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LETTER DATED 28 SEPTEMBER 1981 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
GROUP OF AFRICAN STATES IN THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of African States, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the decision adopted unanimously at the eighteenth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held in Nairobi from 24 to 27 June 1981, concerning the candidature of His Excellency Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania, for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this decision to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed BEDJAOUI  
Chairman of the Group of African  
States in the United Nations

Annex

Decision on the candidature of Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim to the post  
of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its eighteenth ordinary session held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 24 to 27 June 1981, listened to the submission of H.E. Sir Dawda Jawara, President of the Republic of Gambia, on the nomination of Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania to the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization.

After elaborating on the eminent qualifications of Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim as a leading diplomat who has played an important role in the Organization, Sir Dawda pointed out that no African has had the opportunity to serve as the Secretary-General of that Organization despite the Africans' meritorious contributions to the work of the United Nations. This is now the time for Africa to contest for the post. Accordingly, Sir Dawda commended the nomination of Hon. Salim Ahmed Salim for the approval of the Assembly.

All the Heads of State and Government or their representatives who spoke on the item supported the proposal of the President of the Gambia. At the conclusion of the debate the Summit:

1. Unanimously approved the candidature of Salim Ahmed Salim as Africa's candidature for the post of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization;
2. Requested the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity to formally communicate the organization's decision to the United Nations.

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