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Rev. Mpolesha asks Nuremberg Tribunal

The following speech was delivered by Reverend Mpolesha Dibala, head of the Ecumenical Council of Zaire and a founder of the Club of Life and the Schiller Institute, at a meeting with the West German charity organization Misereor, in July 1985.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I bring you the fraternal greetings of your brothers and sisters in Africa. I want to talk to you about Africa, not as a Swedish tourist who visited the continent on holiday for a few weeks, but as someone who experiences Africa every day. I have found that people in Europe are not informed about what is happening in Africa, even though Europe is sending a great deal of help to Africa, food aid, medicine, and all kinds of aid. But this is only temporary help. You have heard a lot about Ethiopia, and the suffering there. Well, there are many Ethiopias in Africa, with millions suffering.

Here is what we are going to do. You and I will do an examination of Africa, and then we will make a diagnosis, and discover the solution.

Africa is a huge continent, with 470 million inhabitants, and 54 politically independent countries. There is one country, South Africa, where there is a political problem, where Washington should impose a solution in the same way it did in Zimbabwe. The fact is, blacks and whites in South Africa are condemned to live together, and they should find a solution. The whites should not be chased out, but neither should the blacks. Washington has the responsibility to find a solution to this problem.

There are many problems in Africa: misery, disease, ignorance, unemployment, and underdevelopment. There are also handicaps to Africa's development like polygamy, fetishism, and sorcery. These are blocks to Africa's development.

Africa needs roads. You can drive here in Sweden from one city to another. You can travel through the whole country by road. You can't do that in Zaire. To cover the same distance would take weeks.

Africa needs roads, bridges, industries to transform raw

materials, dams, and hydroelectric plants. We have no electricity, we don't have electric lights like you do here; we use storm lamps. We use wood for cooking, which means that the desert is spreading. We have no other fuel for cooking. Africa needs education! Africa needs clean drinking water!

For the last 14 years, all kinds of organizations have been sending help to Africa, the EEC, charities, churches. They have all been concentrating their help on Africa. Millions of dollars have been poured into Africa in aid. But if you go to Africa today, you will not see one sign of the effects of that aid; you would think nothing had been sent at all, even though you might think that so much aid would have been enough to help at least two or three countries to develop. Should you go on helping Africa in this way? I say *no!* There is another solution.

Aid that has been sent is blocked in the ports. It doesn't reach its destination. There are no trucks, there are no roads, there is no fuel to take the food where it is needed. Why not organize a huge airlift, like you did for Berlin in 1948? Send in large planes to bring the food to the big cities, then helicopters to bring the food to the villages. Food and medicine is rotting at the ports. You should think of building an airlift, if you really want to help Africa. Don't give just half the aid, go all the way, and provide the means to actually get it to the people who need it!

The food aid is necessary, indeed indispensable, but it is only temporary help, that alone cannot save Africa in the long term.

Genocide is occurring right now in Africa. The whole world will appear in front of a tribunal which will be bigger than the Nuremberg Tribunal after the Second World War. At that time, every German was questioned, "What was your job, what did you do to stop the crimes of the Nazis?" The whole world will be asked, "What was your job, how old were you, what did you do when you heard the cries of Africa?" The only ones who will not be questioned will be children who are not yet born—they have no responsibility for what is happening, but everyone else does.

In the Bible, we can read that when Cain killed his brother Abel, God asked Cain, "Where is your brother?" know Cain's answer? He said, "I'm not my brother's keeper!" God asked Cain, Abel's brother, where he was, he didn't ask Adam or Eve. And he will ask you about Africa. The blood of Africa will be on your hands.

This genocide is caused by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. They don't accept the development of the Third World. Look at one example, the country of Senegal. Years ago, Senegal could feed itself. Then it asked for credit for investment. The IMF said, "We will give you credits, but only for investment in peanut production." So Senegal produced nuts, and in fact became the number two producer worldwide of peanuts, but they forgot about the production of food that people in Senegal could eat, like

corn, manioc, and rice. Today Senegal is one of the 21 African countries affected by famine, because of the policy of the IMF.

We need roads, dams, factories; we need Western agricultural technology. There are no communication facilities in Africa. We need a trans-African railway, linking north and south, east and west. You can cross the whole of Europe in one day; you can go from Bonn to Bordeaux in less than 24 hours. You can't do this in Africa.

This would create jobs in Africa. It would end the poverty. Unemployment is the biggest problem in Africa. There is no work! People who do have jobs earn almost nothing. When you have no money, you have no dignity. These jobs would mean people would be able to take care of their families, instead of just waiting for the next boat to arrive. When I have no money in my pocket, I get sick! Today the whole continent of Africa is sick!

Is Africa poor? I say No! many raw materials that it is an "economic scandal." So, why are we poor? If you look back in history, you see that God intended Africa to be the breadbasket of the world. In ancient times, there was famine everywhere in the world; only in Africa was there plenty. . . . The Jews came to Africa—not as slaves, but in search of food. Jesus Christ came to Africa too: he was saved, thanks to Africa. . . . Africa's problem was its meeting with the West—now we neither have our traditional way of life, nor do we have the Western way of life—we are somewhere in the middle.

