

Celebrating South Africa's progressive role at the United Nations



"The readiness with which my request was granted by your Committee, Mr Chairman, confirms and is consistent with the declared desire of the nations and peoples of the world to see the end of apartheid and white domination, and the emergence of a South Africa loyal to the United Nations and to the high principles set forth in the Charter – a South Africa governed by its people as fellow citizens of equal worth whatever the colour, race or creed of any one of them. This kind of South Africa is the precise goal of our political struggle."

OR TAMBO: Special Political Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, 8 October 1963.

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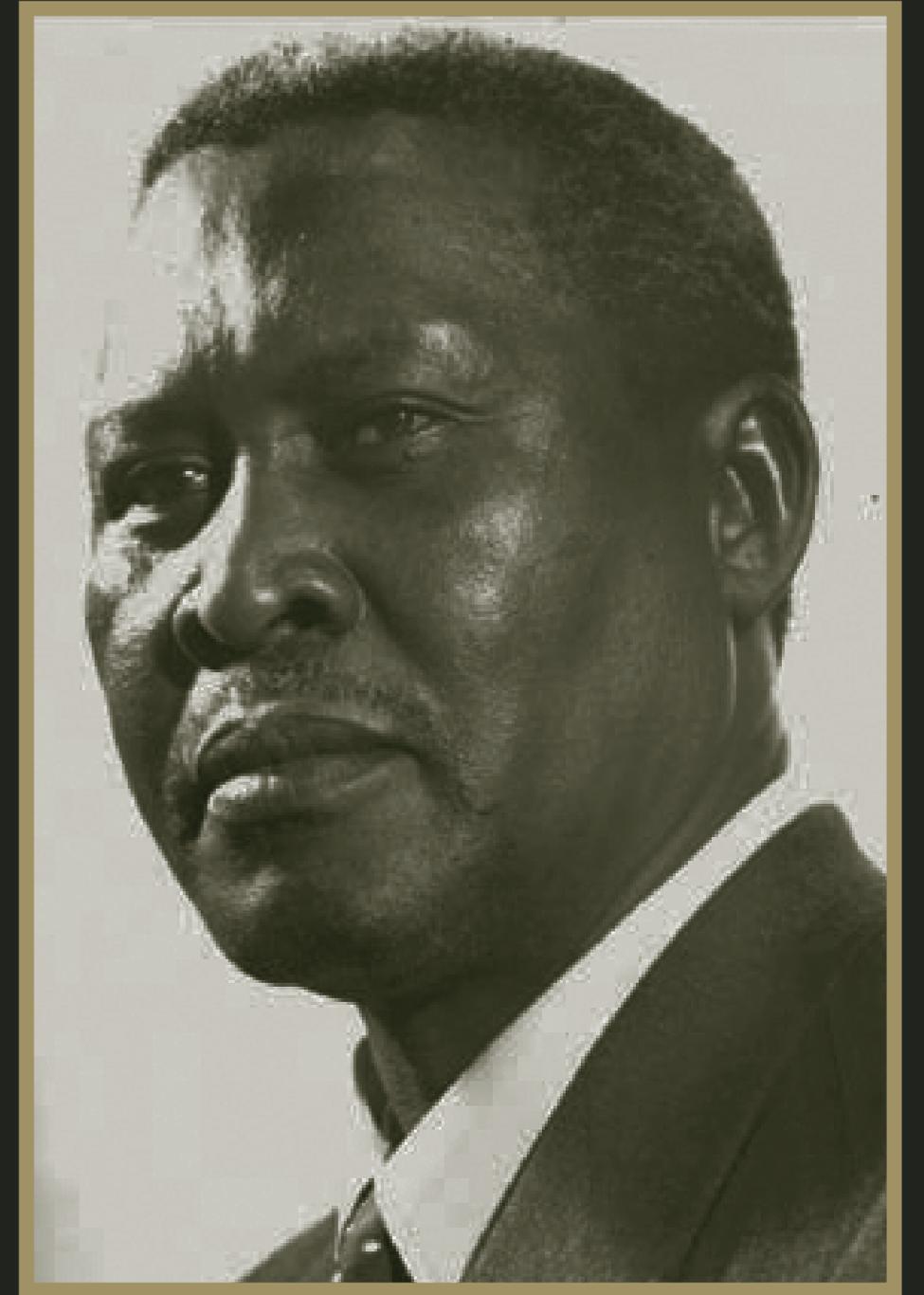
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CHIEF ALBERT LUTULI
Nobel lecture,
Oslo University,
11 December 1961.

