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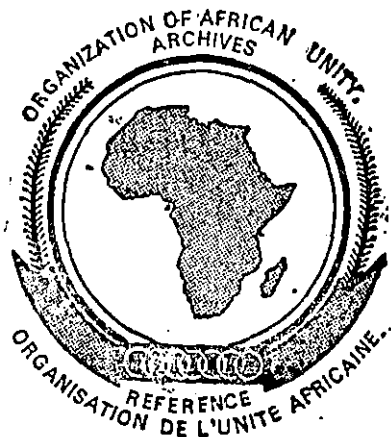
ADDIS ABABA

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AFRICAINNE
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION
ADDIS ABABA, OCTOBER 1966

SOCIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION



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SOCIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

The Cultural and Scientific Department of the General Secretariat of the OAU, would ideally like to include in its report, the stage of implementation of the various programmes of the Specialized Commissions which it services, general activities in the fields allocated to those Commissions, as well as an attempt to indicate future fruitful fields of endeavour. Owing to the fact that the meetings of the Specialized Commissions were suspended pending the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the proposed institutional changes, there is nothing to report on the implementation of programmes as previous reports to the Council of Ministers covered whatever there was to report. This position will however change soon as the Commissions concerned, that is the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission, the Educational and Cultural Commission, and the Health Sanitation and Nutrition Commission, are expected to meet in accordance with the decision of the Assembly that is to meet this November 1966. Meanwhile, a report has to be made on the activities of the General Secretariat for the period February - October 1966. This report is in two parts. Part I covers general reporting of the Cultural and Scientific Department, while Part II covers specific activities of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission.

It is important, and very necessary that the OAU Specialized Commissions should meet. For, while the suspension of their meetings was on, the OAU became too involved in political matters - as indeed it should - while its other equally important activities were eclipsed.

In its development, and in the execution of its functions the OAU can only hope to fulfil the hopes and expectations of the Africans if it equally allocates its time and resources to political as well as to non-political matters even if it is admitted that in Africa today it is difficult to exclude politics from any field. In this context therefore, the OAU, through its Commissions, should try and establish its priorities. Once these are established, as and when funds and other things permit, they would be implemented to the advantage of the Africans. These priorities could be drawn up from the accepted programmes of the Commissions, for virtually all Commissions have endorsed a three or five year programme within their fields of competence. Here one is merely repeating the obvious but, it is necessary to remind ourselves of these things constantly for there is a lot that should be done. The General Secretariat, within its terms of reference will do its uttermost to ensure the success of any programme that it is called upon to administer within the OAU Charter.

PART I

As for the period between the February Session of the Council of Ministers and October 1966, the Cultural and Scientific Department of the General Secretariat has busied itself in three directions. Firstly, it has endeavoured to send representatives to as many meetings of the U.N. Specialized Agencies as could be managed. Secondly, it has embarked on a programme of writing Study Papers on subjects that would appear to demand urgent action, and which also are amenable to a joint African approach, and, thirdly it has been engaged in recruiting the staff for the Department as approved in the establishment.

In the period under consideration the Department sent representatives to many international meetings including the 19th Assembly of the World Health Organization, the 16th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, the Seminar on the Status of Teachers by UNESCO, the annual Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the annual meeting of the Executive Board of UNICEF and the ECA meeting on Man-power Planning and Training. It is intended to send a representative to the Food and Agricultural Organization's Regional Meeting for Africa during November 1966. This is an indication of the Department's

desire to develop and strengthen close co-operation between the OAU and the U.N. and its family of Specialized Agencies. This process has other advantages.

