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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE OAU EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
AT THE UNITED NATIONS



INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period between July 1978 and March 1979. It deals with the activities of the African Group on the one hand, and with the activities of the Executive Secretariat on the other hand.

This office serves as Secretariat to the African Group. As such it organises and prepares its meetings, it co-ordinates the actions of the Group all through the year and, more particularly during the annual session of the General Assembly. In short the Executive Secretariat is right in the centre of all activities of the African Group. Hence, the latter's activity involves wholly the Secretariat. But at the same time, the Secretariat has its own tasks which it endeavours to fulfil.

I - ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN GROUPA - Thirty-third Session of the General Assembly(1) Economic and Social Matters

As the issues of Decolonization are decreasing in number because of the many victories achieved by the African people over colonialism and racial prejudices, the United Nations is turning more and more to the problems of economic development and international co-operation. This is becoming even the more attention engaging, since the decisions of the Sixth and Seventh Extraordinary Sessions of the General Assembly to work actively towards the establishment of a New International Economic Order.

It was against this background that the Thirty-third Session of the General Assembly took up the items related to economic, social and development issues.

Since it was the turn of Africa to designate a Chairman of the Group of 77, the African Group unanimously nominated the Permanent Representative of Tunisia, Ambassador Mahmoud MESTIRI to become the Chairman of the Group of 77. This helped quite a lot the determination of the positions of the African delegates on the many issues which had to be considered. It must be recalled that on these issues, the African Group worked actively and positively within the Group of 77. The smaller Group of 27 of the 77 of which nine members are Africans is practically the laboratory where all decisions of the 77 are initially drafted.

The great number of resolutions adopted by the Thirty-third Session confirms the increased importance being accorded to the economic matters. In fact, all in all 67 resolutions were adopted; of these 13 concerned Africa directly. The remaining resolutions with the exception of few dealt with areas which are of interest to Africa.

It should be noted that in spite of consistent efforts of the developing countries and numerous lengthy negotiating sessions, the Thirty-third Session did not break any new grounds on the major issues before it. No new concessions have been made by developed countries, and on the whole the resolutions reflect past positions taken in other forums. The drafting and redrafting exercise ended up by using compromise texts already agreed upon in past sessions of the UN fora.

Resolutions directly referring to African countries

Following the tradition of the past two years, the Second Committee adopted 11 resolutions on Assistance to Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tomé et Príncipe, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Lesotho, Seychelles, Botswana, Zambia, Djibouti, Drought stricken areas in Ethiopia.

These resolutions appealed to the international community and the UN Family to provide assistance to those countries as a matter of urgency. It should be recalled that the above countries are facing difficulties which are a result of dislocations in their economies as a result of the geopolitical situation particularly those in Southern Africa and assistance programmes for them were initiated by the Security Council as in the case of Zambia, Lesotho, Botswana and Mozambique. The second category of countries are newly independent countries which have won their independence after a long war of liberation and are lacking most of the infrastructure for their economic development.

These groups of countries are handled by the Officer of the Under Secretary-General for Special Political Assistance and Coordinator of the UN Special Economic Assistance Programmes. This Office has organized numerous missions to these countries and has identified and quantified their needs. The excellent reports on these missions were studied by the Second Committee. It was clear that the assistance so far provided fell short of the needs of these countries. The urgent need for assistance was stressed by the representative of the Secretary-General.

It should be noted that the UN has established special accounts for assistance to these countries separately and in the case of Zambia a Consultative Group has already been established with the membership of the UN, the World Bank and the major donor countries.

Besides appealing to the international community for more assistance, the resolutions requested the Secretary-General to continue and intensify his efforts to assist these countries. To this end, he was requested to organize meetings of interested donor countries with a view of encouraging them to make specific pledges to the identified high priority programmes in each country. The Secretary-General was also requested to keep the matter under continuous review and report to ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

The Sudano-Sahelian Zone

In this respect, the Assembly adopted two resolutions on the Sudano-Sahelian Zone and on Desertification:

Measures taken to benefit Sudano-Sahelian Zone

This resolution calls for the enlargement of the UN Sahelian Office to allow it to discharge its increased responsibilities as a result of the decision of UNEP to designate it as the UN organ entrusted with assisting the 15 countries in the region to implement the plan of action to combat desertification. These countries are: Chad, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Cameroun and Upper Volta.

Implementation of the Medium-Term and Long-Term Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme in the Sudano-Sahelian Region

This is a traditional resolution which calls for continued support to the efforts of the Inter-State Committee for its long and medium-term plans. The resolution notes the reports of the Secretary-General and calls for support of the efforts of the Inter-State Committee to establish emergency and security stockpiles of basic food-stuffs and agricultural inputs. It also calls for support of short-term measures taken by the States to combat the effects of drought until the medium and long-term efforts produce their full effect.

Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

Although this is a general resolution, its significance to Africa is so great that it warrants inclusion among resolutions related to Africa. It should be noted that since the Conference on Desertification the main difficulty has been the question of financing the plan of action to combat desertification. The developing countries have insisted that a special account should be established within the UN to finance regional, sub-regional and national projects within the framework of the Plan of Action. The developed

countries particularly the Socialist countries have rejected the proposal. During the current session, this conflict has resulted on a separate vote of the paragraph on the financing and on the resolution as a whole.

The resolution takes note of the establishment of the Consultative Group on Desertification and urges it to expedite its work to assist the Executive Secretary of UNEP to implement the Plan of Action. It also calls on donor countries to increase their assistance to countries engaged in the fight against desertification. It further requests the Secretary-General to solicit Governments' views on additional measures and means to finance the Plan of Action.

