

Proposal from Ivan Bashev, Minister of Foreign Affairs to CC BCP Secretariat for free arms delivery to Zanzibar, 16 March 1964

[Source: Central State Archive, Sofia, Fond 136, Record 86, File 628, p. 10-11]

To the Secretariat of the Central Committee
of the Bulgarian Communist Party

Comrades,

On 12 January 1964 the progressive forces in Zanzibar, led by the parties Afro-shirazi and Uma, ousted the government of the sultan of Zanzibar and declared a people's republic. On 21 January this year, the government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria recognized the new government, which comprises revolutionary figures with progressive ideas, and on 5 March, diplomatic relations between the two countries were established at embassy level. Our charge d'affaires in Dar es Salam, following his conversations with a number of members of the revolutionary forces, as well as with representatives of the socialist missions in the country, suggested that our country send immediate help to the young republic. The revolutionary government has stated that they will lead the country along the socialist road, which will create perspectives for closer cooperation between our two countries. Taking into account the circumstances that the Zanzibar government is expecting assistance primarily from socialist countries, I suggest, in coordination with the Ministry of foreign trade, to deliver to the Republic of Zanzibar the following support:

1. Equipment for 300 men with light infantry armament, caliber 8 mm, with ammunition, and two military instructors for 3 months. The value of the assistance amounts to 25 000 leva and will be covered by the Ministry of foreign trade – Engineer Department.

2. To send three Bulgarian specialists for one year (specialties are to be defined with the Zanzibar government). Expenses shall be covered by sending institutions.

3. The Red Cross shall deliver medications and other medical items amounting to 5 000 leva.

There is a possibility to send the items in our airplane, flying to Nairobi to bring Kenya young men for special training.

Sofia, 16 March 1964

MINISTER:

[Ivan Bashev]

[Translated by Greta Keremidchieva]