“This Award could not be for me alone, nor for just South Africa, but for Africa as a whole. Africa presently is most deeply torn with strife and most bitterly stricken racial conflict. How strange then it is that a man of Africa should be here to receive an Award given for service to the cause of peace and brotherhood between men.”





OR TAMBO at the meeting of the Special Committee against Apartheid, New York, 2 April 1973.

“Even the economy is not a neutral social sphere affecting all either ill or well indiscriminately. Rather, it conforms to the social order and is indeed the base on which has been built the whole edifice of apartheid South Africa with its lying doctrine of racial supremacy and the brutal practise of extreme national oppression and the consistent dehumanisation of, especially, the African people.”



OR TAMBO AND Javier Perez de Cuellar

“We have come to the United Nations because of our belief in it. But if the United Nations finds any real difficulties, we are bound, most naturally, to explore every other avenue that is open to us, whatever that is, to strengthen ourselves in every way that is conceivable. There is no question from our point of view of postponing anything. Apartheid has outlived its time in the world and most certainly in Africa.”

NELSON MANDELA
At a Special Meeting
of the UN Special
Committee Against
Apartheid, New York,
22 June 1990.

“This is for us a moving moment because we know that as we stand here we are among friends and people of conscience. We know this because we know what you did over the decades to secure my release and the release of other South African political prisoners from Pretoria’s dungeons. We thank you most sincerely for this, especially because you have thus given us the opportunity to join hands with you in the search for a speedy solution to the enormous problems facing our country, our region and continent and humanity as a whole.”