UN Transport & Telecommunications Decade in Africa

The resolution adopted by the General Assembly on this matter requests the Secretary-General of the UN to provide the ICA as the "Lead Agency" for the Decade with the necessary financial and staff resources that will enable it to make all preparatory arrangements for the Decade including the preparations and the convening of the African ministerial meeting.

It further requests the Secretary-General to make arrangements to convene a pledging conference of donor countries and institutions in the first half of 1979 on the basis of projects included in the African plan of action for the Transport and Communications Decade.

Finally, the resolution appeals to developed countries to contribute generously to the financing of the Transport Decade in Africa.

GENERAL ISSUES

International Development Strategy DD III

This was perhaps the most important resolution of this session. Negotiations between developing and developed countries continued for a long time. At times, it was very difficult and frustrating. The developed countries were going back to previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and insisted on quoting only resolutions they were parties to.

The resolution outlines the objectives of the Decade; deals with issues of co-ordination of all UN forums efforts; establishes a preparatory committee for the Decade open to participation by all member countries; entrusts the Director General for Development with providing over all guidance to the preparatory work, co-ordination and orientation of the UN family efforts; requests all UN agencies and organs heads to co-operate fully in this exercise, and requests all agencies to provide documentation and any other assistance relevant to the preparation of the Decade strategy.

It also requests the Committee for Development Planning to take fully into account the objectives for the Decade as set out in this resolution.

It is not possible to do justice to such an important resolution but it should be noted that the African position was fully taken account of during the discussions and the negotiations. The Africans insistence on a regional approach to the preparation effort was recognized and a major role was given to the economic commissions in the preparation for the Decade.

The resolution also includes a preambular paragraph which takes note of the decision adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU in its Fourteenth Session in Libreville, approving the revised framework of principles for implementation of the New International Economic Order in Africa.

It is also important to note that among the important objectives of the Decade is its general orientation to implement the New International Economic Order and further its objectives.

Preparations for the Special Session of the General Assembly in 1980.

The objectives of the Special Session which was decided last year in resolution 32/174, is to assess progress made in various forums of the UN system in the Establishment of the New International Economic Order and on the basis of that assessment, to take appropriate action for the promotion of the development of developing countries and international economic co-operation.

Restructuring the UN Economic and Social Sectors

It would be recalled that the Thirty-second Session of the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/197 on Restructuring. The resolution included a detailed annex of the restructuring needed. The present resolution is a follow-up of that resolution. The resolution expresses the view that implementation of recommendations have been slow in certain areas, the thrust of the resolution is to accelerate the implementation of resolution 33/197 with a view of making the UN more effective in dealing with development and international economic co-operation. It therefore requests the ECOSOC and the Committee for Programme Co-operation to give the highest priority to the implementation of resolution 33/197.

The resolution also reaffirms the functions of the Director General for Development and Co-operation and his authority over all UN organs in the economic and social field.

Of particular interest to Africa is Section V of this resolution particularly paragraphs 3 and 4 which grant the regional commissions the status of executing agencies particularly for regional and sub-regional projects and, requests the Secretary-General to expedite the process of decolonization in favour of regional commission particularly of research and analysis activities and technical co-operation projects. The resolution was adopted by consensus.

UNCTAD

The General Assembly adopted 16 resolutions relating to the work of UNCTAD ; among these are the traditional resolutions on Least Developed and Land-Locked Countries, Transfer of Technology and Financial Problems. The resolutions dealing with UNCTAD V, the UN Conference on Restrictive Practices, The UN Conference on a Code of Conduct for Transfer of Technology, Debt Problems of Developing Countries, the Integrated Programme of Commodities deserve a separate mention. It should be noted that the Assembly also adopted a resolution on Trade Protectionism and the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Resolutions relating to UNCTAD have a special significance in view of the fact that UNCTAD V is scheduled to take place in May 1979.

Least Developed Countries

The resolution urges the UNDP and the World Bank and other financial institutions to increase the flow of financial and technical resources to the least developed countries. It also reaffirms the decision of the Paris Conference with respect to allocating one billion dollars for a special action programme for the LDCs. It also welcomes resolutions 165(S.IX) on Debt Problems and the measures recommended to assist LDCs therein and resolution 171 (XVIII) on Special Measures in Favour of the LDCs.

The resolution also requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to prepare an outline of a new action programme for the least developed countries in the 1980's for consideration by UNCTAD V.

The Land-Locked Countries

The Assembly adopted two resolutions on the Land-Locked Countries.

Specific Action related to the particular needs of Land-Locked Developing Countries

This resolution's main operative paragraph reaffirms the right of land-locked developing countries to free access to and from the sea and their right to freedom of transit. It also calls for implementation of measures already adopted by the UN in favour of land-locked countries and urges the UN system and the international community to provide the land-locked countries with aid and financial assistance in the form of grants for the construction and maintenance of their transport and transit infrastructures and facilities. It also invites the UNDP and other financial institutions to provide additional resources for technical assistance needs of developing countries.

UN Special Fund for Land-Locked Developing Countries

The resolution deals with the pledging conference for the UN Special Fund for the Land-Locked Countries. It expresses concern at the very low level of announced contributions at the pledging conference and urges Member States to make immediate and generous contributions. It invites the Administrator of UNDP and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to provide land-locked countries with assistance to enable them to identify and elaborate projects to be financed by the Fund and further invites them to continue their efforts in assisting the land-locked countries.

Common Fund under the Integrated Programme of Commodities

The resolution on this subject deals with a procedural matter namely the endorsement of the recommendation to hold a Third Session of the Conference on the Integrated Programme of Commodities before UNCTAD V. It also stresses the need for reaching agreement on the Fund before UNCTAD V. It should be noted that the second session was reported to have made considerable progress towards reaching a generally acceptable agreement on the Fund.

