

ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY  
SECRETARIAT  
P. O. Box 3243

ADDIS ABABA

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
Fifteenth Ordinary Session,  
Addis Ababa - August 1970.

CM/336

REPORT OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE  
LIBERATION OF AFRICA



CM0336

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REPORT OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE  
LIBERATION OF AFRICA

The OAU Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa held its 17th Regular Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, between the 18th and 21st August, 1970, during which it examined the reports of the Executive Secretary, the Standing Committees on General Policy, Defence and Finance as well as the memoranda submitted to it by the various Liberation Movements. The Committee also interviewed the representatives of most of the Liberation Movements.

2. This report of the Committee's work covers the period between the 16th Regular Session, which took place in Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania, in February 1970, and the present Session, and deals briefly with the following subject-matters:-

- (i) General Remarks;
- (ii) The situation in dependent territories, namely:-
  - (a) Angola, Mozambique, Guinea (Bissau), South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Comoro, and the so-called French Somaliland (Djibouti).
  - (b) Other matters.

3. The deliberations of the Committee were guided by the opening statements of the out-going Chairman of the Committee, Honourable Abdulrahman Mohamed BABU, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the United Republic of Tanzania, the newly-elected Chairman of the Committee, His Excellency, Ato Ketema YIFRU, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, the Rapporteur of the Committee, His Excellency, Mr. Olu SANU, Ambassador of Nigeria

to Ethiopia, and also His Excellency, Mr. Diallo TELLI, Administrative Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity.

4. The Committee expresses its satisfaction with the progress made by the various Movements and is happy to note that fighting has continued on all fronts wherever the armed struggle is taking place.

5. The Committee acknowledges the positive results that have been achieved so far to reconcile the differing factions within certain Liberation Movements. It observes that the various differences which have hitherto plagued some of the Movements have not in any way retarded the progress of the liberation struggle.

6. In order to avert future crisis which could adversely affect the liberation struggle, the Committee recommends that all Movements should hold regular Congresses and, when necessary, Extra-ordinary Congresses, which should be attended by their leaders, should be convened to deal with urgent and important matters. The Committee further recommends that the Executive Secretariat, without in any way appearing to impose its will on the differing factions should, on behalf of the Committee, use its good offices to seek for a settlement whenever an internal crisis develops in any Liberation Movement. Leaders of Movements are urged, in the interest of the liberation struggle, to be in constant touch with their fighting forces in the war zones.

7. The Committee takes note of the fact that the Committee of Seven set up by the Heads of State and Government to look into the mandate, structure and composition of the Liberation Committee had earlier on interviewed the Chairmen of the three Standing Committees, members of the Executive Secretariat of the Committee as well as the representatives of Liberation Movements in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The Committee, however, expects to make its own comments and observations on the report which will be submitted to the Council by the Committee of Seven.

THE SITUATION IN DEPENDENT TERRITORIES:ANGOLA(a) M.P.L.A.

8. During the period under review, M.P.L.A. forces have intensified their action by the opening of new combat zones and through consolidating their positions in regions they control. In spite of the handicap caused by lack of transit facilities the M.P.L.A. has nonetheless continued with clandestine activities in urban areas, particularly in Luanda, the capital City. Military action has been characterised by mortar shelling of Portuguese posts and by mining operations on roads and destruction of bridges, in spite of the fact that the enemy has intensified its attacks during the dry season by increasing its air attacks and by resorting to the criminal use of napalm and toxic chemicals.

(b) F.N.L.A. (G.R.A.E.)

9. The A.L.N.A. which is the military wing of the F.N.L.A. is reported to have been active in three zones - the North, the North-East and the East - of Angola and to have infiltrated three units of its troops into the territory as part of its preparation to further intensify the struggle.

10. The Committee takes note of the fact that no reply has so far been received by the Executive Secretariat to its letter to G.R.A.E. offering to train 200 of the Movement's cadres.

11. It will be recalled that the Council of Ministers at its 14th Ordinary Session by Resolution CM/Res 210 (XIV) requested the Administrative Secretary-General, in consultation with the Liberation Committee, to present a comprehensive report to the Fifteenth Session of the Council on the advantages and

disadvantages of the recognition of the F.N.L.A. as a government-in-exile (G.R.A.E.).

12. The Committee wishes to maintain the position it took at its 12th Regular Session, namely, that the status of government-in-exile which had been granted to the F.N.L.A. in 1963 should be withdrawn in view of the fact that the enjoyment of that status by this Movement has not only led it to become complacent but has also diminished the dynamism and vigour with which it should normally pursue the armed struggle.

MOZAMBIQUE:

FRELIMO

13. According to reports received, the military situation in Mozambique has been highlighted by the intensification of operations by FRELIMO in the three provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nyassa and Tete. In Cabo Delgado, while consolidating its rear bases in the liberated areas, FRELIMO has infiltrated into most of the Southern area of the province in spite of difficulties encountered in logistics. In Nyassa, series of operations have allowed FRELIMO to strengthen its positions in vast zones including the Southern, Eastern and Western areas bordering the Zambezia Province. In Tete, FRELIMO forces have continued to advance to the South of the Zambezi River in spite of the losses suffered through enemy air raids and intense patrol along the River, and despite the operation "Gordian Knot" launched in May 1970 by the Portuguese to destroy its rear bases.

14. In all combat zones, enemy posts have come under constant attacks by FRELIMO forces. Sabotage actions on enemy lines of communications have increased and large scale attacks against some posts have resulted in the capture of a large quantity of NATO war materials.

GUINEA (BISSAU)P.A.I.G.C.

15. The military initiative taken by the Caetano government, during the last few months, to regain control of the vast areas controlled by P.A.I.G.C. has proved abortive. The level of the armed struggle waged by P.A.I.G.C. has not only been maintained, but has also been further intensified in the Eastern Region by systematic attacks on Portuguese entrenched camps, command posts as well as in urban centres. In a daring commando operation, five high-ranking Portuguese army officers, including three staff majors, were reported ambushed and killed in the Cachunge Region. The P.A.I.G.C. remains in full control of two-thirds of Guinea (Bissau) and has continued with its work of organisation and administration of these liberated regions.

ZIMBABWE(a) Z.A.N.U.

16. During the last six months, ZANU has been mainly pre-occupied with reconnaissance of old and new routes in order to increase its channels of infiltration deeper into Zimbabwe while at the same time avoiding any clashes with the enemy's border patrol. These measures are also designed for the expansion and improvement of the lines of communication and supply between the Movement's Headquarters and its underground units inside Zimbabwe.

(b) Z.A.P.U.

17. Z.A.P.U. cadres are reported to have attacked a Rhodesian patrol boat in January this year and to have followed it up by a raid on a South African Camp near the Victoria Falls

and on the airstrip in the same vicinity. The minority racist authorities in Salisbury have admitted the loss of several Rhodesian and South African soldiers as well as the destruction of a light plane and two helicopters. ZAPU's strategy has been characterised principally by surprise attacks and ambushes on contingents of Rhodesian/South African troops.

#### SOUTH WEST AFRICA (NAMIBIA)

##### S.W.A.P.O.

18. Between February and April, 1970, SWAPO claims to have engaged South African troops successfully in battles at the Okavango River basin area. Heavy casualties were said to have been inflicted on the enemy with 27 killed and a fair number wounded. Positive evidence of SWAPO activities is contained in a statement accredited to the South African Commissioner of Police who admitted that South African manpower had become heavily strained because of combating "terrorism" in South West Africa's border areas.

#### SOUTH AFRICA:

##### A.N.C. and P.A.C.

19. No significant military activities by the two Movements, A.N.C. and P.A.C., have taken place inside South Africa. Both Movements have apparently been concentrating on their training programmes and consolidating their underground activities inside the country.

