

OSAGYEFO'S VISIT TO THE U.S.S.R.

Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah who is on his way to Moscow today sent the following message to the Presidential commission.

The message said: "As I leave Ghana to visit Europe, I wish to assure you and all the people of Ghana that my thoughts are with you.

"I am sure that the result of my endeavours will promote the best interest of our nation, the unity of Africa and world peace.

"I therefore call upon all sections of the community, market women, workers, school children, teachers, professional classes to remain united in your support of the nation."

(More later)

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11TH JULY, 1961OSAGYEFO'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION

The Soviet Government and all the Soviet people attach great importance to the Soviet Union of President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Moscow radio said on July, 9. In an English language service for Africa the radio stated: "The firm position of Ghana in the struggle against colonialism and imperialist aggression, for peace and peaceful coexistence, has opened before it the way to participation in the solution of international problems concerning the whole of mankind."

"This position has also helped to develop extensive friendly ties between Ghana and the Socialist countries, with the USSR in the first place. The visit to Ghana of the Soviet President, Leonid Brezhnev, was a striking and stirring demonstration of the friendly bonds between the two countries."

"These days the Soviet people are awaiting with interest the arrival in our country of Ghana's President Kwame Nkrumah. The Soviet Government and all the Soviet people attach great importance to this visit."

"There can be no doubt that it will serve to promote the friendship between the USSR and the Republic of Ghana and will help the growth of the forces working for peace among the nations."

President Kwame Nkrumah was in Tripoli on his way to Moscow. He discussed with the Libyan Premier and Foreign Minister Ghanaian-Libyan relations and recent developments in the Algerian situation. The President has been invited to Libya on a state visit which is expected to take place on his way back home.

Osagyefo will lead the Ghana delegation to the conference of heads of state of non-aligned countries due to be held in Yugoslavia in September. Dr. Nkrumah's visit to the Soviet Union has been described as "another graphic evidence of further consolidation of the friendship between the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and Ghana," by Mr. John B. Elliott, Ghana's Ambassador to the Soviet Union.

The visit is at the invitation of Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Premier. On February 16, this year President L.I. Brezhnev of the Soviet Union paid a four-day state visit to Ghana.

The Soviet Union will be the eighth country Osagyefo has visited this year. He visited Casablanca, Morocco, in January for a conference of Heads of African States, and, in February, he went to New York, U.S.A., where he addressed the resumed session of the United Nations General Assembly, after which he continued to London for the conference of Commonwealth Leaders.

Returning from the Commonwealth Leaders conference, Osagyefo stopped at Rabat, Morocco, where he had talks with King Hassan the II, and in Tunis, Tunisia, where he held discussions with President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia and M. Ferhat Abbas, Prime Minister of the Algerian Provisional Government.

Last month, he paid a five-day state visit to the Republic of Upper Volta and also visited Mali, for the 2nd Quarterly meeting of Heads of State of the Union of African States.



OSAGYEFO'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION (2)

Osagyefo, escorted by army, C.P.P. and Police despatch riders, arrived at the airport, and looking cheerful stepped out of his official Rolls Royce car.

First to greet him were the members of the Presidential Commission, Sir Arku Korsah, Chief Justice, Mr. K.A. Gbedemah, Minister of Health, and Mr. Kojo Botsio, Minister of Agriculture.

Accompanied by members of the Presidential Commission Dr. Nkrumah proceeded to an improvised dais from where he received a Presidential salute. Then flanked by Captain Addy and Mr. Gbedemah he inspected a guard of honour mounted by members of the Presidential Guard Command. After inspecting the guard of honour Osagyefo walked towards the popular stands, turned to the crowd and waved a white handkerchief to them.

Osagyefo went round shaking hands with Cabinet Ministers, Members of the Diplomatic Corps and Senior Government and Party Officials lined up on the tarmac. A 21-gun salute boomed in the distance when Osagyefo entered the plane after the crew of the Ghana Airways Ilyushin 18 jet prop aircraft on which he was travelling had been presented to him.

Handkerchiefs fluttered in the air and the crowd yelled as the plane took off.

Ghana News Agency, correspondent Asare Konadu, covering Osagyefo's tour said in a despatch from Moscow that final touches were being made to arrangements for Dr. Nkrumah's visit. The streets of the city had been gaily decorated with flags and bunting of Ghana and the Soviet Union and officials who would be in attendance on Osagyefo and members of his party were learning few words of english and twi.

The programme for his tour released in Moscow indicated would be met at Vnukovo airport by Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Premier, and later leaders of the U.S.S.R.

On Saturday he would lay a wreath at the Lenin Mausoleum before meeting President L.I. Brezhnev, who was his guest in Ghana last January.

Dr. Nkrumah's activities during the first week would include visits to a Soviet exhibition of economic achievements, a circus and the academy of science.

He would visit Siberia the following week returning to Moscow before visiting Kiev, former capital of the U.S.S.R. He will spend three days in Leningrad visiting Hermitage museum and other places of interest.

