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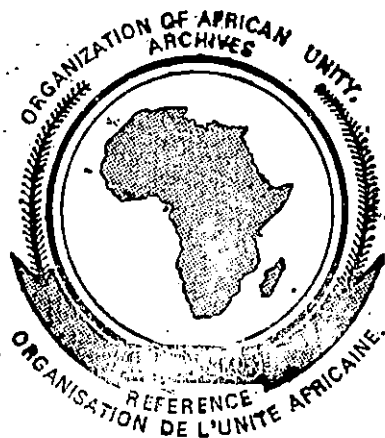
ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAIN
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O.A.U. ACTIVITIES AND INTER-AFRICAN
CO-OPERATION IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY, HEALTH AND CULTURE

GENERAL REPORT



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GENERAL REPORT

GENERAL INTRODUCTION:

1. On the 25th May this year, the OAU was five years old. It was only in 1963 that 32 Heads of State and Government of Independent African States met in Addis Ababa and decided to establish the Organization of African Unity. One of the most important aims which the Heads of State and Government established for the OAU was "to co-ordinate and intensify their co-operation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa". To this end, the OAU was called upon, among other things, to "co-ordinate and harmonize" the policies and activities of its Member States in order to ensure among other things their co-operation in educational, scientific, cultural and health matters.

2. It is recalled that at that time in 1963, the 32 independent States that decided to establish the OAU had among them States that had been independent for a long time, while the majority of them had just recently come from a colonial era. The organization also resolved at that time to ensure that other states that were still under colonial rule, or which were ruled by hostile and oppressive regimes would be freed from these chains to join their free and independent sister states. At that stage also, as indeed it is still true today, the level of economic and social services in most African States was still far below that obtaining in the developed countries. The natural resources of most of these countries were unexplored in almost all cases and only a few of them were being exploited mainly for the benefit of external investors. Socio-economic services such as education and health were mostly concentrated in the towns and were thinly spread or practically non-existent in the rural areas. The levels of indigenous skills were also of a low degree as to be unable to satisfy even the meagre economic, social and political demands then prevailing in the OAU Member States.

3. With courage and foresight and motivated with the spirit of solidarity, brotherhood and African unity, the Heads of State and Government that met in Addis Ababa faced these challenges by creating an organization to which they gave powers to assist them among other things, in their efforts "to promote the unity and solidarity of the African States" and in their efforts "to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa."

4. Working from such different backgrounds, and considering that communications between even neighbouring countries were meagre in most cases in Africa, it was only to be expected that the early days of the Organization of African Unity would be spent in defining areas of common interest. These early days were also spent in enabling citizens of the Member States to learn and to know about one another so as to better appreciate the points of view that were, are, and would be found in Africa. It is also important to mention that these early days attempted to enable the representatives of Member States, at all levels, from the Heads of State and Government through Ministers down to the civil servants and others, to create what may be called the OAU psychology, through which deeper understanding of African brotherhood and constant striving towards African unity could be met. This was therefore a period of general exploration of human understanding and African environments covered by the OAU Member States in accordance with the Charter and the supplementary directives issued by the Heads of State and Government. In the fields of education, science, culture, technology and health, as in other fields in which the OAU is competent to act, this period produced the terms of reference for future action.

5. In the decision to found the OAU, the Heads of States accepted the fact that Africa cannot live and survive in isolation. Indeed, Africa and Africans are part of the world community of nations and populations. Africa therefore has got to take up its responsibilities within the world context and to contribute its best within its means towards the solution of the problems arising elsewhere in the world. It was also accepted that in view of the stage in development then and still obtaining among African States, external financial and intellectual resources would be required for sometime to assist in the rapid development of Member States.

Some of the best forums in which Africa should play its part and also receive its dues within the world context, are provided by the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies. During these early days, the OAU made official contacts with the United Nations and its family of Organizations in accordance with directives which considered it necessary and desirable to institutionalize the expected co-operation between the Organizations concerned in formal agreements. Steps were then taken to draw up and agree on such agreements and this process has been concluded in some cases and is due to be concluded in the remaining cases.

6. Naturally, after a general definition of the areas of competence, after making personal contacts between the citizens of Member States, and after laying the foundation of the OAU psychology which would facilitate the march towards a developing, progressive and united Africa, it was only to be expected that an attempt would be made to translate general hopes and aspirations into concrete objectives. Action was, therefore, necessary to give the Charter a living reality. Such realities received initial expressions through resolutions, decisions and other directives appropriately approved by the political organs of the OAU. The General Secretariat which was charged with the administrative functions of ensuring the translation of such expressions and aspirations of African unity into concrete things, presented the necessary plans for approval. It was then that the political organs of the OAU faced the realities of Africa and came to accept that the shortage of financial and intellectual resources would demand a cautious approach to the Pan-African and other projects which the OAU could carry out. One result of this acceptance was the suspension of the implementation of several resolutions which demanded the expenditure of money and the employment of high skills. The creation of a Pan-African News Agency and of an Institute of African Studies, for example, met with this fate. The problem of recruiting staff for services in the OAU also met the same obstacles. Finally, it even proved difficult to hold meetings of the Specialized Commissions of the OAU for lack of quorums. In the latter case the institutional committee was established whose recommendations have since been accepted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. Among the recommendations

accepted was the amalgamation of the specialized commissions in order to ensure a rational expenditure of money without minimizing the efficiency of the OAU itself or limiting its fields of competence. This whole process went on up to 1966 during which the meetings of Commissions were suspended pending the decisions referred to above.

7. Early in 1967, the Commissions were reactivated but were unable to meet once again because of lack of quorums. This state of affairs could not be allowed to go on without jeopardizing the very achievements of the worthy objectives of the OAU as outlined in the Charter. The General Secretariat, therefore, sounded a general alarm about the trends which things were taking. It was pointed out that if the Commissions did not meet it meant that the technical and expert examination which they provided on projects of the OAU could not be done effectively. Among other things, this would prevent the general exposure of technical and other aspects of projects which is necessary so as to allow the political organs to take decisions while having all the necessary information.

8. Luckily, the sound of the alarm was heard by the political organs of the OAU. At the meetings held in September, 1967 in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers once again resolved not to let down the OAU and to take up appropriately all the projects that could be approved. The necessary resolutions and decisions to implement that resolve were passed and the OAU was once again enabled to begin its tasks which had been suspended. By this time, the transfer to Africa of the Scientific Bureaus which were located in Europe and which had been inherited from the former Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa (CCTA) had been carried out successfully. With all these organs in Africa, the OAU was ready to resume its march towards contributing to the accelerated economic and social development of Member States.

9. In the paragraphs that follow below and under individual headings, an attempt will be made to trace the activities of the OAU in the last five years as well as attempting to show what may be desirable areas for future development. These should in all cases, be looked at as part of the efforts to implement the Charter of the OAU in its entirety, so as

to achieve the desired higher standards of living for African citizens and unity between them. In this case of future action, the aim should always be to ensure, among other things:

- (a) the maximum and efficient exploitation of natural resources especially the raising of agricultural production and productivity and the development arising from mineral resources;
- (b) the expansion of educational services as well as training facilities to provide Member States with the skills they require at all levels;
- (c) the accelerated industrialization within Member States;
- (d) the provision of adequate and comprehensive health and sanitary services; and
- (e) the maintenance of adequate and comprehensive research services in all fields.

10. It should be emphasized that, as has been stated elsewhere above, Member States have first and foremost to rely on the national resources immediately available to them to ensure accelerated development in the economic and social matters. In other words, the activities undertaken will be based on the approach of self-reliance and then of mutual assistance between the Member States. External aid would, under such circumstances, come in only in a form of supplementary assistance to national and Inter-African efforts. With these points in mind, this report proceeds to examine under individual headings the salient activities that have been carried out in the last five years followed by a charting up of lines of actions for the immediate future.

EDUCATION:

(a) General:

11. At the founding of the OAU in 1963, educational matters were entrusted by the Charter of the OAU to the Educational and Cultural Commission. At its first meeting held in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in January 1964, that Commission drew up its terms of reference and also touched on matters relevant to education and Culture in Africa. All these are contained in the relevant resolutions and

directives of that Session. Among its terms of reference, after recommending that the Commission should "participate fully in the implementation of the plan for African educational development" and after directing that particular attention should be paid to developing "projects which include a group of countries and others on continental basis", the Commission further decided that it would "promote its activities and co-operation in the field of education and culture which have the direct effect on raising the standard of living of the peoples and which at the same time pave the way for African unity". Thereafter the Commission proceeded to examine the various aspects within its terms of reference which it could pursue as part of its programme. These ranged from "a comprehensive planning of educational development" through "the accelerated development of scientific and technological education" to "a rational policy in the use of external aid".

12. One of the most important recommendations made by that Session of the Commission concerned the termination of the Unesco Conference of African Ministers of Education. In this case, after the Commission had stressed the fact that "the roles of the Educational and Cultural Commission of the OAU and the Conference of African Ministers of Education are complementary", it recommended "the fusion of these two bodies within the framework of the Educational and Cultural Commission of the OAU".

13. In 1965 during the second session of the Education and Cultural Commission, the programme that had been approved at the first session was re-examined once again and appropriate directives given to enable the General Secretariat to implement it. During this formative period of the OAU when it had no staff of its own except the personnel that had been kindly offered to it by the Imperial Government of Ethiopia, and when its resources were unknown, little could be done to implement the resolutions rapidly. However, from 1965 onwards efforts were made to implement the resolutions as far as possible. Naturally, most of the activities involved in the implementation of the resolutions required money, either for the construction and staffing of some of the institutions concerned or for the organization of meetings of experts to examine and make recommendations as requested. When some of these financial aspects of the implementation of resolutions were brought to the notice

of the Council of Ministers which has powers over financial matters of the OAU, they were not approved for various reasons. One example of the matters which have since been suspended because of the directives of the Council of Ministers is the establishment of an Institute for African Studies, while other matters such as the establishment of an organ in the field of information (not to be mixed with the Pan African News Agency) was entrusted to a Committee which combined Pan African Organizations in the fields of information, radio and television. Another example of the shelving of certain resolutions due to financial considerations concerns the Committees that were to be set up to advise Member States on "problems of education in Africa". These Committees were expected to render advice to Member States on matters such as teacher training, the planning of higher education, curricula reforms, financing of education, educational and vocational guidance and training and illiteracy.

14. As indicated elsewhere above, these limitations resulting from the shortage of financial and intellectual resources, led to the reappraisal of the resolutions which had been approved by the OAU in the Educational field. The General Secretariat was thereafter in a position to report to the Educational and Cultural Commission, but unfortunately the OAU had by then decided to review its institutional structure with a view to economizing on the available resources. The meetings of all the Commissions were then suspended from November 1965. It was not until early 1967 that Commissions resumed working under new arrangements. These arrangements which are expected to come into full force this year, entailed the amalgamation of the Educational and Cultural Commission, the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission and the Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Commission into one Commission to be called the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission. Attempts to hold the combined sessions of the three Commissions in May, 1967, were frustrated by lack of quorum.

15. Before this stage, the General Secretariat had attempted to keep the educational activities of the OAU continuing through preparation of study papers on particular educational items. The first of such papers was prepared in July 1966 and transmitted to Member States in the following month. It covered: "Teacher Training - Accelerated Programme"⁽¹⁾.

(1) Reference should be made to document
OAU/SP/1/EDC of July 1966.

In that general study paper, an attempt was made to examine alternative methods of increasing the supply of teachers. The methods advocated ranged from the sandwiching of the training of teachers with the actual teaching periods, to the making of teaching into a compulsory national service to all school leavers at all levels. In the latter case, of course, the teachers would be untrained. That paper excited substantial interest among Member States as well as from UNESCO.

16. For the consideration of the amalgamated Commissions in May, 1967, several educational matters were included in the composite agenda. These included the establishment of Training and Research Institutions (or Centres of Excellence) in Africa at post graduate level; the increase of the supply of teachers; primary education for nomadic populations; and the need for establishing language centres in order to break the existing language barriers in Africa. As indicated above, the meetings of the combined Commissions did not take place for lack of quorums. However, in September that year, the General Secretariat presented some of these items to the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. Of the items approved, two were directly concerned with education. The first one dealt with the formal approval of holding a Joint UNESCO/OAU Conference on Education and Scientific and Technical Training in Relation to Development in Africa⁽¹⁾. The items to be proposed by the OAU for that Conference were also approved. The second item that was approved concerned the establishment of Training and Research Institutions (or Centres of Excellence) in Africa⁽²⁾. These two were major decisions in the educational field whose full implementation is bound to have substantial improvements and repercussions in the educational services provided by Member States.

17. Because the eight Centres of Excellence approved are in the fields of applied sciences, and because of the importance that is attached to the establishment and development of these Pan African post graduate institutions, there is a separate document giving information on what actions have been carried out so far to implement the resolution concerned⁽³⁾.

(1) Vide resolution CM/Res.111(IX).

(2) Vide resolution CM/Res.116(IX).

(3) Document CM/ to this Session of the Council of Ministers.

18. Returning to the Joint UNESCO/OAU Conference, the OAU proposals were forwarded to UNESCO and through the subsequent exchanges of letters and visits, agreement was reached on the items to be included on the agenda and on the financial and other arrangements. The General Secretariat of the OAU agreed to prepare two documents; one dealing with the sharing of educational services as a way of increasing educational opportunities at secondary educational level⁽¹⁾, and the second one dealing with the establishment of Centres of Excellence in Africa⁽²⁾. It was approved that the OAU would spend up to a maximum of US.\$15,000 towards the total costs of that Conference. UNESCO also prepared two documents to the Conference as well as several information and reference papers.

