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P. O. Box 3243



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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
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CM/368

REPORT ON O.A.U. ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA



CM10368

MICROFICHE

The Council of Ministers of the O.A.U. meeting in its Seventh Extra-ordinary Session in Lagos from 9 to 11 December 1970, following the invasion attempt of Portugal and its allies against Guinea, examined the problems stemming from the accrued aggressiveness of colonial, imperialist and racist powers in Africa, the issue of sustaining, safeguarding and consolidating the security of Independent States of Africa, and that of practical military, financial, political and moral assistance to be granted to the Republic of Guinea to make for the damages of all kinds it suffered as a result of the Portuguese aggression of November 22, and in order to consolidate her independence and territorial integrity.

In a bid to adopt broad measures leading to a solution of not only the problem of foreign aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of independent states of Africa but also to a solution of the problem resulting from the invasion of Guinea by Portuguese armed forces, the Council of Ministers, at its Seventh Extra-Ordinary Session has adopted unanimously resolution ECM/Res.17 (VII) paragraphs 10 and 11 of which read:

Paragraph 10: Requests Member States of the Organization of African Unity to provide immediate and complete assistance to the Republic of Guinea so as to enable it face the consequences of aggression.

Paragraph 11: Decides to set up a special O.A.U. Fund to be used to provide financial, military and technical assistance to Guinea and invites all African Member States to contribute to this Fund.

This African assistance is all the more important, because Guinea has decided to decline the compensations demanded from the Portuguese Government by the U.N. Security Council.

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that the special mission of the U.N. Security Council, sent to Conakry immediately after the Portuguese aggression to report on the situation in Guinea, has clearly established the responsibility of the Portuguese Government in the invasion of 22 November. On the basis of that report, the Security Council adopted on 5 December 1970, resolution 290 (1970) paragraph 3 of which reads as follows:

"Demand that full compensation by the Government of Portugal be paid to the Republic of Guinea for the extensive damage to life and property caused by the armed attack and invasion and request the Secretary-General to assist the Government of the Republic of Guinea in the assessment of the extent of the damage involved."

To implement this resolution, the United Nations Secretary-General decided to send an Ad Hoc Committee to Conakry which, in co-operation with the Guinea authorities "shall" assess the damages suffered by the Republic of Guinea following the Portuguese aggression so that the United Nations could resort to all legal means to ensure reparations from the Portuguese Government.

In a cable sent to the Administrative Secretary-General of the O.A.U. and circulated to all Member States of the O.A.U. President Ahmed Sekou Toure conveyed to all African Governments the refusal of the people of Guinea to entertain any reparation from the Portuguese Government other than "an immediate recognition and proclamation of national independence of the African territories of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea Bissau". Through that same message, the President of Guinea conveyed to the Administrative Secretary-General the decision of the Guinean Government to rely exclusively on the African solidarity as expressed at the Extra-ordinary meeting in Lagos, in obtaining the means to repair the material and other kinds of damages suffered by Guinea.

To facilitate the implementation of paragraph 11 of resolution ECM/Res.17 (VII) adopted by the Council of Ministers at its Seventh Extra-ordinary Session, the Government of Guinea informed the General Secretariat of the O.A.U. that a special account No. 32-30-20 had been opened at the Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea in Conakry, for remittances in terms of financial assistance from O.A.U. Member States to Guinea. The Administrative Secretary-General through a note under reference POL 20/2/75/1828/70 of 28/12/70 a copy of which is attached to this report, informed all Member States about the opening of this special account and invited them to "remit direct their voluntary contributions through this special account at the Central Bank of Guinea in Conakry" and to inform the Secretary-General of the O.A.U. thereof so that he may report at the appropriate time to the political bodies of the Organization.

Thus, the position as regards assistance from O.A.U. Member States as of 15 February 1971, is as follows:

Financial assistance

Mauritius The Government of Mauritius has paid U.S. \$1.500 to the O.A.U. special fund for financial assistance to Guinea as its contribution in pursuance of Resolution ECM/Res.17 (VII).

Liberia In a spirit of solidarity as clearly shown in Lagos during the 7th Extra-ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, the Government of the Republic of Liberia sent to Conakry in December 1970, a special mission led by the Liberian secretary of State, H.E. M. Rudolph Grimes, to express the sentiments of friendship and solidarity of the people of Liberia to the people of Guinea following the incidents of November 1970.

By the same token, the Liberian mission handed to the Government of Guinea a cheque for the sum of U.S. \$50.000 as Liberia's contribution to assist in repairing the material damage caused through the aggression.

Zambia A few days after the Lagos meeting, the current chairman of the O.A.U. Assembly of Heads of State and Government, H.E. President Kenneth Kaunda, remitted to the General Secretariat, on January 1, 1971, the sum of eight hundred and seventy five thousand and eighteen pounds Sterling (£ 875.018) the equivalent to two million one hundred and forty three dollars and sixty five cents (U.S. \$2.100.043.65) as Zambia's contribution to the financial assistance decided by the O.A.U. in favour of the Republic of Guinea.

Similarly, the Imperial Government of Ethiopia and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania soon after the Portuguese aggression remitted directly to the Republic of Guinea, important sums of money under bilateral relations.

Military assistance

Sudan: Soon after the Portuguese aggression, the Government of Sudan informed the General Secretariat that it had granted military assistance in terms of arms and ammunitions to the value of £39.331/3/7 Sterling.