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11TH JULY, 1961.OSAGYEFO'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION (3)

President Nkrumah arrived in Moscow on July 11. As the President's Ghana Airways plane, escorted by Soviet jet fighters, landed at the airport, a guard of honour was lined up, the National Anthems of both countries were played and the artillery salute of Nations was fired. The Ghanaian Ambassador, Mr. John B. Elliott, Foreign Diplomats and journalists, as well as numerous representatives of Muscovites, were at the airport to greet Dr. Nkrumah.

Welcoming the Ghanaian President's first visit to the Soviet Union, President Brezhnev said: "We are sincerely pleased with the arrival to our country of one of the prominent leaders of new Africa. We greet you as a representative of a freedom loving African country with which we are successfully developing relations of lasting friendship and close cooperation."

President Brezhnev expressed confidence that the representatives of the people of Ghana will be most cordially welcomed by the Soviet people.

"On Soviet soil you will meet sincere and loyal friends of independent freedom loving Ghana," Tass quoted him as saying.

Moscow radio reported that President Nkrumah said in reply: "I bring you and all the peoples of the Soviet Union the warmest and fraternal greetings of the ~~my~~ people of the republic of Ghana. I want to thank you also and the Soviet people for the invitation to visit your great country. I look forward ~~many~~ very much to my stay here and the opportunity of renewing our friendship and meeting at first hand the people of the Soviet Union and seeing for ourselves the great achievements of the Soviet people which we have heard so much about, the glorious results of the communist revolution....."

"It is my fervent hope that my visit will not only strengthen present cordial relations which exist between our two countries, but will also substantially reinforce our determination to crush imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism in Africa and help further the difficult but victorious advance of the African peoples towards their destiny, namely complete political and economic emancipation and African Unity, that is the political and economic unification of the African continent."

Mr. Khrushchev and President Nkrumah attended a reception which the Soviet Government gave in honour of air force men who had taken part in an air parade on Sunday in Tushino, the Soviet news agency Tass reported. During the reception Mr. Khrushchev and President Nkrumah warmly talked with Soviet Marshals, air Marshals and pilots. Mr. Khrushchev toasted President Nkrumah and the republic of Ghana as well as Soviet-Ghanaian friendship, Tass said.

President Nkrumah proposed a toast in honour of the great Soviet people, the Soviet Government and the Communist party of the Soviet Union, Tass said. Loud ovation met his second toast -- the health of women pilots who took part in the air parade.



OSAGYEFO'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION (4) Descriptive

President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana was accorded the traditional colourful Head of State welcome and warmly embraced by the Soviet Premier Mr. Nikita Khrushchev when he arrived in Moscow, for a 10-day state visit to the Soviet Union. The President, smiling happily throughout the 35-minute welcome at Moscow's Vnukovo airport, was also met by the Soviet President, Mr. Leonid Brezhnev.

The President's Ghana airways Russian-built Ilyushin-18 jet plane landed in warm sunshine on the stroke of 1700 hours local time. A few minutes earlier it had swept low over the airport accompanied by 7 mig-19 jet fighters.

As the 100-strong red and blue uniformed band of the Moscow Military Garrison struck up, the Soviet leaders and Ghana Ambassador John Banks Elliott walked over to the plane.

Mr. Khrushchev, who wore a grey suit and a white panama hat, was the first to greet President Nkrumah as he stepped down the plane ramps. The Soviet Premier shook his hand then clasped him in his arms and embraced him twice. President Brezhnev did the same.

The carefully planned and rehearsed traditional welcome became one of the most colourful ever accorded a visiting Head of State when nearly a hundred Ghanaian students studying in Moscow broke out into song as the President appeared in the doorway of the plane.

They chanted and sang throughout most of the ceremony much to the delight of the two Soviet leaders.

As the Military band struck up the country's national anthem a row of Soviet anti aircraft guns on the edge of the airfield blasted out a 21 gun salute. President Nkrumah briefly inspected the guard of honour and he was then led by Mr. Khrushchev to other welcoming Soviet Government leaders and army officers. He shook their hands warmly and continued along a line of more than 50 diplomats. He then came to the Ghanaian students who increased their singing and shouting and waved banners and flags.

About 400 Russian workers and students especially brought to the airfield by bus were also there to greet the President and they broke into shouts of welcome as he walked past them waving happily. After President Brezhnev and President Nkrumah had made speeches high-powered Soviet cars drew up before them.

Mr. Khrushchev ushered President Nkrumah to the first open car but as the two men were about to get in a dozen Ghanaian students rushed forward and began shouting and dancing. The two men, with President Brezhnev, stood by the open car door for several minutes watching them. Then Mr. Khrushchev turned to the Ghana President, shrugged his shoulders, pointed to the car and they climbed in. The Ghana President will be staying at the Kremlin while he is in Moscow. He will also visit Irkutsk, Tashkent, Kiev and Leningrad. He is scheduled to meet Mr. Khrushchev and President Brezhnev for official talks tomorrow morning.

The Soviet news Agency tass quoted President Brezhnev as saying in his address of welcome at the airport: "We are sincerely pleased with the arrival to our country of one of the prominent leaders of new Africa. We greet you ... picking up"

(More Later)