20. Twenty A.N.C. freedom fighters appeared in the Supreme Court in Pretoria on charges under the so-called "Terrorist Act". The 20 accused were charged for having engaged in subversive activities against the illegal Vorster regime from both inside and outside South Africa.

OTHER TERRITORIES

21. The Committee reaffirms the legitimate right of Comoro and the so-called French Somaliland (Djibouti) to independence and, therefore, pledges its moral and material support to the Liberation Movements in these territories.

COMOROM.O.L.I.N.A.C.O.

22. The Committee recommends that the African Group at the United Nations should further pursue their efforts to ensure that the Comoro Islands is included in the list of countries to which the Resolution 1514 on the Granting of Independence and Self-determination to Colonised Peoples should apply.

SO-CALLED FRENCH SOMALILAND (DJIBOUTI)F.L.C.S.

23. The Committee took note of the report of the F.L.C.S. representative that the activities of his Movement are centred on mobilising the masses in preparation for political demonstrations.

L.M.D.

24. The Committee also took note of the L.M.D. claims that it had infiltrated some of its militants, trained in subversion, into the territory to constitute underground cells in strategic positions.



OTHER MATTERS:(I) SALE OF ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA:

25. The Committee is deeply concerned about the British Government's announced intention to lift its ban on the sale of arms to the racist minority regime of Pretoria, ignoring the embargo of arms sale to South Africa, and in flagrant violation of the UN Security Council Resolutions of 1963, 1964 and 1970.

26. The Committee rejects all the reasons given by the British Government to justify the resumption of sale of arms to South Africa. The Committee is convinced that this attitude is designed to perpetuate white racial supremacy in Southern Africa and, therefore, recommends to the Council of Ministers the adoption of the Resolution at Appendix II.

(II) PROPOSED TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF MILITARY EXPERTS EMPLOYED BY THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE:

27. The Committee has decided to refer the report submitted by the Executive Secretariat on the proposed terms and conditions of service of Military Experts in its employment to the Standing Committee on General Policy for close study. The Standing Committee is requested to submit the reports with its comments to the next session of the Committee for further consideration.

(III) FINANCIAL MATTERS:

28. The Committee directs the Executive Secretariat to furnish Member-States of the Committee with a financial report every three months and appeals to all Member-States of the OAU to pay up their arrears of contribution towards the Special Fund.

29. The Committee has decided to make some financial allocation to certain Liberation Movements for administrative purposes.

(IV) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLES IN PORTUGUESE COLONIES:

30. The Committee, after having examined the report submitted to it by the Standing Committee on General Policy on the conference held in support of the fighting peoples in Portuguese territories in Rome in June 1970,

- Congratulates the sponsors of the Congress;
- Stresses the political significance and propaganda value of such a Conference to the struggle for independence being waged by African Liberation Movements;
- Hopes that similar solidarity conferences will be held in future in support of other dependent territories;
- Expresses the wish that all forms of assistance, be they financial or material, be channelled through the Liberation Committee;
- Instructs the Executive Secretariat to give the widest possible publicity to the Declaration made at the Rome Conference.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Liberation Committee, after having studied the development of the armed struggle on all fronts and having also noted that the enemy has intensified its military build-up and operations by resorting to large scale air attacks;

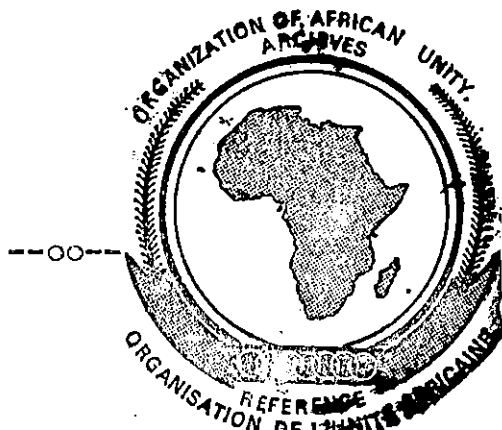
Realising that the Portuguese colonialists are resorting more and more to the use of napalm, toxic chemicals and defoliants with the criminal intention of exterminating the civilian African population and destroying crops in the territories under their domination;

