

**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY
SECRETARIAT
P. O. Box 3243**

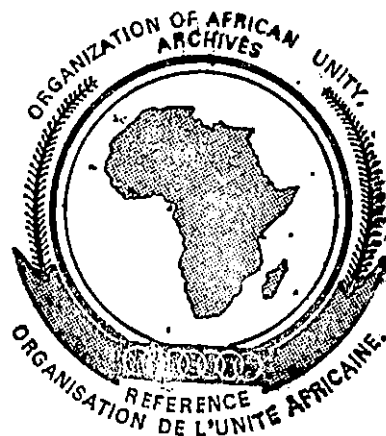
ADDIS ABABA

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAIN
SECRETARIAT
B. P. 3243**

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Fourteenth Ordinary Session
Addis Ababa, February/March 1970

CM/327

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE DATE AND VENUE
OF THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT



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1. As a rule, the OAU summit is held in September, at a date agreed by the Conference.
2. At the Six Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held at Addis Ababa, from 6 to 10 September 1969, it was decided that the next session would be held early in September 1970, the Ethiopian Government, in co-operation with the OAU Secretary General, being free to suggest the actual date.
3. It should be mentioned that when that decision was made in September 1969, the Leaders of certain delegations expressed the desire that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government should be held in future at a different period.
4. Similarly, some delegations suggested that the issue should be dealt with through private consultations, bearing in mind the convenience, the special problems and needs of the Governments of Member States.
5. This issue has been debated on numerous occasions in the past and dealt with through private consultations as well. The final decision to hold the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in September, was taken primarily to enable clear directives to be given to the African representatives in good time, on the concerted policy of the Independent African States regarding serious matters of concern to Africa and the international world, the aim being to give proper guidance for agreed action by African delegations at the annual session of the UN General Assembly which always begins on the third Tuesday of September, each year.
6. In arriving at this decision, the Heads of State and Government based their thinking mainly on Article VIII of the Charter which calls for an appropriate examination by OAU of all

matters of common concern to Africa, with a view to co-ordinating and harmonizing in the field of politics and diplomacy, concerted action by the Governments of Member States.

7. That was the reason why all suggestions for fixing the date for the Summit after September were turned down.

8. It should, however, be noted that some Heads of State and Government have long been in touch with the Secretariat, pointing out that certain factors and requirements, of a national character or otherwise, made it impossible for them to take part in sessions of the Assembly in August and September.

9. It was suggested by these Heads of State that since the date could not be put back, it should, if possible be brought forward, to enable them to take part in the important deliberations for the future sessions of the Assembly.

10. There have been a number of consultations on the subject since September last year and the Secretariat was invited by some Member Governments to suggest to the present Council of Ministers that it should examine the problem and consider the possibility of bringing forward the date of the Conference, to enable the maximum number of Heads of State and Government to participate in the next sessions of the Assembly.

11. In this connexion, a date at the end of June or early in July was suggested as a possibility for future OAU Summit Conferences.

12. In accordance with the request of certain Governments of Member States, the Secretariat has the honour to submit this item for careful consideration at the fourteenth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers.

13. Further, the Secretariat would like to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that in the event of a decision to bring forward the date, it would also be necessary, in the same

spirit, to advance the date for the first budget session of the Council of Ministers, to provide a similar interval between these two important meetings of the Organization of African Unity.

14. Finally, the Secretariat would like to inform the Council that it sees no particular administrative or technical difficulty, in holding future sessions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in June or July and in having the budget session of the Council of Ministers take place in November or December each year.



1970-02

Report of the secretary general on the date and venue of the summit conference of heads of State and Government

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