Attending meetings of international organizations enables the Department to be informed of and learn about the latest thinking on the topics that may be under discussion. It also gives the Department an opportunity to hear about the experiences and problems, not only of the organizations concerned, but also of the countries that are represented. By thus being informed, the Department would be better placed to indicate to OAU Member States, pitfalls that could be expected in a given situation. Of equal importance is the chance to discover the areas in a given field, in which the OAU could apply its efforts to the maximum benefit to Member States without duplicating on existing programmes. Besides the above invaluable advantages, there are some obvious ones like learning at first hand, how these other organizations operate, how the OAU can utilize their facilities and how to create a favourable OAU image among them. As the organizations concerned send full reports to their members - which includes OAU Members, it is not considered necessary to mention here the topics discussed at the meetings. At present, since the OAU is just beginning to spread its feelers into various activities, the representatives at these meetings continue to have only one function, that is of being effective observers in the way outlined above. Later, it may be possible to use such meetings as part of the OAU's continuing efforts to fulfil its obligations as laid down in its Charter. This latter aspect will be helped very much by the conclusion of agreements of co-operation and association between such organizations and the OAU.

At present, agreements with UNESCO, F.A.O., WHO, IAEA and UNICEF - that is, those that concern the Cultural and Scientific Department - are in various stages of preparation. The draft agreement with UNESCO has been referred to Member States and to UNESCO for comment. Several replies have been received - including one from UNESCO. After being considered by the joint ad hoc Committee that was created for this purpose, these replies will be placed before the Commissions concerned when they next meet. The preliminary draft agreement with FAO was based on the one with UNESCO, and this has been submitted to the former organ-

ization for its comments. Thereafter, the draft will be submitted to the Commission(s) concerned for preliminary setting. As for the agreement with the WHO, the necessary contacts have been made between the two Secretariats, and there has been an exchange of correspondence on the subject. It is hoped to commit the various articles to paper, so that the draft may be placed before the appropriate Commission at its next meeting. The position with regard to the agreement with UNICEF is similar to the one for WHO which is outlined immediately above. As for the IAEA, one draft has already been received from them, and it will be brought before the Commission (s) concerned for consideration. This is the position as far as the U.N. Specialized Agencies are concerned. So far, no directive has been received from the competent organs of the OAU to the effect that an agreement of association or co-operation should be signed with other organizations outside the U.N. family. A fuller account of these and other agreements may be found in the paper on the OAU relationship with international organizations, which is to be presented to this Session of the Council of Ministers.

The Department has also been involved in preparing study papers on some of the problems that face the Member States. One such problem is that of providing training facilities for the training of skilled or specialized personnel in various disciplines. The Department considers that the training of personnel with specialized skills, through which it is hoped to achieve a balanced progress in all aspects of a nation's life, should receive priority treatment. To this end, it has already circulated to Members, opportunities for training middle-grade scientific technicians under an OAU Training Scheme. A modest sum of US\$ 20,000.- has been set aside for this purpose in the current budget. For the present, the scheme covers, among others, training for Professional air pilots; aeronautical meteorologists, teleprinter operators, aircraft maintenance engineers, and wild-life inspector/supervisors. This scheme is referred to more fully in Part II of this report which covers specific activities of the STRC. It is later hoped to expand this to include other fields.

To increase the number of trained personnel in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, the Department has already written to two organizations asking for details of what they can offer. It is

intended to obtain training in such fields like the use of medical isotopes, the use of radiation for preserving foods that deteriorate quickly, the use of radio-active material in agriculture e.g. for producing seeds of higher yields and the use of atomic energy for producing fresh water from sea water. There are other aspects of this fascinating aspect of science, which can be utilized for the benefit of Africans at the present stage of development. If favourable replies are received from the two organizations, then those Member States who have already indicated that they require training opportunities in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, will be contacted.

In this connection of training personnel, it is pleasing to report that two Member States have already offered a variety of training opportunities to African candidates. The States concerned are the United Arab Republic and Tunisia (vide the General Secretariat's Note No. EDC 50/3 of August 4, 66.) The offers that were made are many and different, and vary in periods from a few months to several years. These actions, reflecting as they do that inter-dependence and self-help spirit that now exist among OAU Member States, are very much appreciated and encouraged. Some more offers have been received from other states, and these will be circulated in the near future. It is hoped that African candidates will take full advantage of these offers, for it is necessary to use to the maximum whatever training facilities that are available within Member States, before making requests for such facilities outside Africa. It is sincerely hoped that more of such offers will be forthcoming from Member States.

