

Uganda

Reportage on Joint Ministerial Meeting With Rwanda

Museveni, Habyarimana Cited
EA051441 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Excerpt] President Yoweri Museveni and President Habyarimana of Rwanda have officially opened the meeting of the Rwanda-Uganda joint ministerial committee at the Uganda International Conference Center in Kampala.

In his opening address, President Museveni welcomed President Habyarimana and thanked him for accepting the invitation to come and visit Uganda. Mr Museveni appreciated the good relationship existing between Uganda and Rwanda. He observed that the relationship between the two countries is historical. Even before Europeans came, he said, the people of Uganda had dealings with the people of Rwanda. It is therefore the duty of our two governments, President Museveni said, to ensure that this relationship is enhanced.

In his address, President Habyarimana thanked the Government and people of Uganda for the invitation to come to Uganda and for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation on his arrival at the airport this morning [4 February]. He stressed that his visit to Uganda is to further strengthen the good relations existing between the two countries. He added that this good relation is based on reciprocal security, whereby nothing comes from Rwanda to disturb Uganda and nothing goes from Uganda to disturb Rwanda.

The joint commission meeting will discuss issues concerning the two countries. It is attended by cabinet ministers from Uganda and Rwanda. [passage omitted]

Dinner Speeches Cited
EA060009 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] President Yoweri Museveni has stressed the importance of good-neighborliness as a basis of promoting bilateral and reciprocal trade. The president was speaking at a state dinner he hosted last evening at the Sheraton Hotel in honor of President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda who began a 3-day state visit to Uganda last night.

Mr Museveni observed that at the end of President Habyarimana's visit, both countries will sign an agreement on trade on the common border. He said that this sort of arrangement will amount to \$10 million for each country. President Museveni stressed that under this trade arrangement Uganda will export to Rwanda goods like beans, fish, timber, cattle, and sorghum, while

Rwanda will export to Uganda an assortment of manufactured goods like iron sheets. President Museveni said this trade arrangement would energize agricultural and industrial sectors in both countries and will be [words indistinct] of the PTA to which both Uganda and Rwanda are members. He also said that contacts in other related fields like telephone communication and road and railway transportation would be strengthened between Uganda and Rwanda, adding that Uganda is seriously committed to intra-Africa trade.

President Museveni said that currently nearly 50 percent of Uganda's dry land is infested by tsetse flies on which the government has launched a strong campaign to eliminate. He therefore, appealed to Rwanda to pay an active part in this campaign so that it also eliminates the vectors in its territory as these vectors know no boundary. President Museveni also touched on the problem of Rwandan refugees in Uganda. He expressed the hope that this issue could be discussed so that an adequate solution is found.

In reply, President Habyarimana said that his current visit to Uganda is a new testimony that Rwanda attaches paramount importance to good-neighborliness. He said that cooperation between his country and Uganda will continue to be cemented in all fields for the mutual benefit of the two peoples. The Rwandan leader observed that the South-South contacts were a sure way of promoting self-reliance in the Third World countries. It is with this in mind that regular contacts between the two countries have been strengthened.

President Habyarimana said that through the NRM victory, Rwanda is quite confident that Uganda will stand again because the NRM policies have made the country regain her image abroad. He commended the people of Uganda, and in particular President Museveni for working to restore peace, freedom, democracy, and human rights after decades of turmoil. President Habyarimana thanked the Uganda leader for the warm welcome accorded him and his delegation.

The state dinner was attended by the vice chairman of the NRM, Haji Musa Kigongo, and cabinet ministers.

Habyarimana 5 Feb Speech
EA060026 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Speech by Rwandan President Habyarimana at Luwero Triangle, Uganda, on 5 February; delivered in Kinyarwanda—live]

[Excerpts] Your Excellencies present here, and all of you who came to welcome us, I would like to start by apologizing, for I do not speak Luganda, and I do not know English. I will therefore talk to you in Kinyarwanda, and those who are versed in English will help me. [applause] [passage omitted]

The bloodshed in Luwero was not in vain. Those who died served as seeds that you have sown, and which have produced fruits, namely the policy Museveni brought you and the awareness that it is Ugandans who should build their own country. We support this new policy of President Museveni because it is a policy which aims at bringing peace to Uganda, which seeks peace for Uganda. We support it because it is a policy which aims at uniting all Ugandans, so that together they can build their country. We support this policy. [applause] [passage omitted]