Among the other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly is one on Debt Problems of developing countries which was passed by a vote. It mainly calls for implementation of UNCTAD Board resolutions on Debt Problems of developing countries particularly those most seriously affected LDCs and LLCs. It requests UNCTAD to recommend policy measures to combat inflationary phenomenon and to eliminate economic and social effects of internationally transmitted inflation on the developing countries.

Acceleration of Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries

Under this heading the General Assembly adopted by a vote two resolutions :

- (a) The first of these resolutions deals mainly with Transfer of Resources to Developing Countries on a predictable, continuous and increasing assured basis. It calls for the attainment of 0.7% target for ODA, it calls for pledging of voluntary contributions to the UN development effort on a multi-year basis.

It is interesting to note that this resolution was sponsored by Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Only the United States casted a negative vote.

(b) The second resolution deals with Finance for Development. This is a procedural resolution which takes note of the report prepared on the subject as a result of resolution 32/177 of the General Assembly. It requests the Secretary-General to continue to study the matter further. In voting of this resolution there were no negative votes but the developed countries abstained.

UNIDO

The General Assembly adopted without a vote four resolutions on UNIDO. Three of these are substantive and deal with the Third UNIDO General Conference; the Industrial Development co-operation; the Convention of UNIDO into a Specialized Agency. In this third resolution, the Assembly recalls the decision of the Second Conference of UNIDO and the General Assembly to convert UNIDO into a specialized agency and regrets the fact that the Conference held in Feb/March 1978 was not able to finalize the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency. The General Assembly decided to convene a Conference of Plenipotentiaries at Vienna for two weeks between March 19 and April 12, 1979 in order to finalize and adopt the Constitution on UNIDO as a Specialized Agency.

Food Problems

On this subject the Assembly adopted one resolution entitled "Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council". It should be recalled that the World Food Council held its Fourth Ministerial Session in Mexico City from 12 to 15 June 1978, and adopted a Declaration on the World Food situation and implementation of the Manila Communiqué of the World Food Council's Programme of Action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

The present resolution endorses the Mexico Declaration; urges Governments to co-operate fully with the World Food Council in its implementation; appeals to food surplus countries to increase their food aid and adopts a number of requests addressed to the World Food Council to deal with during its next session.

UNDP

On the UNDP, the General Assembly adopted only one resolution in which it took note of the report of the Governing Council of UNDP. It should be noted, however, that almost all resolutions adopted by the Assembly involve UNDP some way or another. The UNDP is the central funding body for operational activities of the UN development system, as was clearly outlined in the comprehensive statement of UNDP Administrator before the Second Committee. More specifically, some of the resolutions to be dealt with in this report, such as the UN Conference on TCDC were entrusted to UNDP and also the resolution on UN Volunteers and the Capital Development Fund, and the Land-Locked Countries Fund.

UN Conference on TCD

The UN Conference on TCDC was held in Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978. The preparation for the Conference was entrusted to the Administrator of UNDP. The resolution recalls inter alia the OAU resolutions CM/Res. 560 (XXIX) and CM/Res. 659 (XX) and the Afro-Arab Summit decisions. It declares the Conference a major step in strengthening co-operation among developing countries; it endorses the Plan of Action and resolutions adopted by the Conference and decides to entrust the overall inter-governmental review to a high level meeting of Government representatives to be convened by the Administrator of UNDP and that the first meeting of this body should be held during 1980.

UNICEF & International Year of the Child

The Assembly adopted two resolutions on the above, the first inter alia endorses the target of \$240 million for the UN Children Fund in 1980 and urges all Governments to increase their contributions to the Fund. The second resolution also invites all Heads of State and Government to issue special messages in connexion with the International Year of the Child.

The Six Replenishment of the International Development
Associate (IDA) and the Recapitalization of the World
Bank (IBRD)

The resolution recalls in particular the General Assembly resolution 31/181 of 1976 on the same subject; and calls upon all contributing Governments to take steps to ensure an adequate increase in real terms in the resources of IDA. The thrust of the resolution is an appeal to finalize governmental action to secure real commitments to contribute to IDA during the Sixth Replenishment taking in account that the current replenishment expires in June 1980.

Other Issues

It is not possible to cover all resolutions in this report. We have therefore endeavoured to be highly selective. Among the resolutions which have not been mentioned are those on the role of public sector in development, UNITAR, the UN University, Assistance to the Palestinian People and on UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

Similarly the Thirty-third Session adopted many resolutions on various items related to the social aspects of development and the subject of human rights and racial discrimination, of particular importance to the OAU were resolutions on :

- (a) Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.
- (b) National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress.
- (c) Alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- (d) United Nations Decade for Women.
- (e) The World Refugees Problem.

However, the Thirty-third Session devoted a lot of time to political issues on which many resolutions were also adopted.

(2) Political Matters

At the outset, it must be recalled that consonant with past practice the Executive Secretariat had compiled all the actions deriving from the resolutions of the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

The African Group reviewed all those actions and mapped out its strategy well before the beginning of the session. These resolutions served as the basis for most of the resolutions which were adopted by the General Assembly on the issues on its agenda and specially on political matters.

Apartheid Policies of the Government of South Africa

On this item, with the close co-operation of the Special Committee against Apartheid, the African Group prepared 15 resolutions which were approved by the General Assembly. These resolutions deal with all the various aspects of apartheid and made a series of recommendations for the intensification of the mobilization of the international community against the evil policies of apartheid in South Africa. In this context, a resolution was adopted on Economic Collaboration with South Africa.

