

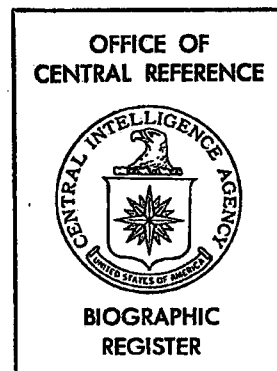
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KENYA

Tom MBOYA

## Minister for Economic Planning and Development

Tom Mboya, Kenya's Minister for Economic Planning and Development, has for many years played a major role in the labor, political, constitutional and economic life of Kenya. Articulate, brilliantly logical, and a master political tactician, Mboya is by far the most able and intelligent man in the Kenya Cabinet. He is also perhaps the most controversial political personality in Kenya today. In the behind-the-scenes race already being run for the Presidential succession to Jomo Kenyatta, Mboya suffers from the liabilities of being too young (he is 37), too Westernized and too long in the forefront of Kenya politics.



Although he has surrounded himself with bright, moderate politicians and civil servants who look to him for leadership and guidance, Mboya (b)(1)

[redacted] is opposed (b)(3)  
by the young Kikuyus [redacted]

[redacted] and by many members of his own tribe, the Luo, who support former Vice President Oginga Odinga, long Mboya's arch rival.

For a long time Mboya was better known abroad than any other Kenya politician. [redacted]

[redacted] His opponents have used this close identification with the US as a weapon against him; in 1965 one of his fellow Luos in the House of Representatives referred to Mboya as the "American Ambassador to Kenya." (b)(1)  
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It is a reflection, nevertheless, of Mboya's competence and resilience that he has been able to survive the jealousies and rivalries of Kenya politics and to remain an important political factor in the country. He realized that he has no real chance to succeed Kenyatta as President in the immediate future and he is now deliberately playing a low key, waiting game. Having established his reputation as a non-tribal politician from a Nairobi constituency who was mainly interested in the problems of the urban worker, Mboya is now trying to build up the image of himself as a Luo leader who is interested in the fate of the peasantry.

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.

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Tom MBOYA (cont.)

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.

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 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]

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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.

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.

-2-

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Tom MBOYA (cont.)

When Kenya became a republic in 1964, Mboya was given the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development. The post, though important, represented something less than Mboya wanted but he has worked hard and energetically at it. In 1965 he presented a paper defining African Socialism which Kenyatta said would become the "bible" of Kenya and would guide national policy.

Mboya has held responsible positions in several international organizations, 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.

Personable and articulate, Mboya is a superb orator in both English and Swahili, and usually speaks extemporaneously. His answers in any interview are so well organized that they can be printed as spoken without any change. He generally has his emotions well under control at all times.

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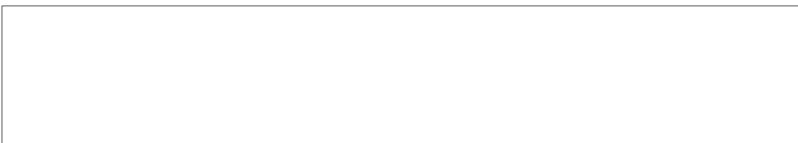
In 1959 Mboya was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Howard University. In 1963 he published a book entitled Freedom and After. Mboya, who has had two unsuccessful marriages outside the church, was married in a Catholic ceremony in 1962 to Pamela Odede.

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The Mboyas now have four children [Redacted]  
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26 December 1967



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