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REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL
ON THE REFUGEES' PROBLEM

ACTIVITIES OF THE OAU BUREAU FOR THE PLACEMENT AND EDUCATION
OF AFRICAN REFUGEES



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REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE REFUGEES' PROBLEM

ACTIVITIES OF THE OAU BUREAU FOR THE PLACEMENT AND
EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN REFUGEES

1. The present report on the activities of the OAU Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees (BPEAR) covers the period from September 1970 to June 1971. The number of refugees on the African continent, estimated at over a million, a short time ago, rose steadily during this period. The main reason for this increase is that a growing number of the African populations in territories still under the domination of colonial and racist regimes in Southern Africa are becoming victims of oppression and persecution.
2. The fact that this situation continues to exist has been an additional source of concern to countries of asylum and Member States of the Organization of African Unity. Indeed, the spirit of solidarity and a sense of duty have led many Governments and their peoples to make a greater number of sacrifices in order to assist the masses of men seeking security, dignity and social justice.
3. Aware of the extent and acuteness of the problems which African refugees face, the General Secretariat has, as in the past, been very anxious about their lot. In accordance with the Bureau's terms of reference, it has been more particularly concerned about the problems of employment and education and has continued to redouble its efforts with a view to finding satisfactory solutions.
4. These efforts have, in fact, been made at several levels with a view to :
 - (a) adjusting the structures of the Bureau and its bodies in order to increase their efficiency in the face of the development of these burning issues;

- (b) increasing and improving assistance services for refugees;
- (c) maintaining, strengthening and increasing the Bureau's external relations both with OAU Member States or other International Organizations (governmental and non-governmental) and with voluntary agencies.

5. The rest of this report aims at highlighting the areas of interest to which the Bureau devoted a whole year's work. This is why the following shall be reviewed :

- (a) the internal organization of the Bureau and its bodies (Chapter I),
- (b) The external relations of the Bureau (Chapter II),
- (c) Refugees Assistance Activities (Chapter III),
- (d) General remarks (Chapter IV).

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CHAPTER I

INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF THE BUREAU AND ITS BODIES

6. At the time of the Fifteenth Session of the Council of Ministers, the BPEAR was hardly thirty months old. Its structures, as initially set up, needed to be modified in order to take account of the rapid growth in the African refugees population and their problems. Report CM/338 which was submitted to the Council for consideration, more or less explained the structural modifications envisaged for the BPEAR and its organs.

7. Since then, new structures and their functional relations have been set up and tested during the period under review. The

Bureau has retained some of its various bodies while acquiring others
The new structures comprise :

- The Co-ordinating Committee,
- The Working Group of the Co-ordinating Committee,
- The National Correspondents,
- The Local Committees.

There is no need for a detailed description of these structures and their functioning. Simply a brief outline suffices.

A -- The Co-ordinating Committee

It was formed by merging two former bodies namely the Consultative Board and the Standing Committee which were both set up in conformity with Recommendation N° 11 of the historic Conference on the Legal, Economic and Social Aspects of the African Refugees Problem held from 9-18 October 1967 under the auspices of :

- the Organization of African Unity,
- the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa,
- the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and
- the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation.

10. As previously stated in the report submitted to the Fifteenth Session (Doc.CM/338), the merging of the two committees was not motivated by the fact that very often the same persons represented the same organizations at the meetings of both committees. Furthermore, owing to the force of circumstances, practically the same matters were discussed in the two bodies, hence, there was duplication of work.

11. Since its establishment which was approved during the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers, the Co-ordinating Committee (composed of representatives of inter-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies interested in African refugees problems) has been working, in accordance with the terms of its Rules of Procedure,

with a view to lending full assistance to the Bureau. In this connexion, it held its Second Session from 18-19 January and adopted a number of proposals contained herein (Annex I to the present report) for consideration by the Council of Ministers.

12. It should be noted, in passing, that since a few months ago several bodies have expressed the desire to become members of the Committee. They are :

- (a) T.A.R.S. (Tropical African Refugee Service) with headquarters in Rome was selected provisionally pending final decision by the next meeting of Committee;
- (b) C.I.M.A.D.E. (Comité Inter-Mouvements Auprès des Evacués) which is concerned with refugees problems, has its headquarters in Paris and has been co-operating with the BPEAR for a long time.