In this resolution the General Assembly reiterated its conviction that mandatory economic sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter were essential to facilitate the speedy eradication of apartheid. The Assembly requested the Security Council urgently to consider mandatory economic sanctions against the racist régime of South Africa and expressed concern that the major Western and other trading partners of South Africa continue

to collaborate with the racist régime and that their collaboration constituted a threat to international peace and security and the elimination of the inhuman and criminal system of apartheid.

In the Resolution on Military Collaboration with South Africa, the Assembly requested the Security Council to declare that any military or nuclear collaboration with South Africa constituted a threat to international peace and security and requested the Council urgently to take mandatory measures under Chapter VII of the Charter to end all military and nuclear collaboration with the apartheid régime and all supplies of material or technology to or from Southern Africa which could be used for military purposes or for the development of nuclear weapon capability.

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In the Resolution on Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, the Assembly requested the Security Council to consider measures aimed at effectively preventing South Africa from developing nuclear weapons and called upon all States which have not yet done so, in particular France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Israel and the United States, to cease all collaborations with the racist régime of South Africa in the nuclear field and to take measures to prevent such collaboration by corporations, institutions and other bodies and individuals within their jurisdiction.

Regarding Oil Embargo Against South Africa, the Assembly considered for the first time a separate resolution on oil embargo against South Africa. Previously the issue of oil embargo was being included in the resolution on economic collaboration. But this year it was felt that the issue of oil embargo was very important and that it should have its own resolution to highlight the urgency of an oil embargo against the racist régime in South Africa.

In this resolution the Assembly requested the Security Council to consider urgently a mandatory embargo on the supply of petroleum and petroleum products to South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter and further requested all States to enact legislation to prohibit the sale or supply of petroleum and petroleum products to any person or body to South Africa or to any person or body for the purpose of eventual supply to South Africa.

Concerning Investments in South Africa, as in the previous years, the resolution was initiated by the Nordic countries and geared towards cessation of new foreign investment in and financial loan to South Africa. The Nordic countries have been sponsoring this resolution in order to get those Western countries and others which find it difficult to withdraw their investments from South Africa, at least to cease further investments or give fresh financial loans to South Africa.

In the resolution the General Assembly stated that a cessation of new foreign investments in and financial loans to South Africa would constitute an important step in international action for the elimination of apartheid. The Assembly noted that a number of transnational corporations, financial institutions and other interest had continued to make new investments to South Africa, and urged the Security Council to consider the

matter at an early date with a view to taking effective steps to achieve the cessation of further foreign investments in and financial loans to South Africa. This resolution was adopted by a vote of 117 in favour to none against with 10 abstentions.

The Resolution dealing with the Situation in South Africa covers the general political situation in South Africa, and enables the General Assembly to pronounce and assess the situation in the country. In the resolution the General Assembly re-affirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa and their national liberation movements. For the first time expression "by all available and appropriate means including armed struggle for the seizure of power by the people" was used in the resolution.

Another resolution was adopted on Relations between Israel and South Africa.

This resolution drew a lot of controversy, both within the African Group which initially considered the draft resolution and later within the non-aligned States. Many delegations felt that Israel should not be singled out for condemnation among many others that have special relations with South Africa or collaborate with South Africa in the same areas for which Israel was being sanctioned. There were some who also felt that a separate resolution on Israel's relations with South Africa is superfluous since Israel had announced its compliance of Security Council resolution on Mandatory Arms Embargo against South Africa. The proponents of the resolution insisted that Israel was the new comer among collaborators of South Africa and as such special action was requested. The resolution adopted in this session was a watered down version of last year's. Instead of condemning Israel as a country, the Assembly condemned its policy of collaboration with the racist régime of South Africa and demanded

that Israel desist from and terminate all forms of collaboration with South Africa and abide scrupulously by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Regarding Political Prisoners in South Africa, the Assembly demanded that the racist régime of South Africa end violence and repression against the black people and other opponents of apartheid, release all persons imprisoned or restricted under arbitrary laws for their opposition to apartheid and to abrogate the bans on organization and news media opposed to apartheid.

Dissemination of Information on Apartheid

This is another non-controversial resolution which was adopted unanimously by 130 votes in favour to none against with no abstentions. The resolution requested the Secretary-General to intensify and expand the production of radio programmes for broadcast to Southern Africa, and again urged Member States whose radio transmitters could reach South Africa and adjacent territories to make transmission facilities available for those broadcasts. It also expressed appreciation to the States whose broadcasting organizations were already co-operating in this regard.

As for Assistance to the Oppressed People of South Africa and their National Liberation Movements, the Assembly appealed to all States to provide increased humanitarian and educational assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa, as well as all assistance required by the South African national liberation movement in its legitimate struggle for the exercise of the right of self-determination by the people of South Africa as a whole, and to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and all specialized agencies and institutions within the



United Nations system to provide increased assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their national liberation movements and to report annually to the Secretary-General.

In the resolution on Apartheid in Sports, the Assembly requested the Ad-hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against Apartheid in Sports to continue its work with a view to completing a draft International Convention against Apartheid in Sports for submission to the General Assembly at its Thirty-fourth Session and appealed to all States, international and national sports bodies and sportsmen to implement strictly the International Declaration against Apartheid in Sports which was adopted and proclaimed by the Assembly in 1977.

The last three resolutions were on the Programme of Work of the Special Committee, the International Mobilisation Against Apartheid and the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa.

Question of Namibia

The General debate on the Question of Namibia during the Session has been affected by the Western demarche towards the peaceful resolution of the Namibian question. By the time the Thirty-third Session of the General Assembly has been conveyed, late September, the Security Council has already adopted its resolution 435 in which the Council spelt out how the Namibian question could be resolved based on the Western plan which both the South African racist régime and SWAPO had given their approval. But the South African authorities were bent on staging their so-called internal elections which everyone, including the Western countries, regarded as null and void.