I call on all Rwandans living in Uganda to support this policy. As President Museveni said earlier, we know that there are Rwandans who came here, some seeking employment and school opportunities, and some fleeing political conditions that were inimical to them. As you know, there used to be a monarchy in Rwanda. In 1959 we overthrew the monarchy. This situation brought about turmoil in the country. As a result many people fled. Among those who fled, some are here in Uganda. This took place 30 years ago. Those who fled obtained refugee status, and they have been living here since that time. We held talks on this problem when President Museveni came to Rwanda recently. Even now, during my visit to Uganda, we have come back to this problem because it has lasted long enough. We have still got to find acceptable solutions to it.

The first thing I would say on this problem of Rwandan refugees living here in Uganda—or rather the problem of Rwandan refugees—is that it is primarily a Rwandan problem. It is a problem for all Rwandans. I am saying this because there are those who think or have said that the Rwandan state wants to evade the problem of the Rwandan refugees and hand it over to other countries. No, we know well that this is primarily a Rwandan problem. [passage omitted]

However, we have agreed on many occasions that in seeking a complete and acceptable answer to the problem, Rwanda on its own cannot find a solution without the cooperation of the countries harboring the Rwandans and all friendly countries. There are many reasons why Rwanda alone cannot find a complete solution to the problem of Rwandan refugees. One of them is land.

If anyone does not know the current situation in Rwanda, he can come and see for himself if he wishes. It is the duty of our embassies to help him do so. Their duty is to help people to visit Rwanda. One would then see the state of the land problem. The Rwandan population is currently estimated at 6.5 million in an area of 26,000 sq. km. If you make calculations, you can understand how overpopulated Rwanda is. There are 6.5 million people in an area of 26,000 sq km. This is the legacy of the colonial powers. As you know, when the colonialists made borders for Africa, they took a map. Sitting back at home, they drew lines on the map. That was it. Rwanda was given 26,000 sq km. After drawing their lines on the map they left that small piece for us.

This is, therefore, a problem we should keep in mind, that Rwanda is a small country with many people. That is why Rwanda stresses that the problem of Rwandan refugees should not be left to Rwanda alone. I do not want to talk at length about this problem of refugees. In brief, I said that the problem is primarily a Rwandan affair. However, in order to find satisfactory solution, we must seek the assistance of friends. After all, this is what friendship is all about. We have to cooperate with countries harboring Rwandans and all other foreign countries willing to help us.

The other point I would like to stress when I speak about this problem, is that I, Habyarimana, believe that a person does not transmit refugee status to his child, grandchild, and great grandchild. No one would accept that. If you fled, your child or the grandchild you will have is not concerned with your problem. In most cases he does not even know your problem. My feeling is that the first step toward a solution of the problem is that the term refugee should be dropped. There should be Rwandans of Rwanda and Rwandans living outside Rwanda, but not Rwandans who fled from Rwanda. Once such people are no longer called refugees, they can come if they have the means, or they can ask to stay where they are, just like anyone else living abroad, but without being called refugees.

Moreover, in accordance with the policies of our subregional organizations, such as the Kagera Basin Organization, the Economic Community of the Countries of the Great Lakes, and the PTA, I think that we can find a solution to such problems, for, under their policies, there should be free movement of people and right of settlement. Therefore, our people should be able to move where they want to, visiting each other.

If we uphold and fulfill these policies, such problems should not be difficult to solve, because they would be dealt with through the established principles of good-neighborliness in the spirit of mutual help.

This is what I wanted to tell you about this problem of Rwandan refugees. Firstly, that it is primarily a Rwandan problem, but that Rwanda alone cannot solve it without the help of countries harboring Rwandan refugees. Secondly, a person cannot transmit his refugee status to children and great grandchildren. Thirdly, we feel that the current African policy of forming organizations of neighboring countries, in order to cooperate and bring about development, shows that the problem can be resolved satisfactorily if we follow those policies. [passage omitted]

Visit Industrial Establishments

EA061858 Kampala Domestic Service in English
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[Excerpt] President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda is continuing his 3-day state visit to Uganda today with a visit to Lugazi industrial establishments in Mukono