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BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

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UGANDAN GOVERNMENT DENIES INCURSIONS INTO KENYA

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Following the protest note the Kenyan government to the Uganda government that cattle rustlers had been allowed to cross into Kenya and carry out raids, the government of Uganda wishes to state as follows

During the early morning of 2nd March 1989 about 400 Karamojong cattle rustlers are reported to have crossed into Kenya and raided the areas of Alale and Amkuriat [phonetic], about six miles inside Kenya; that during the raid, the cattle rustlers were confronted by Kenyan security forces, who used, among other weapons, a helicopter gunship; that about 72 Karamojong cattle rustlers have been reported by Kenyan government to have been killed and that raiders also inflicted some casualties on the Kenyans; that some of the Karamojong cattle rustlers retreated into Uganda; it is further alleged that some of these cattle rustlers were dressed in army uniforms.

Cattle rustling has been a perennial problem amongst the neighbouring people of Karamojong, Karamoja [as heard], Isepu [phonetic], Turkana, Toposa and other communities in the area. The weapons used on all sides over the years have ranged from spears and arrows to modern weapons. In Uganda, cattle rustlers in that area have acquired more sophisticated weapons since 1979 when the Moroto barracks were abandoned by Amin's fleeing soldiers. Also in 1985, rustlers were armed and given army uniforms by the Okello-Lutwa government. This new phenomenon has made cattle rustling a more dangerous activity which the governments of **Kenya and Uganda** have been trying to eradicate.

The government of Kenya in its statement protested to the Uganda government very strongly against what it called allowing armed and uniformed men to cross into Kenya to kill innocent Kenyans and steal livestock. The government of Uganda disassociates itself from these acts of banditry and denies categorically any involvement in the raid made by its army or its [words indistinct] firearms and ammunition were officially sanctioned by the government.

Cattle rustling in the area has not been a one-way traffic. For example, on 4th February 1989, about 1,000 armed rustlers crossed from West Pokot in **Kenya into Uganda** and raided cattle in Namawi [phonetic] area. An intervention by Ugandan security forces forced them to retreat with the cattle, leaving 32 of them dead. If the government of Uganda were to protest to the Kenya government about each and every one of such raids the list of protests would be endless, knowing that neither government sanctions such acts. The Kenyan government knows this fact. Therefore, the protest note is unwarranted and unfair.

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The government of Uganda believes that cattle rustling is a security problem which should be tackled by both governments, as has been the case in the past. The government of Uganda also holds that these acts of banditry should not be used to create bad relations between Uganda and Kenya. On the contrary, such incidents call for intensification of joint efforts to stamp out cattle rustling in the area.

It is unfortunate and a matter of profound regret that the government of Kenya has found it fit to accuse the government of Uganda of bombing the Kenyan town of Lokichogio, which is on the Kenya-Sudan border. The government of Uganda categorically rejects this allegation in its entirety and states further that at no time has any of its military aircraft been in the vicinity, let alone engaged in bombing or other hostile actions against Kenya.

In its response today, Uganda has noted with further regret provocative and highly abusive statements and articles from Kenya in violation of the accord reached at the Malaba summit of December 1987. Such abusive statements have included insults hurled at President Yoweri Museveni and the government of Uganda. In spite of all of these provocations, Uganda will continue to applaud the principle of good neighbourliness and work for mutual understanding, co-operation and stability in the interests of our peoples and our region.

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