B - Working Group of the Co-ordinating Committee

13. This is a sub-committee of the Co-ordinating Committee. In conformity with Article 3 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, it is composed of members resident in Addis-Ababa. It is entrusted with the responsibility of assisting the Bureau whenever necessary and held its last session from 25-26 February 1971 when many important financial decisions were taken; they include budgetary provisions for a translator (P.3), two highly qualified bilingual secretaries (GS.5) and a messenger (GS.1) who are required in view of the constantly increasing activities of the BPEAR.

C - National Correspondents

14. At the end of the Seminar for National Correspondents held from 27 April to 1st May 1970 referred to, in last year's report (Document CM/338), the national correspondents' role was expanded and strengthened. At present, the national correspondent is the local representative of the Bureau and, as such, helps to carry out its objectives.

15. His mission is therefore to :
- (a) try to find either paying jobs or educational or vocational institutions for refugees whose files have been forwarded to him by the BPEAR and for those who are already in his country;
 - (b) Send to the Bureau, detailed dossiers of refugees residing in his own country but whose problem could not be solved satisfactorily there;
 - (c) collect for the Bureau all information concerning employment opportunities, educational or vocational facilities in his country of residence and, in this regard, draw up a list of educational institutions.
 - (d) communicate to the Bureau, information on refugees pursuing their studies or vocational training in his country of residence.
 - (e) give guidance to the refugees living in his country in their studies or in the choice of careers;
 - (f) keep in touch with his Government, the BPEAR and the local representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to ensure protection for refugees living there.
 - (g) work in close collaboration with the local committee responsible for assisting in the performance of his tasks.

D - Local Committees

16. A Local Committee for Refugees now exists in a great number of OAU Member States. Its position vis-à-vis the correspondent is analogous to that of the Co-ordinating Committee in respect of the BPEAR. The structures of each Committee varies, no doubt, according to the conditions in each country. In any case, International Organizations and Voluntary Agencies interested in refugee matters can become members of the Local Committee.

17. Since the Fifteenth Session of the OAU Council of Ministers, the BPEAR officials have proceeded to establish local committees in a number of countries including Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, Liberia and Mauritania.

CHAPTER II

EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE BUREAU

18. As in the past, relations between the Bureau and OAU Member States have continued to be reinforced during the period under review. At the same time, the Bureau has established or strengthened its ties with other States as well as with International Organizations and Voluntary Agencies.

Relations with OAU Member States

19. As borne out by the volume, the quality and the importance of the exchange of correspondence between the Bureau and Member States of the Organization as well as by the satisfactory results of the missions undertaken by the officers in the Bureau, relations between the BPEAR and the States have been, as in the past, very constructive. Indeed, a number of States have reposed additional confidence in the Bureau by giving it positive assistance and furnishing it with information on educational, vocational training or employment opportunities for refugees, or on legal protection for the latter, amnesty laws and various guarantees and facilities offered to refugees who desire voluntary repatriation.

20. It should be mentioned that the Bureau has received the integral text of the Amnesty Ordinance N° 70-083 of 30 November issued by H.E. General J.D. Mobutu pardoning all Congolese who violated State security laws between 1 July 1960 and November 30, 1970.

21. In response to the request of the General Secretariat, some Member States promptly forwarded a precise and detailed list of their manpower requirements. They are Niger, Sierra Leone, Botswana, the

Democratic Republic of Congo, to mention a few. Other countries like Burundi, People's Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Central African Republic, Upper Volta, Liberia have indicated that they needed several doctors, engineers, pharmacists and teachers and that they could thus absorb a good number of highly qualified refugees.

22. Of course, a good number of other countries are still evaluating their needs in manpower. There are good reasons to hope that they will not fail to forward the results of their surveys to the Secretariat.

23. Many countries have generously offered refugees several places in their educational or vocational institutions; others have also offered a good number of scholarships. The Secretariat is fully aware of the fact that the countries of asylum offer direct similar facilities to refugees. It is to be hoped that other States will do their best to forward to the General Secretariat offers within their means.

24. It should be noted here that some scholarship offers could not be used to full advantage because of linguistic reasons. It would, therefore, be desirable that, in future, States accept, in certain cases, to transfer to the BPEAR, the sum of the scholarships offered. The Bureau will make it its duty to let refugees use them in other African countries and will not fail to submit a report to the donor countries on the disbursement of such scholarships. The report will include:

- (a) name and qualifications of recipients,
- (b) country of origin,
- (c) the country where studies will be pursued,
- (d) the nature and result of the studies.

