



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Secretary General,  
Organisation of African Unity,  
P.O. Box 3243,  
Addis Ababa,  
ETHIOPIA

TEL : 081 800 5994  
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2nd June 1992

Dear Sir,

As one of Britain's few black Members of Parliament, I have recently launched a major new organisation called the Organisation of Africans in Europe (O.A.E.). The organisation aims to bring together Africans in Europe, both for their own mutual support, and to provide a voice for Africa in Europe.

I am of the view that a forum of this kind is of crucial importance in the context of the "New World Order", and of the advent of the Single European Market on 1st January 1993.

With the demise of the Soviet Union, and the reform of Eastern Europe, the threat to Africa's prosperity has never been so great. The exploitation and under-investment by the countries of the North looks set to worsen, and Africa's prospects are bleak.

African people in Europe will also face further racism and discrimination as a result of the Single European Market, and the spectre of a "fortress Europe".

Given the global restructuring of the economic and political agenda, it is vital in my opinion that Africans wherever they are, begin to work together to support Africa, in a way which has never happened before.

With this in mind, the O.A.E. has suggested that it would highly beneficial if I were to attend the next O.A.U. meeting in Senegal as an observer, to begin the process of opening up dialogue.

I would be extremely grateful if you would use your good offices to enable me to do so. As time is short, I would very much appreciate your reply at your earliest convenience.

Thanking you for your consideration of this matter,

Yours sincerely,

  
BERNIE GRANT M.P.

SENEGAL



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Mr. Bernie Grant M.P. (Member of Parliament) representing the Tottenham Labour Constituency, has recently returned from Dakar, in Senegal. He was invited by the Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, to attend the 56th OAU Council of Ministers.

Mr. Grant undertook this trip with a view to establish new, as well as to renew contacts he has managed to acquire over the years, in his endeavour to develop better cooperation between Africa and Europe. *black people in*

On this short trip, he was able to make contact with several heads of delegations, and initiate discussions on a variety of topics. Some of these included pertinent issues such as the question of reparations, the issue of conflicts and their resolution, the question of funding and the plight of African children. He equally tried to find out what concrete progress was being made towards the creation of an economic bloc for Africa.

He got positive and encouraging responses from several delegations, and as someone commented, his message fell on very receptive ears, with a strong desire to cooperate. He encouraged the people of Africa to seek help where possible from the black leaders in Europe.

In a briefing to the press, he thanked the Secretary General and the organisation for making his stay a pleasant and extremely rewarding experience. He stressed the need for Africa to get a fair deal, and his intention to continue to fight to attain this goal, stating " I passionately believe that the key to the 'freedom' of Africa is also the key to the freedom of black people of the diaspora. I feel privileged to have met so many African leaders, and it has increased my conviction to continue to fight for Africa."

He ended his visit with a tour of the historical Island of Goree, during which he met *(briefly)* with Rev. Jessie Jackson, and a number of other invited guests.

*(informally)?*