19. Among other events that have taken place in the educational field, was the creation of an Association of African Universities. After several preparatory meetings and considerable amount of work by several individuals and Organizations, the Heads of African Universities and Colleges met in Rabat, Morocco, in November 1967 at the kind invitation of the Government of Morocco. At that Conference, at which the OAU was represented, the Association of African Universities was formally founded. The importance of that Association in the field of Education in Africa lies in the fact that its objectives in higher education coincide with those of the OAU. It is therefore not out of place to state without reservation that the existence of that Association is going to assist the OAU in ensuring that its activities, projects and programmes in the field of higher education are carried out efficiently, effectively and efficaciously. Very close co-operation is therefore anticipated between the two Organizations.

20. The above then gives a brief coverage of the activities of the OAU in the educational fields for the last five years.

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- (1) Document UNESCO-OAU/CESTA/6 - Sharing of Secondary Educational Facilities and Services Towards their Maximum and Economic Utilization.
 - (2) Document UNESCO-OAU/CESTA/5 - Training and Research Institutions (or Centres of Excellence) in Africa.

(b) Future Programme:

21. The future programme in education will mainly depend on the outcome of the Conference to be held in Nairobi in July this year. When it is remembered that since July 1965, there has not been a meeting of African Ministers of Education to consider National and Pan African educational problems, it will be appreciated that every effort must be made at the July meeting to examine all the relevant problems for these fields. From that meeting, the OAU and planners may have an accurate assessment of the needs that are to be satisfied and for which they should plan.

22. First and foremost, of course, the OAU has now undertaken to establish in Africa Centres of Excellence in scientific disciplines which will provide training at post graduate level in the first instance. In accordance with the resolution that authorised that project to be started, the General Secretariat has prepared a report to be submitted to the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government during the forthcoming meetings in September 1968, in Algiers, Algeria. The report is contained in document CM/232(Part 3) to this session of the Council from which further details on the progress and programme of establishing the required Centres of Excellence may be obtained.

23. It will be unwise to anticipate the recommendations that may be made by the Ministers of Education and others in fields such as primary, secondary, vocational and higher education. It is, however, important to remember that, in accordance with available information, the majority of, if not all, Member States are finding it difficult to expand their services at secondary educational level and at teacher training level. To this should be added the overall problem of obtaining finances to finance the entire range of educational services required at primary, secondary, higher and vocational training levels. It is, therefore, the hope of the General Secretariat that at that Conference in July this year, efforts will be made by all those present to examine in detail the problems that have been met in the efforts of Member States to provide adequate and comprehensive educational services at all levels. Secondly, that an effort will be made to arrive at what may be considered as the best solutions to the problems that will thus have been identified.

Thirdly, every effort will be made by the Conference to indicate what are the best ways and means of achieving those best solutions. With the presence of the Ministers of Education and officials from educational services as well as Economic Planning Ministries, it is hoped that clear recommendations both for national, regional and continental action will be forthcoming from that Conference to solve the problems that Member States are experiencing in their educational systems including those that have been mentioned above. The report on that Conference is presented to this session of the Council of Ministers in document CM/232(Part 5) to which attention is invited.

HEALTH AND SANITATION:

(a) General:

24. Just as in the case for education, the Commission for Health, Sanitation and Nutrition started its activities by defining its own terms of reference which were subsequently approved. These included the call for effective national, regional and continental measures to combat endemic, epidemic and nutritional diseases. There were also provisions for co-operative action in connection with the training of medical and health personnel as well as of staff in the field of sanitation. The General Secretariat was directed to undertake certain specific services including "the co-ordination and dissemination of information on public health matters with a view to establishing a system of standardization in the field of:

- (i) Education of personnel for medical and public health activities;
- (ii) Terminology;
- (iii) Statistics;
- (iv) Health legislation."

Arrangements were also to be made for the establishment of advisory teams of experts from which Member States could obtain recommendations on problems that they may meet in health, sanitation and nutritional matters and through which Member States could operate systems of exchanging experts in the fields concerned.

25. Unfortunately it was not possible to secure the services of the three Doctors that are in the establishment of the Health Bureau at the General Secretariat before this year. It is only now that one Doctor is expected to have commenced work by the time the Council of Ministers holds this session. Therefore the work of the OAU given to itself in the field of Health and Sanitation has suffered a setback because of the absence of the said personnel at the Headquarters.

26. In spite of this handicap, the General Secretariat did not stay idle in these fields. It made proposals in early 1967 concerning the establishment of networks of Health Centres as a means of improving the health of rural populations. Such networks would be staffed by personnel trained in curative as well as preventive medicine. They would undertake among other duties the dissemination of information in health education as a means of ensuring that the rural populations avoid some of the diseases currently found there. That document was to be discussed by the Commission concerned which unfortunately did not meet in May 1967 as had been proposed. It is the hope of the General Secretariat that, after the general endorsement which the document received in subsequent meetings of the Council of Ministers, it will be possible for the Health Bureau in collaboration with the International Organizations concerned, to draw up projects that could be implemented to improve the health and sanitation services in rural areas where more than 90% of the African populations stay.

27. During the only session held by the Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Commission, operative paragraph (8) of resolution HSN/17/Res.1 directed "that consideration be given in due course to study the possibility of establishing a common African Office of the WHO". It is recalled here that of the 38 Member States of the OAU, all excepting Ethiopia, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, U.A.R., Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, belong to the African Region with the Headquarters in Brazzaville. The last two belong to the European Region of the WHO while the rest belong to the Middle East Region of the WHO with the Headquarters in Alexandria in the UAR. That resolution was subsequently approved by the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

28. It appeared a simple procedure of merely transferring the eight countries that were not belonging to the African Region with the Headquarters in Brazzaville to that Region. The General Secretariat endeavoured to obtain the necessary action on this matter from the WHO which countered by saying that it was up to the countries which wished to be transferred from the other regions to apply to the World Health Assembly for their transfer to the African Region. The countries concerned were then notified of the constitutional position that the WHO had raised in this connection and were requested to take appropriate action. Up to this moment no country has, to the knowledge of the General Secretariat, formally requested to be transferred from the European or Middle East Region to the African Region of the WHO. In fairness to Ethiopia, it should be stated that she formally had indicated the desire to ask for the transfer during the 19th Assembly of the WHO in 1966, but subsequently the notice was withdrawn before the Assembly could take action on it. Besides Ethiopia, the General Secretariat is not aware of any other State concerned which attempted to take action on this subject. The matter, therefore, rests with the countries concerned which are sovereign, and which subscribed not only to the Charter of the OAU but also to the particular resolution calling for one African WHO region. It is up to them to apply to WHO to be transferred to the African Region, thereby implementing fully the resolution referred to above. It was not possible to send an OAU Representative to the 20th Assembly of the WHO but during the 21st Assembly held in May 1968, this matter was raised once again and the actions expected from the Members who are not already in the African Region were repeated. The General Secretariat was represented at that Assembly. It should, therefore, be repeated that the question of implementing the resolution which called for the creation of one African Region of WHO is dependent on the following countries applying to be transferred to that Region: Algeria, Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia and U.A.R.