25. A mission to West Africa was jointly undertaken in November 1970 by the BPEAR, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International University Exchange Fund. The

countries visited are Nigeria, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Mauritania. On that occasion, the true interest shown in the activities of the Bureau by all these and other countries could not but be acknowledged. Indeed, the political authorities and the top civil servants met during the mission spared no effort to make the discussions fruitful. As a result, a number of very concrete and positive proposals emerged from these discussions. Thus local committees were quickly set up in Nigeria, Liberia and Mauritania. For its part, Senegal accepted to proceed with the enlargement of its local committee. Several officials even gave publicity and solemnity to the discussions through spoken and written information media.

26. When the Assistant Secretary General responsible for political affairs effected a mission to East Africa on behalf of the Bureau, the political authorities and senior officials of the countries he visited together with him considered several questions with much seriousness, culminating to the setting up of local committees in Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya.

27. For the near future, the authorities of the Bureau hope to tour other regions of the Continent either by themselves or jointly with the HCR and the IUEF. During their tour, they hope to make every endeavour to set up local committees wherever they do not exist. There is every reason to hope that they will be given good reception by the political authorities and senior officials of the countries concerned.

28. In all its contacts with Governments and National Correspondents alike, the Bureau has consistently raised the question of the "OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugees Problems in Africa"; a Convention which was agreed upon with enthusiasm and in the spirit of solidarity by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its Sixth Summit Meeting held in September 1969.

29. However, for nearly two years, only few Member States have deposited their instruments of ratification with the General Secretariat of the OAU. In other Member States, remarkable steps have been taken

with a view to ratifying the Convention. Once again, the good-will of all concerned is necessary if, as it is hoped, ratification procedures will be expedited before the end of the current year for the Convention to come into force in all Member States of OAU.

Relations with non-Member States of OAU

30. More and more non-Member countries of OAU now directly or indirectly lend support to the humanitarian activities of the Bureau.

31. Far from diminishing, their interest in the Bureau has increased since the Fifteenth Session of the Council of Ministers. India and Pakistan have already offered the BPEAR scholarships for African refugees. The five scholarships offered by India have already been given to a South African refugee, a Guinea Bissao refugee, a Namibian, an Angolan and a Zimbabwe. The three offered by Pakistan have, at the request of that country, been proposed to Namibians. With regard to the Bahamas, it has informed the BPEAR of its readiness to recruit African refugees. Italy, for its part, plans to set up a scholarship scheme for refugees through the TARS (Tropical Africa Refugees Service). The Scandinavian countries for their part have continually increased their assistance to the Bureau since it was established.

International Organizations and Voluntary Agencies

32. Relations between the Bureau and these bodies have been satisfactorily maintained. On the whole, they have participated actively and effectively in the deliberations of both the Co-ordinating Committee and its Working Group.

33. In pursuance of Resolution 202 (XIII) of the OAU Council of Ministers and Recommendation N° 4 adopted during the Second Session of the Co-ordinating Committee, the Bureau appealed to these bodies for the necessary staff to enable it cope with its steadily increasing activities.

34. The General Secretariat is happy to announce that the Executive Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa has, with all possible despatch, seconded to the Bureau, a highly qualified administrator, economist and sociologist who is conversant with the socio-economic problems of the continent. His secondment is renewable after three months.

35. Furthermore, at the time of writing this report, several other bodies, like the International University Exchange Fund, the World University Service, the World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, to mention only these few, have accepted in principle to assist the Bureau. The practical ways and means of rendering this are now being studied.

36. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has on various occasions and in several ways, steadily contributed to the smooth running of the BPEAR. It has not only raised funds, as in the past, for the Bureau, but has also, on several occasions, seconded to it, its personnel and material. It has constantly given the Bureau precious advice and placed its long experience at its disposal.

37. The ILO has, on several occasions shown its support for the BPEAR. What is of particular importance is that it has accepted in principle to train or improve the standards of refugees provided that they can be gainfully employed after their courses. The ICAO, WMO and the WHO have also offered scholarships to African refugees.