It has been recognized that unless the formal educational systems in Member States, produce enough candidates with the right education, there would be few or no candidates to take up such offers of training. It has been found that most African educational systems have a shortage of teachers at all levels - to such an extent that only a small percentage of the school-age children get vacancies to learn. This in turn leads to a shortage of candidates for training institutions - including teacher training ones. It also leads to a scarcity of trained local personnel to run the services of a given state. Such a state can only maintain and expand its existing economic, social and other services by hiring expensive expatriate personnel - a state of affairs that is

undesirable in many ways. The place to start in attempting to correct this apparent vicious circle is to provide adequate teachers and funds for the formal educational system. The Department prepared a general study paper OAU/SP/1/EDC which was circulated under cover of a Note Verbale ref. No. EDC/50/GEN of 10th August 1966 on the "Teacher-Training - Accelerated Programme".

That paper attempted to examine the possible alternatives through which an adequate supply of teachers could be obtained, if the shortage was treated as a crisis. The possible alternatives examined, varied from displaced training of teachers so that this could be carried out during school vacations to compulsory national service in teaching. The paper then went on to examine what role the OAU could play in assisting Member States to increase the supply of teachers. The ideal would be for the OAU to build teacher training institutions, but there are other methods open to the OAU which the paper mentioned in general. The paper has been referred to Member States for their views and later may be discussed by the Commission concerned. In any case, it is hoped to pursue this matter of increasing the supply of teachers to Member States in whatever method that is open to the OAU. Wise investment and calculated involvement in this field will enable Member States to meet their trained manpower requirements, which could lead to an accelerated rate of development in all human aspects - a pre-requisite to a balanced progress.

Besides providing for the development of man to the highest level of achievement, it is necessary to cater for his bodily needs - such as adequate food supplies and adequate health services. The Department is also involved in studying various ways in which the lot of mankind in Africa can be improved. As and when these studies are completed, they will be circulated to Member States. One such a paper was circulated recently (vide Study Paper No. OUA/SP/2/HSN) which was sent under cover of Note No. SOC/70/GEN of 1/9/66. The paper dealt with "Preventive or Protective Measures against disease epidemics arising from emergencies", and advocates the establishment of stocks of vaccines and other medicine which can be used to protect populations against the outbreaks of epidemic diseases, such as smallpox, typhoid, cholera or yellow fever.

The need for such supplies, though infrequent, is obvious. The aim of such a scheme would be for African States to establish jointly

owned supplies of vaccines and other medicine, which could be rushed to a Member in need whose citizens are exposed to possible outbreaks of epidemics. A scheme of this kind could be undertaken in conjunction with the World Health Organization and UNICEF. It was discussed informally with some delegations at the recent WHO meeting for the African Region, and the reaction was favourable. The views of Member States on the scheme are being awaited. It is hoped to place it before the Commission concerned at its next meeting. However, it is not out of place to say that the knowledge that such OAU stocks exist would help to cement the unity of Africans, besides filling a gap in our weapons against diseases.

As more staff are recruited into the Department, more and more of such studies will be undertaken, and where appropriate, study papers will be prepared and circulated to Member States. The recruitment of staff has gone on slower than anticipated. Out of seven at the Headquarters and eleven for STRC professional posts, only eight have been offered to would-be candidates. Only two of those offered are for the Headquarters; others are for the STRC and its Scientific Bureaus. Unlike other departments, this Department requires staff who are already scarce in Africa, i.e. doctors, scientists of various disciplines and experienced teachers. However, every effort is being made to attract staff with the right qualification and experience to the OAU. It is hoped that these efforts will bear fruit before the end of the current financial year.

Looking to the future, one can say that it is very fertile - begging for some moves to begin tackling the problems that face most, if not all, African States.

On the health side, it is necessary to raise the standard of the environmental health in most of African places so that populations in such places may be raised above nature's law of survival of the fittest. The old adage of prevention is better than cure is still very true in the case of tackling diseases, and so, it is imperative that the populations must not only learn about hygienic living, but also be offered public sanitation services to ensure healthy living conditions. Water should be properly treated, food should be inspected and the contaminated one rejected, public sanitation should be protected against spreading

diseases and hospital and health centre services should be expanded. No one is advocating an overnight change, but a start should be made sometime, preferably now, in tackling some of these problems.

