



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

KAMPALA: 5th October, 1972.

Your Excellency,

I am taking this opportunity of sending you greetings of friendship and good wishes from the people of Uganda, my Government and myself.

This letter is being brought to you by Mr. Paulo Muwanga our Ambassador to your country whom I have detailed to come to you personally and explain the recent and current developments in Uganda.

As you may already know, Uganda has been very much in international press during the past several months owing to our efforts to put the economy of the country into the hands of citizens. Since colonial days, the economy of Uganda especially in the field of commerce and trade, has been virtually in the hands of non-citizens.

For the last ten years that we have been politically independent, repeated policy efforts have been made to ensure that the economic benefits of the country are used to the best interest of the country as a whole. To that end, among other things, the non-citizens were encouraged almost to the point of being begged to take up citizenship so as to identify themselves truly and completely with the country's independence aspirations. Regrettably, the efforts of successive administrations in this regard did not bear any fruit.

As a result the economic resources of the country continued to be exploited and profits repatriated abroad giving the impression that the country cannot economically advance and thus, by implication, that the country was not politically viable.

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His Excellency Mr. Kudolf Gnagi,  
President and Head of Defence Department,  
Federal Council of Switzerland,  
BERNE.



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It is briefly in the light of this background that my Government decided to take immediate and decisive measures to ensure that the people of Uganda truly reap the fruits of political independence which, as you will agree, can only be attained by ensuring that the economy of the country is in the control of the citizens. My Government had therefore to decree appropriate measures to ensure that all non-citizens who were involved in the selfish exploitive practices which benefited external interests only and worked against the development of Uganda, were to remove themselves from the country within a period of ninety days from 9th August, 1972.

In implementing this decision my Government has exercised and continues to exercise the maximum care, that is humanly possible, to ensure that all the people affected leave peacefully without molestation, hindrance or let. They are being allowed to take their personal belongings as well as reasonable amounts of cash with them, which have to be delimited by our financial resources. As for the rest of their properties being left behind, the departing persons have been made to complete special forms in which all the details of such property are being recorded. The property will be sold in due course and the proceeds credited to the accounts of their respective owners which accounts have been permitted to remain in our banks and will be protected. The persons going have also been advised, and many of them are taking heed, to appoint agents to handle their interests after they have left. It can thus be seen that my Government, contrary to malicious press reports, does not in any way whatsoever, intend to seize the property of the departing non-citizens.

I should state here that while we were engaged in implementing and carrying out this economic re-organisation of our country, we were surprisingly invaded by a combined army of guerrillas, mercenaries and Tanzanian regular troops from our common border with the republic of Tanzania. For a few days two of our districts and five towns in them were overrun by this combined invasion. The invaders ruthlessly

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and savagely murdered many innocent civilians. We naturally had to mount a defensive attack and quickly repelled the invaders. The information available to us now clearly indicates that the invasion, which took place in the morning prior to the evening when the first airlift of the non-citizens was going to take place, was calculated to obstruct our efforts in implementing our economic measures. The invaders, who included a lot of Uganda exiles supporting the former President of Uganda, in addition had the intention of restoring ex-President Obote, who, if restored to power, would reverse the measures my Government has taken to Ugandanise the economy. At the time of writing this, Uganda was still faced with a threat of an even bigger invasion from outside which, as we are aware, is likely to include numerically more and bigger countries.

I regret writing to you in length but I hope you will understand from the foregoing the necessity for my doing so. We in Uganda look forward to friendly countries like yours for sympathetic understanding of our position and therefore hope for your assistance in whatever form you can render to us in time of need.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem and regard.

GENERAL IDI AMIN DADA

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA.