



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



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General Notice No. 82 of 1971.

Statement to the Nation by the Uganda Army

IT IS HEREBY notified for general information that the text of the Statement made to the Nation by the Uganda Army on the 25th day of January, 1971, is as follows:

It has been necessary to take action to save a bad situation from getting worse. We give here below examples of matters that have left the people angry, worried, and very unhappy.

1. The unwarranted detention without trial and for long periods of a large number of people, many of whom are totally innocent of any charges.
2. The continuation of a state of emergency over the whole country for an indefinite period, which is meaningless to everybody.
3. The lack of freedom in the airing of different views on political and social matters.
4. The frequent loss of life and property arising from almost daily cases of robbery with violence and *kondoism* without strong measures being taken to stop them. The people feel totally insecure and yet *kondoism* increases every day.
5. The proposals for National Service which will take every able bodied person from his home to work in a camp for two years could only lead to more robbery and general crime when homes are abandoned.
6. Widespread corruption in high places, especially among Ministers and top civil servants has left the people with very little confidence, if any, in the Government. Most Ministers own fleets of cars or buses, many big houses and sometimes even aeroplanes.
7. The failure by the political authorities to organise any elections for the last eight years whereby the people's free will could be expressed. It should be noted that the last elections within the ruling party were dominated by big fellows with lots of money which they used to bribe their way into "winning" the elections. This bribery, together with threats against the people, entirely falsified the results of the so-called elections. Proposed new methods of election requiring a candidate to stand in four constituencies will only favour the rich and the well-known.

FOOD

8. Economic policies have left many people unemployed and even more insecure and lacking in the basic needs of life—like food, clothing, medicine and shelter.

9. High taxes have left the common man of this country poorer than ever before. Here are some of the taxes which the common man has to bear:

- Development Tax,
- Graduated Tax,
- Sales Tax,
- Social Security Fund Tax.

The big men can always escape these taxes or pass them on to the common man.

10. The prices which the common man gets for his crops like cotton and coffee have not gone up and sometimes they have gone down, whereas the cost of food, education, etc., have always gone up.

UNITY

11. Tendency to isolate the country from East African unity, *e.g.* by sending away workers from Kenya and Tanzania, by preventing the use of Uganda money in Kenya and Tanzania by discouraging imports from Kenya and Tanzania, by stopping the use in Uganda of Kenyan or Tanzanian money.

12. The creation of a wealthy class of leaders who are always talking of socialism while they grow richer and the common man poorer.

13. In addition, the Defence Council of which the President is Chairman, has not met since July, 1969, and this has made administration of the Armed Forces very difficult. As a result Armed Forces personnel lack accommodation, vehicles and equipment. Also general recruitment submitted to the Chairman of the Defence Council a long time ago has not been put into effect.

14. The Cabinet Office, by training large numbers of people (largely from the Akokoro County in Lango District where Obote and Akena Adoko, the Chief General Service Officer, come from) in armed warfare, has been turned into a second army. Uganda therefore has had two armies, one in the Cabinet, the other Regular.

15. The Lango development master plan written in 1967 decided that all key positions in Uganda's political, commercial, army and industrial life have to be occupied and controlled by people from Akokoro County, Lango District. Also the same master plan decided that nothing of importance must be done for other districts especially Acholi District. Emphasis was put on development of Akokoro County in Lango District at the expense of other areas of Uganda.

16. Obote, on the advice of Akena Adoko, has sought to divide the Uganda Armed Forces and the rest of Uganda by picking out his own tribesmen and putting them in key positions in the Army and elsewhere. Examples: the Chief General Service Officer, the Export and Import Corporation, Uganda Meat Packers, the Public Service Commission, Nyanza Textiles and a Russian textile factory to be situated in Lango.

17. From the time Obote took over power in 1962 his greatest and most loyal supporter has been the Army. The Army has always tried to be an example to the whole of Africa by not taking over the Government and we have always followed that principle. It is therefore now a shock to us to see that Obote wants to divide and downgrade the Army by turning the Cabinet Office into another army. In doing this, Obote and Akena Adoko have bribed and used some senior officers who have turned against their fellow soldiers.

18. We all want only unity in Uganda and we do not want bloodshed. Everybody in Uganda knows that. The matters mentioned above appear to us to lead to bloodshed only.

For the reasons given above we men of the Uganda Armed Forces have this day decided to take over power from Obote and hand it to our fellow soldier, Major-General Idi Amin Dada, and we hereby entrust him to lead this our beloved country of Uganda to peace and goodwill among all.

We call upon everybody and all Government departments in Uganda to continue with their work in the normal way.

We warn all foreign governments not to interfere in Uganda's internal affairs. Any such interference will be crushed with great force, because we are ready.

We are firm believers in the unity of East Africa and of Africa in general and we shall cement our friendship with neighbouring and all African countries and the world at large more than ever before.

For the moment a curfew is necessary and will be observed by everybody between 7 p.m. and 6.30 a.m. from now on and every day until further notice.

Power is now handed over to our fellow soldier, Major-General Idi Amin Dada, and you must await his statement which will come in due course.

WE HAVE DONE THIS FOR GOD AND OUR COUNTRY.