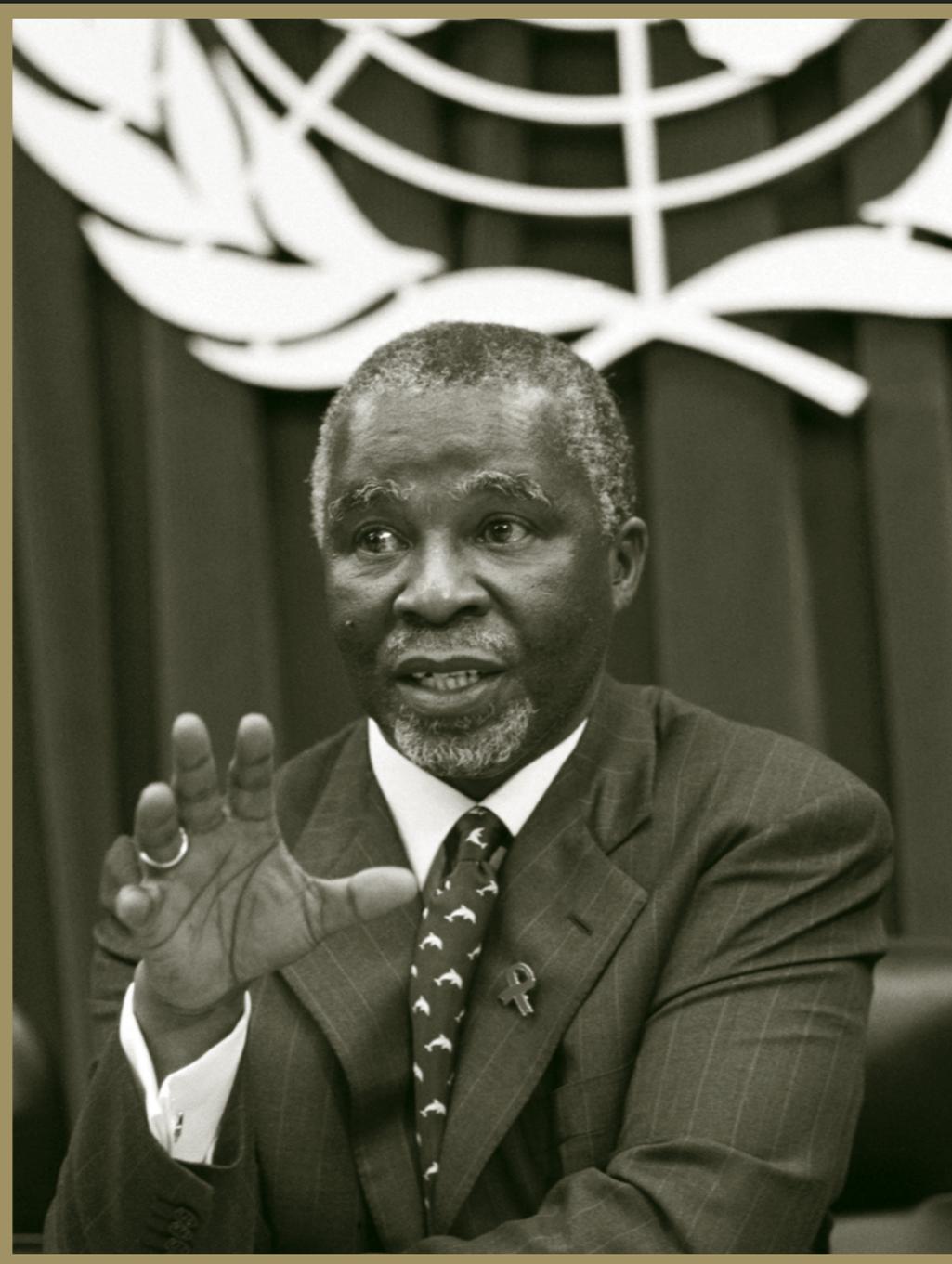


United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali greets President Nelson Mandela.

“We are part of the region of Southern Africa and the continent of Africa. As members of the Southern African Development Community and the OAU, and an equal partner with other member states, we will play our role in the struggles of these organisations to build a continent and a region that will help to create for themselves and all humanity a common world of peace and prosperity.”

President TM Mbeki at
the United Nations

“Because this organisation of the peoples of the world has grown to encompass the entire world, many had thought that it would be logical that this custodian of global democracy would itself serve as a beacon in our continuing quest for democracy in all our countries. Clearly, for the UN to continue occupying its moral high ground, it has to reform itself urgently, and lead by practical example as to what is meant to be democratic.”



PRESIDENT TM MBEKI toast remarks at the official dinner in honour of Kofi Annan, United Nations, Secretary-General, Cape Town, 14 March 2006

“We respected your leadership because we knew that you would base your own ability to be our guide on your respect for our own dignity as sovereign human beings and states, and therefore our ability to think for ourselves and act rationally in the interest of all humanity.”





**Ms Nane Annan,
Mr Kofi Annan,
President TM
Mbeki and First
Lady Ms Z Mbeki.**



ALFRED NZO AND BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI

“The South African Government puts a high premium on the promotion and protection of human rights as a cornerstone of its foreign policy. As we approach the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Year of Human Rights, we reaffirm our commitment to the pre-eminent values of basic human dignity, values which have fought for and which we must continue to fight. Our people deserve no less.”



Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Alfred Nzo, and UN Secretary General, Mr Kofi Annan.
“The process of reform should produce a revitalised organisation capable of addressing humanity’s vital issues of peace and security... South Africa fully supports the Non-Aligned Movement’s position that there should be no partial or selective expansion in the membership of the Security Council, to the detriment of developing countries.”

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nc Dlamini Zuma and UN Secretary General, Mr Kofi Annan.

The United Nations has a fundamental role to play in promoting the achievement of sustainable development for all. In the past few years the ability of the United Nations in galvanising support and political will for development has been evident as the UN managed to set the global agenda for development through the MDGs and other international agreed development goals.