29. In other health matters, the General Secretariat circulated a study paper reference No. OAU/SP/2/HSNC/2 entitled "Preventive or Protective Measures against Disease Epidemics Arising from Emergencies". This paper emphasized the need for preventive actions in cases of widespread earthquakes, floods, droughts or outbreaks of epidemic diseases. The paper advocated

the establishment of regional or continental stocks of vaccines against epidemic diseases. In subsequent correspondence with Member States and also with WHO it turned out that this proposal had some ramifications that required some further examination before the case could be reconsidered. The matter has therefore been suspended pending the examination of the case by the Health Bureau of the General Secretariat.

30. There was also a paper which was to be discussed by the Commission concerned in May 1967 concerning the establishment of Civil Emergency Corps which would be organized from the village level right up to the national level for combating disasters that lead to the dispossession of large sections of populations. It is known all over the world that sometimes whenever earthquakes, floods or extensive fires occur, many homes are destroyed together with food and other provisions and many people are made homeless and without any food. In cases of that kind, unless there are organized and trained corps to direct the movement of people, administer vaccinations and inoculations against epidemics, and distribute food, clothing and other material needs, unnecessary injury and even death may be caused amongst the people affected. It is only when trained corps are active in such cases that injuries, misery or death could be avoided.

31. Turning to other activities in the field of health, the OAU recently held a symposium on African medicinal plants in Dakar from 25th to 29th March 1968. More details about that symposium are to be found elsewhere below. The main objective was to encourage the utilization of African medicinal herbs for curing diseases and to arrange how to codify and publish available information on this subject.

(b) Future Programme:

32. As the Health Bureau of the General Secretariat is soon going to be staffed with qualified personnel, it is the hope of the General Secretariat that it will now be possible to draw up plans for projects in the field of Health and Sanitation. It is hoped that by the end of this year, all the three posts in that Bureau will have been filled. It is likely that once the Bureau is functioning properly, it will give priority to the provision of adequate health and sanitation services in rural areas which have more than 90% of the populations in Africa.

It is also likely that plans to train medical, health and sanitation personnel will be drawn up and made known to Member States for their approval. Here it is worth mentioning that among the Centres of Excellence to be set up is one that is to train personnel in medicine and pharmacology. When established, that Centre will help Member States in providing the required trained personnel for their health services.

NUTRITION:

(a) General:

33. Although the field of nutrition is usually coupled with health and sanitation in so far as OAU terms of reference are concerned, it nonetheless, is a field which is different and very widespread although serving the health needs of man. It is recalled here that among the resolutions passed by the inaugural meeting of the OAU by the Heads of State and Government in 1963, was one which directed that the OAU should "conduct research in all African States on nutrition and sanitation and to study ways and means to improve them". Considerable research has been going on under the umbrella of the OAU on cereals and nutrition in general. Other work on nutrition is carried out by the FAO/WHO/OAU unit in Accra whose reports are regularly sent to Member States. The research on cereals has been carried out at various selected places within Member States with a view to improve their needs. Both of these are continuing activities to which the OAU contributes some financial support. Other activities have covered the anti-rinderpest campaign through which it is hoped to immunize more than 100 million heads of cattle in Africa against rinderpest. There has also been a survey on the availability of fish in the Guinea Gulf on the Atlantic coast carried out under the Guinea Trawling Survey. All these aspects that concern the efforts to improve the nutrition of Africans are dealt with in more detail elsewhere below.

34. A more recent project resulted from the decision of the OAU to establish regional stocks of food in Africa as a way of avoiding food shortages and famines. This project was launched by resolution No. CM/Res.112(IX) which was approved by both the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in September 1967.

The General Secretariat has already began to implement that resolution and the details of the actions that have been taken and those that are planned for the future are contained in a progress report No. CM/232 (Part 4) which is to be presented to this session.

35. It should be added that the presence of an agricultural unit within the General Secretariat is more than necessary now in view of this programme as well as the existence of Scientific Bureaus of the OAU whose activities cover mainly agriculture. An appropriate proposal is made below concerning the possibility of creating an agricultural unit within the General Secretariat. Otherwise, within the Health Bureau which is mentioned elsewhere above it is planned to recruit a nutritionist who would help in matters related to nutrition. The search for a person to fill that vacancy is going on and it is hoped to recruit somebody before the end of this year.

36. It should not be forgotten that the OAU already has three Scientific Bureaus which are active in attempting to improve food supplies to Member States. These are the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Health, the Inter-African Soils Bureau and the Inter-African Phyto-Sanitary Bureau, on which more details are found elsewhere below.

(b) Future Programme:

37. For the immediate future, the main activities will centre on the establishment of regional stocks of food which as indicated above, are the subject of a separate document to this session of the Council of Ministers. Secondly, plans will be drawn up to exploit the fish available in the national waters around the African continent as well as those available in the inland waters. It is also considered possible for plans to be drawn up concerning food preservation and the production of food concentrates in Africa. Naturally all these things require considerable expertise, research and training and the necessary plans for these are being laid down through the establishment of Centres of Excellence in Food Science and Technology; and Marine Science and Technology. These two Centres of Excellence are among those covered in the separate document referred to elsewhere.

38. The Scientific Bureaus of the OAU will of course continue within their normal work and a report on this is produced elsewhere below.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

(a) General:

39. Although the foregoing report has dealt with some aspects of natural resources, it is necessary to allow for a separate treatment of those natural resources that have not been covered. Generally speaking, natural resources do include man but the remaining natural resources (e.g. soil, water, flora, fauna and air) are considered only in so far as they serve the needs of man. At the time when the OAU was founded in 1963, matters concerned with natural resources which were not within the specific terms of other Commissions, were handed over to the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission. Among its terms of reference, the Commission was "to conduct scientific surveys of the natural resources of the continent", (vide resolution STR/35/Res.1(I)). The terms of reference also included a request to the OAU "to establish training and research institutes and information centres". These were among the fields to be covered by the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission within the overall activities of the OAU.

40. Since then the OAU has actively been engaged in activities designed to enable Member States to exploit effectively their natural resources. Agriculture, which is a means of using the available soil for producing food and cash crops, has already been covered above and is included in the report covering the activities of the OAU Scientific Bureaus which are engaged in one aspect or another of agriculture.

41. As for the natural resources in general, the OAU was requested by a Conference of African States held in 1964 in Lagos under the auspices of ECA and UNESCO to request the IUCN to draw up a Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. The IUCN was to be assisted in this task by the FAO and UNESCO. The aim of the Convention was to provide for a scientific exploitation, development and conservation of Africa's natural resources. Until such a Convention is approved, there is the London Convention of 1933 on Nature and Wildlife which is still being applied by some States. Because the London Convention has proved

to be inadequate in its provisions, many Member States have already promulgated legislations in the field of nature and natural resources which go beyond the provisions of that Convention. The need to provide adequate instruments for the conservation, utilization, development and preservation of natural resources was therefore, recognized earlier than the date on which the founding of the OAU took place. Once the OAU - Africa's own Organization - was founded, it was only to be expected that it would take an active part in determining how the exploitation, development and conservation of natural resources should be done. It is because of this recognition of the important role of the OAU in these fields that that joint ECA/UNESCO Conference of 1964 asked the OAU to take appropriate action to bring into being a Convention on these matters. On its part, the OAU formally requested the IUCN to undertake the tasks concerned with the assistance of FAO and UNESCO. This subject is covered by a separate report to this session of the Council of Ministers in document CM/232(Part 2).

