, rising prices are naturally part of the tactics and strategies of colonialism. All the states of the Third World, whose riches and resources have been stolen by colonialism, are today also facing new hazards. We, of course, belong to the group of Third World states. We are facing new hazards because of the slump in export prices. The price of our cotton has dropped. The price of gum arabic has dropped. The price of groundnuts has dropped. The price of everything that we export has dropped. We should take the slump in prices--prices of our exports--into account in our calculations. We should take the spiraling cost of investments and our imports into account 70 times [sabina marrah] in our calculations.

I would like to reiterate that in the past year I have announced that we shall be embarking on some projects. For example, I announced that I will have textile factories set up in a number of places in Sudan. A year ago a factory cost us 3 million pounds. Today it costs us 12 million pounds. It costs this much just 1 year later because of the increased prices. We must consider what to do. Perhaps you have felt a delay in development (?progress), because a project for which we earmarked 4 million (?now costs) 12 million. We earmarked 70 million for the Ar-Rahad project. Today we will pay 225 million pounds.

Brothers, today, we stand firmly and resolutely by our brothers and friends. We stand resolutely and firmly--you know this story--on the African Continent, and we stand resolutely and firmly in the Third World for the establishment of a new international economic order that will guarantee for the equitable Third World conditions for trade exchange and for the influx of investments and technology. The advanced world will discharge its historical responsibilities for the development of the Third World and for mankind's liberation from poverty, disease and ignorance.

Brothers, the revolution has freed us once and for all from fear. It has freed us from complexes, complexes of fear and subservience. We must, therefore, pursue a foreign policy that derives from the interests of our people, the interests of our nation, the interests of our continent. Brothers, we extend our hands to anyone who befriends us, we enjoy beneficial exchange with all the nations of the world on an equal footing, bridging gulfs of civilization and culture. Brothers, we have always been loyal to the cries of freedom in our mother continent, in our Arab world, in the entire world. We shall continue our struggle until our mother continent is freed [Tabraa] from the sores of racial discrimination and the sores of racist domination.

We appeal to free Africa today to hurry to stop the repugnant armed racist invasion of Angola. [applause] We appeal to it to retaliate against the mercenaries, the racist aggressors who want to rob the Angolan people of the fruit of their struggle for national independence. Brothers, Sudan has given--the people of Sudan have given, indeed you have given--support with arms and money for the Angolan people since the beginning of their armed struggle against Portuguese colonialism. Let us continue. We shall continue, and continue with our support for them to resist [sadd] the racist armed invasion against their homeland and their territory and to strengthen the national independence of the heroic Angolan people.

Brothers, we shall continue our struggle to promote the unity of the Afro-Arab revolution. We shall continue our struggle to strengthen Afro-Arab solidarity. Brothers, we shall continue the struggle to guarantee the national rights of the Palestinian people and the liberation of the occupied lands. [applause] We shall continue our struggle to establish a just and permanent peace in the Arab region.

Revolution free citizens, I have given my pledge. I am a dutiful son of the people. My life is devoted to the people's independence, dignity and honor. [applause] My life's goal is the people's unity, power and progress. I shall make every conceivable sacrifice so that the banner can remain raised and high, forever high, forever raised with unity, development, freedom and justice. Glory to Sudan, glory to the people of Sudan, glory to the revolution of Sudan! God's blessings, mercy and peace be upon you all.