In the wake of the Portuguese aggression, several O.A.U. Member States sent good-will missions to Conakry with the expression of solidarity from their Governments and peoples to the Republic of Guinea and with the aim of assessing jointly with the leaders, the channel and the type of assistance they could give to the Government of Guinea to contain the aggression of November 22, to remedy its immediate consequences and to strengthen the defence of Guinea so as to meet any fresh attack.

Thus, in pursuance with the essence of resolution ECM/Res.17 (VII) and in the framework of a bilateral agreement between Guinea and their Governments, Algeria, Libya, Nigeria and the United Arab Republic have offered directly to the Government of Guinea considerable military and material assistance.

Several other Member States have indicated to the General Secretariat the firm commitment of their Governments to grant military assistance to Guinea, adding that ways and means of channelling such an assistance were either under consideration or in progress. Some of these Governments intend to discuss with the Guinean delegation at the Sixteenth Session of the Council of Ministers the type of assistance and the conditions under which it shall be granted to ensure greater effectiveness to this gesture of solidarity within the O.A.U. for the benefit of Guinea.

Other forms of assistance

The Government of Somalia has informed the O.A.U. General Secretariat that it has decided to rebuild, with its own finance, the Presidential villa of Belle Vue in Conakry which was burnt and destroyed by the Portuguese horde on 22 November, 1970.

The Governments of Somalia and Guinea are considering at present ways and means of materializing the offer of the Somali Government.

Finally, during the last few weeks, some Member Governments have sought from the General Secretariat information as to the field and type of assistance they could extend to the Government of Guinea in pursuance of decisions adopted by the O.A.U. in Lagos. Correspondence from those Governments have been immediately conveyed to the Government of Guinea, and no doubt the Sixteenth Session of the Council of Ministers shall be an opportunity for the representatives of those Governments to hold direct discussions with the Guinean delegation on their intended assistance.

The General Secretariat is happy to note that the spirit of solidarity from the O.A.U. to the Republic of Guinea, so clearly expressed during the Seventh Extra-ordinary Session in Lagos, has been followed up with an appreciable contribution either financial, material or military from some Member States. All this goes to show that in true fact, Africa as a whole, in granting concrete and effective support to the Republic of Guinea in accordance with decisions adopted in Lagos, has taken up the challenge thrown to her last November by the colonialist and racist powers.

However, to endow Africa's solidarity to the Republic of Guinea with the maximum effectiveness and with the greatest possible success, thereby creating a deterrent for those who may still dream of partial or total reconquest of the African continent, the show of solidarity which prevailed at the last Lagos meeting should continue to find rapid concrete expression through the assistance from O.A.U. Member Governments to the Republic of Guinea. The Organization of African Unity stands to gain from the success of this assistance and to find further consolidation as a prime instrument in the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of Africa and their Governments to freedom, unity, progress and peace.

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity presents its compliments to Their Excellencies the Ministers of Foreign/External Affairs of the Governments of Member States and, in accordance with the provisions of Resolution ECU/Res.17 (VII) unanimously adopted at the 7th Extraordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers on OAU Financial, Material and Technical Assistance to the Republic of Guinea, a copy of which is attached hereto, has the honour to inform Them that it has recently opened in agreement with His Excellency President Ahmed Sékou Touré, a special account NR.32.30.200 at the Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea in Conakry to which should be channelled all financial assistance decided upon in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the above-mentioned resolution and which stipulate:-

Paragraph 10: "REQUESTS Member States of the Organization of African Unity to provide immediate and complete assistance to the Republic of Guinea so as to enable it face the consequences of aggression;

Paragraph 11: "DECIDES to set up a special OAU Fund to be used to provide financial, military and technical assistance to Guinea and invites all African Member States to contribute to this Fund".

In accordance with the deliberations which preceded the unanimous decision of all African delegates to the Lagos Conference to give immediate and full assistance to the Government of Guinea especially as regards finance, to enable it not only to rectify the serious material damage caused by the Portuguese aggression, but also to cope with any new attempt at aggression, the General Secretariat has the honour to invite all Governments of OAU Member States to forward the amount of their voluntary contribution directly to the Special Account opened for this purpose at the Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea in Conakry, and to inform the Administrative Secretary-General, who has received a mandate to coordinate this assistance and to report to OAU political bodies, in accordance with his obligations under the OAU Charter and the provisions of the Rules and Regulations of the General Secretariat of our Organization.

To Their Excellencies the
Ministers of Foreign/External Affairs
of the Governments of Member States


of the O.A.U.



The Government of the Republic of Guinea has recently informed the General Secretariat about the extent of losses in human lives, political and moral injury, and the extensive material damage caused by Portuguese aggression. President Ahmed Sékou Touré has also informed the General Secretariat, through a special message forwarded to all African Governments on 17th December 1970, about the Guinea Government's decision to rely solely, for assistance on African solidarity and to relinquish any claim to direct reparations from the Portuguese Government, by demanding that the latter free immediately and unconditionally the peoples of Angola, Guinea Bissau and Mozambique; this would indeed be the only reparation acceptable to the Guinea Government and to all African Governments as well.

The foregoing statements give African solidarity in favour of Guinea and especially the decision taken at the most recent extraordinary session of the Council of Ministers to grant financial assistance to Guinea, an exceptional degree of importance and urgency to which the General Secretariat has the honour to direct the attention of all Member Governments of the O.A.U.

We are certain that the spirit of solidarity which marked the most recent OAU Session in Lagos will be given practical effect as soon as possible, through the voluntary financial assistance of all African Governments in favour of the Guinea Government.

The General Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Their Excellencies the Ministers of Foreign/External Affairs of the Governments of Member States the assurances of its highest consideration. - 

Addis Ababa,

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