

Mali

Traore Gives Independence Anniversary Address

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[Report on speech by President Moussa Traore, given 21 September 1987 in Bamako on the eve of the 27th anniversary of national independence—with portions recorded]

[Text] Today, 22 September 1987, marks the 27th anniversary of our country's national day.

[Begin Traore recording] Malians, the celebration of the 27th anniversary of the proclamation of our country's independence is placed under the sign of national awareness, that is, the strengthened desire of our people to face together—in honor and dignity and under all circumstances—the great challenges our country is currently confronting. What must take appropriate actions to create the conditions that will enable us to overcome the difficulties our country is facing and to recover our great values—such as self-confidence, confidence in our future, the sense of duty, honor, and dignity, as well as the spirit of sacrifice and courage. These are the many values that have formed the basis of our society and been a source of pride to our people. These actions must be undertaken in the field of politics; in the implementation of the necessary reforms to relaunch our economy; and in the indispensable reorganization of public life in our country.

Maliens, the moralization of public life is the first support for this national awareness, because it provides us the opportunity to recover our self-confidence and confidence in our institutions. The party is convinced that the moralization of public life can only be achieved through the reorganization of the administration. This is why it set up the special investigations commission on crimes of illegal enrichment and corruption. This commission [words indistinct] the state attorney general at the state security court, is working hard to accomplish its mission with strict respect for the principles of a law-abiding state. Also, I asked the prime minister and the other members of the government to revitalize services charged with inspection and control, and to install in every sector clear and efficient management systems. [end recording]

So said the president of the Republic yesterday evening in his national address on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of our independence. Another subject of the national address by the general secretary of the party and president of the Republic was the political situation:

[Begin Traore recording] On the political front, the major event has been, undoubtedly, the second extraordinary congress of the Democratic Union of the Malian People which took place 28-31 March 1987. By adopting the charter on national orientation and good conduct in public life which provides the framework, the spirit, and the conditions in which [words indistinct] public functions as well as the new standing orders adapted to our country's new political situation, that congress has regenerated hope in our people.

The implementation of newly adopted provisions, which is the main task of the special commission charged with assisting the general secretary of the party, will undoubtedly enable us to ensure a better functioning of our political system and an increase in the participation of our valiant people in the task of nation building. The emergence of political officials who are committed and devoted to the people's cause will contribute to the development of social justice and fairness, and it will strengthen national solidarity.

Our people have already expressed themselves on the choice of their local representatives. It is perhaps too early to make any assessment of the new leaders. But, already, the context within which the renewal of the officials of the party's basic organs took place augurs well for the quality of the men and women charged with conducting these affairs.

All Malians must become aware of their responsibility to contribute to the efforts of economic and social revival. All Malians within and outside the national territory, farmers, livestock breeders, civil servants, workers in the private sector, industrialists, and traders must become conscientious of their individual and collective responsibilities and must demonstrate creative initiatives in order to contribute their quota to the national development effort. Alone, the Malian state cannot assume all

the responsibilities for economic, social, and cultural development of the country. Convinced of this truth, the party, within the framework of the charter of national orientation and good conduct in public life, has committed itself to ensuring the participation of all the social strata in the nation's economic life. [end recording]

General Moussa Traore also pointed out that the driving forces behind our policies were based on exchange of views, solidarity, and imparting the sense of responsibility to all the active forces of the nation, in order to democratically adopt the appropriate measures aimed at meeting the basic needs of our people and to develop our national resources. To this end, the head of state discussed the major guidelines of our decentralization policy. Speaking about the economic crisis, President Moussa Traore said that the solutions to this complex crisis are within our reach. He said the major solutions are to reorganize our financial situation and to pursue courageously the structural reforms:

[Begin Traore recording] Each one of us is being affected by the economic crisis caused by the fall in our export earnings, the weight of the external debt, financial difficulties, problems facing our industry, and problems of marketing. The solutions to the complex problems of this crisis are within our reach. These solutions center, in particular, on the reorganization of our financial situation and the courageous pursuit of the structural reforms in order to create favorable conditions for true socioeconomic development. The measures to reorganize the financial situation, which have already affected some of you, are aimed at restoring a balance in public finances; gearing our resources toward development; and, finally, reorganizing the monetary situation—an essential element of the country's economic life—through the banking and the (?postal checks) systems.

The structural reforms, which are aimed at creating a favorable environment for economic development, are centered on three major aspects. The first aspect is the introduction of the new trade and investment codes. The trade code creates the conditions that enable all the economic operators—from the state sector to the mixed and private sectors—to carry out their activities and their mission efficiently. So, everyone must assume his responsibilities. This concerns, in particular, the private economic operators who must organize themselves more efficiently and must take all the opportunities given to them, so that they too can contribute their quota to Mali's economic development. The new investment code is also aimed at encouraging them to carry out their activities efficiently. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Economic and Social Council, which will be created soon, must play the fundamental role of organizing the economic operators and of protecting their activities, as well as exchanging views with the other active forces of the nation.

The second aspect of the structural reform of our economy concerns the public sector. For some time now, this sector has been going through a general reorganization

program. This program has been embarked upon because of the need to make the public enterprises a driving force of our development and no longer a burden on our people, who have made heavy sacrifices to have them maintained. This is the objective of Law 87-51 promulgated in August 1987, as well as the various measures taken to ensure maximum autonomy for public enterprises.

The third aspect of the structural reforms concerns the policy of marketing of agricultural produce, which concerns more than 80 percent of the population. [end recording]

These reforms imply fundamental changes as well as short-term sacrifices, the head of state added. He said an economic and social revival plan has been mapped out by the government in close collaboration with the democratic organizations, representatives of the economic operators, and the workers. This revival plan, which includes all the reforms under way, has taken a national view of the problems as well as the appropriate solutions that should help the country overcome this crisis. Describing the youths as the future of any society, Gen Moussa Traore stressed the role which these youths must play in the task of nation building. He stated that it is the duty of the youths to meet the challenge and to prove that they are capable of taking creative initiatives.

Another aspect of the head of state's message concerns the particular importance he grants to education. The success of our measures to moralize the society and to ensure its economic, social, and cultural development depends largely on the quality of the education we give our children, he stated. Therefore, in the face of Mali's new challenges in the present phase of its development, it is necessary and urgent to convene a national forum to reflect on our education system.

On external policy, he spoke about the Chad-Libya conflict. He said Mali will do everything to contribute to silencing the guns and bringing the warring factions to accept the path of dialogue. On the Western Sahara issue, Mali wishes for a just and lasting solution in the conflict between Morocco and the SDAR. On southern Africa, Mali will continue to support the fight against apartheid. On the Near East, we shall continue to support the idea of an international conference on peace in that region. On the Gulf, Mali calls on Iran and Iraq to stop their conflict. All these issues were raised this morning by the head of state when he received the members of the diplomatic corps who went to present their (?good wishes) to him.