The debate could not be held at the early part of the session on the insistence of the West who would not like their effort and initiatives be marred by a General Assembly action at that stage. They were still to make another visit to South Africa to make a last minute effort to bring the South African authorities in line with the agreement reached earlier, and get them put off their unilateral elections.

The Western demarch was not successful. The South Africans in effect got a tacit Western agreement that the South Africans should go ahead with their so-called internal elections though the Western five had made it clear that the elections, if held, were to be null and void. The Western five, however, were able to get an undertaking from the South African authorities that they would make a categorical announcement of their acceptance or non-acceptance of Resolution 435 by the end of December 1978. It was understood also that the Western five had also threatened to initiate or go along with other Members of the Security Council for certain mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter against South Africa if it continued to defy the Security Council by refusing to implement Resolution 435.

It was under those backgrounds the debate on Namibia was taken up in the Plenary of the General Assembly. Three resolutions were adopted.

Situation in Namibia

In this resolution, the Assembly requested all Member States to co-operate fully with the United Nations Council for Namibia illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa constituted an act of aggression against the Namibian people and their national liberation movement, as well as against the United Nations.

The Assembly further condemned the activities of all foreign corporations operating in Namibia under the illegal administration of South Africa which were illegally exploiting the human and national resources of the Territory and demanded that transnational corporations comply with all pertinent United Nations resolutions by abstaining from any new investments in Namibia. The Assembly reiterated that Walvis Bay was an integral part of Namibia and that any decision by South Africa to annex Walvis Bay was illegal, null and void; and condemned South Africa for its persistent refusal to comply with the pertinent resolutions of the Security Council, in particular Resolution 385 (1976) and subsequent resolutions.

The Assembly strongly condemned the decision of South Africa to impose in Namibia a so-called internal settlement, designed to give semblance of power to a puppet régime and a cover of legality to the racist occupation, to foster civil war and to propagate the fiction that the struggle of the Namibian people for the liberation of the Territory constituted aggression for the outside.

The Assembly recommended that, in the light of South Africa's failure to comply with Security Council Resolution 385 (1976) and subsequent resolutions, the Council should urgently convene to take effective measures including sanctions provided for under Chapter VII of the Charter.

The Assembly decided to convene the Thirty-third Session at a time to be decided in consultation between the President of the General Assembly, the president of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Secretary-General in order to consider fully the question of Namibia, and the implications of the South Africa's continued defiance of UN resolutions. It also decided to expand the UN Council for Namibia by the addition of up to six members on the basis of consultations by the President of the General Assembly with the regional groups.

South Africa's Refusal to Comply with United Nations
Resolution on Namibia

In this resolution the Assembly condemned the South African régime for unilaterally holding elections in Namibia from 4 to 8 December 1978, in contravention and defiance of Security Council resolutions 385 (1976) and 439 (1978), and declared those elections null and void and of no consequence to the attainment of genuine independence for Namibia. It also called upon all Member States not to accord any form of recognition to any representative of organ established as a result of those elections. It also condemned South Africa for its recent acts of violence against, and in intimidation and detention of, leaders of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and would demand their immediate release.

The Assembly solemnly declared that South Africa's non-compliance with the afore-mentioned resolutions of the Security Council constituted a threat to international peace and security and necessitated the imposition of effective sanctions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. It requested the Security Council to consider as a matter of urgency further appropriate action under the Charter, including Chapter VII thereof, in order to secure South Africa's compliance with its relevant resolutions, and the Assembly would decide, if the Security Council should be unable to act effectively, to consider the situation further and to take all necessary measures in conformity with its relevant resolutions and the Charter for the purposes of dealing with this threat to international peace and security.

The Programme of Work of the UN Council for Namibia

In this resolution the Assembly approved the report of the Council including the recommendations contained therein, and decided to make adequate financial provisions for their implementations.

The Council should represent the Territory, ensure that its rights were protected and open a special account to finance the Nationhood Programme in consultation with SWAPO. The resolution also provided for the allocation of \$500,000.00 to the United Nations Fund for Namibia for the regular budget of the United Nations.

Question of Southern Rhodesia

Under this item two resolutions were adopted by the General Assembly:

(i) Resolution A - (Situation in Southern Rhodesia)

In this resolution, the Assembly reaffirmed the principle that there should be no independence before majority rule in Zimbabwe and that any settlement relating to the future of the Territory must be worked out with the full participation of the Patriotic Front and in accordance with the true aspiration of the people of Zimbabwe.

It called upon the Government of United Kingdom, in the discharge of its primary responsibilities as the administering power, to take all effective measures to enable the people of Zimbabwe to accede to independence in accordance with their deep aspirations and not under any circumstances to accord to the illegal régime any of the powers or attributes of sovereignty.

The Assembly condemned and rejected the so-called internal settlement reached at Salisbury on 3 March 1978 and strongly denounced all other manoeuvres of the illegal racist minority régime aimed at the retention of power by a racist minority. It declared the so-called internal settlement null and void, in conformity with Security Council Resolution 432 (1978). It also declared illegal any internal settlement under the auspices of the illegal régime and called upon all States not to accord any recognition to such settlement.

(ii) Resolution B - (Mandatory Sanctions)

In this resolution, the Assembly condemned those governments, particularly the Government of South Africa, which, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and in open contravention of their specific obligations under Article 2, paragraph 5, and Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations, continued to collaborate with the illegal racist minority régime, and urged those governments to cease forthwith all such collaboration.

