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ORGANIZATION DE L'UNITE  
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CM/967(XXXIII) PART II

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
Thirty Third Ordinary Session  
Monrovia, Liberia, July 1979

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
COVERING THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 1979 TO JUNE 1979



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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

In conformity with Article 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Ministers and with the pertinent provisions of the regulations of the General Secretariat, the Secretary-General has the honour to hereby, submit his report on the main activities of the Organization of African Unity, from the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in February, 1979, in Nairobi (Kenya), up to the present Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, July 1979.

The Report of Activities of the General Secretariat is submitted to the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Council, in four parts, organized as follows:

PART I: Introduction to the Report of the Secretary-General.

PART II: Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Headquarters.

PART III: Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Executive Secretariats and the Regional Offices.

PART IV: Reports of the Specialized Agencies of the OAU.

In practice, the Reports submitted under PART IV, to the Council, are for information, since the appropriate bodies of these Agencies would have had opportunity to discuss them in detail.

As is customary, the Report under PART II covers the activities of the Secretariat in the following fields: Administrative affairs, institutional and financial affairs, economic affairs and co-operation, Scientific, social, educational and cultural affairs, political affairs and decolonisation.

Administrative and financial affairs are only reported in brief since they are comprehensively dealt with during the February Sessions of the Council.

This Report being a synthesis of the activities of the Organization of African Unity, in the various fields of its competence during the period under consideration, the Secretary-General refers the distinguished delegates, for detailed information, to the specific reports prepared on each of the items in the Agenda of the Council of Ministers.

CM/967(XXXIII)

PART ONE

ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ADMINISTRATION AND CONFERENCE  
SERVICES

PART ONE

ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ADMINISTRATION AND CONFERENCE SERVICES

Introduction

Since the Thirty-Third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers is essentially intended to devote its attention and deliberations to political, economic development and co-operation, education, science and social affairs other than administrative matters which by OAU tradition are dealt with during Administrative and Budgetary Sessions of the Council in February, the Report on the field of Administration and Conferences will simply comprise a summary of the most conspicuous activities of the Organization in those fields, for the period under review.

Recruitment of Staff & Filling of Vacancies

The Administration has made considerable efforts to fill some vacancies which had existed for some time. To lighten the burden of considering the filling of vacancies at one meeting and to pay greater attention to administrative and recruitment details aimed at selecting the best possible candidates taking into consideration all other essential elements, a system of dealing with matters of recruitment by the Joint Administrative Committee for Appointments and Recruitment on a departmental basis, has been introduced. By this system, priorities are established and the needs of the Departments are catered for. The advantage of this system lies in the fact that meetings of the Joint Administrative Committee for Appointments & Recruitment are scheduled when the Assistant Secretary-General responsible for the Department is available, to afford him the necessary opportunity to be present at the Joint Recruitment Board meetings. The Joint Administrative Committee for Appointments and Recruitment is, under the new system, required to convene at regular intervals to ensure that vacancies are not left unfilled for too long a time. To expedite the work of the Committee, the General

Secretariat would like to implore Member States to take an active interest in the advertisements of vacancies and to respond to them to give the Committee a wider scope of selection of qualified candidates.

One of the criteria, the General Secretariat would like to see applied in the recruitment of staff members, is regional and national diversification. Although this should not be the sole criterion and should not be used to justify the appointment of persons who are not sufficiently and adequately qualified, nonetheless, this should be taken sufficiently into account to ensure, as far as possible, that all OAU Member States are represented within the General Secretariat.

The decision adopted by the Thirty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in Nairobi by which Technical and General Services Staff have been excluded from quota considerations, has helped to remove the dissatisfaction with which some Member States regard the rule of quotas. It is sincerely hoped that the tendency among some members to recall their nationals working as Staff Members of the Organization and to replace them purely and simply by other nationals without allowing the normal administrative processes directed by the Staff Rules and Regulations to be followed, will be eliminated. By these processes the post should be declared vacant on recall of the Staff Member and competition for filling it open to all other Member States as well as other personnel already working in the General Secretariat. In drawing the attention of the Council to this matter, the General Secretariat wishes to emphasize that in future, the Staff Rules and Regulations will be scrupulously followed in handling such situations.

#### Implementation of the Revised Structure of the General Secretariat

The much needed Revised Structure of the General Secretariat adopted by the Thirty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in Nairobi after many years of examination and several reviews, has given the General Secretariat a new lease of life to tackle its activities with greater dynamism and force to respond to the needs of the Continent of Africa. The approved structure, with its concomitant financial implications, has to be implemented

in stages bearing in mind our priorities in respect of the General Secretariat Headquarters and the Regional Offices. It is gratifying to state that the revised structure, as adopted by the Thirty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in Nairobi and contained in Document CM/933 (XXXII) Rev.1 Annex I, and for which budgetary appropriations have been made in the Organization's Budget for 1979/80, is being implemented with effect from 1st June 1979. Other aspects of the structure will be progressively implemented when the necessary budgetary appropriations have been obtained.

Similarly the Revised Staff Rules, Staff Regulations and the Financial Rules and Regulations contained in Document CM/896 (XXXI) Rev.4 Annexes I, II & III as adopted by the Thirty Second Ordinary Session, came into force effective 1st-June 1979. These Rules and Regulations have revised a number of provisions in the previous texts which were outdated and had to be amended to respond to changing conditions of operation and of service as well as spelling out in precise terms and providing for much needed privileges and welfare facilities for the OAU personnel. The General Secretariat, while expressing its sincere gratitude to the Council for promulgating the New Staff Rules and Regulations, and assuring them of their scrupulous implementation, wishes to observe that it is not unlikely that some texts may be in need of further review in the light of practical and day-to-day operational difficulties. The General Secretariat will, for that matter, spare no efforts to seek review of those texts in consultation with the appropriate OAU Policy Making Bodies.

#### Additional Office Accommodation

The adoption of the Revised Structure and the consequential increase in personnel is likely to bring in its wake office accommodation problems. This is more evident in the 1979/80 Financial Year and the situation is bound to be more acute with the progressive implementation of all the aspects of the structure. Against this background the General Secretariat welcomes the decision of the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters adopted at its Thirtieth Session, to appoint a Sub-Committee of six comprising Cameroon, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal,



Tanzania and Zambia to study with a renowned Architect, the question of building an OAU Conference Hall Complex adequate for OAU Conferences and Meetings. It is the view of the General Secretariat that additional office accommodation will be provided for, within the Complex. The General Secretariat will provide the necessary services required for the work of the Sub-Committee.

### Conferences

In the area of Conferences, the newly introduced Documents and Archives Section within the Conference Division and the augmentation of the technical staff of the Interpretation and Translation Section through the filling of existing vacancies and a system of recruitment of Free-lance Technical Staff on a temporary basis for the preparation of documents in the OAU working languages prior to Conferences, have helped considerably to remove the bottlenecks and eliminate delays.

Within the framework of measures to be taken to ensure a more rational organization, improved operations and increased efficiency in the services of the Conference Division, the General Secretariat has found it necessary to discourage the holding of more than one major OAU Conference during March to June i.e. after the February Session and before the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. This will allow the Secretariat time to plan, organize itself and prepare the documentation needed for the ensuing Assembly of Heads of State and Government due to be held in June/July.

Recruitment of additional and temporary Technical Staff has always proved difficult, as demand is becoming greater owing to the proliferation of international conferences. To facilitate recruitment which in any case has to be done well in advance, there is need for a yearly Programme and Calendar of Conferences to be drawn up for OAU meetings and conferences taking into consideration other scheduled international conferences for submission to and approval by the Council of Ministers. This will be based on

the Programme of Conferences approved during a given Budgetary Year with the OAU Headquarters as the venue in the first instance, unless a Member State has expressly accepted to host a particular Conference or Meeting. The dates as approved will have to be maintained, as much as possible, as the availability of additional technical personnel required to service such Conferences will depend on the dates.

The General Secretariat wishes to express the hope that Member States will give the matter its fullest co-operation when the Programme and Calendar of Meetings comes into effect in June 1979.

For the period March to June 1979, the General Secretariat serviced the following major Conferences held at Ministerial level:

- a) Conference of African Information Ministers, Addis Ababa, 4 - 9 April 1979
- b) Fourth Session of the OAU Labour Commission, Mogadiscio, Somalia, 23 - 29 April 1979
- c) Defence Commission, Addis Ababa, 21 - 26 April 1979
- d) Ministerial Conference on Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, Tunis, 21 - 26 May 1979.

Considering that these major Conferences were held in the course of the General Secretariat's preparations for the Thirty-Third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and the Sixteenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government, there is the possibility of the human and other resources of the Conference Division being over-stretched. It is against this background that the General Secretariat would wish to discourage the holding of major Conferences after the February Sessions.

Establishment of CAU Regional Offices

The General Secretariat established, during the period, contacts with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for initial assistance such as assistance in securing suitable office accommodation with a view to facilitate the opening of the CAU Executive Secretariat to the Arab League, provision for which exists in the Organization's budget. In view of recent developments, it has not been possible to continue to pursue the contacts made to a successful conclusion. It is hoped that, as soon as the situation is clarified, the question of opening the CAU Executive Secretariat will be pursued.

The establishment of an OAU Secretariat to the ACP/EEC Group in Brussels, Belgium for which the Thirty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers approved budgetary appropriations for the Financial Year 1979/80, was the subject of discussions held and contacts established in the Belgian capital of Brussels during the Secretary-General's visit there recently. It is with a sense of happiness and an expression of delight that the Secretary-General has to report that the Belgian government has warmly welcomed the establishment of an OAU Office in its capital and that it has expressed the desire to place, at the disposal of the OAU, the buildings required to facilitate the opening of an OAU Secretariat in Brussels.

PART TWO

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
FINANCE, FEBRUARY 1979 - JUNE 1979

PART TWO

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
FINANCE, FEBRUARY 1979 - JUNE 1979

Introduction

The financial duties of the General Secretariat had hitherto been handled by a joint Department of Administration and Finance. With the creation of a separate Department of Finance, under a Director, who has already assumed duties, the financial management of the OAU General Secretariat has been given a new impetus. The adoption of the new structure has not only strengthened the Department but provided it with the needed establishment to cope with, exercise supervision and control over the financial operations of both the General Secretariat Headquarters and the Regional Offices.

Contributions to the Regular Budget

The main source of revenue of the OAU continues to be contributions from Member States to the Regular Budget. The problem of arrears and overdue contributions which recurs every year and which serves to hinder the implementation of the annual work programmes of the Organization as approved by the highest political organs of the OAU, also continued during the period, to haunt the Organization. As a result of contacts made with Governments of Member States by the Current Chairman, a substantial effort has been made by some Member States to clear or considerably reduce their arrears. But the statistics on outstanding arrears still to be collected show that the general situation is still not entirely satisfactory. A Statement of Contributions received by the General Secretariat as at 31st May 1979 is annexed to this Report for ease of reference.

Financial Participation in the Conference of  
African Refugees, held in Arusha, Tanzania 6 - 17 May 1979

Conscious of the importance of the problem of African Refugees and in implementation of Resolution CM/Res.694 (XXXII) adopted by the Thirty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, operative paragraph four of which, called upon the

General Secretariat, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters, to cover the balance of US\$ 200,000.00 for the Organization of the Pan-African Conference on African Refugees from its savings.

As an initial deposit, the General Secretariat remitted the sum of US\$ 100,000.00 to the Conference Planning Secretariat, as an expression of its will and involvement in the organization of the Conference. It also provided technical staff support. The remaining balance of US\$ 100,000.00 will be remitted as soon as the Treasury of the General Secretariat is capable of doing so.

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PART THREE

ACTIVITY REPORT IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

PART THREE

ACTIVITY REPORT IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

After the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, which adopted the new structure of the General Secretariat, the ECOSOC Department continued to function as in the past, pending the entry into force of the Nairobi decisions on the structure.

I. GENERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

This being the case, it should be mentioned that the Department actively participated in the Meeting of the Interview Panel of the African Regional Centre for Technology. The Meeting was aimed at listing the best candidates among the applicants to various posts within the Centre, namely the posts of:

- a) Executive Director;
- b) Director of Technical Consultancy Services;
- c) Director of Administration Division;
- d) Director of Training Division; and
- e) Director of Information and Documentation Division.

The recommendations made by the Panel have been endorsed by the Council of the Centre which met in the People's Republic of Benin in April 1979. Thus, the various posts have been respectively offered to candidates from the Sudan, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Kenya and Nigeria.

While offering these employments, the Executive Board of the Centre decided that the performance of the candidates should be reviewed after three years at the expiration of the contract. If the performance is satisfactory, a new contract will then be given to a successful candidate. If the Executive Board was not satisfied with the performance of the candidate, there will be a need to look for a substitute candidate.



Regarding the qualifications and experiences of the candidates selected, it was felt that a new look should be given at the salaries proposed for the various posts in the Centre.