On the nutrition side, the crying needs are two, that is, to provide balanced diets to some sections of populations, and to equate increases in population with increases in food production. In the latter case, the Department has already written to States around the Sahara desert to see what can be done by way of reclamation of the desert for food production. The Guinea Trawling Survey has also been completed and one can expect an increase in the supply of fish on the West African Coast as a result. All these are designed to increase food production; but a lot is yet to be done in other places. A multi-lateral attack on increased food production should be made, either by expanding areas under cultivation or increasing crop yields per unit of land. Here again, no one expects a change over night, but it would be consoling to know that a start has been made in these matters in every Member State. The OAU Scientific bureaux are expected to contribute to this task through pure or applied research. To this end, the General Secretariat is re-examining the schedules of work allocated to the bureaux, and it is hoped to re-orientate these to the immediate research needs of Member States - without ignoring other relevant activities.

On the educational side, studies have to be carried out on the following: accelerated teacher training, educational and vocational guidance, higher education, financing of educational programmes, schooling for nomadic populations, curricula reforms, illiteracy and language problems - all of which are included in the Department's programme for the 1966/67 financial year. It is hoped to complete some of these before the next meeting of the Commission concerned, so that some discussions may take place which could lead to some specific action.

On the cultural side the plans of the Department are in the course of being drawn up. It is hoped to complete these before the next meeting of the Commission concerned.

In dealing with the future, one has to be brief in a report like this one, mainly because more details are usually given to the Commissions concerned in order to start the machine rolling on specific

ideas. The Assembly of Heads of State and the Council of Ministers subsequently receive such ideas in their completed form - ready for a decision. It has also been thought as unnecessary to include in this report such matters as the choice of an OAU Emblem, the creation of a Pan-African News Agency and the transfer of bureaus from outside Africa to Africa, because these topics are included on the Agenda of this Session of the Council.

In concluding this report of the Cultural and Scientific Department, one needs to re-emphasise that the OAU has unlimited chances in Africa in the educational, scientific, health, nutrition and cultural fields. There is a lot to be done for example in ensuring that every child gets education, everyone has adequate food to sustain him and that everyone is not unduly exposed to diseases. Involvement in these and other related fields will justify the creation of the OAU, nourish it in its day to day activities and give it sufficient strength and momentum to carry it into the future. There is no doubt that, within the limited means and resources available to Member States, support for the OAU and especially for its activities in the educational, health, scientific and cultural fields will always be forthcoming. It is up to the conceptual organs, that is the Commissions, with the prodding of the General Secretariat where necessary, to apply their energies and vision to the task of satisfying the Africans' expectations of the OAU. The OAU's efforts should be judiciously applied over the whole range of aspects of our existence so that no aspect may be left untouched by it. Preparations should now be undertaken to provide the means and momentum for the take-off of a co-ordinated and united Africa.

PART II

ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH COMMISSION

OAU activities in science, technology and research have continued to be carried out by its Scientific, Technical and Research Commission which form part II of this Report on Social, Scientific and Technical co-operation.

The problems of science and technology do not know any political boundary. It can bear repetition to remind ourselves that the gap between the poor and the rich nations of the world has continued to widen. This widening gulf, due largely to the historical accident of colonialism, imperialism and their attendant evils, has been at the expense of the developing countries. By twentieth century standards, material welfare and enhanced standard of living have become the lot of the developed nations as a result of the conquest of science and technology. In fact, the more ready a people are to adapt themselves to the technological age the better is their material welfare in the 1960s.

In view of this position, the Administrative Secretary-General is delighted to report that the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (S.T.R.C.) has been making a reality of inter-african co-operation at the technical level given the limited resources at the disposal of the General Secretariat.

