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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAIN**

SECRETARIAT

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Fourteenth Ordinary Session

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CM/299

REQUEST FOR THE BUILDING OF AN OFFICIAL RESIDENCE FOR
THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Request for the Building of an Official Residence for
the Administrative Secretary-General

In the light of its experience of the past six years, the General Secretariat considers it its duty to propose, for obvious economic reasons, for the OAU the building of an official residence for the Administrative Secretary General of the Organization. Since the General Secretariat came into being, an annual sum of US.\$9,600 has been regularly voted for the rent of the villa which is being used as the residence of the Administrative Secretary General.

57600 This means that at the end of the present financial year, the rentals paid by the OAU on this residence will amount to 9600×6 , which is equal to US.\$57,000. It should be added that the sum of US.\$10,000 was set aside for the furnishing of this residence out of the OAU budget. If one includes all the expenses incurred in effecting various repairs in the very old villa occupied now by the Administrative Secretary General for the past six years, which amount to more than U.S.\$2,000.-, one will realize that this residence must have cost OAU more than US.\$70,000.-.

Now, on the basis of the information obtained from the department of architecture in the Ethiopian Ministry of Public Works, an approximate sum of US.\$60,000.- would be quite enough for the construction of a suitable villa which would serve as the residence of the Administrative Secretary General. This means that the total cost could be completely offset by the rentals paid by the OAU in less than six years. In fact, it should be noted that the rental rate of the present residence fixed since 1964 has not been altered and the landlord has already been offered more than double the rent being paid now by the OAU.

This means that without the special considerations given to the OAU by the Ethiopian Government, the Secretary General would be obliged either to move out, or to request an increase rental payment, which, from the look of things, is unthinkable in the

present circumstances and with due regard to the policy of austerity being practised by the Council of Ministers with the full support of the OAU General Secretariat.

It should be mentioned that the Ethiopian Government, upon instructions from His Imperial Majesty, would be willing not only to offer, free of charge, a piece of land to OAU but also give orders that the plans, bills of quantities and costs and the important work of overseeing and controlling construction be undertaken free of charge by the appropriate departments of the Ethiopian Ministry of Public Works and the Highway Authority, thus reducing total costs of construction by approximately 28%.

Furthermore, the Chief Architect in the Ministry of Public Works, from whom there is a note attached to this report, says that such a villa would take 6 to 8 months to build.

In view of the foregoing the General Secretariat proposes that the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters and the Council of Ministers envisage the construction, as soon as possible, of an official residence for the Administrative Secretary General and authorize the expenditure of US.\$60,000.- to this end. This sum could easily be taken out of the savings from the 1968/69 - 1969/70 budgets, the working capital and, if necessary, the 1970/71 budget.

The advantage in authorizing that this amount ~~from~~ be taken from the savings that are now available would be that this would make it possible for work to start immediately so that at the end of the current financial year the villa could be ready and there would be no need to include rental for the Secretary-General in the 1970/71 budget.

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