

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AFRICAN AFFAIRS

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BUT A LEADER: "THE PRESIDENT OF UGANDA IS THE
PEOPLE." UGANDAN OFFICIALS WERE EMBARRASSED BY
QADHAFI'S CONDEMNATION OF NEIGHBORING HEADS OF STATE,
BUT CHALKED IT UP TO QADHAFI'S UNPREDICTABILITY AND
BEGGED FORBEARANCE.

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MUSEVENI AND THE GREEN BOOK

12. PRESENTED WITH QADHAFI'S THESIS OF "THE END OF
THE STATE OF GOVERNMENT AND THE BEGINNING OF THE STATE
OF THE MASSES (JAMAHIRIYA)," MUSEVENI RESPONDED AS
FOLLOWS:

13. BEGIN QUOTE: "SOME OF US WHO ARE USED TO
TRADITIONAL DEMOCRACY WHICH EVOLVED IN THE SEVENTEENTH
CENTURY INITIALLY DID NOT TAKE THESE VIEWS (THE GREEN
BOOK) SERIOUSLY. BUT WHEN I FIRST VISITED LIBYA IN
1981, I READ THESE DOCUMENTS AND I WAS QUITE

INTERESTED."

14. HE CONCLUDED: "WHETHER YOU AGREE WITH WHAT HE
SAYS OR NOT; YOU MUST AGREE THAT HE HAS PUT IN A LOT
OF EFFORT TO EVOLVE A MANAGEMENT METHOD TO SOLVE THE
PROBLEMS OF POLITICAL SOCIETY." END QUOTE.

15. QADHAFI AND HIS ENTOURAGE DEPARTED UGANDA ON THE
AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 25. IN A BREAK WITH NORMAL
PRACTICE, NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED. DURING HIS
VISIT, QADHAFI HAD THREE EXTENDED PRIVATE
(INTERPRETERS ONLY) MEETINGS WITH MUSEVENI.

PUBLIC REACTION TO THE VISIT

16. QADHAFI IS NOT POPULAR IN UGANDA. HIS PAST
ASSISTANCE TO IDI AMIN HAS BEEN NEITHER FORGOTTEN OR
FORGIVEN BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC. CRODS OF ONLOOKERS
VIEWING THE MOTORCADE WERE SUBDUED, ALTHOUGH MANY WERE
CURIOUS TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE LIBYAN LEADER.
GENUINE ENTHUSIASM FOR QADHAFI IS LIMITED TO SOME (BUT
NOT ALL) MUSLIM FACTIONS AND TO RADICALS AT MAKERERE
UNIVERSITY AND THE NRM SECRETARIAT.

COMMENT

17. IN PUBLIC, QADHAFI KEPT HIS RADICALISM IN CHECK
DURING THE VISIT AND COMMITTED NO MAJOR GAFFES (UNLIKE
1986). ONE POSSIBLE BENEFIT OF THE VISIT IS THAT
EXPOSES QADHAFI AND HIS FLAKY IDEAS TO BROADER PUBLIC
SCRUTINY, THEREBY DIMINISHING HIS APPEAL. THE CLOSER
ONE GETS TO QADHAFI, THE MORE UNATTRACTIVE AND
UNBALANCED HE APPEARS. THE UGANDANS (ESPECIALLY THOSE
IN FOREIGN MINISTRY) WERE CLEARLY PUT OFF BY THE RUDE
AND INSULTING BEHAVIOR OF QADHAFI'S BEVV OF
BODYGUARDS. AS FAR AS THE PUBLIC SIDE OF THE VISIT
WAS CONCERNED, NO GAIN FOR QADHAFI CAN BE DISCERNED.
THE LACK OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE REPRESENTED AN ATTEMPT
BY THE GOV TO KEEP HIM AT ARMS LENGTH. MUSEVENI'S
COMMENTS ON QADHAFI'S GREEN BOOK PHILOSOPHY HARDLY
CONSTITUTE A RINGING ENDORSEMENT.

BURROUGHS