

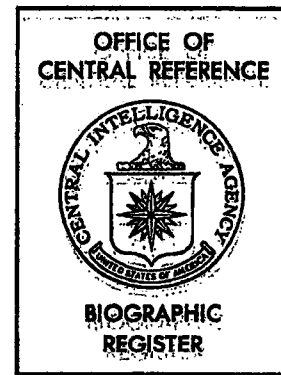
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KENYA

Tom MBOYA

Minister of Economic Planning and Development

Bright, capable and ambitious, Tom Mboya was named Minister of Economic Planning and Development on 10 December 1964. The post is important, and loaded with difficulties as well as potential, but it probably represents something less than Mboya wanted. For the moment, he evidently remains outside the inner power structure of the Kenyan government.



Shortly after taking over his post Mboya began drafting a paper defining African Socialism. This document was released in late April 1965 by President Jomo Kenyatta, who said it would become the "bible" of Kenya and would guide national policy. Among other things, the paper recommends progressive taxes to ensure equitable distribution of wealth and income, a diffusion of ownership to avoid a concentration of economic power, a range of controls to ensure that property is used in the interests of society, various forms of ownership (ranging from private to state), political democracy, and mutual social responsibility. The paper was well received in the Western press. Within the last several months Mboya has stated that Kenya could no longer tolerate the virtual monopoly of the economic and social life by non-Africans. He has particularly assailed those Asians who have not adjusted to the new life of Kenya, cautioning them against displaying arrogance toward Africans.

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It is not surprising that he has become the symbol of Western influence to some Africans. He has advocated a non-aligned foreign policy for Kenya and admission of Communist China to the UN. As Minister of Economic Planning and Development, he has indicated that his government is willing to trade with and receive aid without strings from any country. He has also affirmed that Marxist doctrine has no place in African Socialism.

Born of Luo parents on 15 August 1930 on Rusinga Island, Lake Victoria, Mboya was baptized into the Roman Catholic Church with the name Thomas Joseph Adhiambo. He was educated at Kabaa mission, St. Mary's and at Holy Ghost College (a secondary school), withdrawing from the last when his father could no longer afford to help with the tuition. Shortly afterward Mboya was accepted for training as a sanitary inspector and three years later he took the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate. He was appointed a sanitary inspector in Nairobi where he served for the next two and one-half years.

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Tom MBOYA (cont.)

About 1951 Mboya became president of the African Staff Association and built it into the Kenya Local Government Worker's Union, becoming its national general secretary. By 1953 he had become secretary general of the Kenya Federation of Labor (KFL)--a post which he held for the next 10 years and which served as the foundation for his future political successes. He first became generally known in 1955, when he served as mediator in a Mombasa strike and won a large pay raise for the dockers. The next year he obtained a scholarship to Ruskin College, Oxford, and visited the US and other countries. In the course of his travels he made a number of contacts in the ICFTU [REDACTED]

During these years Mboya's political star began its rise. In 1953 he was treasurer of the Kenya African Union just before it was proscribed for its alleged connection with the Mau Mau. In March 1957 he won the Nairobi seat in the first African constituency elections. He proceeded to bind the eight African elected members into a solid group strongly opposed to the Lyttleton constitution, under which they had been elected, and to demand that the British government recognize that Kenya is an African country and should be advanced gradually to independence. His tactics were largely responsible for the breakdown of the constitution and for the subsequent imposition of the Lennox-Boyd constitution on the Kenyan government, which gave the Africans six more elected members. Mboya became president of the Nairobi People's Convention Party about 1957. Two years later, after disagreeing with the Constituency Elected Members Organization on land policy, he helped to form the Kenya Independence Movement. (b)(1) (b)(3)

In April 1960 Mboya became general secretary of the newly formed Kenya African National Union (KANU)--a post he still holds. The following year he was re-elected to Parliament by an overwhelming majority. In April 1962 he was named Minister of Labor. During the ensuing year he was credited with Kenya's successes in constitutional talks with the UK and was rewarded with the portfolios for Justice and Constitutional Affairs in the first all-KANU Cabinet in June 1963. In this post he performed brilliantly in preparing the Republican constitution and in seeing it through Parliament.

Mboya, in fact, generally performs extremely well. He is by far the ablest of Kenya's political figures and nobody appears to be his equal in ideas, initiative and driving force. Tough, determined and resourceful, as well as clever and shrewd, he generally has his emotions well under control. He can adapt his words to the audience and his actions to the situation. He argues logically, and with great ability, and has a flair for publicity.

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Mboya has held positions in several international organizations,

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Tom MBOYA (cont.)

including the African Trade Union Confederation, the All-African Trade Union Federation, the ICFTU, the Pan-African Freedom Movement for East, Central and Southern Africa, the All-African Peoples Conference and the UN Economic Commission for Africa; he was elected chairman of the last at a conference held in Nairobi in February 1964. He has traveled widely and has been to the US several times. In August 1964 he reportedly became the first African leader to visit Australia, where he criticized its policy of impeding non-white immigration.

Personable and articulate, Mboya is a superb orator in both English and Swahili, and usually speaks extemporaneously. 

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 In 1959 he was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Howard University. In 1963 he published a book entitled Freedom and After. Mboya, who has had two unsuccessful marriages outside the church, was married in a Catholic ceremony in January 1962 to Pamela Odede 


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12 May 1965

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