The West is monopolizing three things. The West has a monopoly on science, on technology, and on our raw materials. You transform our raw materials, and sell the finished products back to us at a high price. We need your technology and science—leave the raw materials for us, and we can make a trade! We have political independence, but we do not have economic independence. We have no factories to process our raw materials, so we sell them to you, and you fix the price, then manufacture finished goods which you send back to us at a much higher price!

We need help, but how many years will you go on sending food aid, how many decades, how many centuries? When you die, who will send aid then? I heard of an EEC project which dug wells and built pumps in the Sahara—but then the money ran out, the technicians left, and now the pumps don't work anymore. So that can't be the solution.

What we need is a new world economic order, that will help Africa develop once and for all, and stop being the world's beggar. The old economic order has not helped the Third World to develop. I am not saying we should demolish the offices of the IMF and the World Bank; but we must change the way they operate. The United Nations passed resolutions 12 years ago calling for a new world economic order, Resolutions 3201 and 3202, calling for the new world economic order and the development of the Third World.

The leaders of the world knew then, that this was the only way to finally solve the problems of starvation. But what is happening now? The resolutions are rotting on the shelves, and have not been implemented. They must be implemented, in order to save Africa, and develop the rest of the Third World, too.

After World War II, the United States helped Europe and Japan to recover, to rebuild their cities and economies. The IMF and the World Bank were created to help the West develop. Only they forgot about Africa, Latin America and the rest of Asia.

Men in Africa, in Europe, in America were all created in the image of God, and we all need collaboration and development.

In the United States and in Europe, I have seen steel factories closed down. We need that steel to build the trans-African railway. This would mean jobs. People would be paid. Your factories would be opened again, and people would have work here too. We need your science, your technology. I have heard that shipyards in Sweden have been closed down, because "there is no market." The market! We need those ships to bring in steel, all kinds of goods to Africa to make it developed, like here.

This is how I think it should work: accounts would be opened for each country, and 75% of the money paid in would be used for projects in the individual countries, and 25% for Africa-wide projects, like the trans-African railway, to develop the Sahara and irrigate it. The money will not go through Africa, but will come to Europe and the United States, to pay for these projects. We would ask the French to build, say, 70 factories in Africa; we could ask Italy to build 300 dams; we could ask Israel to develop the desert. Sweden could build floating plants, like nuclear plants, which could be transported down to Africa by sea and could go into operation immediately. Young Africans could come here to be trained and educated on how they can build such plants themselves. Long-term credits would be issued at low interest rates to finance this.

We need advanced technology to do this. That's the solution to the problems of Africa.

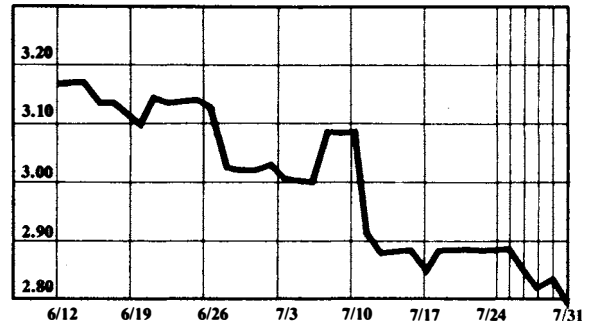
I would like to thank Europe—once you saved Africa from slavery, by banning the slave trade. Today you should act again. Today you should raise your voices to end the genocide in Africa.

Shall I show you the weapon you should use? The weapon is demonstrations! Here in Europe and the United States, the governments take notice of demonstrations. You should demonstrate in front of American embassies and consulates, with placards. You don't have to write much on these placards, just write, "We demand economic independence for Africa, we demand a new world economic order!" If you do this, you will have done more for Africa than someone who sends a ton of food. Follow the beacon of the Schiller Institute and march to build a new world economic order, and to save Africa.

Currency Rates

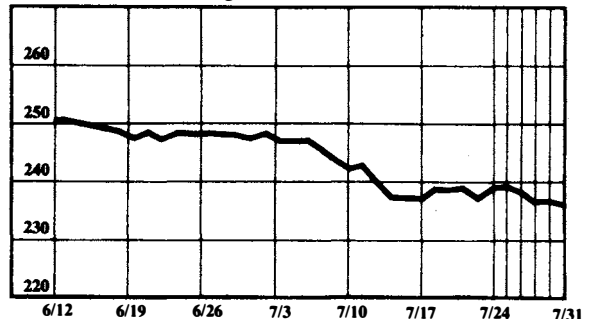
The dollar in deutschmarks

New York late afternoon fixing



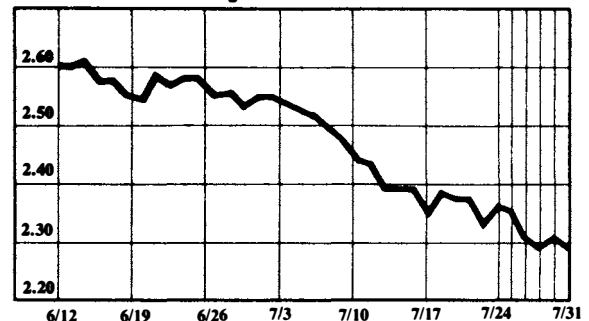
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

