

# SENEGAL

## **Diouf Condemns RSA in New Year's Speech**

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[New Year's speech by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf in Dakar on 31 December — recorded]

[Excerpts] Fellow Senegalese, foreign guests living among us: On the threshold of a new year, I have the pleasant duty of giving you my best wishes. As happens every year, I am taking this opportunity thereby offered me by tradition to touch on the major problems affecting the world, particularly Africa, before taking a critical look at the national situation and the future of our country. My dear countrymen, as I was telling you last year, the world has not yet gotten over the crisis situation. That the year 1985 witnessed some slightly more positive factors, such as the small economic recovery in the industrialized nations must not lead us into an exaggerated optimism. The causal factors of the crisis are still persisting: fall in the market prices of raw materials, recession, inflation, and increasing public debt.

Our continent has thus not finished bearing the consequences of this continuously unfavorable international climate. It is for this reason that the last OAU summit had decided — after outlining and defining the framework in which the search for solutions to political problems of the continent should be pursued — that the years 1985 to 1989 would be treated more as years of economy and development. In my capacity as the current OAU chairman, I have thus taken the opportunity on many occasions to make two important proposals: holding an international conference on the African debt whose great weight on our weak economies threatens to dangerously undermine our development efforts; and the summoning of a special UN session on the critical economic situation of the continent.

If the first proposal is still the object of many and varied consultations, the second has been approved by the international community, which has fixed its opening for May 1986. In fact, Africa's situation is characterized by a disturbing fall in the per capita income, stagnant or simply negative growth rates, and by the spectre of famine hanging over many nations. Effective remedies must be found to this situation through the full action of the international community.

This support is even more necessary in the principal political problem, which has made Africa the sad focal point of the year just ended. That is apartheid. Never has the fascist and blind violence of Pretoria been as murderous as in 1985, when the victims of the most hideous barbarism of modern times are too numerous to count. I have already had the occasion to talk several times about this serious problem. I wish only to recall this evening the great lesson I drew from my tour of the Frontline States. The courage, the strength, and the determination of the unity of men, women, and children who are prepared, at the risk of their lives, to slaughter the monster and to destroy the theory that has wished to attribute a color to the dignity of man. Even those who had the tendency to forget that they had fought against Nazism and overcame it, are beginning to abandon their hesitations, their procrastination, and their indifference. Everywhere, from the white South Africans themselves, to the circles traditionally accomplices to apartheid in the outside world, the world is gaining an awareness of the bad faith, (?but) they feel more and more concerned by this crime against humanity.

But Botha's stubbornness in maintaining the system, in illegally occupying Namibia and in destabilizing its neighbors demand that the sanctions be made more severe. That is why I have proposed — on behalf of the OAU — a world conference for sanctions against racist South Africa. I hereby renew my appeal to all African countries, to the entire international community, to step up the moral and especially material support to the Frontline States, and to our South African sisters and brothers whose militant rigor and daily sacrifices contribute to our common struggle for the freedom and dignity of Africa.

My dear countrymen, the year which is drawing to an end has been a (?difficult) one for us. [Passage indistinct], weak income position, difficulties in [word indistinct], insufficient employment opportunities, especially for the youth. I know the gravity of the [word indistinct]. The public sector has not been spared, either. Its resources are still too modest to satisfy all the (?job) needs of the population. This crisis is in reality the manifestation of an

**upheaval in the organization of the world economy. No country is spared from it. Faced with this change, we must adapt ourselves, that is, reorganize our economy, to limit the negative effects of the crisis. The future should be prepared at the same time, to derive the best results from the ongoing economic and technological changes. Lastly, we should preserve the national cohesion so that everybody will contribute to the effort within the limits of his means.**