

Page 1, Tuesday

# Unity for a new order

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my duty and my pleasure to welcome this meeting, and every one of you, to Tanzania and to Arusha. I suspect that some of you may have found that your accommodation gives you too frequent a reminder that this meeting is being held in an under-developed country. I want to assure you that we tried hard! I hope, however, that you will not find your rooms or the facilities so unsatisfactory that you cannot do your work properly. I also hope that there will be an opportunity for you to see something of Tanzania. We have a lovely country, and we would like you to enjoy your stay here as well as to serve your countries and the whole Third World.

The Agenda of your Conference is very long; it deals with very important matters. Many technical questions are involved, in which details and percentages can mean the difference between the usefulness or otherwise of a proposal or suggested negotiating position. And these details are the reality of working for a New International Economic Order; unless careful attention is given to them (especially by those entrusted with negotiating power) the Third World demands are mere rhetoric.

But there is also a danger in details. When a Third World negotiator has, after exhausting hours of argument, pushed the other side of the table from 30% to 45% he will feel a sense of achievement, and urge acceptance upon his colleagues. We should all sympathise! I am not a military man. But I am told that an Army Commander looks at a platoon's advance in the light of its effect on the total battle front. If that advance can be held without cost, or can be used to harass the opposing forces—fine! But if it exposes his troops pointlessly, or weakens the general strategy, then he congratulates the Platoon Commander and his men, and tells them to withdraw again.

At this Conference you will be looking at the details of past and present negotiations in relation to the aim of securing fundamental changes in the present International Economic Order. I do not propose to comment! The delegates here are much better equipped than I am to assess the negotiations about a Common Fund, changes in the power structure of world financial institutions, tariff and other restrictions on Third World trade, and so on. All that I intend to do is to share with you some thoughts about the future.

The full address by President Nyerere to the Ministerial Conference of the 'Group of 77' at Arusha yesterday.