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EIGHTH CONFERENCE  
OF HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT  
OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES  
Harare, August-September 1986  
ADDRESS

BY  
COMRADE YASSER ARAFAT  
CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
OF THE  
FORCES OF PALESTINE LIBERATION  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE  
EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT  
OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES  
Hafare International Conference Centre  
1 September 1986  
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Brother Chairman Rajiv Gandhi,  
Brother Chairman Robert Mugabe,  
Brother Presidents and leaders,  
I have the pleasure to address you on this occasion on my behalf and on behalf of my colleagues and brothers, the fighters of the liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and deeply thank our great brother Chairman Rajiv Gandhi who headed our Movement after the martyrdom of our late Chairperson and leader Indira Gandhi, for whom we shall continue to harbour feelings of love, respect, gratitude and appreciation not only as a leader of India, but also of the non-aligned countries and all honest fighters in the world.

You, brother Chairman Rajiv, shouldered the responsibility and led our Movement with strength, wisdom and courage in the most difficult circumstances. For this we extend to you and to the great, ancient, friendly people of India, our wholehearted love, appreciation and gratitude for the contributions made to the Non-Aligned Movement since its inception by the great leaders Jawaharlal Nehru, Tito, Abdul Nasser, Nkrumah, Sukarno, Sekou Toure and other leaders of Asia, Africa- and Latin America, and the launching of the Afro-Asian people's movement. The Movement has spearheaded the struggle of our peoples and has enhanced the national liberation struggle against colonialism, Zionism, racial discrimination and imperialism. ' Consequently the banners of freedom and independence were hoisted throughout 'the three  
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continents; and the banner of the national liberation struggle, raised by our Movement, the Non-Aligned Movement, is still held high in the face of the enemies of freedom, the enemies of the peoples, the enemies of peace and the enemies of humanity. While expressing appreciation for the African revolutionary hero, Premier Robert Mugabe who, on this glorious day, assumes the leadership of our Movement, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, we pledge our full support for the new Chairman of the Movement.

You, Mr. Chairman, will lead the Movement in the most difficult circumstances, against imperialism, colonialism, apartheid, zionism and racial discrimination, but I am confident that you will steer the Movement with your wisdom in the same way" as Chairman Rajiv Gandhi and our leader Indira Gandhi did. You assume the leadership at a time when we are facing many difficulties and great challenges: here in Harare, Zimbabwe, in the African front-line States against the Pretoria regime; in the Middle East against the Tel Aviv regime, that other tool of imperialism, zionism and racial discrimination; in Latin America, particularly in Central America, where the peoples face the challenges imposed ' by imperialism and its allies. Also, you will face the responsibility of putting an end to the Iraq-Iran war, which is waged neither against the people of Iran, nor against the people of Iraq. It is a war against us all. Let me state frankly and in disregard of diplomacy: six years of this war is enough, enough, enough.

I appeal to my brethren, the leaders of Iran, to respond to all the mediations offered; the mediation of the non-aligned countries, the mediation of the Islamic countries and the mediation of the United Nations. I appeal to them, on behalf of all of us, to accept this mediation, to stop the bloodshed, and point all the guns towards the enemy, here against Pretoria, and there against Tel Aviv, to liberate Holy Jerusalem from the captivity of zionism and colonialism. Let me applaud the heroic people of Zimbabwe who seized their independence and attained victory through the great sacrifices made by this great and valiant people in their struggle against the fiercest form of racial colonialism from which Zimbabwe suffered, as Algeria did' before, and as the peoples of South Africa, Namibia, and Palestine still do. I am confident that our peoples in South Africa, Namibia and Palestine will triumph over occupation, colonialism, imperialism, racial discrimination and Zionism as our brothers in Zimbabwe and Algeria did.

Our Movement, the Non-Aligned Movement, today faces a historic challenge in opposing this aggressive force. It has laid a solid fohndation on which the national liberation struggle of our peoples rests today against the old forms of colonialism, and against its last racist bastions in South Africa, Namibia and Palestine. It can now fight all forms of neo-colonialism, particularly the economic, which today seeks to invade our territory after the colonial armies have left. What I say is that it can fight neo-Colonialism in all its economic, political, cultural, social and other forms, for a

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better future for our peoples and the rising generations, so that they can live free and respected in their homes. The convening of our Conference today, in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe which stands together with the sister African front-line States against the ferocity of the racist regime in Pretoria, at this particular juncture of the growing intensification of the struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia to intimidate and quell the obnoxious regime of Pretoria, is an expression of the revolutionary challenge of achieving freedom, justice, peace and social progress. It shows the solid basis, the powerful will, and the firm determination of our Movement to stand up against and defeat the forces of racism and aggression.

We are sure that our Conference will give full support, material and moral assistance to the struggle for the eradication of apartheid, for attaining independence and victory by the friendly struggling peoples of Namibia and South Africa, and in helping to further strengthen the African front-line States.

I express my thanks to brother Chairman Rajiv Gandhi for agreeing, together with you, that the address of Chairman Robert Mugabe be considered one of the documents of the Conference, the Conference of our Movement. I express deep appreciation to the people of Zimbabwe for their hospitality and to those who worked for the success of this Conference; Let me transmit a pledge from all revolutionaries of Palestine to all free and honest revolutionaries in the world, that we shall persevere in our struggle, side by side, HAR-U94

wherever our struggle may be waged, for the triumph of our peoples. Let me, in your name, address that hero Nelson Mandela, who languishes in the jails of a racist regime, the regime of apartheid, the regime of Pretoria, "You will triumph, and the people of South Africa will triumph!" Let me say to our brothers in Namibia, my brothers in SWAPO - "you will triumph! and the people of Palestine will triumph!"'  
Thank you.