

## **SGI PRESIDENT MEETS WITH TANZANIAN HEAD OF STATE**

SGI President Ikeda met with President Benjamin William Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania on Dec. 14, 1998, at the Seikyo Shimbun Building in Tokyo. Citing President Ikeda's prediction that the 21st century will be the Century of Africa, the Tanzanian leader affirmed that a new day is indeed beginning to dawn for the continent. He pledged to devote himself to transforming fear into confidence, destruction into creation and hatred into compassion. President Ikeda said that President Mkapa has earned great repute for ridding his government of corruption and reforming the civil service system, as well as transitioning his country to a market economy and slashing inflation. He further mentioned Tanzania's instrumental role in advancing regional peace and stability by its acceptance of more refugees than any other country in Africa. Mr. Ikeda praised President Mkapa for urging people to call him their comrade, his stressing that everyone — president and citizen alike — is equal.

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