Apart from this activity concerning the African regional Centre for Technology, the Department also undertook consultations with the Democratic Republic of the Sudan and the UNIDO, relating to preparations for the Third All-Africa Trade Fair to be held in Khartoum in 1980, in conformity with Resolution CM/Res.664(XXXII). With the host Government, the Department reviewed all the details concerning the date of the Trade Fair, the date of the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee, the local transport, the conference facilities, the travel arrangements, etc... These consultations led to the following decisions:

- a) The First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee will take place in Khartoum from 3 to 5 September 1979;
- b) The Third All-Africa Trade Fair will be organized in Khartoum from 3 to 17 November 1980.

Although consultations with UNIDO were held on some subjects, they however, went further and embraced the material and technical organizations of an African industrial investment promotion meeting and an Industrial Transfer of Technology Symposium as directed by the above mentioned Resolution CM/Res.664(XXXI). Consultations with UNIDO touched also various ways and means of strengthening the existing co-operation between the two Organizations. Delegates of UNIDO and OAU deeply assessed all possible fields and aspects of co-operation between UNIDO and OAU.

In this regard, the two Organizations reviewed the current programmes of co-operation of OAU and UNIDO including the joint co-sponsoring with ECA, of the biennial Conferences of African Ministers of Industry, the Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa, the Symposium on Industrial Strategies and Politics, Preparation for the Industrial Consultations Meetings organised by UNIDO, UNIDO Assistance to CAU/STRC, etc...

They discussed the elaboration of a framework and modalities, and the practical measures to be taken by the two Organizations to initiate and facilitate the timely implementation of the relevant resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its Fifteenth Session, held in Khartoum from 15 to 21 July 1978 and the United Nations General Assembly resolution contained in Document No. A/33 L.9/Rev.2 on Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, adopted by the Thirty-Third Session on 30th November 1978, calling upon UN Organizations to assist OAU. In discussing the strategies and work programmes of the respective two Organizations, it has been agreed to propose the following, for the consideration and finalization by the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the two Organizations.

UNIDO should render, within the limits of its resources, the necessary assistance to the relevant sections of ECOSOC Department of the OAU, specially the Industrial Section, in order to strengthen the General Secretariat of the OAU to play a more effective political and economic role on the basis of substantive activities in the field of industrial development and in accordance with the mandate and the relevant resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU in its various meetings; by defining the industrial policy of OAU; providing continuous guidance and directives; and consolidating the African position and co-ordinating the various efforts, follow-up and monitor the implementation of those resolutions to accelerate the industrialization of Africa.

To assist in increasing the capabilities of the relevant Sections of the ECOSOC, it is proposed that UNIDO should undertake the following within the limits of its resources:

- a) Organize a study tour for selected senior staff of ECOSOC Department such as the Director of the Department, Head of the Economic Affairs Division, Chief of the Industrial Section, etc., to visit UNIDO Headquarters and other relevant regional Organizations such as the Secretariat of the Organization for American States, in order to exchange views and benefit from their experiences;

- b) An assignment at a latter stage of a number of UNIDO technical staff and/or UNIDO consultants, to the ECOSOC Department, to assist in developing the required programmes and strengthening the relevant sections and assist in establishing the industrial Section;
- c) Provision of fellowships for training of OAU Staff concerned with industrial development activities;
- d) The assistance of UNIDO Senior Industrial Regional Advisors assigned in the Joint UNIDO/ECA Industry Division in Addis Ababa would be made available to OAU in specific related matters which may require their advice after consultation with ECA.

The two Organizations discussed the necessary measures to be undertaken to facilitate the continuous co-operation between the OAU and UNIDO to ensure the implementation of the LIMA Declaration and Plan of Action and the various Khartoum Resolutions which called for the co-operation of the OAU, UNIDO, ECA and other concerned Organizations. In this connection, exchange of views took place on development of joint co-operative programmes. The proposed programmes would include the following:

- a) Harmonization of Industrial and Technological Strategies, Policies and Plans in Africa;
- b) Development and transfer of technology;
- c) Economic and Technical Co-operation among developing countries (Intra-African and inter-regional).

Exchange of views took place on the desired measures to ensure a more effective and continuous co-operation between OAU and UNIDO. In this regard, it has been agreed to propose, among others, the following:

- a) The OAU would intensify the active participation of its Secretariat and its Member States in the formulation of UNIDO's Policies and Programmes and various activities, by consolidating the African position in the UN General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, the UNIDO General Conferences and the United Nations Industrial Development Board, its Permanent Committees, the Industrial Consultation Meetings and other Programmes and Meetings such as the solidarity meetings of the Ministers of Industry for co-operation in the industrial development, such as the one to be organized by UNIDO in co-operation with the Government of Tanzania;
- b) UNIDO would continue its co-operation by co-sponsoring with the OAU and ECA the biennial Conferences of African Ministers of Industry and its Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa, participate in the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the OAU Council of Ministers and other related meetings to be organized by the OAU;
- c) To strengthen effective communication between UNIDO and OAU and the African Member States. The OAU would encourage the accreditation of African countries to UNIDO (presently only 23 African countries are accredited to UNIDO, 6 of which are located in Vienna), establishment and strengthening of UNIDO National Committees (presently 16 African countries have established such Committees) and expansion of UNIDO field representation in Africa, e.g. through the Senior Industrial Development Field Advisors Programme;
- d) To increase the quantity of UNIDO technical assistance rendered to Africa, where the level of industrialization is the lowest among the developing

regions and for which UNIDO implemented in 1978 projects amounting to US\$ 16,3 million, an increase of 33% over the expenditure in 1977. The CAU should support all efforts which would be made to increase UNIDO's technical assistance resources particularly the United Nations Industrial Development Fund to reach the established desired minimum funding level of US\$ 50 million per annum;

- e) Exchange of Industrial and Technological information and relevant publications;
- f) Hold annual meetings to review the progress made in implementation of the agreed-upon programme of co-operation and consider further programmes.

The two Organizations reviewed, as far as possible, the actions taken in each Organization on the implementation of the Khartoum Resolutions. It was agreed that both Organizations will exchange information on the progress made in this respect and that the implementation of the draft programme of co-operation will focus on the issues involved.

The ECOSOC Department actively participated in the Preparatory meetings for as well as UNCTAD V, which took place in Manila. During these important meetings, the Secretariat together with the ECA Secretariat co-ordinated the work of the African Group to harmonize the African position both at the African level as well as at the level of the Group of 77. A detailed report on the results of the UNCTAD V is presented in a separate document, submitted to this Session of the Council of Ministers.

The General Secretariat took a very active part in the ECA Technical Committee meeting and the ECA Conference of Ministers which were held in Rabat, from 12 to 28 March.

A. Technical Committee of Experts

The Committee which met from 12 to 18 March, adopted the report of its proceedings dealing with the:

Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary of ECA, 1977-1979 and the Work Programme and Priorities of the Commission and the Biennium Programme Budget 1980-1981 of ECA.

The Technical Committee of Experts examined the question of an African strategy for the international development, strategy for the 3rd UN Development. The Committee took into account the following considerations:

- a) That African participation, for many historic reasons, in the formulation of the strategy for the First and Second UN Development Decades was marginal.
- b) That the African Region is known to be the least developed of all developing regions and to contain the largest number of LDCs, land-locked and Developing Island countries as well as being the least physically integrated in terms of transport and communications.
- c) That the present imbalance in the International Economic Order are largely due to the overwhelming industrial and technological gap between the various groups of nations of the world, the multiplying effects of this industrial gap are increasingly becoming more and more severe on the International Monetary System, trade relations and economic co-operation.
- d) That it has, during the past three years, been giving considerable thought to the approach to the strategy for the African region in the Third UN Development Decade.

The Committee also noted that policies and development programmes in the African region continued to be markedly affected by misconceptions and erroneous strategies which tended to perpetuate Africa's external dependence for food, skills, technology, capital goods and services, market and even life style and patterns of development and economic growth.

Consequently, the Committee's report on Africa's strategy for development stressed the need for political commitment by all African Governments to the pursuit of priorities on the following fields of activities at national, sub-regional and regional levels:

- Self-sufficiency in food supply;
- Increased productivity in agriculture;
- Survey, inventory and management of national resources;
- Science, and management of natural resources;
- Science teaching and scientific research related to technology oriented towards the social and economic needs of Africa;
- Development of transport and communications;
- Development of high, middle and technical manpower.

The Committee recommended the following modalities towards the achievement of the objectives and priorities.

- The strengthening or establishment of new co-operation arrangements, particularly through the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOC). There are 3 MULPOCs already established:
  - Eastern and Southern Africa - Lusaka based;
  - Central Africa - Yaounde based;
  - Western Africa - Niamey based;
  - Economic Community of the countries of Great Lake - Gisenyi

- Northern Africa - Tangiers based. MULPOC is not yet established due to the political situation prevailing in the region. However, attempts were made in Rabat to establish one, and it was announced that it is to be established.
- Strengthening existing sub-regional and regional Institutions for the implementation of priority programmes and projects.

These suggestions were made in the light of the development process in Africa's problem and perspectives including the report and recommendations of the OAU/ECA Monrovia Colloquium, and also to the ECA/UNEP Seminar on Alternative Patterns and Life Styles in Africa.

Special mention should be made of the informal consultative group of high level officials in the UN Development System, the OAU and the other Intergovernmental Organizations with special responsibility for development programme in the African region which took place on March 16, 1979 and was attended by representatives of the following bodies: CAU, ADB, WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, ILO, UNIDO and DTCD; and was chaired by the Executive Secretary of ECA.

The meeting agreed on the need to rationalise various meetings held in the region in the framework of restructuring of the institutional machinery for the co-ordination of economic and social sectors of the UN development system in the African region.

Participants unanimously agreed that the OAU, ECA and UN Specialized Agencies should jointly co-sponsor meeting with a view to harmonizing activities of development in the region.

Finally it was recommended that an Inter-agency Technical Committee including the OAU should be set up to consider ways and means of implementing the harmonization and rationalization of the sectoral Conferences and Meetings organized by various Institutions in Africa



B. ECA Conference of Ministers, March 20 - 28, 1979

The Conference of Ministers which opened on March 20 , discussed the report of the Technical Committee in the light of the Monrovia Colloquium which dominated the deliberations and paved the way, and more concret measures were recommended for socio-economic development of the region.

Analysing development issues in Africa and alternative patterns of development, the Conference observed that, as a result of history, some aspects of traditional socio-cultural systems and political structures, as well as patterns of economic development, the socio-economic scene of the African Continent manifested some characteristics that presented a real challenge to the design and implementation of new development patterns and life styles. In this connection, the Conference brought up several major impediments to rapid socio-economic progress in post independent Africa.

To this end, the Conference considered it not only desirable but necessary that it should decide on broad guide lines as to the features of this distinctive pattern and style, but also decisions to guide it. At the end of the deliberations of the Conference, 31 resolutions were passed by the Conference and practically all the resolutions requested the OAU and the ECA to co-operate in implementing them. Three resolutions of special interest to the OAU deserve to be mentioned here.

i) Establishment of Joint OAU/ECA Offices at Geneva and Brussels

This resolution recalling Res.CM/ST.12(XXI) containing the African Declaration in Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence, adopted by OAU Heads of State and Government, May 1973, and also Res.327(XIII) of March 1, 1977 on strengthening the relations between OAU and ECA, requested both the Administrative Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the ECA to consult with each other with a view to considering the possibility and advisability of the two Organizations' co-operation in joint staffing and running of the existing OAU Geneva Office and intended Brussels Office.

ii) Development Strategy for Africa for 3rd Development Decade

The Conference of Ministers adopted a resolution on the development strategy for Africa for the Third 'Development' Decade by which it:

1. adopted the final text of the document prepared by the Technical Committee of Experts, entitled, Strategy for the African Region in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade with the reports of the OAU/ECA Colloquium held in Monrovia from 12 to 16 February 1979, and the ECA/UNEP Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles for the African Region, held in Addis Ababa from 5 to 9 March 1979, as working documents to be submitted to the Sixteenth Session of the General Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity;
2. expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, for organizing the OAU/ECA Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the year 2000, held in Monrovia, Liberia, from 12 to 16 February 1979 and to the Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme for organizing the Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles for the African Region, held in Addis Ababa from 5 to 9 March 1979;
3. expressed appreciation to the Government of Liberia for its active support and generosity and facilities in hosting the OAU/ECA Symposium;

4. recommended to Member States for adoption, the Draft Declaration of Commitments by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on Guidelines and Measures for National and Collective Self-reliance in Social and Economic Development for the establishment of a New International Economic Order contained in the annex to the present resolution;

5. requested the Executive Secretary forthwith, to transmit both the Draft Declaration, as well as the other working documents, to all Member States;

6. invited Member States to study most carefully and as a matter of urgency, the Draft Declaration and the Draft Strategy Statement, on the basis of working documents, and submit, as soon as possible, but not later than 15 May 1979, such comments and suggestions as they may have on the Draft Declaration and Draft Strategy Statement to the Executive Secretary;

7. requested the Executive Secretary to prepare the final documents embodying the Declaration on Guidelines and Measures for National and Collective Self-reliance in Social and Economic Development for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the statement on strategy having regard to the comments and suggestions received, pursuant to operative paragraph 6 above, for submission to the Sixteenth Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity;

8. further requested the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to

ensure that the final documents, as prepared by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in accordance with operative paragraph 6 above, are submitted to Member States at least thirty days before the Thirty-Third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity.

iii) Fifth Session of UNCTAD

The African Group were not happy with the result of the Conference on a Common Fund, because contributions to the 2nd window is largely on voluntary basis. The position of the African Group in Geneva, is that contributions should be mandatory. In this connection, the Conference noted "the agreement reached at the United Nations Negotiating Conference on the Common Fund, held at Geneva from 12 to 20 March 1979, on the fundamental elements of the Common Fund which would serve as a basis for further work on the drafting of the articles of agreement, but reaffirms the conviction that the establishment of the Common Fund without a strong second window will not help achieve fully the objectives of the Integrated Programme for Commodities and consequently believes that further improvements are necessary especially in respect of the scope of the second window and the resources that would be available to it and the voting system". The Conference, therefore requested "the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU, to hold consultations with African Ministers in Manila during the Fifth Session of UNCTAD on the need for convening a meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade to undertake an evaluation of the outcome of the Session of UNCTAD V with a view to preparing Africa's negotiating strategy and position."