By and large, the Commission has been doing basic research work on animal health and food crops; it has continued the work of dissemination of scientific information among Member States by issuing scientific journals of international standard, organizing technical meetings which bring technical officers of Member States together to seek solutions to urgent problems of the moment and it has given, albeit on a limited basis, consultant service to Member States in some fields. During the period under review, the Scientific Commission has sponsored exchange of staff among Member States, it has encouraged training of personnel and it has undertaken studies of some urgent problems that call for urgent solutions. In all these, the Administrative Secretary-General records the Secretariat's deep gratitude to Member States for their co-operation and unstinted support. A resume of the activities which were approved by the Scientific Council of Africa (C.S.A.) meeting of December 1965 are as follows:-

ANIMAL HUSBANDARY

The S.T.R.C. has been actively encouraging inter-african co-operation in this field on three main diseases. It has been promoting research on Contagious Bovine Pleuro-pneumonia (C.B.P.P.) stimulating research in Trypanosomiasis and continuing the gigantic field campaign against rinderpest.

Contagious Bovine Pleuro-pneumonia Vaccine Research (C.B.P.P.)

Scientists are at present at work on the chemical and serological fractionation of mycoplasma. Some of the work has been published in the OAU Inter-African Animal Health Bulletin of Epizootic Diseases. The research is in progress at the East African Veterinary Research Organization's (E.A.V.R.O. Laboratory in Kenya, Hann Laboratory in Senegal, Vom Laboratory in Nigeria and Farcha Laboratory in Chad). An expert panel of scientists jointly composed by OAU, FAO, and OIE will meet in Khartoum in February 1967 to review the progress in this research and possibly extend its scope. The experts will also undertake a short training course in research technique for young specialist Veterinarians at Khartoum Laboratory.

So far, some results have been obtained from this research activity. It has now been proved by Veterinarians in some Member States that the C.B.P.P. Vaccine (T 144) may give a good measure of control of the disease. This possibility has opened up new vistas in the fight against this disease and the OAU/STRC has now been invited by these Member States to launch a field control campaign against the disease. The possibility of mass vaccination of cattle is now being studied by S.T.R.C. officials and the Council will hear more of this important project in future reports.

JOINT CAMPAIGN AGAINST RINDERPEST - J.P. 15

In previous reports, the Administrative Secretary General mentioned that this campaign which was inherited from the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa (CCTA) has continued. It is important that Member States should appreciate the dimension of this scourge. Before this mass vaccination campaign was launched, States affected were spending a substantial proportion of their Veterinary Service annual budget on the control of the disease. Phase I of the campaign completed last year freed 12 million head of cattle from the scourge. This represents a capital value of about 500 million US dollars. Phase II of the campaign is at

present in progress in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Dahomey, Togo, Nigeria, Upper Volta and Niger. The staff employed on the campaign in all these countries are as follows: - 17 Veterinary Officers, 294 Assistants, Attendants and inoculators and 226 miscellaneous personnel of all ranks. Of equipment, apart from refrigeration equipment (for storing the vaccine), syringes and vaccines, a fleet of 61 lorries and 35 light vehicles are in use in the field in all States affected to ensure the mobility of the teams of Veterinarians and inoculators in difficult terrain. These vehicles bear Blue Marks and the inscription "Joint Campaign against Rinderpest". The Administrative Secretary-General would like to appeal to Member States for full co-operation with the S.T.R.C. staff who are the international co-ordinators of the scheme. Up to the end of September 1966, 15 million head of cattle have been vaccinated under Phase II of the campaign. This represents about 650 million US dollars of capital value to Member States.

The Administrative Secretary-General would like to report that Phase III of the scheme was launched from Dakar in September 1966, and this involves Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, the rest of the Ivory Coast, Mali and East of Chad. The financial assistance promised the scheme by the E.D.F. (E.E.C.) for Associate Countries and to the other States by the U.S.A.I.D. in the days of the C.C.T.A. has continued. Each State completes the financial agreement under the scheme and the S.T.R.C. officials appointed under the scheme co-ordinate the project in all States. Contributions by Member States have been almost as large as the external assistance which is near 3 - 4 million US dollars for each Phase. The Secretariat seizes this opportunity to express its gratitude for this external assistance. In my future reports, I shall cover the study of problems of combating the disease in Eastern Africa.

