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The Secretary General of the OAU, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim has closely been following with concern the political crisis in the Congo. It is the strong desire of the Organization of African Unity to do everything possible to assist in defusing the crisis. To this end, the Secretary General has appointed Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun as his special Emmissary to Congo.

Ambassador Sahnoun, an Algerian national, a diplomat of long standing experience, a former Assistant Secretary General of the OAU for Political Affairs and former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Somalia, is expected to go to Brazzaville shortly. He will be assisted by senior officials of the General Secretariat of the OAU including the Director of the Political Department, Ambassador M. Bah.

The task of the OAU Mission to Congo will be essentially to assist in promoting understanding and mediation. The Secretary General appeals to all the parties concerned to extend full co-operation to Ambassador Sahnoun and his mission. In the meantime, the Secretary General would like to appeal to the Parties concerned and to all the political forces in the Congo to exercise moderation and maximum restraint.

New York, July 23, 1993