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NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE ON A COMMON FUND UNDER  
THE INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR  
COMMODITIES UNDER RESOLUTION 93.(IV)

The Genesis of the Common Fund

The idea of establishing a Common Fund was conceived at UNCTAD IV in Nairobi 1976. It was part of the Resolution 93(IV) on the Integrated Programme for Commodities (IPC).

The objective of IPC was to achieve stable conditions in commodity trade, including avoidance of excessive price fluctuations so that commodities could:

- a) be remunerative and just, to producers and equitable to consumers;
- b) take account of world inflation and changes in the world economic and monetary situations,
- c) promote equilibrium between supply and demand with expanding world commodity trade.

First Conference - March, 1977

It did not discuss any substantive ideas on the Common Fund. The developed countries had lack of political will to implement the Resolution, not only on the Common Fund but on all aspects dealing with the Integrated Programme for Commodities.

Second Conference - 7th November - 2nd December 1977

Before this 2nd Conference was held, the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC) conceded in Paris that a Common Fund should be established as a new entity to serve as a key instrument in attaining the agreed objectives of the IPC.

This decision was endorsed by the EEC Heads of Government in Rome in June 23-24, 1979 and also by the Commonwealth Heads of Governments. Similarly, the African Council of Ministers in Gabon adopted a Resolution which spelt out the policy on which a Common Fund should be based.

During the Second Conference, those Western countries who opposed the idea at the First Conference did make political commitments to the establishment of the Fund. Nonetheless, the USA, Japan and West Germany still argued that the concept of the Common Fund interfered with the principle of free market mechanism. However, there was an air of understanding between different groups, and the Conference settled down to discuss the following elements intended to be the components of the Common Fund.

- a) objectives and purposes;
- b) financing needs and structure;
- c) source of finance;
- d) modes of operation;
- e) decision-making and management of the Fund.

On the basis of Res.93(IV) the Group of 77 countries wanted the Fund to be tested against the following principles:

- a) its ability to facilitate the negotiation of new international commodity arrangements;
- b) its ability to minimize the financial burden on member countries, particularly developing countries;
- c) its ability to provide incentives for international commodity arrangements, particularly existing ones, to join the Common Fund;
- d) its ability to finance measures other than stocking and also operations outside the purview of international commodity arrangements;

- e) its ability to ensure participation by all countries on the basis of global solidarity.

Group B countries while appearing to be ready to implement the decision of their Heads of Governments, posed difficult problems on the channelling of finance to the Fund and the role for the Fund in other measures. They also rejected the idea of government contribution to the Fund.

The Resumed Conferences - 14 - 30 November 1978

During this Conference, there was a general understanding by the various groups on:

- a) the role that might be played in the financial structure of the "first window" of the Fund by a capital stock composed of direct contributions subscribed by Member States according to an agreed figure.
- b) to accept a "Second Window" to help finance measures other than buffer stocking, taking into account the fact that existing international financial institutions were increasingly dealing with commodity problems in their programmes.
- c) to formulate decision-making procedures which took into account the amount of financial commitments of States and their interest etc...

The position of Group B countries to the above was positive. However, differences remained on the idea of minimum equal contribution and on the scale of contribution. There were disagreements within the Group of 77 themselves on the issue, but solved in Arusha.



Third Conference 12-19 March 1979

The Conference agreed on the elements of setting up a Common Fund. In principle, the agreement was designed for accounting purposes, to have two windows that should be organic and functionally linked which should form part of an integrated whole.

Fundamental elements of the Fund

Objectives

To facilitate the conclusion and functioning of international commodity agreements (ICA), particularly on commodities of special interest to developing countries.

Purposes:

1. The Fund, through its first window would contribute to the financing of international buffer stocks and under modalities to be determined within the framework of international commodity agreement. The Fund would respect the autonomy of ICAs and would not intervene directly in commodity market.
2. The Fund, through its second window
  - would finance measures other than stocking. These would be commodity development measures aimed at improving the structural conditions in markets.
  - would promote co-ordination and consultation with regard to measures other than stocking and their financing with a view to providing a commodity focus.
  - would include research and development, productivity improvements, marketing and measures designed to assist.

- would be jointly sponsored and followed-up by producers and consumers;
- would establish a close working relationship with existing international financial institutions;
- may participate in the financing of measures other than stocking;
- give due emphasis to commodities of interest to the poorer developing countries in particular to LDCs.

## II. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL STRUCTURES

The financial resources of the Fund would consist of:

- a) Direct government contribution to the first window to provide working capital to meet specific short term liquidity needs.
- b) Resources deriving from the Association of ICAs with the Fund (First Window).
  - i) cash deposit
  - ii) callable capital/guarantee for borrowing by the Fund
- c) Borrowings
- d) Voluntary contribution
- e) Net earnings.

The resources allocated from the first window from direct government contribution would be \$400 million of which \$150 million would be contributed in cash, \$150 million as capital on call, and \$100 million as callable capital.

Direct governmental contribution to the Fund

a) \$ 1 million per Member State, of which a part may be allocated by the contributing State to the Second Window so that it will not be less than \$ 70 million.

b) Additional amount of \$ 320 million to be distributed among Group of 77, Group B, and China on the following conditions:

Group of 77	-	10%
Group B	-	68%
Group D	-	17%
China	-	5%

III. ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND VOTING

No Group would have a simple majority of the total votes. Votes would be distributed among member countries of the Fund on the basis of three elements: i.e.

- equality principle
- direct contributions and
- contributions of callable capital to the Fund by member States of ICAs, associated with the Fund.

Group of 77	-	47% of the votes
Group B	-	42% of the votes
Group D	-	8% of the votes
China	-	3% of the votes

The most important decisions, including constitutional decisions and decisions with significant financial implications for Member States, would be taken by a majority of 3/4 of total votes cast. Other decisions, depending on their relative importance, would be subject either to a majority of 2/3 of total votes cast or by a simple majority.

### Position of Group B

There was a general acceptance on the result of the Conference on the Fund. However, USA expressed its dissatisfaction on the distribution of the votes. The USA believed that the votes were weighed in favour of Group of 77, which contributed only 10% of the Fund.

### Position of Group of 77

There were sharp disagreements within the Group 77 over the final text of the Fund. The Group accepted the text being aware that it did not cover all the issues envisaged in Res.93(IV). Nevertheless, the Group was of the impression that the Interim Committee may be impelled to reopen all the contention issues.

### African Group

- a) The African countries stated that they were not satisfied with the magnitude of the capital of the Fund both for the first and second windows.
- b) The African countries were not also happy with the voluntary nature of the second window and the wording of -"of which a part may be allocated".
- c) The African Group found paragraphs 24 and 25 of the Annex inhibiting because it stated that the most important decisions would be taken by majority of 3/4 of a total votes cast, while other decisions would be taken by 2/3 of the total votes cast or by a simple majority. They preferred the UN system of one country one vote. It would be impossible to increase the capital base of the Fund when necessary.
- d) Finally the African Group were concerned that the Annex carried with it an element of the pool concept which had long been rejected.

Asian Group

Most Asian countries joined the consensus except India. India expressed doubt on the question of direct government contribution.

Latin America

There was a split in the Latin American Group between the advanced and the less advanced one. The position of the less advanced ones was that of the African Group.

Group D : reserved their position on:

- a) the allocation of shares of direct government contributions by groups of countries instead of distributing them by countries.
- b) the unjust distribution of the burden of financing the first window through equal minimum contributions.

China

China agreed to take the agreement as a basis for future negotiation.

UNCTAD V

During the Conference, a sum of \$61 million has been pledged towards the target of \$280 million in voluntary contribution for the Second Window, which is to be used to help finance measures other than stocking.

## II. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

In the field of Transport and Communications, the Department took an active part in the Sixth Session of the Inter-governmental Preparatory Group (IPG) on a Convention on International Multimodal Transport which was held in Geneva from 21 February to 9 March 1979. Preceding this Conference, the OAU and ECA had organized from 19 to 20 February, a two-day preparatory meeting for the OAU Member States, thus offering them an opportunity for consultation and co-ordination of their views on the above-mentioned Convention. To this end, the African Group had before it a brief prepared by the Secretariat and entitled, "Report of the OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on Multimodal Transport" CMT/RPT. (II).

It should be recalled that the item on the Agenda of the African Group Meeting was "Consideration of the Draft Provision of the Draft Convention on International Multimodal Transport". Having been adopted at the earlier session of the Inter-governmental Preparatory Group a composite text was for the first time presented in document TD/B/AC.15/50 of UNCTAD). This document was composed of six parts as follows:

- PART I - Draft Preambular Clauses
- PART II - Draft General Provisions
- PART III - Draft Provisions on Documentation
- PART IV - Draft Provision on Liability
- PART V - Draft Provision on Claims and Actions
- PART VI - Draft Guidelines on Customs Matters Relating to the International Multimodal Transport of Goods.

Thanks to the Report prepared by the OAU on the matter under consideration, the African Group was able, during its two-day meeting, to go through Parts I to III of the Draft Provisions, covering Preambular Clauses, scope of applications and documentation. The remaining parts of the Draft Provisions were dealt

with in special African Group Meetings which were held every day during the course of the Sixth IPG. These meetings were chaired by Mr. Sehgal of Uganda since Mr. Kbaka (Senegal) was elected Chairman of the Working Group of IPG. As a result of the two days' meeting, the African Group was well in advance in making clear amendments and suggestions to the Draft Provisions on the Proposed Draft Convention. This helped tremendously in the negotiations both in the Group of 77 and in the Intergovernmental Preparatory Group.

Whereas a number of amendments and suggestions were generally accepted at the level of the Group of 77 many of the provisions still remained in square brackets at the level of the IPG. On the whole the African Group stressed the need that Africa should not forsake basic issues which are cardinal in safeguarding its long-term interests. Accordingly, these issues are to be finalized at the level of the Plenipotentiaries Conference.

At the conclusion of its work, the African Group, while appreciating the guidance provided by OAU and ECA at the Sixth Session of the IPG, expressed the hope that in anticipation of successful completion of a Convention on International Multimodal Transport, measures should be taken to devise a system to deal with the problem of familiarization in Multimodal Transport systems; in particular to undertake training of indigenous manpower who will be involved in Multimodal Transport operations. Since this will have budgetary implications, it was felt that the OAU and ECA could study ways and means of undertaking such a programme within their work programme.

During this session, the IPG was able to negotiate successfully some of the items on the Agenda. Still a number of issues remained in square brackets and these were referred to the Plenipotentiaries' Conference. This being the last session of the IPG, a resolution was adopted to be presented to the Tenth Special Session of the Board of UNCTAD to request the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to make the necessary arrangements for the convening of a

Conference of Plenipotentiaries on a Convention on Multimodal Transport in November 1979 for a duration of four weeks in New York. A separate Report is submitted to the Council of Ministers on this question.

The ECOSOC Department also intensified its co-operation with the OAU Specialized Agencies, namely the Union of African Railways (UAR), the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) and the African Airlines Association (AFRAA). The Department also undertook activities in the field of Telecommunications.

a) ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUB-REGIONAL CENTER CREATION FOR THE TRAINING OF RAILWAY ENGINEERS

In the framework of the Co-operation with the Union of African Railways, the General Secretariat took note of the integrated programme set up by the Union for the training of the staff working in the Member Unions railways. Since 1976, the Union of African Railways has drawn up an integrated training programme for African Railways staff with a view to making more profitable, the railway transportation as a tool for economic development of States. The Union feels that vocational training policies should embrace all staff and has therefore drawn up a programme under which member networks are entrusted with the training of the administrative personnel and foremen. The Union of African Railways will bear the expenses involved in the training of supervisory staff.

In this perspective, the Union has planned to set up the following four sub-regional centers for the training of railway engineers:

Brazzaville Center	-	People's Republic of Congo
Zaria Center	-	Federal Republic of Nigeria
Lusaka Center	-	Republic of Zambia
Wardan Center	-	Egypt



Co-operation among railway Organizations in matters of training was stressed and specific directives for the implementation of this programme were decided upon at the Symposium held in Abidjan from 7 to 12 August, 1978.

b) Brazzaville Centre

This project which began in 1974 was taken over in 1976 by the Union and relevant studies were financed by the French Assistance Co-operation Fund to the tune of 30 million Francs CFA.