TRYPANOSOMIASIS (Tsetse fly)

This is a uniquely tropical African scourge of both man and animals. The S.T.R.C. has been encouraged by the routine research activities in progress in Bobo-Dioulasso (Upper Volta), Vom (Nigeria), EATRO (Uganda) and at other Veterinary Laboratories in Member States. Early in November, research workers will be brought together at the meeting of the OAU International Scientific Council on Trypanosomiasis Research. The scientists will discuss among others, the progress of research in this problem, methods of field control of the disease and possible eradication campaign in selected regions of the continent. A more detailed report on this will be contained in my next report.

GUINEA TRAWLING SURVEY

This gigantic oceanography project was completed in April 1966. The total cost of the investigations was $1\frac{1}{2}$ million US dollars. The purpose of the survey was to undertake an inventory of the marine resources of the Tropical Atlantic ocean in the areas known as the Gulf of Guinea or West African Continental Shelf. The survey covered the area from the Southern boundary of the Republic of Senegal to the mouth of the Congo river, over 4,000 kilometres. The aims of the survey were:-

- (i) to assess the qualitative and quantitative composition of the exploitable fish stocks;
- (ii) to assess and ascertain the size, composition, rates of replacement growth and mortality of those species of paramount commercial importance;
- (iii) to compare productivity in different fishing areas;
- (iv) to relate the above points to the hydrographic climates;
- (v) to locate areas which seem to be most favourable for commercial trawling in relation to depth, nature of ground and availability of exploitable fish stocks; and
- (vi) to provide reference and study collections of fish of the area for those countries, organizations, institutes and individuals desirous of receiving them.

From the report which is at present being printed, it has been established that rather limited fishing activities are going on in most of the area surveyed; that local trawler fleets fish almost exclusively in inshore waters and that even though a large potential of bottom fish of good size is available, very little has been done by way of systematic exploitation of the stock of fishes. It is hoped that Member States along the West African coast of the Atlantic will take advantage of the findings of this survey in developing their fisheries. What is now required is an active and systematic exploitation of the resources of the Atlantic, so that more and better protein will be made available to the people in the area and additional sources of revenue for the Government through the development of their Fishing Industry by the application of improved fishing techniques.

CEREAL CROPS RESEARCH J.P. 26

The basic experimental work on the improvement of Cereal Crops which has been in progress for the past two years has continued during the period under review. The project seeks the co-ordination and re-inforcement of research aimed at improved varieties and cultivation methods of the major cereal crops namely: Maize, Millet and Sorghum. These cereals comprise an important element of the food of the people in Savannah zones of Africa. During the period under review, improved grains of cereals developed at the Institute of Agricultural Research, Ahmadu Bello University (headquarters of the project) were distributed to all Member States co-operating in the scheme. The objective being to encourage the multiplication of these improved varieties in the first instance at experimental stations of Member States and when this has been proved to be suitable, under all relevant conditions, the seeds will find themselves in the hands of farmers through the medium of the Agricultural Extension Services of Member States.

TECHNICAL BUREAUX

Inter-African Bureau for Soils (BIS)

The organ of the OAU/STRC which deals with soil problems is the BIS (Inter-African Bureau for Soils). Its activities cover soil evolution, conservation and utilization. The Bureau undertakes documentation and information services in the field of soil in Africa and puts the result at the disposal of agricultural and soil officers of Member States. It stimulates the interest of research workers in the latest research techniques discovered abroad and makes valuable suggestions for the application of such techniques in Africa. The Bureau publishes monthly analytical bulletin on soils and erosion problems and a quarterly journal "African Soils" which contains contributions on research in progress in Africa and the scientific world.

During the period of the report, both the Director and Deputy Director of this Bureau visited Algeria and Morocco at different times and gave consultant services to technical officers at the research centres. The Director of the Bureau also visited Abidjan, Ivory Coast at the request of the Government. He advised the technical officials on problems connected with irrigation and erosion problems. Some officials of Member Governments also spent varying periods of time doing research at the offices of the Bureau under the supervision of the Director of the BIS.

