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UGANDA OFFICIAL GIVES HIS VERSION OF COUP D'ETAT IN ZANZIBAR

17 Jan 64

Immediate

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The following statement of Zanzibar coup d'etat has just
been issued by the Uganda Minister of Information, Broadcasting
and Tourism:

"Who deposed the Sultan of Zanzibar? Many people in East Africa have reacted to the revolution in Zanzibar where the government has been overthrown and the Sultan deposed. They have now formed their own opinions as to whether the coup d'etat was good or bad. But unfortunately not much attention has been paid to the methods or the means used to bring about the revolution. But for the sake of record and history, it is good to try to establish who was responsible for the overthrowing of the government and setting up a new one; future generations would benefit by such an exercise, as with the assassination of President KENNEDY of America, the name of Cubans and Communists has been drawn in by the western press reporters. Is it true that the Cubans organized the coup or not? What would motivate Cuba to do so? Has Cuba any interest in the islands, if so, what are they? When I went for the Zanzibar Independence Celebration, I met Cuban representatives in Zanzibar. They had been invited by

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the government which has been overthrown now, which meant that the government was friendly to them. But it was there on 10 December 1963, at the Palace of the Sultan in front of which lay the ship SALIFKALIF, which has carried the Sultan away, that a top ranking British officer who was to leave Zanzibar the following day after many years of service there, told me that he was sorry, only for one thing, namely, that independence of Zanzibar had come before the formation of the East African Federation, because he thought Zanzibar might become a Cuba to the East African mainland. Now how could Cuba overthrow another Cuba? Cuba being so far away from Zanzibar, how would the Cubans get into Zanzibar and by which ship? The truth is that the former government was a socialist government which was friendly to Cairo, Indonesia and Cuba. The following points are of prime importance: The British Commissioner of Police, Mr. SULLIVAN, was not attacked in spite of the fact that he was in charge of the only armed force in the country. The Sultan's Palace was not attacked immediately-unlike in the Russian Revolution. Only Indians were in fact reported to have been captured and imprisoned although the British also owned property on the island. The British and Americans were reported quite safe in the European club. The American Project Mercury, worth [4 gr G] million, was never attacked although it is ironical that the Sultan should now feel that he would be safe in Dar-es-Salaam where Mr. BABU, who is now the Foreign Minister, and most probably Mr. KARUME were, at the beginning of the revolution and from where, unlike other people they could leave for Zanzibar during the revolution, without any apparent difficulty. The former government asked for assistance, but the new government asked Tanganyika for medical assistance. Mr. KISASA was immediately appointed by the revolutionary council, to take over the key and most strategic position of Commissioner of Police, a sign of great confidence."

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