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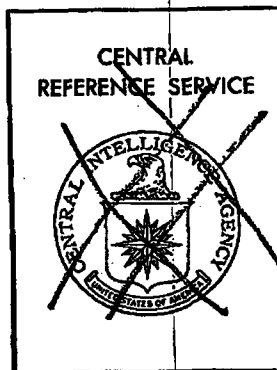
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TANZANIA

Abdulrahman Mohamed BABU

Minister for Commerce and Industries

On 19 December 1968 Abdulrahman Mohamed Babu was named Minister for Commerce and Industries: One of the leading revolutionaries in Africa, Babu is well-known for his Communist sympathies and reputed to be the most pro-Communist member of the Cabinet. While Babu is a successful political organizer,



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He now has no effective power base and appears to depend on President Julius Nyerere for his position in the government. Babu is an intelligent, aggressive

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Babu is friendly with American officials though his literary efforts are generally regarded as some of the more scathing anti-American pieces which appear in *The Nationalist*. Babu has maintained that he is not anti-American but is opposed to our foreign policy.

All evidence indicates Babu was probably planning a coup at the time of the January 1964 Zanzibar revolution. He was not responsible for the Revolution, however, and did not take part in it. His Umma Party had been banned on 4 January 1964 and on the day of the revolution--12 January 1964--Babu was in Dar es Salaam. His party and Karume's Afro-Shirazi Party (ASP) formed a coalition government and Babu was appointed Minister for External

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Abdulrahman Mohamed BABU (cont.)

Affairs in the new revolutionary government. In April 1964 when Tanganyika and Zanzibar formed the new union government, Babu, much to his surprise, was appointed Minister of State in the Directorate of Development Planning. Since he entered the union government, Babu appears to have lost contact with politics on Zanzibar and has found no compensating support in the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU). His absence from Zanzibar has enabled Karume and his followers to undermine Babu's support and quietly remove him from the Revolutionary Council.

Early Life and Career

Babu was born on Pemba Island off the coast of the mainland on 24 September 1924. His father was a Somali Arab who, Babu claims, was born on Zanzibar; his mother was a Comorian. The family lived for many years in the Comoros and, for a time during the 1969 anti-Comorian campaign, Babu's citizenship was questioned. Evidence was found, however, that Babu was naturalized as a Zanzibar citizen in 1947 and his claim is now recognized. He was educated to Standard XIII at the Government Central School, Zanzibar, leaving in 1945. Babu worked as a clerk in the Clove Growers Association from 1945 to 1951.

Babu left Zanzibar for Britain in 1951. During the next six years, he studied journalism, political philosophy and social psychology part time at London University and gained diplomas in the subjects;

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Babu supported himself by working as a clerk in the Post Office Bank at Acton and then as a journalist on the *Daily Worker*. He enjoyed his London sojourn, retains an affection for the London of his student days and still has friends there. While in Britain Babu submitted articles to the pro-Zanzibar Nationalist Party (ZNP) newspaper, *Mwogozi*, as well as other publications. He became a member of the Civil Service Clerical Association and in 1955 was

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Abdulrahman Mohamed BABU
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appointed chairman of the East Africa Committee of the Movement for Colonial Freedom. Babu has stated that he was not a member of the Communist Party of Great Britain but was closer to the anarchists. He did, however, attend discussions held by the Communists, the socialists and the anarchists.

Babu was recalled to Zanzibar in 1957 by the Arab-dominated ZNP and was appointed sub-editor of its newspaper. He became a member of Youth's Own Union and brought his left-wing convictions to bear on that organization. Babu was later appointed ZNP propaganda secretary and subsequently general secretary of the party. His first contact with the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) occurred in October 1958, when he visited WFTU headquarters in Prague. In November 1959 he set up a ZNP office in Cairo, staffed with his protégés. This office was instrumental in assisting Zanzibaris to obtain scholarships to Communist countries and in maintaining contact with the Chinese through their diplomatic mission in Cairo.

In January 1960 Babu went to the USSR and to Communist China. During this trip, he made violent attacks upon Britain and America. That October he stopped off in East Germany on a return visit to the USSR. In 1960 and 1961 he established ZNP offices in London and Havana; Babu, however, claims that he has never been to Cuba. Babu was defeated in the January 1961 Zanzibar elections because ZNP leaders placed him in a constituency where he had little chance of winning. That same month he went to a meeting of the International Organization of Journalists in Baden, Austria. The following July he attended an anti-atomic bomb conference held in Japan and strongly supported the resolution that none of the countries should permit American consulates or bases to be established in their territories.

In December 1961, the Zanzibar government, under the terms of the State of Emergency legislation and because of an inflammatory issue of *Zanews*,

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Abdulrahman Mohamed BABU (cont.)

arrested Babu for sedition. The arrest resulted in a conviction and fine in April 1962. The following month Babu was again arrested on a charge of sedition and sentenced to 15 months imprisonment. He was released in April 1963. That June he resigned from the ZNP when the moderates in the party refused his demand that his supporters be given six safe seats in the upcoming July 1963 elections. A few days after his resignation he announced the formation of the Umma Party. Thwarted in his plans to obtain the seats, Babu attempted to form a united opposition under his direction, drawing on the radical factions--which were personally loyal to him--in the Federation of Progressive Trade Unions, the Zanzibar and Pemba Federation of Labor, and the ASP. With the immediate goal of preventing passage of two government bills requiring registration of societies and publications, Babu successfully proposed formation of the United Front Committee (August 1963) to be headed by ASP president, Abeid Karume. Shortly thereafter, Babu and his wife reportedly traveled to Peking, remaining there until about a month before the revolution. He returned to Communist China, in June 1964 as a member of a delegation led by Second Vice President Rashidi Kawawa.

Babu was appointed Minister for Commerce and Cooperatives in 1965. He became Minister for Health in February 1967 and Minister of Lands and Settlement in June 1967. Babu, who enjoys traveling, went to Kuwait in 1966 and in early 1969 visited several East European countries with a trade mission.

Personal Data

Babu has prominent teeth and a walrus mustache.

[REDACTED] Babu has an encyclopedic mind and a thorough grasp of details. Warm and humorous, he writes Swahili poetry, has expressed an interest in American magazines and books and enjoys "Voice of America." He is quite well off and owns some housing property and a fleet of fishing boats, thus

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Abdulrahman Mohamed BABU
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showing scant regard for Arusha socialism. Babu
[Redacted] is married to
a sturdy, strong-minded Zanzibari Arab woman. The
couple has two children. Babu sends his children
to the "bourgeois" International School in Dar es
Salaam, and [Redacted] felt
his children's education was more important than
his political future. A Muslim, Babu has made the
haj. He speaks English.

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