Inter-African Phytosanitary Bureau (I.A.P.S.C)

This Bureau deals with the protection of agricultural and forestry products, is also an important organ of the OAU/STRC. It is concerned among other things with plant protection and plant quarantine and seeds to prevent the spread of plant pests in Africa by encouraging Member Governments to maintain a standard plant protection legislation. It also assists Member States in the training of plant protection officers, who are required for setting up a plant protection service in each country, so as to ensure an effective control of plant pests and diseases and thereby prevent their spread.

A Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine meeting was held in the premises of the East African Common Services Organization (EACSO) in Nairobi in July 1966 and attended by technical officers of twenty-four Member States. The meeting was a land-mark in the field of plant and crop protection in Africa as it afforded officers of Member States the opportunity of learning about problems facing the continent through importation of disastrous diseases of agricultural crops and forestry products. The meeting made a number of studies and recommended adequate machinery for the protection of crops in Africa. In particular, it reviewed the existing international conventions in Africa in this field and drafted a Convention for Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine in Africa - Phyto-Sanitary Convention for Africa. The meeting also recommended joint action by Member States in the training of plant and crop inspectors, and the establishment of five regional Plant Quarantine Centres in Alexandria (UAR), Ibadan (Nigeria), Abidjan (Ivory Coast), Niamey (Niger) and Muguga (Kenya). These centres are expected to provide for the needs of contiguous States. The Secretariat is holding preliminary talks with other international agencies on these important suggestions.

Furthermore, it was decided to revise the co-ordinated regulations for plant protection in Africa under the new Phyto-Sanitary Convention for Africa. The Secretariat is expected, with the assistance of experts in plant pathology, nematology and entomology, to draw up a comprehensive co-ordinated set of regulations which will be divided into three subdivisions, viz: (a) rules which apply to the whole of the continent of Africa irrespective of ecological differences, (b) rules which apply to States of Africa north of the Sahara, and (c) rules which apply to States in Africa south of the Sahara.

The Scientific Secretary of the Bureau has been working on a 'Hand-Book for Plant Inspectors in Africa' with the assistance of a panel of scientific experts. The book will be one of the most important text-books to be used in the training of plant inspectors when the proposals to establish training centres in different regions of the continent are executed. Between March and June, the Scientific Secretary also visited Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, United Arab Republic, Sudan and Ethiopia. During these visits, the Scientific Secretary supplied the technical officers and specialists of Member States with information concerning

the functions of the Inter-African Phyto-Sanitary Organization of the OAU and exchanged views with these officers on methods of improving the machinery of each country in the field of Protection of Agricultural Crops and Plant Pests Control.

In March 1966, the STRC, with the co-operation of the Government of Nigeria, sent an expert pathologist who is a Principal Research Officer in the field of plant protection and plant quarantine in Nigeria on a mission to Sierra Leone. The report, which has since been forwarded by the Secretariat to the Government of Sierra Leone, made useful suggestions for the establishment of adequate machinery for plant protection in Sierra Leone. The Administrative Secretary-General seizes this opportunity to express sincere thanks to the Government of Nigeria for their co-operation in this matter.

Inter-African Bureau for Animal Health (I.B.A.H.)

I.B.A.H. (Inter-African Bureau for Animal Health) is the important organ of the OAU/STRC in the field of animal health and animal protection. Hitherto, owing to shortage of staff, it has not been able to emphasize the animal production aspect of its duty. At present, it does documentation work in the field of animal diseases by the collection of statistics on animal diseases from all Member States, which it publishes in the quarterly magazine "Epizootic Diseases" or in its regular newsletters. It collects information on disease outbreaks and their evolution, methods of control of diseases and provides information on research work in progress in respect of various animal diseases.

I.B.A.H. also does the work of liaison by encouraging and facilitating meetings between experts in the veterinary field of Member States, arranging for advice from other countries and specialized agencies of the United Nations, maintaining technical and scientific relations with these and other regional organizations. It also keeps in regular touch with veterinary laboratories and veterinary departments of Member Governments to ensure implementation of decisions of meetings in the veterinary field and to encourage further research on various animal health problems, as well as stimulating field surveys and mass vaccination

campaigns. The Bureau also organizes specialist training courses and seminars for veterinary officers of Member Governments in particular disciplines; e.g. CBPP, rabies, virus diseases transmitted by anthropodes; trypanosomiasis, laboratory diagnosis of rinderpest and veterinary public health. It also looks after the conservation measures of Member States in respect of the Rinderpest Campaign. This measure is absolutely necessary if the success achieved in the control of the disease is to be maintained.