Estimated cost of projects, based on technical and architectural surveys stand at:

4 million Francs CFA (construction)

2.1 million Francs CFA (operation for 3 years)

The African Advanced School for the Training of Railway Staff, which will be a boarding one, proposes to train railway engineers in specialized fields such as railway equipment, traffic and operation, over a 3 to 4 year period.

The Government of the People's Republic of Congo which has proposed to host the School in Brazzaville had granted the Institution privileges and immunities generally accorded to similar International Organizations. The Headquarters Agreement was officially signed in Brazzaville on 2 April 1979 between the President of UAR and the Congolese Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Regarding the financing of the construction and running of the School, the Union of African Railways hopes that, with OAU and ECA assistance, International and African financial Institutions, as well as UN Technical Bodies and other sources, of bilateral co-operation will contribute actively to the implementation of the project. Consequently, this School, the cost of which will be US\$ 18 million, was included among the priority projects to be implemented under the first phase of the programme of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

It is therefore desirable that all OAU Member States and particularly UAR member countries take the necessary steps to ensure the running of the School when completed, especially during the first three years.

The planning Committee has fixed September 1982 as the opening date of the School.

A total of US\$ 35 million is earmarked for the first phase of the Transport Decade for additional surveys and the establishment of other Center in Lusaka, Zaria and Warden.

The Council of Ministers could, in a resolution, ask African governments, African as well as international financial institutions and UN technical Organizations to support the realization of these projects within the framework of the programme for the Transport and Communications Decade.

During the period covered by this Report, the Department dealt also with matters arising out of African Ministers of Transport and Communications Conference (Addis Ababa, May 1979) on the Transport and Communication Decade in Africa (1978-1988) proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, the CAU/AFCAC Projects to set up multinational civil aviation training Center at Franceville-Mvunge (Gabon) and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, deliberations of the Sixth Plenary Session of AFCAC (Bamako, 21 May to 2 June 1979) and of the AFRFA General Assembly (Lusaka, April 1979).

The African Ministers of Transport and Communications met in Addis Ababa from 9 to 12 May 1979 in accordance with CAU Resolution CM/Res.675 (XXXI) and UN General Assembly Resolution 32/ to adopt a global strategy for the implementation of projects in the various transport and communication modes to the urgent needs of the African countries, especially the semi-land locked and land locked countries. The Ministerial Conference was preceded by African Experts and inter-agency meetings sponsored by the ECA with the view to define the basis and the constituent elements of a strategy for the establishment of an integrated transport and communications network in Africa.

In the air transport field, the Ministers examined 48 project proposals of national, regional and sub-regional nature with funding requirements of roughly US\$ 555.97 million, in some selected African countries with due regard to newly independent land-locked, semi-land-locked and least developed countries. Additional Civil Aviation projects in some 44 African countries amounting to US\$ 135 million as identified during the OAU/AFCAC Conference of Donors held in Geneva in May 1978 for funding requirements were also examined.

In conformity with the objective of the decade as defined by the UN General Assembly and in accordance with the "African Declaration on co-operation, development and economic independence" adopted by the OAU Heads of State and Government in June 1973, the Ministers approved the foregoing projects in the air transport sector together with those brought to their attention and which in their view were to contribute to the urgent development needs in the aviation field. A full report on the African Ministers of Transport and Communications Conference is covered under a separate document submitted by the Administrative Secretary-General to this Council.

This year also marks the Tenth Anniversary of AFCAC, for it was in 1969, at Addis Ababa that the first Constitution of the Commission was adopted. At Bamako, member States of AFCAC gathered from 21 May to 2 June 1979 to mark the Tenth Anniversary as well as to meet in the Sixth Plenary Session of the Commission. AFCC's Plenary Session takes place bi-annually. During the Bamako AFCAC meeting, the OAU Secretariat, as usual, participated at a high level and provided many information both politically and socio-economically to the Conference. In particular, the Conference was briefed on such political decisions as the establishment of new criteria for strengthening stronger relationship between the OAU and its specialized agencies and the efforts currently being made at political level to seek fundings for the various civil aviation projects in Africa.

The Sixth Plenary Session examined the Report of AFCAC activities since the Fifth Plenary in 1977, and consequently approved the work programmes of the Commission in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Commission's Constitution. The Session also examined administrative and financial matters for the year 1979/80 and 1980/81 and later approved the budgets for the two years.

The General Secretariat was also represented at the 11th General Assembly of the African Air Lines Association (AFRAA) which met in Lusaka from 3 to 6 April 1979. AFRAA has an observer status with the OAU, and has had a very good working relationship with the General Secretariat. In Lusaka, member Airlines of AFRAA examined the annual activities report submitted by the Secretary-General and later made some concrete recommendations. The United States Civil Aeronautic Board (CAB) order meant to disrupt the existing air-tariff structure to the disadvantage of African Airlines as well as Fifth Freedom Rights were some of the political issues that emerged at the Conference.

In this connection, the General Secretariat welcomes the adoption of a resolution by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications (Addis Ababa, May 1979) approving in principle the establishment of an African Air tariff conference to negotiate, agree and act on fares and rates and other related questions with a view to fostering African Unity and to protect the long-term interests of African users of air transport. The General Secretariat further welcomes the adoption by the Ministers of Transport and Communications of another resolution On Freedom of the Air which inter-alia, recommends that the concept of sabotage and its applications on international air transport in Africa be examined by AFCAC in order to promote the development of intra-African air transport.

Be that as it may, AFRAA is soliciting an urgent political support from the OAU which is the supreme political organ in Africa to intervene so that the United States CAB order to show cause No. 78-6-78 could not be implemented to the disadvantage of African Airlines.

The Council of Ministers is, therefore, requested to give directives to the Secretary-General so that the General Secretariat could take up the matter with the United States Department of State without much delay.

As regards telecommunications and especially PANAFTEL, the members of the Co-ordinating Committee for PANAFTEL

(ECA, OAU, ITU, ADB and PATU) met again in Addis Ababa in April 1979 to examine various country projects and later heard progress Reports from the ITU on technical aspect of the Network and from the ADB on the financing programmes of the various projects.

Within the framework of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, telecommunication projects as identified by both ECA and ITU experts were examined, and a strategy for the next ten years was adopted, with due regard to new PANAFTEL links in newly independent, land-locked and island countries of Southern Africa. A comprehensive Report on the activities of the PANAFTEL Network is being presented to this Council by the Secretary-General under a separate item on the Agenda.

The General Secretariat also took part in a meeting sponsored by the ITU to evaluate training need in telecommunications for countries in the East and Southern African Regions. This Seminar took place in Addis Ababa in April 1979 in pursuance of a resolution adopted by the 12th Regional Conference of Telecommunication Administrations for East and Southern Africa (Seychelles, September, 1977). The Meeting brought together telecommunications training Experts from the two sub-regions as well as Experts from ITU, PATU and OAU to examine the training needs on country by country basis. It later agreed on concrete measures as how to improve training facilities for both middle-level and senior telecommunications administrators in the region.

It is the considered view of the General Secretariat that efforts should be made to establish solid training criteria and adopt a global strategy in training African engineers to enable Africa be less dependent on non-African telecommunications Engineers.

In this regard, the General Secretariat appeals to all African Telecommunications Administrations to take advantage of the training programmes introduced by the International Telecommunications Union, especially in the area of pupil engineer education. For an ITU Report, shows that since the end of the Second World War, many countries in Africa have gained their independence, yet African Telecommunications Administrations have continued to send their prospective pupil Engineers to Europe and North America for their academic education and, in some cases, for their field training as well.

Meanwhile, to implement OAU Resolution CM/Res.586(XXIX), on the Establishment of a Pan-African Postal Union, the General Secretariat continues its efforts in making preparatory arrangements to convene the Conference of Plenipotentiaries some time this year. It is again stressed that such a Conference will be convened on the same line as the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the establishment of PATU. However, arrangements are being made to have African Group Meeting in Rio de Janeiro preceding the UPU Congress slated for September/October 1979. Such a meeting would enable the African Group consolidate a common stand on matters affecting postal communication in Africa, during the Congress.

The General Secretariat also participated in the Second Session of the Annual Administrative Council of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU) which met in Kinshasa in June, 1979, and approved the annual work programme as well as the budget for fiscal year 1979/80.

#### Observations and Actions Recommended

Transport and Communications sector would continue to have a larger pie of national budgets in the African region simply because no actual improvements in this sector have been noticed since post-independence era and no factual strategy was set by the various former colonial powers geared towards over-all development of transport and communications in areas administered by

them. Rarely could a telephone message or direct air route destined to neighbouring countries in the region be made without first linking it to a metropolitan European country thereby diminishing the security which guarantees the existence of most African States and their sovereignty.

In this connection, the Council of Ministers is requested to draw up broad criteria for collective action to be pursued by African States in order to give an unqualified support to the Transport and Communications Decade recently proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly. Such broad criteria could take account of the following proposed co-ordination activities with the ECA:

- a) That in pursuance to OAU Resolution CM/Res.675(XXXI) the Secretary-General be authorized to involve the General Secretariat more actively in the detailed work programmes as reflected in the Global Strategy for the implementation of the Decade.
- b) That the General Secretariat be actively involved in the inter-agency and inter-African organizational structure in order to monitor the activities of the Decade as well as the co-ordination and implementation of the Decade programmes.
- c) In the selection of Experts to go into the field to follow up the action already taken towards the implementation of the Decade projects, efforts be made to use as far as possible, African Experts in the various modes of transport and communications, for Africans know the problems of their region best.

### III. LABOUR POPULATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

#### A. Labour and Population

In the field of Labour and Population, the Department organized the meeting of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour Commission which took place in Mogadishu in April 1979.

Unlike previous years, a new element in the work of the OAU Labour Commission was added in that the Fourth Session of the Commission was, for the first time, preceded by an institutionalised preparatory meeting for Experts in Labour Administration which was held in Mogadishu, Somalia from 23 to 25 April 1979. It may be recalled that the first Conference of African Senior Labour Administrators was held in Addis Ababa in November 1976. That Conference strongly recommended the institutionalisation of the Experts Meeting to precede and be preparatory to the formal opening of the Ordinary Session of the Commission.

After having adopted the Report and recommendations of the Experts' Meeting, the Ministers started discussing those Agenda items that had been referred to them for decision and those which the Experts' Meeting had not discussed. Having accomplished its work, the Fourth Session adopted altogether fourteen resolutions which either directly or indirectly call for the attention, action and express authority of the Council before the Secretary-General can proceed to implement them. In view of this, the Administrative Secretary-General has prepared a separate Report on the Proceedings of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour Commission document CM/975(XXXIII). Further details may be obtained from this document, if required.

During this period, the Department also dealt with the preparations of the First Joint Conference of African and Arab Labour Ministers. It will be recalled that during its Third Session, the OAU Labour Commission adopted resolution LC/Res.34(III) on Afro-Arab Co-operation which was endorsed by the Council of Ministers in Resolutions CM/653(XXXI) & CM/668(XXXI)..... for the early convening of the Joint Conference of African and Arab Labour Ministers. In implementation of these resolutions the Secretary-General contacted the Director-General of the Arab Labour Organization (ALO) regarding material, financial and other organizational aspects of the Conference, the Agenda as well as the venue.

The recent development regarding the holding of the Joint Conference of African and Arab Labour Ministers is that three inter-Secretariat meetings were held at the OAU Headquarters



between the ALO and the OAU General Secretariat. It is important to mention also that an eleven-member Ministerial Preparatory Committee was constituted to co-ordinate the preparations for this Conference. The Committee includes 5 Arab countries two of which are from Asia and Six African countries one of which will be the host country. More information on this question can be found in document CM/975 (XXXIII).

Finally, the Department continued more closely than in the past, its efforts to strengthen its co-operation relations with International and Non-governmental Organizations dealing with labour, population and related matters. A special mention should be made here of the harmonious co-operation entertained with the ILO and its subsidiary bodies.

As the work of the Labour and Population Section covers more or less the same issues as the ILO itself, the two Organizations held several meetings geared to harmonizing their respective work programmes and to determining which areas could be covered jointly. In this regard, the following areas were jointly discussed:

- a) Promotion of conditions of life and work;
- b) Programme International pour l'Amélioration des Conditions du Travail (PIACT) (Working Environment);
- c) Labour Administration;
- d) Social Security;
- e) Vocational and Technical Training;
- f) Workers' Education;
- g) Jobs and skills programme for Africa (JASPA);
- h) Possible establishment of an African Employers' Organization;
- i) Role of Trade Unions in Development;
- j) Employment of the Disabled Women and Youth, to mention but a few.

