

Address given by Richard Turnbull at the Tanganyika independence ceremony (9 December 1961)

Caption: On 20 November 1961, Richard Gordon Turnbull sends the British Colonial Office a draft of the address he is planning to give at the ceremony to mark the proclamation of Tanganyika's independence on 9 December 1961. Richard Turnbull was the final Governor of Tanganyika (1958–1961); following the country's independence, he became Governor-General.

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CONFIDENTIAL

M. Rege

M. Rege
23/11
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
DAR ES SALAAM
TANGANYIKA

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GH.1116/4.

20th November, 1961.

My dear Leslie

I am sending you herewith a draft of the speech which I propose to make on Independence Day after having been sworn in as Governor-General. As you will have gathered from your programme, H.R.H. does not make his appearance on the scene until I have concluded.

There is not much, I think, that calls for comment, but in view of all I have said on the first and second pages about the difference between a Governor and a Governor-General, I thought perhaps that you should see it. There remain one or two illogicalities and inconsistencies, particularly in the last paragraph, which I shall tidy up before I deliver the speech.*

Would you be kind enough to let me know by telegram if there is anything in the draft which in your view should be altered.

NB

*Yours ever
D. M. Rege*

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* This has now been done.

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ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
AT THE INDEPENDENCE CEREMONY

Today is a day of great rejoicing and happiness for it marks the fulfilment of the aspirations of all the people of Tanganyika; it is the day upon which Tanganyika becomes a wholly independent sovereign state and takes a free and equal place in the comity of the nations of the world.

Today Tanganyika also becomes a full member of the Commonwealth. This means that in addition to having attained her freedom and her independence, she will continue to be united by invisible bonds of friendship and mutual understanding with Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, with India, Pakistan and Ceylon, and with Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. The Commonwealth, of which Tanganyika is now a full member nation, is a voluntary association of independent peoples spread over five continents. It stands for freedom and justice and respect for the rule of law and the dignity of man. Not only has it an internal harmony of its own, but it seeks to promote peace amongst all nations. Its role is to help bridge differences and to heal wounds and to act as a unifying influence in a divided world; and here, by the example it has already set, Tanganyika can play a full and worthy part.

Standing here before you this-morning, I have laid down my responsibilities as Governor of the Trust Territory of Tanganyika, and have taken the oaths which make me Governor-General of this new nation.

I should explain that a Governor-General is appointed by the Queen to represent Her Majesty in a Commonwealth country; but the appointment is one that cannot be made except by the choice and advice of the Ministers of that country; and here let me say how honoured and gratified I am by the knowledge that I have been appointed by Her Majesty to this office at the special request of my close friend and colleague, the Prime Minister, and of his fellow members of the Cabinet.

I think I should make it clear that the office of a Governor-General is very different from the office of a Governor. Both have a loyal duty to the Queen; but whereas the Governor was the servant of Great Britain, the Governor-General is the servant of Tanganyika. A Governor is appointed

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by Great Britain and is responsible to the British Government; he advises the Secretary of State, and is frequently guided by the Secretary of State; but the immediate responsibility for the administration of the territory lies with him. When independence comes, the work of a Governor is ended.

A Governor-General has quite a different role to fill. He has no responsibilities to the Government of Great Britain; he is not answerable to any Minister in London, or to the Parliament in London. He has a single duty; it is to devote himself to the service of the people of Tanganyika and to the Government of Tanganyika. He is bound in everything by the Constitution of Tanganyika; he cannot act on his own; he can only act in accordance with the advice of Tanganyika Ministers, and in accordance with the requirements of the Tanganyika Constitution.

As most of you know, Her Majesty's Government in Great Britain accepted, in 1946, the obligation under the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement, to bring this country to self-government and then to full independence; and since that time Great Britain has consistently pursued policies aimed at the achievement of that end. When I took up the office as Governor of Tanganyika three and a half years ago, it became my duty to advise Her Majesty's Government on the steps which should be taken to bring about the final stages of Tanganyika's constitutional advancement. In undertaking this responsibility I was fortunate in having at my side, first the Civil Service members of the old Government of Tanganyika, and later the Ministers selected from amongst the members of the National Assembly whom you see here today. Let me say how deeply beholden I am to both. And during all this time, initially as a friendly unofficial counsellor, and latterly in the formal capacity of my chief adviser, I was in the happy position of being able to depend on the close co-operation of your Prime Minister, Mr. Nyerere. The steps that we have taken together during the past three years, with the continuing help and guidance of Her Majesty's Government, are known to you all.

I am proud that it has fallen to me to supervise the last phases of Tanganyika's march to independence, and I today acknowledge the debt that I and the whole country owe

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to the Prime Minister and his colleagues of the Cabinet for their wise and far-sighted political leadership.

May I also express my warm thanks to all those of every station and degree in the life of Tanganyika whose efforts have made possible this day of rejoicing; to my predecessors who laid the foundations of our great constitutional edifice; and to the Civil Servants - African, Asian and European - of all departments and at all levels, who have worked so wholeheartedly and loyally for the advancement of Tanganyika; their labours have in many cases been unseen, unacknowledged and unrewarded, often uncomfortable and sometimes dangerous - I pay tribute to them today.

I thank, too, those of the plantation industry and the business men who have developed and sustained our economy; and the Christian Churchmen and the leaders of the Muslim faith whose prayers have sustained us in our efforts.

I thank the Ministers of the Government who, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, have guided the country through Responsible Government and Self-Government to Independence, and I acknowledge the great debt we owe to various Secretaries of State and to the officers of the Colonial Office for the wise and sympathetic help they have given me. I had not intended to mention names, but I think that it would be ungenerous of me not to pay a special tribute here to that staunch friend of Tanganyika, Mr. Iain Macleod.

I thank, too, the Visiting Missions of the United Nations whose succession of detached and detailed reports have kept us, I hope, continuously alert, and ensured that we remained receptive to new ideas; and all those who, from time to time, have championed the cause of Tanganyika in the various councils of the United Nations.

But those to whom the greatest credit is due are the ordinary people of Tanganyika, for it is their tolerance and their understanding and their quiet good sense which have enabled Tanganyika to make its political journey so peacefully and so harmoniously. And may I here

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introduce a personal note by expressing my lasting gratitude for the kindly welcomes and generous hospitality that I and my wife have received from the men and women and the schoolchildren of Tanganyika in villages and barazas, on country roads and on the hillside all over this wide land. My wife and I remember with deep affection hundreds of happy meetings and thousands of cordial handshakes from warm-hearted Tanganyikans in every part of the country.

Thank you all for your greeting here today; before I end, let me say once again how deeply appreciative I am of the confidence that you, Mr. Prime Minister, have reposed in me and in my wife, and the honour that you have done us in asking us to stay in Tanganyika. The responsibility for the government of this country now lies fully and unreservedly with you and your colleagues; I pray that God may grant you all the help and support in moulding the future of Tanganyika that I was fortunate enough to receive during the days when, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, it was my duty to conduct the administration of the territory.