

Dr. H. KAMUZU BANDA,
P.O. Box 538,
BLANTYRE,
MALAWI.
CENTRAL AFRICA.

Dear Mr Brody,

It has been some time now since I have communicated anything to you. I thought it is necessary that I do so now in view of the many political developments that have taken place in my country.

You may recall that there were seven political parties which played a role in the management of the affairs of this country during the transition period while the Malawi Congress Party was in government. Perhaps you are aware of the fact that this transition period was completed smoothly until we had the Presidential and Parliamentary elections last May 17th. These elections were peaceful, and were judged to be free and fair by everyone.

I congratulated Mr. Bakili Muluzi of the United Democratic Front for his victory in the Presidential contest. I assured him about my cooperation with his

2/.....

new government, and offered him any assistance that he may need from me. I felt this was necessary because with only 85 seats out of the total of 177 that his party won, Mr. Muluzi was denied the Parliamentary majority that he needed to conduct government business with ease.

Ideally, it would have made things easier for Mr. Muluzi if he had succeeded in forming a coalition government with either the Malawi Congress Party or the Alliance for Democracy, being the only other parties that won seats in Parliament. Mr. Muluzi however rejected the idea of cooperating with the Malawi Congress Party, but later failed to reach any working agreement with Mr Chakufwa Chihana's Alliance for Democracy.

On the other hand, the Malawi Congress Party and the Alliance for Democracy managed to negotiate a working alliance as opposition parties both inside and outside Parliament. This was done for the sake of providing this country with a strong and effective democratically elected opposition. I would like therefore, to mention that the primary aim of this opposition alliance is to try to unite the country and

provide effective and constructive criticism to government.

While such a scenario may present special difficulties for any government, let alone for an African government, the verdict of the Malawi electorate in denying Mr. Muluzi and the U.D.F. a Parliamentary majority, coupled with a strong and effective opposition, created in this country a desirable and viable model for democracy. In responsible hands, I believe that such a state of affairs will consolidate the democratic gains we have achieved in recent times.

You are probably aware that one of our major concerns after the elections was the regional fragmentations and political polarizations which were reflected in the results of the elections. These deep seated divisions demonstrated that the U.D.F. was essentially a political party for the Southern region while the Malawi Congress Party was basically for the Centre while Aford was exclusively a party for the Northern region.

The alliance between Aford and the Malawi Congress Party was an attempt to arrest these

perceived trends towards such political fragmentations of the country and their consequent national insecurity. The alliance which is working very well is a practical and living example of the much needed message to our people of political tolerance among former bitter political rivals. It is my hope that this country will continue to remain politically stable, peaceful and calm.

I have encouraged all my supporters in the Malawi Congress Party to accept the electoral defeat for the M.C.P. as a reality of Multi-party politics. I have urged them to get ready and be prepared for the next general elections in 1999. I have appealed to them not to hold grudges against anyone, but to forget their political differences and continue to live with their colleagues from other political parties in harmony.

Personally I am pleased to let you know that I am resting comfortably at home. Medically I feel quite recovered after my surgery in South Africa, and my doctors are happy with my recovery.

I want to thank you most sincerely for your valuable and dedicated support which you rendered to

- 5 -

Referendum period and Election. I shall always value our friendship, and please keep in touch.

I look forward to seeing you and Mrs Brody soon. I hope this finds both of you well.

My best regards.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Kamuzu Banda'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'H' and a stylized 'B'.

Dr. H. Kamuzu Banda

Dr. Don Brody
U.S.A.



CONSULATE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

RELIEVED VIA
BEATRICE MUNGOMO
IN LONDON ON
31 AUGUST 1994

Hello Don & Paula

Here with mail and newspapers
from His Excellency the ngwazi
and my Auntie.

I am leaving London on the
16th of September. I hope to speak
to you on the telephone before
I leave.

I hope this note finds you all
in good health.

Kindest Regards

Beatrice Mungomo