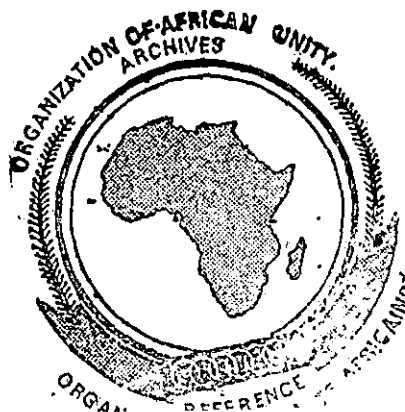
Under the framework of the OAU/ILO Labour and Population Programme, discussions which had began in the previous year were said to be nearing fruition. In that connection, the ILO Labour and Population Programme, with the financial support of the UNFPA, was going to recruit on behalf of the OAU for a period of two years, Experts in Labour and Population. To this end, a demographer, a Senior Labour Economist and a Senior Social Scientist were initially to be recruited for the Labour and Population Section. They would be recruited to deal mainly with:

- Collecting information and data and undertaking case studies on the socio-political implications for labour migration between African countries.
- Studying labour policies and (intra-regional) migration in Africa.
- Studying sub-regional population and employment policies.

A Co-ordinating Committee will be set up between the OAU and the ILO to discuss the plans of work, and monitor them on the basis of six-monthly Reports. Its members will be:

- a) The Head of the ECOSOC Department (Chairman);
- b) The Director of the ILO Regional Office;
- c) The Chief of the ILO Labour and Population Team;
- d) The Population Policies and Research Advisor  
(Secretary).

The ILO Headquarters in Geneva has approved this project and submitted it to UNFPA for financing within the 1980/83 budget. The only thing remaining is the OAU Policy-making Bodies' green light. The Council of Ministers is, therefore, requested if it has no objection, to authorize the Secretary-General to go ahead with the arrangements agreed upon between the ILO Regional Office and the General Secretariat so that once the financial support of UNFPA is obtained, the project can start being implemented without further delay.



In implementation of Resolution CM/Res.653(XXXI) which called on the OAU, OATUU and the ILO to draw up a joint action programme in the field of labour, employment, population and related social questions, the Section convened an informal consultation between the three Organizations took place during the Thirty-Second Session of the Council of Ministers held in Nairobi, Kenya. After discussing the three draft action programmes, they were merged into one draft action programme which formed a substantive agenda item of the Fourth Session of the OAU Labour Commission.

B. Social Affairs

In the field of Social Affairs, the Department has dealt, during the period under review, with the following issues:

- a) Joint OAU/ECA Follow-up Mission to Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on the Establishment of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training In Social Development.

It should be recalled that in January 1977, the Second Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs in Alexandria, Egypt, adopted Resolution 2(II) on the establishment of the Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development. The OAU Council of Ministers, in its Thirty-First Ordinary Session, by Resolution CM/Res.618(XXXI), decided to locate the Centre in Tripoli. These decisions were ratified by the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government in Khartoum, Sudan, in July 1978.

Implementing the Resolutions, the Libyan Government earmarked material facilities which still need to be finished for the establishment and use of the Centre. The General Secretariat of the OAU, on its part, requested for US\$ 100,000.00 in the 1978/79 budget as its contribution to the operations of the Centre during the first year of its existence.

Against this background, the General Secretariat and that of the ECA, with the encouragement and kindest reception of the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, undertook a joint Mission in Tripoli, from 3 to 16 March, 1979, with a view to making on-the-spot assessment of the progress made, and problems encountered in the establishment of the Centre. After considering all the discussions held with the various agencies, officials and persons in Tripoli, and taking into consideration the local situation and exigencies in Libya, the Mission recommended the following, inter-alia:

(i) Instructions should be issued from the appropriate quarters to the UNDP Resident Representative in Tripoli, to open an account with the Central Bank of Libya on behalf of the Centre, in order that the Libyan Government can make deposits that will enable the Centre to come into operation. The opening

of the account in Tripoli appears to be crucial to the further development of the Centre. Other contributions, such as the US\$ 100,000.00 allocated by the OAU should be deposited into this account also.

(ii) A mission of two persons - one from ECA and one from the OAU should be sent to Tripoli early in April, 1979, to establish the Centre. One of these persons should be given plenipotentiary status as Project Manager to act on behalf of the executing agency and the Centre vis-a-vis the Libyan Government, pending the appointment of the Executive Director of the Centre.

The mission concluded by urging that early action be taken on the (above) recommendations in order that funds promised to the Centre for the year 1979 may not lapse and, more importantly, facilities offered by the Libyan Government to house students and staff may be confirmed and secured through their occupancy and use.

In response to these recommendations, the Secretary-General wrote a letter to the Executive Secretary of ECA expressing support of the Report and communicating readiness to release the funds of US\$ 100,000.00 to the account as soon as it would have been opened in Tripoli. The ECA in turn communicated this decision to UNDP in Tripoli, but at the time of writing this Report no answer had yet been heard. It is, however, to be expected that UNDP will comply and that the project will soon take off the ground.

Member States are kindly requested to sign the Agreement establishing the Centre to indicate more political will and support. Up to now, only thirteen countries have signed, namely: Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Zaire.

b) OAU/ECA Follow-up Mission to Lome, Togo, on the Preparations for the Forthcoming Third Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs

It is also to be recalled that, during the same Second Conference of the African Ministers of Social Affairs, in January 1977, the Republic of Togo extended an invitation for holding the Third Meeting in its capital, Lome. A Joint OAU/ECA mission was in Lome from 13 to 17 February 1979 with the main objective of studying with the host Government authorities the dates, modalities and organizational arrangements for the convening in Lome of the Third Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs. It has been agreed that the Session will take place from 1 to 16 October 1979.

c) International Year of the Child

At its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Nairobi, Kenya, the OAU Council of Ministers adopted Resolution CM/714(XXXII) on the Integration of Women in Development, calling for, among others, an OAU Publication, to mark the IYC in Africa during 1979. Following this Resolution, the General Secretariat has been taking

appropriate measures to ensure the circulation of information collected from member States. In this connection, the Secretariat had already sent out note verbale No. ES/SW/29/96.79 on 8 February 1979, requesting the information on various aspects connected with the rights and welfare of children in member States, but up to the time of writing this Report, little reaction had been received in the Secretariat.

In spite of this impasse, the General Secretariat managed to get sufficient material from the United Nations Agencies in Addis Ababa, namely UNICEF, UNESCO, ECA, ILO and WHO. This material, together with that of the General Secretariat, has been compiled to form document CM/982(XXXIII) which is presented to the Council for consideration and approval.

In addition to this, the General Secretariat has been in touch with the International Institute for Labour Studies in Geneva on what could be done to protect the children's rights and promote healthy child welfare in Africa. The result has been encouraging indeed in that the two Institutions have agreed to run a symposium on "The World of Work and Protection of the Child." This Symposium is likely to take place in Abidjan from 10 to 13 December 1979. An appeal is therefore, hereby made to all member States to send relevant participants to ensure the Symposium succeeds.

d) International Year of the Child Symposium, Kenyatta Conference Centre, Nairobi, Kenya, 19 - 22 March 1979

The International Year of the Child Symposium on basic services, objectives, strategies and programmes for children in Eastern Africa was organized by UNICEF East African Regional Office in co-operation with the Government of Kenya. The purpose and objectives of the Symposium were:

- a) to review and assess the situation of children in the Eastern African Region;

- b) to promote the activities of the IYC National Commission and promote exchange of knowledge and experiences;
- c) to encourage awareness and stimulate discussion among senior policy-makers and planners responsible for the social sector (health, education, nutrition, etc...), together with the IYC Commission members, on the Integration of Children's Programmes into national Economic and Social Development plans;
- d) to explore trends in planning, programmes preparation, and resource allocation (human and financial) in expanded programmes for children and,
- e) to suggest guidelines to governmental Organizations for the promotion and expansion of effective national policies and programmes in the context of the basic services approach and popular participation.

The deliberations of the Seminar dealt with general trends and methods to be adopted in order to alleviate some of the ills which hinder the overall improvement or welfare of the African Child. In this regard, some of the issues discussed were: basic services for children, community participation, prevention, manpower and training, fact finding and data analysis, resources and communications, etc...

The problem of development and planning in Africa has been a subject of concern to the continent as a whole. One distinct issue that surfaced throughout the debate was whether planning for the interest of children can be separated from over all national planning. In most countries of Africa, important issue like the welfare of children is accorded low priority. However, it was felt that planning cannot be separated and agencies concerned with the welfare of children should, in the process, encourage their respective governments to pay more than passing attention to this important issue - welfare of children.

e) Inaugural Session of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development

The ECOSOC Department also participated in the above meeting which took place in Rabat, Morocco, from 14 to 18 March, 1979. The Inaugural Session of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development was sponsored by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, through the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) in co-operation with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco. The meeting was organized in conformity with the recommendations of the Regional Conference on the Implementation of National, Regional and World Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development which was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 27 November to 2nd October, 1977.

The Regional Conference had recommended, among other things, the establishment of an African Regional Co-ordinating Committee (ARCC) to facilitate the Integration of Women in Development, and also the establishment at the sub-regional level, prior to the creation of ARCC, of "Committees on the implementation of plans of action for the Integration of Women in Development within the framework of the existing Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) based at Lusaka, Yaounde, Gisenyi, Niamey and Tangiers.

Pursuant to these recommendations, the Economic Commission for Africa has assisted with the establishment of the sub-regional Committees in Lusaka (June 1978) for the East and Southern African sub-region, in Yaounde (July 1978) for the Central African sub-region, in Niamey (November - December 1978) for the West African sub-region, and Gisenyi (January 1979) for the Great Lakes Community sub-region. The Committee for the North African sub-region has not yet been established. However, the Committee of Officials for the Tangiers-based MULPOC approved the establishment of the sub-regional Committee at its meeting held in Tangiers in 1978. The OAU General Secretariat, through the ECOSOC Department, has been closely associated on every occasion.



ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF INTERAFRICAN TECHNICAL  
CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF EARLIER ORDINARY  
SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

1. One of these resolutions concerns the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. In fact, after consideration of Document CM/954 (XXXII) on the Conference and the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the OAU Council of Ministers, at its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session, assigned certain duties to the General Secretariat as well as to OAU Member States. Consequently, OAU Member States have been requested:

- a) to undertake an in-depth study of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action to ensure its satisfactory implementation both at national and regional levels;
- b) to take all necessary measures to participate actively in the various meetings on TCDC within the framework of UNDP and the sectoral meetings organized by the United Nations Specialised Agencies.

The Secretariat carried out a thorough study on the intensification of co-operation among African States and among other developing countries:

This means by using the major existing texts; we should define coherent objectives and programmes in each section. To this end, the Secretariat has already requested the collaboration of ECA. As soon as the document has been prepared, it will be sent to OAU Member States for a preliminary study before submission to the Thirty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers to be held next year.

The other resolution relates to the establishment of a Conference of African Inter-governmental Organizations. It is a follow-up of our Report CM/953 (XXXII).

On the basis of "Directory of Inter-governmental Co-operation Organizations in Africa", the Secretariat drew up a list of institutions concerned and transmitted the draft constitution of the Conference and a record card to the latter; it called on them to communicate their comments before the constituent meeting to be held in Addis Ababa in October, 1979.

3. The third resolution of the last Council of Ministers relates to co-operation between OAU and the Panafrikan Development Institute (PDI). In the Report (CM/955 (XXXII)) the Council was informed of the appropriateness of establishing sustained relations with this Institute. It was requested to hold a meeting with PDI and STRC so as to prepare a draft Agreement, bearing in mind the observations made during the discussions and to set up a joint programme of activities while avoiding all duplication.

Consequently, the Secretariat submitted its conclusions as well as resolution CM/Res.712 (XXXII) on African non-governmental Organizations to the PDI.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF CO-OPERATION

4. Training on "The Organization and Management of Agricultural Co-operatives"

The first training within the framework of Interafrican Co-operation was financed by the UNDP and assisted by the teaching staff of the International Social Studies Institute (IISO) and the Panafrikan Co-operative Training Centre. It was initially intended for African staff:

- a) drawn from newly independent African States (Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Comoros and Djibouti);
- b) with the following qualifications:
  - Four years of secondary education plus two or three years of experience in the field of agricultural cooperatives ;

- or, in absence for candidates who have completed their secondary education and intend working in agricultural co-operatives.

Angola, Cape Verde, Comoros and Djibouti joined by Benin, Togo, Nigeria and Rwanda effectively participated in the course. Thus about twenty candidates participated in this training organised at Panafrican Co-operative Training Centre at Cotonou from 23 April to 23 June 1979. The teaching was in French and Portuguese and was divided into two:

- Lectures and practical work at the Centre,
- Practical work and visits to cooperatives in Benin and Togo.

The programme was based on social aspects of the organization of agricultural cooperatives and on production and marketing.

5. Finally, within the framework of Interafrican Technical Co-operation Programme it gives pleasure to mention:

- a) that a Malagasy transport engineer was placed at the disposal of the Cape Verde Government. This co-operation between two OAU Member States enjoyed the collaboration of the General Secretariat and the help of UNDP.
- b) that a short, medium and long term training programme was prepared for OAU staff. This first initiative makes up for one of the inadequacies in our system. This work was done within two months by the Secretariat with the help of the ECA.

ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF AFRO-ARAB CO-OPERATION

Since the Thirty-Second Session of the Council of Ministers in Nairobi, the activities of the OAU General Secretariat in the field of Afro-Arab Co-operation have been essentially dominated by sustained efforts for the implementation of the Resolutions adopted by the Thirty-First Session of the Council of Ministers in Khartoum and for the execution of the Decisions and Recommendations adopted by the Fourth Ordinary Session held in Kuwait in December 1978.

