

Cairo, Egypt
August 29, 1964

As-Salaam-Alaikum

In the Name of ALLAH, the Beneficent, the Merciful...

My Dear Brothers and Sisters:

My stay here in Egypt is just about drawing to a close; my mission here in your behalf is just about complete in this part of Africa. For the next few weeks, unless something drastic happens to force me to change my plans, I will be traveling through several other African countries visiting and speaking in person to various African leaders at all levels of government and society, giving them a first-hand knowledge and understanding of our problems, so that all of them will see, without reservation, the necessity of bringing our problem before the United Nations this year, and why we must have their support.

I'm not at all doubtful of support, but I've learned that one cannot take things for granted and then cry when nothing materializes. We must learn that we are masters of our own destiny, but only when we exercise the maximum efforts to get things done. Take nothing for granted in this world and we will then be assured of success.

You must realize that what I am trying to do is very dangerous, because it is a direct threat to the entire international system of racist exploitation. It is a threat to discrimination in all its international forms. Therefore, if I die or am killed before making it back to the States, you can rest assured that what I've already set in motion will never be stopped. The foundation has been laid and no one can hardly undo it. Our problem has been internationalized. The results of what I am doing will materialize in the future and then all of you will be able to see why it was necessary for me to be here this long and what I was laying the foundation for while here.

I have been pleased to receive letters from many of you lately, especially to know that you would take time from your many other duties and obligations to write to me. From the sound of some of the letters there seems to be much dissatisfaction and disunity creeping in among you, and some seem dissatisfied even with me. This sounds like history repeating itself. I want you to know that this is normal, and therefore it doesn't excite or worry me. I'm not particularly surprised at the ones around whom so much of the controversy and dissatisfaction seems to be raging, because experience has taught me never to take anyone or anything for granted.

Being away from America is a blessing in more ways than one; it has enabled me to become untangled from the strong emotional issues and step back and view the whole picture with more objectivity than I could if I were right there. I can even see the problems better that have risen within our own OAAU and the Muslim Mosque.

Melvin, Graham & Hummer reveals us this

2

Let me restate my own position: I believe in human rights for everyone, and that none of us is qualified to judge each other, and that none of us should therefore have that authority. We don't have the right to force anyone to walk with us, nor do we have the right to condemn those who want to leave, those who become impatient when they don't see us getting results and therefore want to try another way. We can't blame them, and we have no right to be angry with them. If we ourselves produce results, people will stay and they will all support a good program that is getting good results.

If brothers want to establish another organization, even that is their right. We must learn to wish them well, and mean it. Our fight must never be against each other. No matter how much we differ over minor things, our fight must always be directed against the COMMON ENEMY.

If any Muslims are dissatisfied they cannot be compelled to stay among us, and cannot be condemned for leaving us. This is the point I'm trying to get across to you. I only say that those of you who do go, try to keep good thoughts in your heart about us, for we shall be trying to think good things about you.

If any of you want to leave the OAAU and form something else, I say the same to you that I say to the Muslims. But wherever you go and whatever you do, remember that we are all still brothers and sisters and we still have the same problem. Let us not waste time condemning and fighting each other. We have already wasted too much time and energy doing this in the past.

I know your grievances, much of which is just, but much of which is also based upon inability to look at the problem as a WHOLE. It is bigger and more complicated than many of us realize. I've never sought to be anyone's leader. There are some of you there who want leadership. I've stayed away this summer and given all those who want to show what they can do the opportunity to do so. When I return I will work with anyone who thinks he can lead... and I only pray to ALLAH that you will work with me likewise.

I hope my position is clear: I'm not interested in fighting Elijah Muhammad or any other Afro-American. I don't even want any arguments with them. If our own program produces results then our work will speak for itself. If we don't produce results then we have no argument anyway. Brother Benjamin is the best teacher I left behind: he has many faults and many weaknesses, but then so have I and so have many of the rest of you.

I'm going to be away for at least another month. During that time you can overlook the small differences that you have and make progress by working with each other, or you can be at odds and make no progress. You can make the Muslim Mosque and OAAU a success, or you can destroy both organizations. It's up to you. You have one more month. I have so much faith in ALLAH, and in RIGHT, and in my people, that I believe I can come back and start from scratch if it is necessary and as long as I mean right ALLAH will bless me with success and our people will help me in this fight. I love all of you, and pray ALLAH will bless all of you.

Salaam" Alaikum

your brother and servant