FAO/WHO/STRC Joint Commission for Food and Nutrition in Africa

Following a joint meeting organized by FAO, WHO and the former CCTA at Douala September 1961, it was agreed by the representatives of all disciplines concerned with problems of nutrition (medical officers, agronomists, economists, biochemists, educationists and administrators) that as a first practical measure to re-inforce international co-operation in the field of nutrition a regional commission for food and nutrition in Africa should be created. The Commission is at present housed in FAO building in Accra, with a Secretary supplied by the FAO and an Assistant Secretary from WHO. The terms of reference of the Commission is as follows:

- (a) Assure liaison at inter-African level in the field of food and nutrition, particularly in respect of the collection, analysis and circulation of information;
- (b) effect a practical review of food and nutrition problems in Africa, draw the attention of FAO, WHO, STRC and the members of the Commission to the priorities and advise them on the appropriate solutions to these problems.

The Secretary of the Commission is responsible for the collection and distribution of available information in Africa in the field of nutrition and the analysis of information thus collected in order that it may serve as a basis for the planning and carrying out of the various governments food programmes. Activities in this field must also tend

to promote standardization of survey methods in order to re-establish comparable results for the whole of the continent. In addition to promoting studies relating to the detection, diagnosis, treatment and prophylaxis of nutritional diseases, the Secretariat is also responsible for promoting the training of personnel, research work and preparation of reports on all problems arising in this field.

OTHER GLOBAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

Review of 1933 London Convention of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

The Administrative Secretary-General would like to draw the attention of Member States to this important convention. Sometime in 1959, it had become apparent that this convention required revision to agree with modern changes. In the first place, populations of Member States have changed and so the demands by man on our heritage of natural resources have changed too. In some cases, there is a conflict between the need of man and the requirements to conserve our natural heritage, be they flora or fauna, so that either interest does not suffer. In other cases, the problem is the need for conservation so as to ensure a judicious exploitation of the natural resources in such a way that States will not appear to be killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

At a joint UNESCO and ECA meeting in Lagos, July 1964, the following resolution was passed by representatives of twenty-eight Member States of the OAU:

- "(a) The 1933 convention of the flora and fauna of Africa be revised in order to bring it up to date and to extend the scope of its application;
- (b) the Organization of African Unity be invited to entrust the preparation of a preliminary draft to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, assisted by UNESCO and FAO."

Following this resolution, the Administrative Secretary-General commissioned the I.U.C.N. through UNESCO in 1965 to provide a draft

revision of this Convention with the help of UNESCO and FAO. I am happy to report that work on this draft is at present in progress and it will be communicated to Member States in due course. It is hoped to make the Convention as a Protocol under the OAU Charter on the same lines as the Protocol of Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration.

GENERAL

During the period of the report, the Scientific Commission recorded a revenue of 7.700 U.S. dollars from sales of publications produced by its organs. In addition, the Scientific Commission supplied to Universities, Government technical and research institutes in Member States scientific documentation in the fields covered by its activities so far.

There is certainly plenty of room for improvement and it is hoped that as resources and trained personnel become available, this organ of the OAU will be a formidable force for speeding up economic progress in the continent by stimulating scientific and technological development in Africa. Up to now, Africa has not been able to take full advantage of the scientific and technological progress known to developed nations because of the extreme shortage of indigenous African scientists. If Africa is to accept the challenge of rapid economic development effectively, the problem of improving educational facilities in all States and of training personnel at all levels and in all scientific and professional fields must be faced urgently. The Scientific Commission has started to look into the problem of training technical personnel in Africa. Because of the nature of scientific and educational problems, the OAU will work in close collaboration with the United Nations specialized agencies and other international organizations to accomplish this laudable objective. The Administrative Secretary-General hopes that he can count on the active co-operation of Member States in this gigantic assignment.



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