One of the clauses of Resolution CM/Res.668 (XXX) on Afro-Arab Co-operation adopted by the Council in Khartoum authorizes the OAU Secretary-General to, in collaboration with his counterpart of the League of Arab States, practical and financial modalities of convening a joint meeting of African and Arab Ministers of Information and the joint meeting of African and Arab Ministers of Labour. These two items were also included on the Standing Committee's Agenda for its Fourth Ordinary Session held in December 1978 in Kuwait. Before closing its deliberations, the Committee authorised the Secretaries-General of the two Organizations to examine the practical ways and means of organizing the two joint Afro-Arab Conferences.

Regarding the organization of the joint meeting of African and Arab Ministers of Information, the OAU General Secretariat made a succinct report to the Council of Information Ministers meeting at its Second Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa from 4 to 9 April, 1979, on the development of the activities jointly undertaken by the two Secretariats in the field of Information.

Before closing its deliberations, the Council of Information Ministers adopted Resolution CM/Res.2 (II) which, among other things, authorised the OAU Secretary-General to immediately get in touch with his opposite number of the Arab League so as to decide, in consultation with the Tunisian Government, on the date of the First Ordinary Session of the joint Conference of African and Arab Ministers of Information.

Regarding the preparation of the joint meeting of African and Arab Ministers of Labour, the OAU General Secretariat also informed the Fourth Session of the OAU Labour Commission which met in Mogadishu (Somalia) from 26 to 29 April 1979, of the activities jointly undertaken in that field by the two Organizations.

A preparatory meeting of representatives from the Arab Labour Organization and OAU Secretariat was held at the OAU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, from 2 to 5 April, 1979. This meeting was mainly aimed at considering and deciding on the modalities and the administrative, technical and financial arrangements for the organization of the joint meeting of African and Arab Labour Ministers.

The two parties agreed to hold this joint meeting in April 1980.

After the Fourth Session of the Standing Committee, the two Secretariat undertook the necessary measures and consultations to fix dates for the meetings of the Fifth Session of the Standing Committee and the First Session of the Afro-Arab Ministerial Conference.

The two Secretariats kept regular contact with the host Libyan Government on the material organization of the Conference.

It must be noted, however, that contact between the two Secretariats was interrupted by the developments in the situation in Member States of the Arab League early March, 1979. This situation disrupted co-ordination and consultation efforts between the two Secretariats and temporarily paralysed the normal process of joint preparation of documents and usual consultation on all problems of common interest.

In the field of economic and financial co-operation the result was positive, judging by the statistical data supplied by BADEA in its 1978 Annual Report.

By way of illustration, we would like to reproduce hereunder a few figures contained in the Report:

	US\$ (Million)
a) BADEA's commitment to African countries as at 31st December, 1978	= 72.87
b) BADEA's Financial assistance to the most seriously affected by natural disasters	= 152,991
c) BADEA's Financial assistance to least- developed African countries (as at 31st December, 1978)	= 215,166
Whilst Sahelian countries (Cape Verde, ~ Gambia, Upper Volta, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Chad) received	= 119,098
d) Total loan commitment and Arab assistance since 1973-78	
i) in favour of the most seriously affected African countries	= 1,448.66
in the form of concessional aid and	= 343,178
ii) in favour of the least developed African countries- total	= 883,253
in the form of concessional aid and	= 222,355
in the form of non-concessional aid,	
iii) in favour of the Sahel countries total	= 733,554
this total includes concessional aid	= 647,292
and non-concessional aid	= 82,262

PART FOUR

ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION,  
SCIENCE, CULTURE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PART FOUR

ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION,  
SCIENCE, CULTURE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The major activities of the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Social Affairs Department mainly centered on the implementation of Resolutions.

CHAPTER I - EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Owing to the inadequacy of answers to the questionnaire addressed to Member States, the Educational and Cultural Department was unable to hold experts meetings in implementation of two Resolutions: one on Adult Continued Education, Resolution CM/Res.369 (XXIII) and the other on Innovations of Curricular Reforms and Methods of Teaching in Primary and Secondary Schools in Africa. (Resolution CM/Res.574 (XXIX) ).

The Department once again sent reminder Notes Verbale to Member States which had not replied to these questionnaires. It therefore proposes convening these experts' meetings on these important subjects as from September, 1979.

To this end, the Secretariat would like to make an urgent appeal to Member States which have not replied to this questionnaire to be kind enough to do so at their earliest convenience, to enable it hold the meetings on scheduled.

CHAPTER II - HEALTH, HYGIENE AND NUTRITION

During the period under review, the Health, Hygiene and Nutrition Division carried out its normal activities within the framework of the objectives of public health in Africa, by strengthening its co-operation with the WHO and its Regional Office in Africa.

The preparations of the seminar it plans to hold on goitre in Africa are actively underway. Investigations on this disease have



been conducted in Member States' Research Institutions. Here again, the inadequacy of answers is regrettable.

#### Participation in Technical Conferences

Within the framework of the International Year of the Child, the Director of the Health Division participated in the workshop of African and Arab experts on the protection of children and adolescents held in Tangiers (Morocco) from 19 to 22 March 1979, under the high patronage of Her Royal Highness, Princess Lalla Amina.

Participants, numbering about 125, came in the main from Member States of OAU and the Arab League.

The Agenda dealt mainly with the problems of the development of the child and the adolescent. Discussions centred around measures for protecting children and adolescents from injustice, exploitation, sexual assaults on girls, disease, hunger and ignorance. Special attention was devoted to physically handicapped and mentally retarded children or victims of Apartheid displaced by dint of war, or living in Palestinian Camps.

The Resolutions adopted after the workshop related to:

- a) A fact-finding mission to be undertaken by the United Nations, OAU and the Arab League to investigate the plight of children who are victims of racism, Apartheid, Zionism and war, and the proposed measures which would enable refugee children to return to their countries of origin;
- b) The setting-up of an Afro-Arab fund for the development of the child and the youth;
- c) A project Bank of the International Union for the Protection of the Child.

The Health Division also participated in the Thirty-Second Session of the World Health Assembly, held in Geneva, from 7 to 21 May, 1979. A Report on the deliberations of this Session will be submitted at the end of the present Session.

The Health Division took part in the Conference on Leprosy Training in Africa, held in Addis Ababa, from 14 to 19 May 1979, placed under the auspices of ALERT (All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Centre) and attended by participants from the Institut Marchoux of Bamako, the Institut de Léprelogie of Dakar, WHO and officials from the Ministries of Health of a number of African States. This Conference adopted Recommendations insisting particularly on the need to:

- a) Integrate Leprosy Training into the study programme of all the Centres for the training of medical and para-medical personnel in Africa;
- b) Adapt this training to the actual responsibilities required of the personnel trained on the job;
- c) Co-ordinate the anti-leprosy and anti-tuberculosis campaigns;
- d) Exchange information and ideas among experts of the various leprosy Centres and among health authorities in Africa.

WHO assistance and that of all the related Organizations are required in the implementation of these recommendations.

Participation in the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of  
The Association of Medical Schools in Africa.

This Meeting was held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 27 April 1979 and was attended by representatives from several English-Speaking Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy in Africa, the Faculty of Medicine of Dakar and the University of Angola.

The themes for discussion this year were:

- 1) The role and adequacy of bio-medical researches in health services in Africa.
- 2) Potential values of healers and traditional medicine in first aid treatment in Africa.

Participants adopted several recommendations aimed at encouraging bio-medical researches in African Universities and adapting these recommendations to local realities; undertaking academic and operational researches into African traditional medicines so as to surface their positive aspects and apply them in first aid treatment.

#### OAU Clinic

A total of 668 patients were treated at the OAU staff Clinic between February and May 1979.

Two patients who were seriously ill were sent abroad for special treatment.

The Clinic has just been provided with laboratory equipment and an electrocardiogram apparatus.

#### CHAPTER III - ENVIRONMENT, DROUGHT AND NATURAL DISASTERS

The Environmental Division prepared two Reports for the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Drought and other Natural Disasters to be held in Tunis from 21 to 26 May 1979. One of these Reports highlighted the situation created by drought and other natural disasters in affected Member States as well as the latter's needs. The other was a basic document on the OAU Programme of Action for the prevention of natural disasters and desertification control in Africa.

The Ad Hoc Committee which will discuss the two documents will present its recommendations to the Thirty Third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers to which these Reports will be submitted.

Participation in the Meeting of the  
Governing Council of the United Nations  
Environmental Programme (UNEP)

The Chief of Drought and Other Natural Disasters Section took part in the Seventh UNEP Governing Council session held in Nairobi from 18 April to 4 May 1979.

Fifty member countries of the governing Council including 10 African countries (Algeria, Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Senegal, Tunisia, Tanzania and Zaire), 25 non-member countries including seven African countries (Benin, Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Nigeria, Rwanda and Cameroon), ten International Organizations of the UN system, five International Organizations including OAU and three Liberation Movements (PLO, ZANU and Panaficanist Congress of Azania) participated in the session.

The Agenda included discussions on the Report of the Executive Director and the state of Environment, inter-institutional Co-ordination in the field of medium term environmental programme and environmental Fund.

Action of the OAU General Secretariat at the Session

The Secretariat participated in discussions both at the plenary and in Committee I where matters relating to the programme were discussed. In Committee I the Secretariat particularly made an oral Report to the Council on the measures taken by the OAU to participate amply in world activities relating to environment and especially to implement the plan of action to combat desertification. It further informed the Council, of the actions undertaken by our Organization for the implementation of the proposed establishment of a hydro-geological map for the African Continent and, to this end, appealed for the financial and technical assistance of UNEP.

In this regard, mention should be made of the fact that a resolution presented by the African Group, authorising the Executive Director to financially support the realisation of the project was adopted by the Council. Additionally, the OAU General Secretariat informed the Council of its intention to launch a joint campaign for the control of desertification in Africa during the 1980-90 decade. Finally, throughout the session, the General Secretariat co-ordinated the activities of the African Group which met more than six times during the meeting of the Council, to harmonise its viewpoints on each of the important items on the Council's Agenda. A special mention should be made of the Resolution on the environmental problems of the Palestinian People. The principle of discussing this Resolution, as well as its very adoption, were voted upon by roll-call. By a vote of 29 for, 1 against and 11 abstentions, this Resolution was adopted. The same problem arose as regards the inclusion of the problem of "The effects of military activities on the environment" in the Report on the Environment to be submitted by the Executive Director to the Eighth Session in 1980. In both cases, the entire African Group remained faithful to the principles of the OAU Charter and to the discipline existing within the Group of 77. The countries of Eastern Europe, the United States, Australia, Japan etc... were hostile to these Resolutions.

The following Resolutions relating to the OAU were adopted: Resolutions on the eco-systems of tropical forests and timber, the implementation of the plan of action for combatting desertification in the African region, the special account made up of voluntary contributions for financing the implementation of the plan of action for the control of desertification, the implementation of the plan of action for combatting desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region, and a draft decision on energy resources.

#### CHAPTER IV - NATURAL RESOURCES

In preparing its Reports for submission to the Second Session of the African Inter-ministerial Food Committee, which should have met in Tunis from 21 to 26 May, the Natural Resources Section undertook the implementation of the following Resolutions:

CM/Res.165 (XI) on the African Convention on the preservation of Natural Resources;

CM/Res.504 (XXVIII) on the productivity of the Peasants Farmers in Africa and

CM/Res.644 (XXXI) on Nomadism in Africa.

Reminder Notes Verbale were addressed to Member States which had not yet made their observations known on the implementation of these Resolutions, to do so, as soon as possible.

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CM/967(XXXIII) PART II

PART FIVE

ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS  
AND DECOLONIZATION

PART FIVE

ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS  
AND DECOLONIZATION

During the period under review, the Political Department exerted efforts to implement resolutions adopted by the Council of Ministers at its Thirty-First Ordinary Session, in Khartoum, (Sudan) in July, 1978, as well as those adopted by the Council at its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in February, 1979.

In application of these resolutions, the Political Department organized a number of important conferences including the Sixth Ordinary Session of the OAU Defence Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (April 21-26, 1979) and the Pan-African Conference on the situation of African Refugees, in Arusha, Tanzania (May 7-17, 1979).

The Political Department has also very closely followed political developments in Southern Africa and the Middle East.

ZIMBABWE

During the period under review the parties to the Internal Administration in Rhodesia staged fake elections based on the white endorsed constitution. As a result of these fake elections Bishop A. Muzorewa, having won a majority of those seats reserved for blacks in Parliament, formed a new Government for the territory now labeled as Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

The Conservative Party of the United Kingdom having sent observers to the so-called elections and won elections to form the new Government stated at the outset of the formation of this Government that the April 1979 election exercises in Rhodesia were "free and fair". Elaborating on the new stand the Conservative Government has now taken vis-a-vis the Rhodesian



problem, the British Government stated on 18 May, 1979, in Parliament that "the election in Rhodesia last month (April) was fair, in the sense that the electoral machinery was fairly conducted, that it was as free as possible in the circumstances, and that the result represented the wishes of the majority of the electorate of the country".

