

NWMFBW oaqqx Ly; in. G3

SECRETARIAT EXECUTIF DE L'ORGANISATION EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZA'HON  
DE L'UNITE AFRICAINE AUX NATIONS UNIES 7 OF AFRICAN UNITY TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
346 EAST 50TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022  
TELEPHONE (212) 319-5490 TELEX 425084 ORGA U1  
TELEFAX (212) 319-7135

PRESS RELEASE NO. NY/OAU/BUR/5/93

END TO SOMALI CONFLICT: GOAL OF THE OAU

SAYS DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM

The OAU Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim has made it clear that the one and only goal of the Organization of African Unity to see an end to the unfortunate conflict in Somalia, and the restoration of peace, security and stability within the context of national unity and reconciliation.

Dr. Salim made the remarks while pledging OAU's full commitment to a speedy, peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Somalia, at the informal preparatory meeting on Somalia which was held at Africa Hall, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The OAU Secretary General informed the participants that the Organization had no other agenda on Somalia, and did not favour any particular faction or group, but rather had a genuine interest in helping to rebuild Somalia, for its future generations. He made it clear that the concern of the OAU has been and would continue to be first and foremost the sanctity of life. In this regard, the OAU was determined to assist in rescuing Somalia from the havoc and destruction that it now faces.

Dr. Salim urged the Somali leaders to devise ways and means of ensuring a successful holding of the National Reconciliation Conference. From this meeting, he said it is the hope of the OAU, that we shall put in place a process, which will ensure that such a Reconciliation Conference, when held, will achieve its desired objective. He continued with the statement as follows:

Thus, our Somali brothers should not only exchange ideas on issues as date and venue of such a Conference but also on other substantive matters. These issues, which will require reflection and broad agreement among the Somali leaders include: 'peace and security especially the attainment of a generalised ceasefire which is scrupulously  
.../2

observed by all; disarmament of armed groups, and the creation initially of a national police force; the constitution of the country; the interim/transitional administration including its terms of reference and composition; relief and rehabilitation as well as the reconstruction of Somalia. Indeed the issue of the reconstruction of Somalia should not be side-lined because it is of primordial importance to keep the attention of the international community particularly focused on the long term needs of the Somali people if Somalia is to be restored fully as an active member of the African and the international community, he said.

The Secretary General urged Somali elders to endeavour to provide guidance, and added that the ultimate responsibility for saving Somalia and restoring it to its rightful place in the community of nations, lay with the Somali people and especially with them.

New York, January 11, 19