In addition, the Assembly condemned those governments which violated the mandatory sanctions adopted by the Security Council, as well as certain governments which contrived to fail to enforce the sanctions, in contravention of the obligations assumed by Article 25 of the Charter. It also deplored the decisions of the United States Government to allow entry into United States of Ian Smith and some members of the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia, in flagrant violation of the decision of the United Nations, in particular Security Council Resolution 253 (1968) of 29 May 1968.

The Assembly strongly condemned the supply of petroleum and petroleum products to Southern Rhodesia by oil companies of the United Kingdom and other countries which, but that deliberate act, were circumventing United Nations sanctions and strengthening the illegal régime of Ian Smith.

The Assembly deplored the complicity of successive United Kingdom Governments in the violation of United Nations sanctions by British Oil companies, as exposed in the Bingham Report on the supply of petroleum and petroleum products to the illegal régime of Ian Smith. It deemed it imperative that the scope of sanctions against the illegal régime should be widened to include all the measures envisaged under Article 41 of the

Charter and reiterated its requests that the Security Council should consider taking the necessary measures in that regard as a matter of urgency. Lastly, the Assembly requested the Security Council to impose, among other things, a mandatory embargo on the supply of petroleum and petroleum products to South Africa in view of the fact that petroleum and petroleum products were transported from South Africa to Southern Rhodesia.

Most of the countries that abstained in both resolutions A and B are West European countries, and the reasons they gave for abstaining were their usual excuses, i.e. they do not want to vote one way or another so as not to jeopardize the initiative being taken by the United Kingdom and the United States governments for a peaceful solution of the problem. Some of them also explained that their respective governments could not subscribe to armed struggle.

In addition to the issues in Southern Africa, the General Assembly considered other important items of vital interest to Africa on which resolutions were adopted. Among these issues, one should mention the Questions of Western Sahara, the Comorian Island of Mayotte, the Denuclearisation of Africa, the Middle East, the Palestinian Question and the general issue of Decolonisation.

Question of Western Sahara

After the debate on this question, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions A and B. Algeria was among the sponsors of Resolution A while Morocco and Mauritania were among the sponsors of Resolution B. The main difference between those two resolutions is that Resolution A reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence and also makes mention of the POLISARIO. Resolution B does not talk of the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara and naturally does not mention POLISARIO.

(i) Resolution A

In this resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence. The resolution also reaffirmed the responsibility of the United Nations with regard to the decolonization of Western Sahara, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The resolution took note of the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU at its Fifteenth Ordinary Session held at Khartoum from 18 to 22 July 1978 to establish an Ad-hoc Committee of Heads of State to consider all the data on the question of Western Sahara, including the exercise of the right of that Territory to self-determination. It also requested the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU to keep the Secretary-General of the United Nations informed of the progress achieved with regard to the implementation of the decisions of the OAU concerning Western Sahara.

(ii) Resolution B

In this resolution, the Assembly took note of the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU at its Fifteenth Ordinary Session held at Khartoum from 18 to 22 July 1978 to establish an Ad-Hoc committee of Heads of State. It expressed confidence that the Ad-hoc Committee will consider all the data on the question of Western Sahara with a view to convening the extraordinary summit meeting of the OAU. It also invited the OAU to take prompt action to find a just and equitable settlement on the question of Western Sahara.

The Assembly appealed to all States in the region to refrain from any action that might impede the efforts of the OAU to arrive at a just and peaceful solutions of the problem. It finally requested the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the results achieved by the Ad-hoc Committee and invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to request thereon to the General Assembly.

Comorian Island of Mayotte

In view of serious and unhelpful developments in the Comoros created by the invasion of the islands by some mercenaries which brought in a new government in that country, the African Group could not pursue the consideration of this question in the General Assembly in the way it should be done. For this reason no active debate took place. The Assembly simply took note of the following decision which was the best line of action left to all sides :

The Assembly took note of a report of the Secretary-General on the Comorian Island of Mayotte. In that report the Secretary-General took note of the information provided by the governments of the Comoros and France relating to the changed state of relations between their two countries including the exchange of diplomatic representatives.

The report also stated that in view of developments, and having referred to the two communications received from the Government of the Comoros, the Secretary-General had informed the parties concerned of his readiness to continue his efforts in favour of a settlement of that question.

The Assembly also decided to include the question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte in the provisional agenda at its Thirty-fourth Session.

Pursuant to the decision taken at the Khartoum Summit earlier the African Group refused to seat the Comoro delegation at its meetings, and decided to walk out of any United Nations meeting whenever a Comorian delegate took the floor to speak.

Denuclearisation of Africa

In this resolution, the Assembly strongly reiterated its call upon all States to consider and respect the Continent of Africa, comprising the continental African States, Madagascar and other islands surrounding Africa as a nuclear-weapon free zone.

The Assembly vigorously condemned any attempt by South Africa to introduce in any way whatsoever nuclear weapons into the African continent. It demanded that South Africa should refrain forthwith from conducting any nuclear explosions in the continent of Africa or elsewhere. It requested the Security Council to exercise a close watch on South Africa and to take appropriate effective steps to prevent South Africa from developing and acquiring nuclear weapons which endangered international peace and security.

Middle East

In this resolution, the General Assembly condemned Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and repeated resolutions of the United Nations.

It further declared that peace is indivisible and that a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem must be based on a comprehensive solution, under the auspices of the United Nations, which takes into account all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in particular the attainment by the Palestinian people of all its inalienable national rights and the Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

Finally, it reaffirmed that until Israel withdraws from all occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, and until the Palestinian people attain and exercise their inalienable national rights, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, in which all countries and peoples in the region live in peace and security within recognized and secure boundaries, will not be achieved.