In this connection, the British Government has so far sent a number of high ranking emissaries to Salisbury in an effort to develop a new relationship with Rhodesia and to the Frontline States to sound their reactions in relation to the new policy of the British Government.

The British Government has further decided to send a senior official to Salisbury to "stay there for as long as necessary to maintain and develop the closest possible contact with Bishop Muzorewa and his colleagues and to report to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs travelling between London and Salisbury as often as the need arises".

Meanwhile and following the moves by the United States Congress to lift sanctions from Rhodesia, the President of the United States decided to veto such moves and maintain sanctions against Rhodesia until such time that an acceptable majority emerge to run the affairs of the territory. Justifying his decision, the President of the United States stated on 7 June, 1979, that "the black citizens, who constitute 96 per cent of the population of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, never had a chance to consider nor to vote for or against the constitution under which the elections were held".

The President of the United States further stated that "the internal representatives of the opposing political parties were unable to participate in the political process. They were prohibited from holding meetings, from having political rallies, from expressing their views against voting in the election, and even prevented from advertising their views in the news media".

"for these reasons" the President stated, "I cannot conclude that the elections were either fair or free".

The internal strife which has been fermenting within Bishop Muzorewa's Party, the United African National Council (UANC) has now come out to the surface whereby Mr. Chikerema has walked out of the UANC along with other seven Parliamentarians. This has brought down UANC representation in the so-called Parliament to 43 and consequently prohibited Bishop Muzorewa from commanding an overall majority in the same Parliament. Meanwhile, Mr. Chikerema has, together with the other defectors from the UANC, created new political Party to be known as the Zimbabwe Democratic Party (ZDP).

The Organization of African Unity, the African Group at the United Nations as well as OAU Member States, have strongly condemned these fake elections in Zimbabwe and urged the International Community not to extend any form of recognition to Muzorewa's Government.

#### NAMIBIA

The racist regime of South Africa has, following its unilateral decision not to participate in the implementation of the United Nations Plan for Namibia, decided to promote, through a quasi unilateral declaration of independence, the establishment of a Provisional Government in Namibia. South Africa's intention was to present a fait accompli to an increasingly hostile International Community for her habitual character of flouting with United Nations resolutions.

In view of this new development the Strategy Group on Namibia of the African Group in New York, has been meeting regularly to review future strategy and draw up appropriate programme of action. In its meeting of 11 May, 1979, the Strategy Group decided to work closely with the Council for Namibia during the resumed Session of the General Assembly of May, 1979 and that of the Security Council which convened in June to consider the question of Namibia.



Meanwhile, and following the debate at the Council of Ministers held in Nairobi, Kenya and in reply to Mr. Sam Nujoma's appeal for the OAU to participate effectively in the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) for Namibia, a number of OAU Member States have made submissions to the effect that they would participate voluntarily in the scheme to assist Namibia accede in to genuine independence. The following countries have so far stated their willingness to participate in UNTAG in one way or the other: Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia.

While the OAU supports the intensification of the armed struggle, the solution of the problem of Namibia should be found within the context of the United Nations Plan for independence in Namibia.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

The situation in South Africa remained in consistency with her avowed policy of racism, racial discrimination and Apartheid practiced through the past decades. Persecution, repression and intimidation of the black majority by a white minority continued to dominate the politics of South Africa during the period under review.

Refusing to heed to appeals made by the United Nations Security Council and a number of prominent world Leaders, the racist regime of South Africa executed Solomon Mahlangu, a young militant of ANC(SA) on the basis of fake allegations and travesty of justice.

## SANCTIONS

From February to July 1979, the Section undertook several activities in the field of sanctions which can be brought under two important chapters, namely:

1. Implementation of the Khartoum and Nairobi Resolutions on Sanctions.
2. Investigations on the violation of sanctions as well as the preparation of Reports on this issue.

### I. IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS ON SANCTIONS

At its Thirty-First Session held in Khartoum, in July 1978, the Council of Ministers adopted a number of Resolutions, some of which related to the problems of sanctions. Most of these Resolutions were implemented and a Report submitted to the Thirty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers. However, some of the Khartoum Resolutions, especially paragraphs 7 and 8 of Resolution CM/Res.623(XXXI) were not effectively implemented before the Nairobi Session of the Council of Ministers.

#### Paragraph 7

This paragraph "requests the OAU Standing Committee on Sanctions, just created, to look into the special circumstances affecting certain individual States of Southern Africa and Cape Verde, within the context of the application of Sanctions."

All the actions undertaken by the General Secretariat for the implementation of this paragraph were included in Report CM/Res.928(XXXII) on the activities during the period between July 1978 and February 1979, submitted to the Thirty-Second Session of the Council of Ministers held in Nairobi in February 1979.

Soon after the Nairobi Session, the Standing Committee on Sanctions held a series of Meetings at Ambassadorial level in Addis Ababa. It decided to undertake a mission to Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Cape Verde. The Committee had previously planned to begin its journey on 28/4/79, with a Ministerial Meeting in Lusaka, but this could not come on, due to unforeseeable circumstances. Another Ministerial Meeting of the Committee to be immediately followed by a visit to the countries concerned was fixed for 28/5/79 in Lusaka. A special and in depth Report on this issue will be submitted by the Standing Committee on Sanctions.

#### Paragraph 8

The measures taken before February 1979 for the implementation of this paragraph were included in the Report covering the period between July 1978 and February 1979. It was pointed out that the Meeting of Aeronautics Experts had been convened and should, in principle, have been held in Addis Ababa from 12 to 14 March 1979. A message was sent on 31 January 1979 to all member States reminding them of these dates and requesting them to urgently inform the General Secretariat of their participation in that important Meeting. Soon after the Nairobi Session, i.e. on 6 February 1979, it was noted rather unfortunately, that only seven member States had communicated their reactions to the General Secretariat. Five States replied positively and two negatively. There was therefore, no quorum and the General Secretariat had no other choice than postponing the Meeting. A telegram, to this effect, was sent to member States, what was perfectly in line with OAU practice in the cases of lack of quorum. Unfortunately, certain delegates who did not receive the General Secretariat's messages before leaving their respective countries, came all the way to Addis Ababa. On the insistence of these delegates representing seven member States, a Meeting was organized, which concluded that it could not continue sitting, owing to the lack of quorum.

In future, it would be advisable that member States inform the General Secretariat well in time about their participation in Meetings so that it could organize the latter with greater efficiency.

After the Thirty-Second Session of the Council of Ministers, the Sanctions Section had to implement new Resolutions, namely: Resolution CM/Res.685(XXXII) "hailing Iran's rallying to the sanctions adopted against racist and minority regimes of Southern Africa." The text of that Resolution was forwarded to Iranian Authorities who acknowledged receipt and invited the Standing Committee on Sanctions to visit their country.

## II. INVESTIGATIONS AND REPORTS ON SANCTIONS

The Sanctions Section has a special duty to carry out investigations on violation of sanctions. It also wishes to report on the effects of the application of sanctions. Reports in this area were prepared and communicated to the highest Authorities of the Organization.

Thus, since February 1979, the Sanctions Section has gathered information on all forms of collaboration with the racist regimes in Southern Africa.

This information, gathered from newspapers, magazines, periodicals and various other publications were recorded in a Report entitled "Report of the Administrative Secretary-General on the Application of Sanctions Against the Racist and Minority Regimes of Southern Africa." This Report is being submitted to the Thirty-Third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

Other reports were prepared by the Sanctions Section, including the report on some actions to be taken to strengthen Afro-Arab Co-operation, and collaboration on matters of sanctions. This report is intended for the joint meeting of OAU and LAS Council of Ministers.

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION

In compliance with the resolutions of the Council of Ministers, the General Secretariat has followed-up developments in the situation in the Middle East as well as the question of Palestine.

Since the last meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 1979, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr. Sadat and the Israeli Prime Minister Mr. Menachem Begin signed a Peace Treaty in Washington on 26 March 1979. The instruments of ratification were exchanged between Egypt and Israel on 25 April, 1979, following the approval of the Peace Treaty by the Egyptian and Israeli Governments.

The Treaty calls, among other things, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Israeli occupied Sinai, normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel and the granting of autonomy for the Palestinians on the West-Bank and Gaza Strip.

The majority of Arab countries have condemned the Egyptian Israeli Treaty on the grounds that the agreement falls short of total Israeli withdrawal from all Arab occupied territories and the recognition of the rights of Palestinians to establish their own State.

As a result of the Peace Treaty, all the Arab countries severed diplomatic relations with Egypt. The Arab countries called for economic sanctions against Egypt and the transfer of the Headquarters of the Arab League Secretariat from Cairo to Tunis and the expulsion of Egypt from the Specialised Agencies of the Arab League. Two specific reports dealing with these questions are put to the attention of the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.



MEETING OF THE OAU DEFENCE COMMISSION

In application of Resolution CM/Res.635 (XXXI) of the Council of Ministers, the OAU Defence Commission held its Sixth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa from April 21 - 26, 1979, to consider the question of establishing an Inter-African Defence Force under the aegis of the OAU. Thirty-two OAU Member States have participated in the meeting and the representatives of three OAU Liberation Movements attended as observers.

After careful consideration, the Defence Commission recommended the creation of an Inter-African Military Force to be known as the "OAU Defence Force" under the auspices of the OAU.

The purpose of setting up the "OAU Defence Force" would be to support Member States in the event of aggression from outside the Continent including aggression by the racist minority regimes of Southern Africa against OAU Member States to assist in the liberation struggle in Southern Africa and also to provide peace-keeping/observer force in the event of conflict between OAU Member States. The Guidelines outlining the various Institutions of the proposed "OAU Defence Force", its mandate, conditions of deployment and other detailed information about the Defence Force are submitted in a separate report for the consideration of the Council of Ministers.

CHADIAN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

The situation inside Chad suddenly deteriorated after the Khartoum Summit. In an effort to bring about National reconciliation in Chad, an all-party conference on the Chadian crisis was convened in Kano, Nigeria, between March 10 - 14, 1979, with the participation of the official representative of Cameroun, Libya, Niger, Nigeria and the Sudan. The OAU also participated in the conference as an observer.

Following five days of negotiations the four major Chadian parties signed an agreement, (Kano Accord), on March 15. The Kano Accord laid foundations for peace in the country under new institutions. It called for, among other things, an immediate cease-fire,

demilitarization of Ndjamena, the establishment of a neutral force consisting of Nigerian troops and a general amnesty for political prisoners as well as the formation of a transitional National Union Government. Later there was Kano II, followed by a Meeting in Lagos during which attempts were made to bring about a permanent reconciliation among the sons of Chad; however, peace does not seem to have been restored in the entire country whose stability and unity are vital to Africa.

#### COMORO ISLAND OF MAYOTTE

In its Thirty-First Ordinary Session last year in Khartoum, the Sudan, the Council of Ministers adopted Resolution CM/Res.678 (XXXI) on the Comorian Island of Mayotte in which the Council strongly condemned the illegal occupation by France, of Mayotte and also demanded the unconditional withdrawal of France from Mayotte which is an integral part of the Republic of Comoro.

Since the meeting of the Council in Khartoum, the new Comorian Government and France have re-established diplomatic relations in December, 1978. The two Governments have held discussions about the problem of Mayotte.

#### WESTERN SAHARA

The question of the Spanish Sahara as the territory, was called, has been the subject of exhaustive discussions at the Special Committee of the General Assembly, ever since September 1973 as well as at the Plenary Sessions of the General Assembly ever since December of the same year. The first series of resolutions calling upon Spain to recognise the right of the Sahara to self-determination was adopted by the Committee and on 16 October, 1964 and by the General Assembly itself a year later. The position of Spain during this period was that its African territories were provinces of metropolitan Spain and could therefore not aspire to self-determination.

The Twentieth Session of the General Assembly held in 1966 reaffirmed the right of the people of Spanish Sahara to self-determination and went further to decide on the modalities of the exercise of this right.

At both the United Nations and the OAU, this question has become a permanent subject; the 13th OAU Summit in particular, called for an Extraordinary Session while affirming the principle of self-determination which had been recognized by previous Sessions of the various OAU bodies.

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU Meeting in its Fifteenth Ordinary Session in Khartoum, Sudan, examined the question of Western Sahara in all its details and at the end of its proceedings adopted resolution AHG/Res.92 (XV) through which it established an Ad Hoc Committee composed of five Heads of State among whom, the Head of State of Sudan, Current Chairman of the OAU, to study the question of the Western Sahara. The Committee was to submit a report to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The Assembly guided by the objectives of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, reaffirmed the responsibility of the OAU in the search for just and peaceful solution to the problem of the territory.

Within the framework of the implementation of the resolution, the Current Chairman of the OAU appointed the Heads of State of Guinea, Mali, Nigeria and Tanzania as the Ad Hoc Committee.

Following the change of regimes that took place in Mauritania in July 1978, the POLISARIO Front decided to observe a ceasefire on its Mauritanian front.

The new regime in Mauritania upon accession to power, declared that it was committed to the search for peace in the sub-region and that it would recognize the right of the Saharawi populations to self-determination.

The Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on the Western Sahara, met in Khartoum, the Democratic Republic of Sudan, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency General Jaffar Mohamed El Niemeiri, President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, Current Chairman of the OAU, from the 30th of November to 1st December 1978. After protracted discussions the Committee adopted the following decisions:

- a) To appoint a Sub-Committee composed of the Heads of State of Nigeria and Mali who would visit the Sub-region accompanied by the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU, on a fact-finding Mission.
- b) To appeal to the parties to the conflict to observe an immediate cease-fire to facilitate the task of the Sub-Committee.

The General Assembly of the United Nations meeting on the other hand, in its 33rd Ordinary Session, discussed the question of Western Sahara at length. At the conclusion of its discussions it adopted resolutions 33/31A and 33/31B, concerning the territory. Through resolution 33/31A which was adopted by 86 votes as against 11, 39 abstentions and 13 non-participants, the General Assembly recalled the declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Territories and Peoples as contained in Resolution 1514 (XV), having heard the statements of the representative of the POLISARIO and welcoming the unilateral decision for a ceasefire made at the 12th of July, 1978 by the POLISARIO with the only motivation of securing peace in Western Sahara, affirmed, among other things, the inalienable rights of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence as well as the responsibility of the United Nations in the decolonisation of Western Sahara in accordance with the principles of its Charter and the Declaration.

On the other hand, by Resolution 33/31B adopted by 61 votes as against 24, 43 abstentions and 18 non-participants, the General Assembly, recalling its Resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and Resolution 1544 of 15 December, 1960, considering the decision of the 13th Assembly of the OAU Heads of State and Government meeting in Port Louis, Mauritius to convene an Extraordinary Session devoted to the question of Western Sahara, as well as that of the 15th Session of the Assembly held in Khartoum on the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State to examine the basis of the question of Western Sahara and recalling the relevant provisions of the political declaration adopted by the Fifth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned countries on Western Sahara, expressed confidence that the OAU shall study all the data of the question of Western Sahara in order to be in a position to convene an Extraordinary Summit, and calling upon the OAU to take immediate action to arrive at a fair and equitable settlement of the question of Western Sahara, the General Assembly appealed to all the countries of the region to forbear from any action that might mar the efforts made by the OAU to secure a just and peaceful solution.

On the instructions of the Ad Hoc Committee set up by the Khartoum Summit, the Sub-Committee carried out its mission to Mauritania, Algeria and Morocco. The Sub-Committee composed of the Heads of State of Mali and Nigeria, assisted by the OAU Secretary-General, reported on its mission to the Ad Hoc Committee which met in Khartoum on 23 June last. A report will be submitted on this question to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The development of the situation in this part of Africa will be given in the introduction to the Secretary-General's report.

BUREAU FOR PLACEMENT AND EDUCATION OF AFRICAN REFUGEES (BPEAR)

The most important development since the last meeting of the Council of Ministers in Nairobi with respect to refugee problems in Africa was the convening of the Pan-African Conference on the situation of African Refugees, in Arusha, Tanzania from May 7 to 17, 1979. The OAU General Secretariat together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Economic Commission for Africa co-sponsored this important Conference.

During the preparations of the Arusha Conference, the Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees (BPEAR) has played an important role and represented the General Secretariat, at a number of workshops and seminars in Geneva and Arusha which were organized by the Planning Committee of the Conference.

The Conference was attended by delegation representing 38 Member States, many of whom were headed by Ministers or high-ranking Officials. All Liberation Movements recognized by OAU as well as representatives of about 75 International Organizations, Voluntary Agencies and Diplomatic Missions accredited to Tanzania participated in the Conference.

The Arusha Conference ended by adopting a comprehensive Report and important recommendations that dealt with every aspect of the African Refugee Problems including legal matters like the definition of "Refugee" as given by the different international and regional instruments, granting of assylum in Africa, the treatment of refugees, the accession and implementation by OAU Member States of international and regional legal instruments and the dissemination of refugee law to Member States. The Conference also adopted other recommendations on the Social, Economic, Institutional aspects of African refugees.

The Arusha Refugee Conference also called for the strengthening the Refugee Bureau in the General Secretariat and recommended that all possible political, financial and material support should be given to the Bureau by African countries as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental Organizations involved in refugee work in Africa.

The Arusha Pan-African Conference clearly specified the roles of the African Governments, the OAU, UNHCR and all other inter-governmental and non-governmental Organizations and Agencies with regard to the follow-up of the recommendations.

The Meeting of Committee of Experts on Southern African Refugees  
(May 15, 1979, Arusha, Tanzania)

In spite of repeated calls made by the OAU/BPEAR in 1977 and 1978 to convene a meeting for the Committee of Experts formed in 1977 by virtue of (Res.CM/536(XXVIII)), the meetings of the Committee did not take place because of lack of quorum. However during the Arusha Conference, the Committee which consists of Angola, Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria (absent) and Swaziland, met. Representatives of the OAU Liberation Movements took part in the meeting of the Committee.

The Meeting discussed two information documents prepared by the BPEAR and reference was made in particular to the proposals made by the OAU/BPEAR regarding the setting-up of the "Special Fund" called for by resolutions CM/Res.547(XXIX) and CM/Res.620(XXXI). The BPEAR proposed that a sum of US\$ 5 million be contributed by Member States over a period of 3 to 4 years and that the said fund be used for :

- a) Expansion of education facilities in Front Line States
- b) The setting-up of income generating projects and
- c) Providing scholarships for refugees from Southern Africa.

During its Meeting, the Committee felt that there was need for further information on this matter and that detailed projects with reasonable budget estimates should be prepared. At the Meeting, it was decided that members of the Committee, as well as representatives from Tanzania and Zambia and in co-operation with Liberation Movements in all these countries should bring with them all necessary data and information that could help in the formulation of sound and detailed projects. It was also decided that the Committee should hold another meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania between June 23 and 24, 1979 and consider this matter.

Africa Refugee Day: June 20, 1979

As usual, the OAU General Secretariat celebrated Africa Refugee Day on June 20, 1979, at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa. The Programme included speeches by representatives of the Government of Socialist Ethiopia, OAU Secretary General and the Head of the Regional Liaison Office of UNHCR in Addis Ababa, as well as showing of some relevant films. All African Diplomatic Missions as well as other foreign Missions accredited to Ethiopia were invited for the occasion.



UGANDA/TANZANIA DISPUTE

On 12th October 1978, the then President of Uganda Field Marshall Idi Amin Dada sent a copy of the telegram which he had sent to the Tanzanian President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere to me asking the President to withdraw his troops from Uganda. A copy of the same telegram was sent to the Current Chairman, H.E. President Gaffar El Nimeiry and to the UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.

Uganda in a subsequent declaration said that from the 27th to 30th October, 1978, Uganda alleged that Tanzanian troops had occupied 400 square metres of Ugandan territory. However, this was denied by the Tanzanian President at a dinner party held in Songea, Tanzania.

However, on 29 October, Ugandan troops while declaring that they were chasing Tanzanian troops out of their territory crossed the Tanzanian border and occupied Tanzanian territory as far as the northern part of the Kagera River - west of Lake Victoria and accordingly took control of 710 square miles (1,840 sq. Kms) of this area.

On its part Tanzania declared a general mobilization and consequently massed troops in the battle area to push back Ugandan troops from its territory. In a message to the Secretariat on 31st October 1978, Tanzania complained she had fallen victim to blatant aggression by Uganda, which was contrary to the OAU Charter. Tanzania maintained that it was committed to the defence of its sovereignty and territorial integrity and that it would repulse aggression from Uganda as she could not accept the acquisition of territory by force. Tanzania also demanded not only the immediate withdrawal of Ugandan troops from its territory but that African countries should condemn Uganda for its aggression against Tanzania.

At the beginning of last November, an envoy of the Current Chairman together with the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs went to Tanzania and Uganda and held talks with the two governments on the situation then obtaining between the two countries. As a result of their effort coupled with that of a number of African States such as Nigeria, Guinea and Liberia, Uganda decided to withdraw

from Tanzanian territory. Tanzania however, denied that Ugandan troops had withdrawn from her territory and that they were actually forced out of Tanzanian territory.

Following the outbreak of war between the two countries, several African Heads of State and Government also appealed to the Presidents of Tanzania and Uganda to call for an immediate cease-fire and settle their differences in a spirit of brotherhood and good-neighbourliness as stipulated in the principles of the OAU Charter. Several other African countries, on the other hand, condemned the invasion and occupation by Uganda of parts of Tanzanian Territory and demanded an immediate withdrawal from it by Ugandan troops.

Between December 5-6 the Current Chairman and the Secretary-General of the OAU went to Kampala and Dar es Salaam where they held discussions with the Presidents of Tanzania and Uganda.

During the discussions with the Current Chairman and the Secretary-General, Tanzania spelt out the following conditions before it could accept any mediation efforts:-

- 1) That the OAU should denounce the President of Uganda as an aggressor, since Tanzania is a victim of aggression;
- 2) that the OAU should prevail upon the Ugandan Government to renounce any territorial claim on Tanzania;
- 3) that Uganda should accept to pay compensation for the damages arising out of its aggression against Tanzania.

Despite these efforts aimed at achieving mediation between the two countries, fighting between the two States continued in the border area. Reliable sources indicated that during last December Tanzanian troops had crossed into Ugandan territory from the Akele district area near the Kagera River. On 26 January, 1979, the President of Uganda sent messages to the UN Secretary-General copy of which he sent to the OAU Secretary-General in which he drew his attention to the serious situation on the Uganda/Tanzania border.

The General Secretariat on its part had kept the OAU Current Chairman informed of the escalation of hostilities between the two countries despite previous efforts exerted to re-establish peace in the area and has continued to appeal to the Current Chairman to request the two parties in the conflict to cease all hostilities towards each other.

On 30 January, 1979, the Secretary-General dispatched two envoys to Dar es Salaam and Kampala to deliver messages to the two Heads of State of Tanzania and Uganda aimed at putting a stop to the hostilities. As this did not succeed, a meeting of the OAU Ad Hoc Committee on the Settlement of Intra-African Disputes which was set up in Libreville in July 1977 by the Summit was summoned in Nairobi, Kenya to consider the conflict between Uganda and Tanzania.

The Ad Hoc Committee met in its first session in Nairobi, Kenya from 21 to 22 February, 1979 to consider the matter. After an exhaustive discussion of the question, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- 1) The immediate and total ceasefire by both parties;
- 2) the unequivocal renunciation of territorial claims;
- 3) the withdrawal of forces behind their respective and internationally recognized borders;
- 4) the respect of normative OAU resolutions and Charter principles particularly on non-interference in internal affairs of Member States and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States;
- 5) the reaffirmation by both parties of Mogadishu Agreement and the Addis Ababa Accord;
- 6) the setting up of a control commission to supervise the ceasefire and withdrawal of forces.

The Committee decided:

1. to refer the question of compensation for war damages to the Heads of State and Government of the Ad Hoc Committee through the Current Chairman of the OAU for their consideration,
2. to send missions immediately to the Heads of State of Tanzania and Uganda to convey to them the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee.

In accordance with the last decision, a sub-Committee of the Ad Hoc Committee visited Kampala, Uganda where President Amin accepted the recommendations of the Committee. In another visit to Kampala by the sub-Committee, the then President of Uganda gave an undertaking in writing renouncing all claims on Tanzanian territory.

Another sub-Committee was sent to Tanzania where it was received by President Nyerere. The President appreciated the efforts of the Committee but said that the recommendations were "vague in certain respects." The unequivocal renunciation of territorial claim he insisted should have specifically referred to Uganda for Tanzania has no territorial claims on Uganda or any other country. While President Nyerere saw no difficulty in a reaffirmation by the two parties in Mogadishu and Addis Ababa Agreements, he could not trust Amin to honour such commitments. With regard to the question of compensation, the Tanzanian President would have preferred the Committee to specify that it was Tanzania that was entitled to claim compensation from Uganda and not both parties. He had no difficulty in accepting a ceasefire as his troops had finished their task and the war was over as far as he was concerned.

A second mission to Tanzania to present the written renunciation of Amin's claims on Tanzanian territory to President Nyerere was not successful as the members of the sub-Committee could not meet the President.

However, on 2 March 1979, President Nyerere addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Committee, Major-General H.E. O. Adefope, Commissioner for External of Nigeria in which he gave a detailed observation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee. He reiterated Tanzania's stand on the matter and demanded three verbal statements:

- a) A clear condemnation by the OAU of Ugandan aggression against Tanzania;
- b) A clear renunciation by Uganda of all claims to Tanzanian territory and a promise not to make such claims in the future;
- c) A promise by the Uganda Government to pay compensation to Tanzania for the damage caused to his country by the aggression and by the pillaging and wanton destruction which accompanied it.

President Nyerere then proposed the appointment of a Panel of four Heads of State (two who had condemned Uganda's aggression and two who had not done so), to deal with the matter under the Chairmanship of the Current Chairman of the OAU.

The proposals of the President together with a full report of the Ad Hoc Committee were transmitted to the Current Chairman.

Despite the efforts of the OAU the war escalated leading to the consequent overthrow of President Amin.



1979-07

# Report of the Secretary-General covering the period from February 1979 to June 1979

Organization of African Unity

African Union

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