Recalling the decision taken by the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at their Fourteenth and Six Ordinary Sessions respectively on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Seventeen Military Experts, concerning transit facilities for Liberation Movements, priority of distribution of the means of struggle, training and transmission of information;

Being aware of the importance which military training has in the development of the liberation struggle and of the need to equip and reinforce the training centres of the OAU;

- (a) Urges African States neighbouring dependent territories to grant to Liberation Movements the facilities necessary for the movement of their fighters as well as for the transit of their materials and equipment, in conformity with the aforementioned decisions of the Council of Ministers and the Heads of State and Government;
- (b) Deems it necessary that at this stage of the liberation struggle more substantial aid should be granted to Liberation Movements engaged in the liberation struggle;

- (c) Therefore recommends that the necessary funds be made available for the purchase of the materials and equipment which are at present lacking in these training centres, namely, transmission materials, arms and ammunition of NATO type, equipment for detection of mines, blank ammunitions and explosives;
- (d) Further recommends that the necessary funds be allocated for the purchase of urgent requirements of some of the Liberation Movements and to this end mandates the Executive Secretariat, in accordance with the directives of the Standing Committees on Defence and Finance, to take appropriate measures to ensure that the following urgent requirements of some of the Liberation Movements are met:- communication equipment, anti-aircraft equipment as well as weapons and ammunition of NATO type;
- (e) Directs the Executive Secretariat of the Liberation Committee to undertake regular inspection tours of all the OAU Training Centres;
- (f) Recommends that world opinion be once more alerted and mobilised and that the competent organs of the United Nations be informed of the crimes against humanity.



RESOLUTION ON THE SALE OF ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA

The OAU Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa, holding its Seventeenth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 18th to 21st August, 1970,

Having considered at length the serious implications and consequences of British Government's declared intention to resume the sale of arms to the racist South African regime in flagrant violation of Security Council Resolutions of 1963, 1964 and 1970, regarding embargo on the sale of arms to South Africa;

Firmly convinced that Britain's overall policy regarding the minority racist regimes in Southern Africa and in particular the economic, financial and military relations which she maintains with them are designed to strengthen the Pretoria and Salisbury regimes and to worsen the precarious situation in Southern Africa which already constitutes a threat to peace and international security;

Noting the recent Security Council Resolution 281 which was designed to strengthen its previous decisions on arms embargo against South Africa;

Noting also that certain countries have violated the Security Council Resolution regarding the arms embargo;

RECOMMENDS to the 15th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers to:-

1. Commend the stand taken by African States, especially those in the Commonwealth, for their vigorous opposition to the resumption of British arms sales to South Africa;

2. Recommend the intensification of propaganda, political and diplomatic campaigns by Member-States against Britain's declared intention to resume the sale of arms to South Africa;
3. Appoint a Committee of Four and entrust it with the task of following up the developments in this respect and also intensify its efforts towards the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions of 1963, 1964 and 1970 on the embargo of sale of arms to South Africa;
4. Condemn those States, particularly the United Kingdom, France and the Federal Republic of Germany, which continue to sell arms to South Africa, to the detriment of the legitimate interests of the African people, and in flagrant violation of the Security Council arms embargo against South Africa;
5. Deplore the intention of the British Government to resume the sale of arms to the illegal regime in South Africa;
6. Appeal to Britain not to go ahead with its proposed plan for the resumption of sale of arms to South Africa;
7. Call upon the aforementioned Committee which will be set up by the Council of Ministers to work out ways and means of making African feeling known to these States;
8. Instruct the African Group at the United Nations to co-ordinate and to intensify its activities against the resumption by Britain of arms sales to the Pretoria regime.

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