38. The World Council of Churches for its part has on behalf of the Bureau continued to prospect the employment market in Africa. It is also noteworthy that through the Council, the BPEAR has succeeded in establishing contact with the Algerian Christian Service Committee which could regularly forward it numerous advertisements of vacant posts.

39. The International University Exchange Fund, under the direct authority of its Director, has considerably increased its already significant assistance to the Bureau in terms of numerous scholarships,

good office, advice and co-operation for the accomplishment of the task devolving upon the Secretariat as well as the reproduction of BPEAR documents.

40. Of late, co-operation with UNESCO has taken a new turn full of promise. Actually, since 1st July 1970, the Director-General of UNESCO appointed to the OAU and ECA as permanent representative who has a good experience in educational matters as a result of his long service at the Headquarters of the Organization. He has already, on numerous occasions, shown great interest in the activities of the Bureau on behalf of the Director-General. The OAU General Secretariat has every reason to hope that in the very near future, UNESCO's assistance to the BPEAR will assume quite a new dimension. Against this background, it will not be out of place to mention that an important UNESCO mission led by the Assistant Director-General for Education visited the Headquarters of the OAU General Secretariat in Addis Ababa to study practical ways and means that UNESCO can evolve to give concrete assistance to African refugees in accordance with Resolution N° 8 adopted by the Sixteenth General Meeting of the UNESCO.

41. As part of their mission which sent them to various African countries, the authorities of the Bureau managed to hold discussions with local branches of numerous voluntary agencies. All these agencies showed great concern with the Bureau and a sincere desire to cooperate.

CHAPTER III

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

42. As usual, activities in the field of assistance were numerous. Generally, they were in connexion with placement in remunerative employment educational institutions and vocational training. In some cases, these were pleas with their countries of asylum for clemency. It should

be mentioned that all these could not have been possible in quite a positive way without the constant concern of OAU Member States in particular and Voluntary Agencies and other International Institutions in general.

43. Applications for scholarships to study in Secondary Schools, Higher institutions, vocational schools as well as applications for employment reach the Bureau through very diverse channels. Depending upon the case, these are submitted either directly to the Bureau by the refugee, sent to the National Correspondents of the Bureau or to the appropriate departments of the countries of asylum, members of the OAU. Sometimes these are brought to the notice of International Organizations and Voluntary Agencies. It is equally important to mention the various procedures followed in forwarding applications, in view of the structural changes that the Bureau and its organs have undergone since the First Seminar of National Correspondents held in April 1970.

44. An African refugee wherever he may be (whether on the Continent or outside it) can send his application for placement or scholarship directly to the Bureau. The Bureau studies this on the basis of his files and accordingly informs the employers, heads of institutions or organs awarding scholarships. Their replies which are most often favourable are then forwarded to the applicant.

45. Some refugees also contact the National Correspondents of the Bureau. Where this happens, the latter explore the local possibilities and succeed in many cases in solving their problems with the help of members of the Local Committees. Cases which could not be solved on the spot are forwarded to the BPCAR which in turn communicates them to other Member States.

46. Very often too, refugees forward several applications for placement or scholarship to Voluntary Agencies and International Organizations. Where possible, these are replied to or sent to the BPCAR for consideration. The Bureau is however kept informed of every case.

47. Other refugees forward their applications for employment or scholarship directly to the appropriate departments of their countries of asylum. These departments forward such applications to the Bureau only in cases where they cannot favourably consider them.

Number of applications forwarded to the Bureau since the
Fifteenth Session of the Council of Ministers

48. During the period 1970-1971, the number of applications for scholarship or placement sent to the Bureau was greater than in the past. This underlines the steadily growing confidence of Governments, International Organizations, Voluntary Agencies and refugees themselves in the activities of the Bureau.

49. Actually, since the Fifteenth Session of the Council of Ministers, the BPCAR has received some hundreds of applications for employment from duly qualified refugees. Of the number, 25 came from South Africa, 4 from Namibia, 8 from Zimbabwe, 5 from Angola, 5 from Guinea Bissao, 2 from Mozambique, and the others, about 40, from other African countries. It is worthwhile mentioning that with the assistance of the Bureau and its Correspondents, about a thousand refugees were successfully placed during the last three years either in gainful employment or in educational institutions in Africa.