42. In the field of plant health, the experts advised the OAU, and it was accepted, that there should be a Convention to guide the activities of Member States individually or jointly. Consequently, a Phyto-Sanitary Convention for Africa was processed and was approved by the OAU's political organs in September 1967. The Convention has now been forwarded to Member States for ratification and it is hoped to come into force soon.

43. The problem of usefully exploiting the wealth of the continental shelf, national waters and inland waters of Member States is continuing to engage the attention of the OAU. As mentioned above, a survey has already been carried out in the Guinea Gulf of West Africa with a view to revealing the species of fishes found there which could be used for man's food. Similar surveys are being carried out by International Organizations all around Africa. It is the intention of the OAU to actively participate in those activities of International Organizations which are in keeping with its terms of reference. Naturally where such international activities are short of the expectations of the African States, the OAU will endeavour to fill the gaps.

44. Africa has the largest hot deserts in the world, i.e. the Sahara Desert. It also has a smaller desert - the Kalahari Desert. The two deserts occupy territories belonging to Member States. While human life may appear impossible in some areas of the deserts, nonetheless, modern technology makes it possible for human-beings to survive in desert conditions either throughout the year or for short periods during which useful work of benefit to man can be done. The main point that has been of concern to the OAU concerning the deserts has been the apparent encroachment of these deserts on the areas which hitherto had been used for growing food. In an effort to draw Members' attention to this problem, the General Secretariat published a document entitled "Afforestation and Utilization of parts of the Sahara and Semi-Deserts for Food Production and for other economic Purposes"⁽¹⁾. The paper had two main objectives. Firstly, to prevent the desert from encroaching on food-growing areas by reafforestation and similar land-use, and to use the reclaimed areas for food production; and secondly, to extend human habitation over the desert areas with a view to prospecting for invaluable minerals which can be mined for the benefit of Member States concerned. In September 1967, the Member States which have territorial claims over the deserts met informally in Kinshasa during the meeting of the Council of Ministers and agreed to hold a Representatives' meeting during which matters connected with the reclamation of the desert land could be discussed. Such a meeting is being planned for the future and details will be announced as soon as plans are ready.

(1) Document ESCHC/22

(b) Future Programme:

45. In the immediate future, the O.A.U. intends to concentrate on the survey of known mineral resources within Member States. The aim being to assist in stimulating investments either in the primary action of producing minerals or in the secondary and third stage activities of refining and manufacturing. Such surveys would not only cover the dry land, but also the territorial waters of Member States. Secondly, as already mentioned above, the training of Africans at both higher, middle and lower levels will be pursued vigorously as a continuing exercise. In the case of higher levels, there is the decision of the OAU to establish Centres of Excellence which will contribute substantially to this process of training of African personnel. The Centres will include institutes of Geology, Geophysics and Mineralogy; Climatology and Meteorology; Hydrology; and Applied Science and Engineering. The first of these would come in handy in the post-survey stage of the mineral resources presently known to exist among Member States. The experts trained will also participate in the prospecting for new minerals. The personnel trained in the Centre for Climatology and Meteorology will assist in making accurate weather forecasts which are an invaluable service to farmers besides providing essential information for air transportation. Hydrology is already playing an important role in countries such as UAR and Sudan which have extensive irrigation networks. The question of utilization of natural water resources is slowly assuming importance in the economic and social development plans of the remaining Member States. It is therefore vital to have trained experts in these fields to help Member States to implement rapidly their water utilization plans. The fields of applied science and engineering are very important in devising structures and systems which enable man to exploit natural resources effectively and to provide adequately for man's needs. A provision is therefore made for one of the Centres to train Africans in applied sciences and various types of engineering. As mentioned above, a fuller report on these Centres of Excellence is provided in a separate document No. CM/232(Part 3).

46. The other activities for the immediate future, include the holding of symposia, which will help Member States to identify and highlight their problems in the various fields, and to discuss together possible solutions to the problems and possible future lines of development.

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In this group is included a symposium on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy which is scheduled to be held either late this year or early next year. The peaceful uses of atomic energy is an important field which is proving to be useful in fields such as medicine, industry, agriculture and in water resources. It is because of this increasing importance of the use of atomic energy in fields such as these that it was decided previously to hold a symposium to discuss all relevant aspects. Another symposium will cover anti-trypanosomiasis activities in Member States. Strictly speaking, this should be mentioned under human health in so far as sleeping sickness is a manace to man, but because the disease is transmitted through livestock and wild game, which are part of African's natural resources, it is thought better to mention it here. From these symposia, it is hoped to develop projects or programmes of benefit to Member States.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH:

(a) General:

47. Because science, technology and research are mainly "service" fields, it is not intended to dwell at length on them as they have been covered as and when necessary under appropriate sectors in this report. However, it is necessary to re-emphasize the importance of paying close attention to and spending adequate funds on encouraging and pursuing science, technology and research in their own right. In this connection, it is recalled that during the 2nd Session of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission which was held in 1965 in Lagos, Nigeria, the following were approved as part of the long term programmes in research for the OAU:

"(a) Agriculture - Crop research, Industrial agriculture, Animal Production and pastures, Soil Research, Forestry Research, Humid Tropical Research, Arid Zones, Savannah Research, Control of Locusts, Animal Diseases, etc.

(b) Oceanography and Fisheries Research in sea and fresh water.

(c) Biological Research - Aquatic Biology, Taxonomy and Ecology (Plants and Animals - including phytogeography).

- (d) Industrial and Technological Research - Geology, hydrology and Geophysics, Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes and its applications, Solar Building Materials and Methods of Construction, Roads, Solar Energy, Hydrology and Meteorology.
- (e) Physical and Mathematical Research - Physics, Chemistry and Computer Sciences, Electronics, Geophysics, Physics and Oceanography."

With the establishment of Centres of Excellence in which among other things research will be undertaken, some of these fields will be adequately covered. At present the OAU is carrying out research activities only in a few subjects under agriculture and which have been mentioned already.

48. Technology on the other hand is a field in which the developed countries are at present the most active. They have the funds, the intellectual skills and the laboratories in which the progress of technology either on the basis of improvements of existing equipment and systems or for inventing new ones. However, recent research in some of the developed countries has indicated that provided the scale of operations is adequate to the tasks that are being investigated, then small contributions can be made to technology by small firms. It is because of the acceptance of this attractive possibility that the OAU intends to encourage research activities in industry as indicated in the above quotation from the records of the 2nd Session of the STRC. Because of the stage in development that most African States are in, and because of lack of financial and intellectual resources which could enable these States to undertake gigantic research operations in huge industries, the possibility of contributing to technological progress through industries suited to small markets can be undertaken with possible gratifying results.