Question of Palestine

In the resolution adopted on this question, the General Assembly reaffirmed that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East cannot be established without the achievement, inter alia, of a just solution of the problem of Palestine on the basis of the attainment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of return and the right to national independence and sovereignty in Palestine, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

It also called once more for the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people, to participate, on the basis of the General Assembly resolution 3236 (XXIX), in all efforts, deliberations and conferences on the Middle East which are held under the auspices of the United Nations, on an equal footing with other parties.

It further expressed its regret and concern that the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 31/20 and 32/40 A have not been implemented.

General Issues of Decolonization - Under this item, the General Assembly adopted four resolutions dealing with:

Implementation of the Declaration of Decolonization

In this resolution, the Assembly reaffirmed resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2321 (XXV) and all other resolutions on decolonization and called upon the Administering Powers to take all the necessary steps to enable the dependent peoples of the Territory concerned to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

It affirmed once again that the continuation of colonialism in all its forms and manifestation - including racism, apartheid, the exploitation by foreign and other interests of economic and human resources, and waging of colonial wars to suppress the national liberation movements of the colonial Territories in Africa - was incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and posed a serious threat to international peace and security.

It condemned the intensified activities of foreign economic and other interests which were impeding the implementation of the Declaration on Decolonization, particularly, in Southern Africa. It also strongly condemned all collaboration, particularly in the nuclear and military fields, with the Government of South Africa and called upon the States concerned to cease forthwith all such collaboration, particularly in the nuclear and military fields, with the Government of South Africa and called upon the States concerned to cease forthwith all such collaboration. Finally, it called upon the colonial powers to withdraw immediately and unconditionally their military bases, and installations from colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones. This resolution was adopted by 129 votes to none with 6 abstentions.

Activities of Foreign Economic and Other Interests

In this resolution, the Assembly reiterated that any administering or occupying power which deprived the colonial peoples of the exercise of their legitimate rights over their natural resources or subordinated the rights and interests of these peoples to foreign economic and financial interests violated the solemn obligations it had assumed under the Charter of the United Nations.

The Assembly strongly condemned the collusion of States which collaborated politically, diplomatically, economically and militarily with South Africa in flagrant violations of the relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly that Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

It also strongly condemned the collusion of France, Federal Republic of Germany, Israel and the United States with South Africa in the nuclear field, and called upon all other governments to continue to refrain from supplying the racist minority régime of South Africa, directly or indirectly with installations that might enable it to produce uranium, plutonium and other nuclear material, reactors or military equipment. This resolution was adopted by 83 votes to 14 with 34 abstentions.

Implementation of the Declaration by Specialized Agencies

In this resolution, the General Assembly expressed its concern that the assistance extended so far by the Specialized Agencies and other organizations within the United Nations systems to the colonial peoples, particularly, those of Zimbabwe and Namibia, and to their national liberation movements was far from adequate in relation to the actual needs of the peoples concerned.

The Assembly regretted that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund had not yet taken the necessary measures towards the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, deplored in particular the fact that these agencies continued to maintain co-operation with the colonialist racist minority régime of South Africa and urged the executive heads of these agencies to draw the particular attention of their governing organs to the present resolution with a view to formulating to the peoples of the colonial Territories, particularly Zimbabwe and Namibia. This resolution was adopted by 133 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

Dissemination of Information on Decolonisation

In this resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of effecting the widest possible dissemination of information on the evils and dangers of colonialism, on the determined efforts of colonial peoples to achieve self-determination, freedom and independence and on the assistance being provided by the international community towards the elimination of the remaining vestiges of colonialism in all its forms. This resolution was adopted by 135 to none, with no abstentions.

II - OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

In addition to these activities during the Thirty-third Session of the General Assembly, the African Group was kept busy during the period under consideration by many other issues and more particularly by the Namibian question at the Security Council.

Indeed on this question, the African Group held about 10 meetings (without mentioning the many other protected sessions of difficult negotiations on draft resolutions with the Western Powers) to consider the strategy at the Security Council.

It will be recalled that following the agreement at Luanda between SWAPO and the representatives of the Five Western countries, the Security Council met on the 26 and the 30 of July 1978, to approve the proposals for the settlement of the Namibian question as prepared by the Five Western countries. Following this decision of the Security Council, the UN Secretary-General dispatched a group to Namibia to study the situation and to report to the Council as to the modalities for the implementation of the Western proposals.

This report was submitted by the Secretary-General in September to the Security Council, the recommendations it contained were however not acceptable to South Africa.

Upon the initiative of the African Group, the Security Council met and adopted Resolution 435 which specifically called upon South Africa to co-operate in the execution of the recommendations in the Report of the Secretary-General.

It is also worth noting that the Secretary-General of the OAU addressed the Council and clearly spelt out the attitude of the OAU on this question.

Following the adoption of Resolution 435 and in spite of the negative attitude of South Africa, the Five Western countries decided to send a ministerial delegation to South Africa to obtain Pretoria's acceptance of Resolution 435.

After discussions with the representative of the Pretoria régime, a communique was released on the 19 October 1978, to announce that South Africa was to organize elections in Namibia in December 1978 to identify some so-called local leaders.

Upon the publication of the communique, the African Group immediately met and after having considered the implications of the new situation thus created, decided to request the Security Council to urgently meet to propose the application of economic sanctions against South Africa in response to the challenge it had just made to the United Nations.

Long negotiations were held between the Contact Group of the African Group and the representatives of the Five Western countries in the course of which the latter strove to convince the Africans that all was not lost, that South Africa did not close the door, that it was still possible to obtain South Africa's co-operation for the application of Resolution 435 of the Security Council and that they therefore believed that it was neither necessary nor fair to decide upon economic sanctions against that country.