50. Applications for scholarships or admission into educational institutions also more than doubled as compared with the number of last year. In fact, the Bureau received about 80 applications from refugees. Of this, 3 came from South Africa, 10 from Namibia, 14 from Angola, 7 from Mozambique, 2 from Zimbabwe, 2 from Cabinda, 3 from Djibouti and 2 from Guinea Bissao.

51. It is proper to recall that the applications for placement mentioned above are those which have already been considered, processed and in many cases favourably replied to by Governments. The others are still being processed.

52. It is therefore, imperative for the Bureau to be given a sufficient number of scholarships and employment in future commensurate with this gain in applications.

53. It will not be out of place to point out once again that nothing short of the constant co-operation of Member States, can help the Bureau to accomplish its humanitarian task. Moreover, it is this spirit of co-operation and understanding that led countries like Madagascar, Morocco, Zambia, Tanzania, Algeria, Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Niger, to mention these few, to offer employment, scholarships and places to refugees in their educational institutions in 1970-1971.

Legal Protection

54. Regarding actual placement activities of the Bureau, it took advantage of the audience granted it by Member States of OAU, to plead with Governments either to give legal protection to refugees or seek their clemency if not the indulgence of the authorities of the countries of asylum towards them.

55. It is worthwhile mentioning that in this protective aspect of its activities, the co-operation between the Bureau and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has consistently been fruitful. In fact, thanks to the diligence of the HCR, the Bureau was, on several occasions informed of expulsion threats and constant driving back of refugees in certain countries. Such information most often made it possible for the OAU General Secretariat to intervene effectively with the authorities to defer their decisions or even to rescind them until such time as a second country of asylum could be found for the refugees concerned.

56. It is also in the hope of ensuring more adequate protection of refugees that the General Secretariat has constantly raised the question of the ratification of the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of African Refugees whenever it had the opportunity to do so.

CHAPTER IV
GENERAL REMARKS

57. It would not certainly be out of place to make a few general observations in this brief review of the activities of the Bureau during the year 1970-1971.

58. Through the devotion, understanding and concern of Member States of OAU, the BPEAR was successfully set up in 1968. Since then, Member States have continued to show interest in its activities.

59. International Organizations and Voluntary Agencies for their part have constantly shown proof of their confidence in the Bureau (and thereby in Member States of OAU) in the field of assistance to these unfortunate refugees. It is consequently highly significant that at the previous meeting of the Coordinating Committee, members unanimously took it upon themselves to mandate the Bureau to harmonize all activities relating to the placement and education of African refugees. They did not also fail to assure the BPEAR of the necessary financial and material assistance involved for the accomplishment of its complex and steadily growing task.

60. The Bureau's successes achieved through the understanding of Member States of OAU since it was set up are doubtless to say very modest but have certainly not failed to impress member organs of the Co-ordinating Committee. This assertion is justified by the following statement unhesitatingly made by one of them : "All things considered, what the Bureau succeeded in doing within 3 years in Africa could not be done in Europe in 20 years!"

61. In order to take cognizance of the work already accomplished by the Bureau and particularly the heavy tasks in store for it, Member States should henceforth envisage the possibility of giving this organ of the General Secretariat adequate means and the necessary prestige in view of the interest shown in it by International Organizations and Voluntary Agencies which have constantly been called upon to co-operate with it on the humanitarian and social plane for the

purpose of giving maximum assistance to our unfortunate African refugees. These organizations have unequivocally expressed their desire to have the Bureau accorded more autonomy within the OAU General Secretariat. By giving the BPEAR a new phase, Member States are only conforming to the spirit of the historic Conference on the Legal, Economic and Social Aspects of the Problems of African Refugees; a conference which recommended the establishment of the BPEAR both as a central organ entrusted with an essentially social and humanitarian mission with the collaboration of OAU, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, various Bureaux and organs of the United Nations as well as Voluntary Agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
TAKEN BY THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE BPEAR
ON THE 18TH AND 19TH JANUARY 1971

1. The Coordinating Committee decided that the Tropical African Refugee Service be provisionally accepted as a member of the Committee and that a final decision about the acceptance of the TARS as a full member be taken at the next meeting of the Committee following a thorough investigation by the Bureau into TARS' programme and constitution, the results of which will be circulated to the Committee in advance of the next session.