49. Lastly, science is the base for technology and scientific research. Therefore, the Teaching of science subjects in the national educational systems must be encouraged by all means possible. These subjects, that is, physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics, tend

to become unpopular for various reasons. Two of these reasons are the sometimes poor teaching available in some of the schools and the sometimes poor equipment available in the laboratories in some of the schools. However, as African States develop economically, it is obvious that there will be opportunities for scientific personnel within their economies. So long as there are job opportunities which are well paid, this usually acts as a visible incentive to students to join scientific based professions. The approach therefore appears to be that while encouraging the teaching of science subjects in schools, every efforts should also be made to create sufficient jobs which require science-based skills, for the local people.

(b) Future Programme:

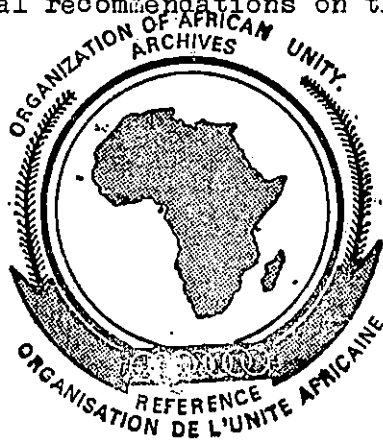
50. The future programme in science and technology will depend very much on the results of the Conference to be held in Nairobi in July this year on Education and Scientific and Technical Training in Relation to Development in Africa. It is also intended at that meeting to examine possibilities of establishing in Africa Centres for the transfer of technology. This is a wide subject that mainly concerns the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. But it is hoped that adequate recommendations may be forthcoming from that meeting on this matter. The aim of the transfer of technology is to supply sifted information on systems for manufacturing some simple items to Member States. The information would include matters such as the actual process involved, the machinery required for it, the personnel required for the whole establishment, the end product and the cost of the whole scheme. Sometimes such information would include a list of manufacturers of machines of the kind required. Many countries have developed in this way by borrowing technology from other areas and using it to found industries locally. There is no reason why the OAU cannot arrange or encourage something similar for its Member States as part of the over-all efforts in industrialization.

51. Turning to research, this is closely involved with any technological development as a service to existing industries within Member States and as an occupation in basic research for future development. Therefore, the amount of research work to be carried out is very much tied with the levels of these aspects as well as on the amount of financial and intellectual resources available. Under the other headings, mention has also been made of the research activities expected to be undertaken in future.

CULTURE:(a) General:

52. One of the many objectives of the O.A.U. appear to be in sight now - that is the active promotion of African cultures. From the very foundation of this Organization a resolution was passed proposing various ways of promoting African Cultures. Since then several more resolutions have been passed recommending different approaches such as organization of seminars, exchange of artists, organization of exhibitions of works of art and organization of festivals in order to enable the African people to see their various cultural heritages. As a start along these lines the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers meeting in Kinshasa in September 1967, agreed to stage an All-African Cultural Festival to feature African traditional and modern music, dance, drama, literature, handicraft, etc. This decision was subsequently approved by the Fourth Assembly of the Heads of State and Government which also met in Kinshasa in September 1967. The General Secretariat was requested to plan for the first of such Festivals, with the help of a Committee consisting of Algeria, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania.

53. Since then considerable work has gone into the preparations for the first of these Festivals. The last Ministerial Council approved the scope and general regulations of the planned festival prepared by the General Secretariat. This work had previously been considered and amended by the Preparatory Committee on the Festival before it was submitted to the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers. This committee has since met thrice. During its third meeting, it decided on the date of the Festival - namely July 14 - 25, 1969, in Algiers at the kind invitation of the Government of Algeria. It also examined organizational and administrative matters of the Festival. During its next meeting to be held in Algiers, Algeria, in September this year it is expected to review these matters and more specifically to examine closely and make final recommendations on the financial aspects of the Festival.



54. The news of the proposed staging of this festival has been received enthusiastically by all Members of the Organization, and, in fact, many of them have already started to prepare their troupes for the expected big event. The Preparatory Committee recommended that each Member State should set up a national Committee specially charged with the duty of carrying out all the preparations for the festival in order to make sure that the preparations for and the activities of the festival are carried out effectively and efficiently at the national level. These national committees were considered by the Preparatory Committee as being of paramount importance to the success of the festival.

55. The General Secretariat has prepared one coloured poster as part of the publicity work. Copies of this have now been sent to all Member States, for display in prominent places including their Embassies abroad. This is just a contribution of the Secretariat to the Festival's publicity but Member States are urged to carry out full publicity through their national media of communication such as television, radio, newspapers, additional posters, etc., so as to inform their people more fully. The importance of carrying out such publicity cannot be over emphasized here for if done successfully, it would assist in the eventual success of the festival, as well as in contributing to its financial resources. A more detailed report on the preparations for the first All-African Cultural Festival is being presented to this session of the Council of Ministers in document CM/232(Part 1).

(b) OAU Emblem:

56. The choice of an OAU Emblem has been on the agenda of the OAU policy making organs for the last four years and for all this time no suitable emblem has been selected among the many entries received each time. Another competition for an emblem is now in progress. This is the fifth competition and the feeling of the General Secretariat now is that a different method may have to be adopted to select the emblem or else this competition could be repeated many more times with the same disappointing results and diminishing response from competitors. The artists that must have taken interest in the first four competitions seem to have lost their enthusiasm now. Most of what has come in this time seems to be the work of primary school children and is of very poor quality.

Either Members of the OAU ~~could choose one from the present lot~~ and issue directives to improve on it if necessary, or they should pick an artist and give him more detailed directions as to what the emblem should look like, and let him produce one. A fuller report on this subject is contained in document CM/222 to this session of the Council.

(c) Future Programme:

57. At present plans for the immediate future in the field of culture are centred on the regular staging of the Festival, the first of which is due to be held in July 1969. Experiences gained from this festival will indicate what future lines of action need to be taken to ensure effective caring of and development in African cultures.

