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Annex

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REPORT OF THE RAPPOREUR OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE FOR
THE CELEBRATION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING
OF THE OAU, REGARDING THE FILM ON THE OAU

REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE OAU REGARDING THE FILM ON THE OAU

The Programme Committee on the Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the OAU, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency, Mr. Latyr Kamara, Ambassador of Senegal to Socialist Ethiopia, met at the General Secretariat of the OAU on May 15, 1981,

2. The purpose of this meeting was to review and to discuss the final edition of the film on the OAU, which was delivered by Mr. B. Adjali, the Producer, in February 1981.

3. It should be recalled, in this connection, that the production of the film on the OAU, was part of the programme drawn up by the Programme Committee for the Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity in May, 1973. Accordingly, Mr. Boubakar Adjali, Film Producer, was commissioned by the Programme Committee to produce the film on the OAU, on the basis and in keeping with the scenario submitted by him and approved by the Programme Committee.

4. This film on the OAU, was conceived to be produced in two complementary parts, the first part to show the historical milestones which led to the emergence of Independent African States and eventually to the Creation of the Organization of African Unity. The second part was to show the efforts made by Member States after attainment to independence as well as the celebration of African Unity.

5. Thus, the first part of the film was scheduled to be delivered by the Producer, on May 15, 1973 while the second part

was to be delivered on November 15, 1973.

6. The first part of the film was brought to Addis Ababa by the Producer at the appointed time. The film was examined by Members of the Committee who found that it presented some shortcomings. Consequently, it was recommended to the Producer to re-do the film taking into account the relevant comments and amendments made by members of the Committee in a meeting following the screening of the film, which was attended by the Producer himself.

7. Subsequently, there arose a misunderstanding between the Producer and the Committee with regard to supervision of the film by an Expert appointed by the OAU to ensure that the amendments and the comments made by the Committee, were properly taken into account in the revised film before its final edition and delivery. This misunderstanding, which was capable of giving rise to legal consequences, lasted for several years.

8. The misunderstanding, was finally resolved, thanks to the personal efforts made by the Chairman of the Committee, His Excellency Mr. Latyr Kamara, whom the Committee had requested to have talks with the Producer, during his annual official mission to the United Nations in New York, aimed at breaking the impasse that had been reached between the Committee and the Producer.

9. Consequently, it was agreed that the Producer, Mr. Adjali, would bring the revised and completed film to Addis Ababa in February, 1981 for presentation to the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers. The Producer did, indeed, bring the film which unfortunately, could not be presented to

the Council of Ministers owing to lack of time. Therefore, the Producer, after several days of waiting, was obliged to leave the film with the Secretariat and return home.

10. Before his departure, the Producer claimed, under the terms of the contract, the payment to him of the final portion of the price of the film (US\$20,000). This claim, was not satisfied by the General Secretariat on the grounds that the terms of the decision of the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Nairobi, were not fulfilled. In other words, that the Programme Committee should examine the film and thereafter, authorize the payment. In view, therefore, of the pressure for payment by the producer on the one hand and the reluctance of the Secretariat, on the other hand, to meet the claim, for the reasons given above, the Chairman and Members of the Programme Committee, despite their tight schedule of duties on the eve of the forthcoming Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, agreed to convene a meeting to deal with the problem.

11. Against this background, the Programme Committee on the Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the OAU, composed as follows, met under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Latyr Kamara, Ambassador of Senegal from May 13 to 15, 1981, to examine and to discuss the film :

Present :

Senegal
Cameroon

Chairman
Rapporteur

Members

Egypt
Ethiopia
Ghana
Nigeria
Senegal

Absent : Rwanda, Sierra Leone

12. Members of the Committee, who had examined the film at a screening which took place on May 13, 1981 met and proceeded to express their views on the film just seen.

13. The chairman, in his opening remarks, stressed that the purpose of the meeting was that of evaluating the film and of submitting a report to the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers with its own recommendations as well as to pronounce itself on the same film in respect of the payment of the balance of US\$20,000.00 owing to the producer, Mr. Adjoli. The Chairman said that having seen the film, Members should now be able to make pertinent comments on the film and declared the floor open.