Following three weeks of negotiations, the African Group finally accepted to grant a new deadline by approving Resolution 435 which, among other things, called upon South Africa to cancel the December elections and to formally accept Resolution 435.

When on the 27 November, the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning Resolution 435 revealed that South Africa persisted in its defiant attitude of non-co-operation with the United Nations, the African Group met once again to look into the new situation and unanimously decide to seek an urgent meeting of the Security Council to invoke all the sanctions as stipulated in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

When the debate began on Monday 4 October 1978, however, it became clear that even certain African members of the Security Council found it enormously difficult to vote a draft resolution stipulating economic sanctions, because of the attitude of the Western countries which once again insisted that South Africa should be granted the deadline requested.

When it realized the dangers inherent in such a situation, the Group decided to secure the suspension of the debate of the Security Council until 1979, and to take the matter to the Plenary of the General Assembly for consideration. The Plenary of the General Assembly having examined the question, adopted the three resolutions already mentioned.

Among other questions examined by the Group were the question of participation of the Comoro delegation to the Thirty-third session, the question of African candidatures.

The question of the participation of the delegation of the Comoros in the Thirty-third Session was considered at a Special Session of the African Group during which the following decisions were taken:

- 1) The delegation of Comoros shall not take part in the deliberations of the African Group subject to a change in the leadership of the State of Comoros.
- 2) It shall be up to each delegation to act according to its instructions when the delegation of the Comoros is given the floor in the General Assembly. It was however suggested that all African delegations should walk out to show their opposition.

- 3) The African representatives in the Credentials Committee shall express the reservations of the African Group on the representativity of the Comorian delegation.
- 4) The Chairman of the African Group shall at the time of submission of the report of the Credentials Committee make a statement as to the African position and formulate the reservations of the African Group.

The Group had also to deal with the thorny question of African candidatures, but was not able to come to an agreement concerning African candidatures to the International Court of Justice.

The candidatures were thus presented individually and the Egyptian candidate was elected to the post which becomes vacant upon the expiration of the term of office of the representative of Benin.

The Group has also had to make decisions on the delicate question of the distribution of posts in the various organs of the United Nations to the different regional groups.

III - ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The period under consideration was characterised by intense activity at the level of the Executive Secretariat. As indicated earlier these activities were geared to the consideration of the Namibian question by the Security Council and culminated in the preparations for the Thirty-third Session of the General Assembly.

It is also noteworthy to indicate that apart from dealing with these two questions during the period under consideration, the Executive Secretariat has had to organize together with the African group more than thirty-meetings, 25 of which have been reported in detail in documents translated and submitted to Member States by the Executive Secretariat.

Among these many meetings, it is worthwhile to take note of the one held in July, 1978, upon the initiative of the Executive Secretariat to study the attempt of the American Senate to lift sanctions against Southern Rhodesia for a period of 6 months and to reduce all assistance to the Frontline States. The Executive Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairman of the African Group, therefore convened a meeting which, after having considered the question, adopted a certain number of measures i.e.

- 1) To send a message to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government meeting in Khartoum requesting the OAU Summit to make a pronouncement on the matter.
- 2) To publish a press release in the name of the African Group in support of the action undertaken by the OAU Executive Secretariat and to express the surprise and indignation of the African Group.
- 3) To send a message to the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in Washington, requesting the African representatives to take the necessary steps to block the initiatives of certain American Senators.

- 4) To request the Chairman and the Assistant Executive Secretary to establish contacts with American Senators in particular Senators Clark and Kennedy who have always shown interest in the African cause, and to request them to reject the initiative undertaken by their colleagues.
- 5) To request the Chairman and the Assistant Executive Secretary to make representations to the UN General Secretariat, President of the Security Council, the Chairman of the UN Regional Groups and the United States representative to the United Nations, in order to explain the point of view of the African Group.
- 6) To send a verbal note to the Permanent Representative of the United States to express the concern of African States about this question.

Following the implementation of these measures by the African Group, the American Congress failed to continue the action envisaged because the Senate decided to condition the lifting of the sanctions with the organization of free and democratic elections in Southern Rhodesia and the establishment of a government truly representative of the people of Zimbabwe.

Subsequently, the Executive Secretariat convened another meeting of the African Group to make detailed report on the Thirty-first Session of the Council of Ministers and the Fifteenth Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU meeting in Khartoum.

The Executive Secretariat, apart from preparing and submitting copies of the resolution adopted by the aforementioned meetings, underlined all the directives in these resolutions that called for action on the part of the African Group in the United Nations within the frame work of the preparations for the Thirty-third Session of the Council of Ministers..

It was on the basis of these extracts that the Group prepared its strategy against apartheid in South Africa on the question of Namibia, the problem of the Comoros and the economic questions to appear in the agenda of the Thirty-third Session.

The Executive Secretariat fully participated along with the delegations concerned in the preparation of several projects of assistance to African countries. (10 projects).

Moreover, in co-operation with the General Secretariat of the United Nations, the Secretariat of the Committee of 24, the Chairman of the Anti-Apartheid Committee and the Council for Namibia, the Executive Secretariat prepared various draft resolutions on co-operation between the OAU and the UN, on policy against apartheid in South Africa and on the question of Namibia.

Finally, the Executive Secretariat organized hearings by the Group of Petitioners from New Calendonia, New Hebrides, of the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh and of the Vice-Rector of the United Nations University in Tokyo.

The Executive Secretariat equally participated in the celebration of the Day of Solidarity with the Political Prisoners in South Africa and with the Palestinian People.

The report on Candidatures, as approved by the African Group at the United Nations, is attached to this report in Annex.



1979-07

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the OAU Executive Secretariat at the United Nations

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