GENERAL MATTERS:

(a) Integration of the Former Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa (CCTA) into the Organization of African Unity:

58! At the last meeting of the former Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa (CCTA) which was held in Dar-es-Salaam in 1963, it was decided to leave the consideration of the future of that Organization ^{to} the Heads of State and Government of the OAU within "the overall context of Pan African Co-operation". Subsequently the Assembly of Heads of State and Government directed that the former CCTA should be integrated into the OA. This integration took place on the 1st January 1965. Another directive was that all the Bureaus of the former CCTA that were existing outside Africa should be transferred to Africa. This was officially completed in 1967 when the Inter-African Soils Bureau formerly sited in Paris was installed in Bangui, Central African Republic; the Inter-African Phyto-Sanitary Bureau from London was installed in Yaounde, Cameroon; and the Publication Office formerly sited in London was installed in Niamey, Niger. Incidentally the former colonial powers, i.e. United Kingdom, France and Belgium, had renounced their rights in the former CCTA in writing: South Africa and Portugal had been expelled previously. Following the recommendation of the 2nd Session of the STRC, a team of Liquidators was appointed to formally wind up the affairs of the former CCTA. The team consisted of one representative each from Ethiopia and Sudan kindly provided by those

Governments. The team of liquidators completed its work in April 1968, and their report is presented to this Council of Ministers in document CM/215. All these matters relating to the integration of the former CCTA into the OAU are covered elsewhere above in more detail. Here it is only sufficient to mention that the integration has been carried out successfully and that the scientific bureaus and activities of the former CCTA which were considered to be of benefit to Member States have continued to function or to be carried out as part of and under the OAU.

(b) Pan African News Agency:

59. When the OAU was founded in 1963 the Heads of State and Government proposed among other things that the OAU should undertake "the establishment of an African News Agency". The main functions of such an agency would be mainly three. Firstly to disseminate information from Member States throughout Africa and to the outside world; secondly to be the source of authentic news from Africa both to Africa and to the outside world; and thirdly, to encourage the exchange of economic, social and cultural information which would help Africans better to understand one another and to cement African unity. Both the first and the second sessions of the Educational and Cultural Commissions examined this proposal and made appropriate recommendations which were later approved by the political organs of the OAU. Out of these recommendations, a Committee of experts was established to draw up a blue print for a Pan African News Agency. The Committee dealt with, among other things, the equipment required, the level of staffing, regional centres, administrative set up and financing. Their report was contained in document CM/105 which was submitted to the Sixth Session of the Council of Ministers in February 1966. After considering the detailed report of the Committee of experts, the Council of Ministers decided to postpone the matter sine die.

Recently other Pan African Organizations in the information field have attempted to revive the idea of establishing the Pan African News Agency. The OAU Secretariat has been approached on this matter by some of the Organizations. However, the position appears very clear.

The blue print drawn up by the experts is still valid to date as it was then, but may require a few revisions to bring it up to date. But the question of reviving the matter rests squarely with the Member States or the political organs of the OAU and not with the General Secretariat which is powerless to act on a matter such as this in which the Council of Ministers has already taken a specific stand.

(c) Institutional Changes:

60. The Commissions that used to be serviced by the Scientific and Cultural Department within the General Secretariat were the Educational and Cultural Commission, the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission and the Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Commission. Towards the end of 1965, it appeared that the meetings of the organs of the OAU and their Committees which demanded attendance by Representatives of Member States, were becoming a bit too many in any one year. This appeared to place avoidable financial burdens on some Member States. An enquiry was held by an Institutional Committee, and one of their recommendations which was approved was to amalgamate the three Commissions mentioned above into one Commission to be called the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission. Other Commissions dealing with economic and social matters were also amalgamated into one. Consequently there are now only three Commissions including the Defence Commission, comparing to seven that had been established by the OAU at the time of the amalgamation. The amalgamation entails an amendment to the Charter of the OAU and this is now being processed and should be completed at the present series of meetings. Hereafter, there will be only one Commission, i.e. Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission, to cover all the matters that were initially handled by the previous three Commissions. A system of Advisory Committees could be instituted to ensure that the entire field is effectively covered by the Commission.

(d) Agreements with UNESCO, FAO, IAEA, WHO and UNICEF:

61. One of the purposes of the OAU as enshrined in its Charter is to promote "International Co-operation, having due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights". This is as it should be for Africa is part of the world

community of nations and it must contribute its best in the international forums and to world activities. Among the directives issued early at the beginning of the OAU called for the signing of agreements between the United Nations and its family of Organizations with a view to ensuring efficient co-operation, harmonization of activities and effective contribution to the economic and social development of African States. The General Secretariat therefore embarked soon after that on the task of drawing up draft agreements with the Organizations concerned. An agreement has already been signed between the United Nations Organization, the Economic Commission for Africa and the International Labour Organization with the OAU. Of the Organizations directly concerned with the Scientific and Cultural Department, i.e. UNESCO, FAO, IAEA, WHO and UNICEF, continuing action has been taken since 1964 to agree on a common text for the agreements. After several exchanges of letters and after negotiations, the draft agreements between UNESCO, FAO and IAEA with the OAU were finalized by the Secretariats concerned, and processed through the Council of Ministers, and are ready for signature after approval by the policy making organs of these Organizations (vide resolution CM/Res.120(IX) and subsequent decisions). One of the most important things that these agreements cover relates to external aid to OAU Member States. It is recalled that in the first meetings of the Commissions held in 1964, several resolutions requested that external aid to African States should be co-ordinated in the common interest of Member States. Thus the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission called on the OAU "to handle external aid of projects of common interest sponsored by the Commission". The Educational and Cultural Commission called for "a rational policy in the use of external aid". The Charter of the OAU also by implication calls upon the co-ordination of external aid to Member States especially on projects of common interest. In the agreements mentioned above, the position of the OAU regarding external aid to Member States on common projects or programmes is safeguarded. It is now accepted that the OAU can ask for aid on projects of common interest on behalf of two or more Member States provided certain procedural matters relating to such aid are fulfilled. As for the agreement with WHO, the draft is being processed and it is hoped that the final draft will be agreed upon between the Secretariats of the two Organizations so that it may be presented to the Member States and to the policy-making organs of the two Organizations. Although UNICEF has been contacted

on the matter of drawing up an acceptable agreement, this has not produced any results yet. It would appear that UNICEF does not at present have any agreements with Inter-Governmental Organizations such as the OAU and should the OAU/UNICEF agreement be processed and agreed upon, it will be the first in the life of UNICEF. However, the matter is now with UNICEF and the OAU is awaiting their response.

It should be mentioned here that even without these agreements, which will institutionalize the co-operation and contact between the OAU and the United Nations and its family of Organizations, it is gratifying to report that where activities have called for a joint approach or co-operation, this has not been denied the OAU. The agreements when they are signed will therefore merely strengthen and improve on the good relations already existing between the OAU and the Organizations concerned and provide a legal form for their future co-operation.

(e) Staff Position:

62. The following is the disposition of staff in the Scientific and Cultural Department:

Place	Establishment	On post	Posts Offered	Vacant
Headquarters (Addis Ababa)				
Professionals	7	3	1	3
Other	4	1	1	2
Lagos				
Professionals	6	3	-	3
Other	25	24	-	1
Bangui (B.I.S.)				
Professionals	4	1	-	3
Other	9	1	-	8
Yaounde (I.P.S.B.)				
Professionals	2	2	-	-
Other	6	5	-	1
Muguga (I.B.A.H.)				
Professionals	4	3	-	1
Other	4	2	-	2
Niamey (Publication Office)				
Professionals	1	1	-	-
Other	6	5	-	1
T O T A L: Professionals	24	13	1	10
Other	54	38	1	15

• The recruitment of professional personnel to fill the existing vacancies has improved slightly. At this time last year there were 14 vacancies in the professional cadres and at present there are only 10 vacancies and one vacant new post - making a total of 11 vacancies. It is the hope of the General Secretariat that the existing vacancies in the professional cadres will be filled before the end of this year.

