

## SENGHOR PLEDGES TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY

Dakar Senegal Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 9 December 1963--N

(President Senghor's speech at his swearing-in ceremony on 9 December, recorded)

(Summary) Mr. Speaker and citizens of Senegal: Before God and all of you, I have just solemnly sworn to perform the duties of my office and to devote all my strength to the defense of the constitution. In this first message, I wish to remind you of the terms of the contract binding me to the nation. I also wish to assure you that I will perform all my duties without fail. What comforts me at this moment is your courage and your confidence in me. It is my hope that we will maintain this mutual confidence, at the same time maintaining scrupulous respect for the constitution, which it is my duty to defend, and for the laws and regulations whose execution I must insure.

It is my intention to defend democracy. In this respect, I wish to remind you of my message of 18 February 1963. I told you in that message that Senegal's honor is attached to democracy and that Senegal is anxious to remain a democratic country. More than an electoral campaign slogan, however, democracy is a reality, a social fact, a mode of life, and a method which regulates our relations with other men. But it must first of all regulate our relations among ourselves. My government's program will be a dynamic application of our constitution. This is what I call democracy. My duty consists in insuring obedience of the laws voted by the National Assembly and of the decrees issued by the President of the republic in accordance with the provisions of our constitution.

We are determined to achieve our economic independence, without which our political independence would only benefit the neocolonialists. It is a question of creating an African common market which will enable us to set up industries and reestablish the price balance which has been disrupted to the detriment of underdeveloped countries, particularly of Africa. This means that my government will continue to work for the (rapprochement of the African peoples?) and the strengthening of African unity. National independence is not opposed to African unity.

My government will also continue to give priority to agriculture, animal husbandry, and fishery. It will also continue to punish lazy people and thieves, because it is determined to increase national prosperity through increased production. It is only thus that the state can gradually supply the immense needs of the workers, especially in the fields of education and health.

My government intends to practice social justice. I am for the payment of salaries and wages according to the formula "To each according to his work." As far as the provision of educational and medical facilities are concerned, I support the formula "To each according to his needs." We mean, of course, minimum human needs.

As I told you during the electoral campaign, my main concern is not to maintain myself in power but to maintain Senegal in the path of honor and progress. Long live Senegal!