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AFRICAINNE

SECRETARIAT

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CM/316 (Part 7)

INTER-AFRICAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



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1. Resolution CM/Res.164 (XI) adopted by the Council of Ministers at its Eleventh Ordinary Session in Algiers, recommended to Member States to conclude bilateral agreements on Technical Assistance and encourage the initiatives already taken in this direction by some members. Further, it invited Member Countries to provide the General Secretariat of the OAU with full information regarding the availability and needs for cadres so as to relay this information to all interested Member States.

2. Pursuant to that Resolution, some Member States, the Kingdom of Swaziland, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Niger and Sierra Leone communicated to the General Secretariat their technical assistance needs. The Peoples's Democratic Republic of Algeria as well as the United Arab Republic offered scholarships within the framework of the Algiers International Fair and the services of the Egyptian Bank Notes Printing Press respectively. Since July 1969, this information has been circulated to all Member Countries.

3. With regard to technical assistance personnel, in the replies received by the General Secretariat, most Governments have asserted that their own manpower situation prevents them from acceding to requests from other countries. Only a few candidatures from the United Arab Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia have been noted; these are less than ten in number. It is hoped that this number will increase rapidly in the near future.

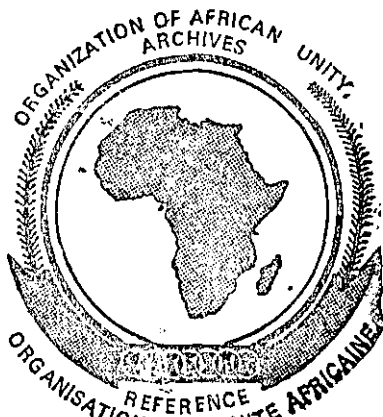
4. Actually, the surveys made by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) indicates the existence, in most of these countries, of a sizable proportion of experts wishing to work under an Inter-African technical assistance programme. It is essential that the data on other countries' needs in cadres be sufficiently disseminated at national level for the benefit of local cadres. It is also important that the countries in need of cadres provide detailed information about employment

conditions that they propose to offer African technicians. One cannot stress enough the difficulties presented by an offer of employment not outlining details on general employment conditions: candidates would not be interested so long as they could not assess the scope of the advantages they were offered. Some Governments had informed the General Secretariat that they could not invite candidatures as long as the recruitment conditions were not stated. The Council of Ministers therefore adopted Resolution CM/Res.195 (XIII) on Inter-African Technical Assistance, inviting the Member States concerned to specify in their offers of employment the conditions they propose to offer prospective candidates. It is necessary to reiterate this appeal.

5. In fact, ECA has drawn up a list of African experts willing to work within the framework of inter-African technical assistance. The Council should consider how this roster of African experts could be used to the best advantage of the continent. In this connexion, whenever a country submit a request direct contacts could be contemplated with the experts whose full addresses and other relevant particulars are known to ECA; at the same time, offers of employment made by the countries requiring manpower will be circulated to all States. These offers would be broadcast on the radio and published in the press for the benefit of any cadres not included in the ECA-prepared list. Actually, the ECA survey did not embody cadres at all levels; it covered only specialists attached to Universities and research institutions. Further, it would be expedient to formulate a standard employment contract to be signed by the manpower donor and recipient countries as well as by the specialists concerned. The Government supplying manpower would sign for approval, with the understanding that the contract binds directly and only the government employing the manpower and the specialist concerned.

6. The existence of such a standard contract would help simplify the slow and difficult procedures of bilateral negotiations; further, it would enable the Secretariat to obtain statistics of development and the trend of "inter-African technical assistance activities". Another possibility would be to select from the roster the technicians needed by the requesting Government and to communicate to the said Government the list of experts so far selected.

7. It appears expedient to set up a Committee made up of two representatives from each sub-region to be responsible for studying the problems posed by the exchange of experts between African countries. Actually, the following advantages in respect of the African technicians should be considered; security guarantees offered by the requesting Government, their status vis-a-vis their civil service should they return home, social security etc., penalties for crimes committed within the requesting country, the role of employment bureaux of Member States etc. This Committee would therefore be responsible for giving advice on surveys conducted by ECA in conjunction with OAU on the position and trend of the employment market within a given sub-region or on the continent as a whole. ECA would conduct technical activities relating to the manpower problem whilst the OAU would deal with the political aspect involved in the exchange of experts between African countries.



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# Inter-African Technical Assistance

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