(f) Future Development in the Scientific and Cultural Department:

33. Since 1965 when the former CCTA with its bias on agricultural activities was integrated into the OAU, the Headquarters continuously felt for need of an agriculturist to assist in processing and co-ordinating agricultural programmes of the OAU. There are existing scientific bureaux of the OAU, i.e. the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Health, the Inter-African Soils Bureau and the Inter-African Phyto-Sanitary Bureau, which are all dealing with aspects of agriculture in Africa. There are other projects such as the anti-rinderpest campaign, the development of cereals and nutrition - all of which are aspects of agriculture and which have had to be carried out without somebody at the headquarters who would be able to co-ordinate these activities within an approved overall agricultural plan. In September 1967, the OAU approved the establishment of regional stocks of food grains in Africa. This is an agricultural matter. Of the possible plans which could be drawn up for implementation, many of them are in the field of agriculture, such as the growing of provision of adequate and balanced diets to African populations as a solution to one of, if not, the most urgent problem facing the OAU at present. All these require an efficient Secretariat with the necessary qualified personnel who would not only view knowledgably the agricultural activities going on at present, but would also assist in supervising and co-ordinating them towards the achievement of approved goals. Of importance to the OAU as far as its agricultural activities are concerned, is what could be termed as agricultural master plan within which all its agricultural activities would be carried out. Such a plan cannot be drawn up without a team of experts at the Headquarters who would carry out the required planning. Then there is the important task of assessing the activities of FAO and indicating their contribution to development in Africa. There are

~~also other non-African Organizations active in the field of agriculture~~ in Africa which have to be covered. This requires a team of experts at the Headquarters. It is because of the need to fill this gap in the agricultural know-how at the General Secretariat that it is proposed that an Agricultural Section be established within the Scientific and Cultural Department of the General Secretariat. The policy making organs of the OAU are kindly requested to pronounce themselves on this matter bearing in mind the importance of agriculture and agricultural development to the economies of Member States and to their efforts to raise the standards of living of their citizens. The section could consist of six officers as follows:

One Head of the Section	P.4	US.\$ 8,930 p.a.
One Agriculturist	P.3	US.\$ 7,460 p.a.
One Veterinarian	P.3	US.\$ 7,460 p.a.
One Fisheries Officer	P.3	US.\$ 7,460 p.a.
One Botanist	P.3	US.\$ 7,460 p.a.
One Research Co-ordinator	P.3	US.\$ 7,460 p.a.

US.\$46,230
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The additional finance required within the OAU regular budget would be about US.\$65,000 p.a. including pension and housing contributions.

This team at the General Secretariat would among other things ensure the efficiency and effective co-ordination and implementation of the agricultural activities of the OAU, adequate planning for such activities and effective supervision to ensure that their implementation is within the development needs of Member States. The section would also handle agricultural matters brought in from non-African Organizations such as FAO. The establishment of an Agricultural Section within the Scientific and Cultural Department of the General Secretariat along the lines outlined above is commended to Member States and is strongly recommended.

TO CONCLUDE:

64. When the Charter calls on the OAU "to co-ordinate and intensify their (Member States) co-operation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa", it places on that Organization the

responsibility that permeates into practically the entire fields of human needs and endeavour. The successful carrying out of all what is entailed in giving the peoples of Africa a better life calls for detailed planning and extensive expenditure of money and physical and mental energy. The terms of reference which apply to the activities of the Scientific and Cultural Department within the General Secretariat are similarly wide and range from agriculture, minerals, other natural resources, education, professional training, technical co-operation, research to culture. Since those terms of reference were approved, and with the limited personnel available, the General Secretariat has been slowly but surely drawing up plans which could be implemented in the common interest of Member States. Some of these plans, such as the establishment of a Pan African News Agency and the establishment of an Institute for African Studies, have had to be suspended because of lack of resources and perhaps because the time was not opportune. Between 1965 and 1967, efforts were made to get the political organs to approve other plans, but because of the failure of the Commissions to meet and because of the official suspension of all meetings of the Commissions, this could not be done. This meant that the General Secretariat was faced with a period of what may be called "non-productivity" as it only dealt with routine matters of correspondence, servicing meetings and making studies on which no action could be taken by the organs concerned. This situation could not be allowed to go on for too long, and in September 1967, the General Secretariat presented certain projects of strategic importance in the field of food production, education and culture to the Council of Ministers. The Council then took up its responsibility in considering plans of benefit to Member States and approved these projects. The one relating to food production concerns the establishment of regional stocks of food in Africa not only to provide reserves against food shortages but also to act as a stimulant to increasing agricultural production of food and cash crops. The project in the educational field, which also covers scientific and technological aspects, relates to the establishment of eight Centres of Excellence in Africa in applied sciences. These are closely connected with the training of highly skilled personnel for and undertaking research in the scientific exploitation and development of natural resources, as part of the efforts of Member States to ensure accelerated economic and social development in their countries.

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The project in the cultural sphere concerns the regular staging of an All-African Cultural Festival to cover all aspects of African cultures. Plans for the staging of the first All-African Cultural Festival are proceeding satisfactorily and the festival will be held in Algiers, Algeria, from 14th to 25th July, 1969. Since these projects, among other things, were subsequently approved by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the greenlight was therefore given to the General Secretariat to implement them. The General Secretariat has actively carried out its responsibilities in this connection and the reports on the various stages of implementation of the programmes concerned are provided in separate documents to this session of the Council. So far, the support the General Secretariat has received from Member States as well as from some of the UN Agencies in these important decisions of the OAU in the educational, nutritional and cultural fields, has been very good and encouraging.

65. Turning to the future, first of all the General Secretariat wishes to have an Agricultural Section with qualified personnel which will assist it in the planning and executing plans and projects in the important field of agriculture and nutrition. Thus, armed with the required skills, the General Secretariat will increase its contribution to the economic and social development of Member States. Future activities also depend on several other things. One of these is the successful holding of the joint UNESCO/OAU Conference on Education and Scientific and Technical Training in Relation to Development in Africa, which is to be held in July this year, and from which recommendations for future action in education, science and training are expected. Then there are the symposia, which are planned for and from which also projects may be developed for the benefit of Member States. Finally there is the pure process of examining the previous resolution of the OAU to see what can be done now that could not have been done before.

66. With the agreements and contacts that have been made with Organizations such as UNESCO, FAO, IAEA, WHO and UNICEF and the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa, and above all, with the active support of Member States, the General Secretariat is confident that it will be able to undertake such activities that will help Member States not only to increase the standards of living of their citizens but also to cement that vital unity between them that is required for the future united and progressive Africa.

1968-09

O.A.U. Activities and inter-African cooperation in education, science, technology, health and culture

Organization of African Unity

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