14. A view was expressed from the floor that the film, as seen, did not measure up to expectations. Consequently, the same should not be recommended for presentation to the Council of Ministers as a film on the OAU. Rather, it was proposed, instead, it should be put away in the archives of Member States for the following reasons :

- a) Appearance : The film has a very dark and dull appearance; the personalities and places are unrecognizable while commentaries do not often relate to the particular scene on the screen;

- b) Presentation: The film seems to be made up of disjointed pieces of documentary films obtained from different regions of the African Continent and Europe. Moreover, it lacked proper narration on the various scenes.

15. Another view was expressed that it was difficult to perceive the idea and the objective pursued in producing this film, because, despite concentration, it was not, in the opinion of the speaker, possible to connect the picture on the screen with the objective that such a film should have obviously pursued.

16. It was further stated that there was a manifest shortcoming in the commentaries on various scenes which did not, as should have been the case, assist the viewer in the understanding of the film. The speaker, enumerated the shortcomings of the film with regard to lighting, synchronization of some scenes and sequences and further states that some scenes were too long while the whole film fails to touch on the activities of all Member States. He added that the film lacked political balance in that much attention was paid to some leaders while others were neglected.

17. The next speaker, supported the views expressed by those who had preceded him on the floor and underlined the disjointed and the incoherent sequences of various scenes which, in his view, were aggravated by the inadequate commentaries of the scenes. In conclusion, he said that the film was not worthy of presentation to the Council of Ministers nor of acceptance by the Programme Committee.

18. The following speaker said that, while he tended to agree with the comments made by the previous speakers with regard to the shortcomings of the film under discussion, he was not sure whether

these shortcomings were attributable to an inherent defect in the film or to the technique of the projection. He added, on the other hand, that if the objective of the film is to show the efforts made by the Independent African States aimed at African Unity, then the first part of the film should be accepted. In support of his view, he cited the scenes depicting the Colonial era and the resistance put by the Peoples of Africa to liberate themselves from colonialism.

19. According to the speaker, these efforts which constitute the first part of the film, are sufficiently shown and are in keeping with the mandate given to the Producer under the contract. He added that he did not agree with those speakers who proposed the outright shelving of the film and suggested, instead, that the second part of the film should be reviewed in-depth to reflect adequately the further efforts made by Member States during the period outlined in the second part.

20. Members of the Committee, having given their views as summarized in the preceding paragraphs, the Chairman took the floor to say that when the Programme Committee, was established by the Higher Instances of the OAU, it was given the mandate, inter alia, for the production of a film on the OAU. Consequently, the Committee had commissioned Mr. Boubakar Adjali, to produce the film. The Chairman was of the view, therefore, that a report reflecting the views expressed on this film by Members of the Committee, should be submitted to the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and the decision be left to the latter, whether or not, the said film should be rejected.

21. Those Members present who were not able to attend the first screening of the film on 13 May, 1981 and, therefore could not express their views during the discussions, were invited to attend a second screening of the film, which the Secretariat was requested to arrange, and to transmit their written views to the Rapporteur for inclusion in the report.

22. Following the Chairman's intervention, the Committee, except the three members who were not able to attend the first screening, agreed that the film should be presented to the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and the producer, Mr. Boubakar Adjali, be invited to travel to Nairobi to explain and project the film.

23. The written views of the three Members who had not attended the first screening of the film were duly received.

24. One member was most vehemently against the presentation of the film to the Council of Ministers for the same reasons given by other members and the other was strongly critical of the film which in his view, had no bearing, in all its aspects and its treatment of the subject, to an African reality even eight years back. The third member agreed with those who had expressed their dissatisfaction with the film, he was of the view however that it should be presented to the Council of Ministers for the latter's decision thereon.

1981-06

Report of the Rapporteur of the Programme Committee for the Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Founding of the OAU, Regarding the Film on the OAU

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