2. The Coordinating Committee recommended that the Secretary General of the OAU study in co-operation with the Personnel Division of the UN and the Director Generals of UN Specialized agencies, the possibility of recruiting qualified African Refugees to posts at the Headquarters and also in the field on the same criteria as nationals from other Member States. To this effect, the Committee suggested that all UN agencies convey periodically to the Bureau information on vacancies occurring in their establishment. The Bureau is to report to the next session of the Coordinating Committee on the results and action taken.

3. That Member States which offer fellowships tenable in their countries be persuaded to pay scholarship grants to the Bureau to enable it to assist those refugees who for one reason or another are not able to make use of the awards locally.

4. Noting that no provision has been made in the 1971/1972 budget of the OAU for a third professional staff member in the Bureau, the Committee recommends that the OAU makes a provision in its 1972/73

budget to enable it to employ directly this third professional staff member for the Bureau, and that in the meantime the Bureau should make an appeal to members of the Committee to second a staff member to enable it to fill the gap during the 1971/72 period. The Committee decided that the Bureau should immediately write to members of the Committee on this matter providing a work description and indicating the qualifications required of the person sought. The Committee further decided that if no organization is able to second a suitable staff member, the Bureau be mandated to directly employ a third professional under its own budget.

5. The Committee recommended that the OAU General Secretariat continue its efforts in persuading Member States to ratify the OAU Convention and further that Member States be requested to refrain from expelling refugees whose conduct does not comply with national laws until the Bureau has been contacted and been given a possibility to find another country of asylum.

6. Noting the results of the joint OAU/UNHCR/IUEF mission to West Africa, the Committee recommends that similar joint missions be undertaken by OAU/UNHCR/IUEF and other organizations willing to participate in such missions and that a detailed plan for such missions during 1971 be drawn up.

7. That the Bureau establish and utilize its own communication channels in order to be able to ensure a smooth and efficient communication with its correspondents, African Governments and Co-operating organizations.

8. The Coordinating Committee decided that the Bureau reviews the work of all its national correspondents and the necessary steps be taken to replace those correspondents who have not been actively assisting the Bureau in its work. That the Bureau works out a plan indicating in which further countries it is indispensable to appoint correspondents. That in the future, if no communication of substance is received from a correspondent during a period of four months and no satisfactory explanation is provided, the allowance is withdrawn and the necessary steps be taken to obtain a replacement. That the reports received from the correspondents be made available to the Coordinating Committee in all relevant details.

9. The Committee notes with satisfaction the study on the problems of social and educational counselling being carried out by the IUEF and the WCC with the support of the UNHCR and request the Bureau to give its full support to this study. The Committee further notes that as a result of this study the agencies concerned will most probably employ full time personnel in a number of African countries to deal with problems of individual refugees and that the agencies concerned would be committees as full time secretaries.

The Committee recommends that if such offers be made, they be accepted by the Bureau and local committees and further recommends that the United Nations Organizations and Voluntary Agencies, members of the Committee should, when necessary, give their full moral as well as material support to the implementation of this programme.

10. The Committee decides that under no circumstances the Bureau should provide any relief assistance to individual refugees as such aid is provided locally by other organizations.

11. The Committee decided that in the future the reports on all missions undertaken by the Bureau should be made available to members of the Committee and that reports on missions already implemented which have not been submitted to the Committee should be provided immediately.

12. The Committee decided that a study be undertaken with a view to determine the possibility of the Bureau and/or scholarship granting organizations to, when necessary, assist African governments willing to employ refugees by offering to pay the salaries of refugees for an initial period of a maximum of one financial year and that the result of this study be presented to the Committee in time for its next session.

13. The Committee recommends that the Bureau provides all members of the Committee regularly with full information concerning all scholarship offers received so that member organizations can supply the Bureau with candidates for such scholarships.

14. The Committee, noting that Member States may find it difficult to place refugees for whom no provisions have previously been made, recommends that Member States be persuaded to accept a number of refugees according to a quota system to be worked out by the OAU Bureau in cooperation with the UNHCR. The result of this study should be submitted to the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee.

15. The Committee decides that the Bureau should provide the Committee with as detailed an income and expenditure account as possible covering the period 1/1/68 to 31/12/70; in so doing it should be guided by the relevant suggestions made by the Committee regarding the presentation of the documents. It should, in particular, adhere to an item by item presentation, with adequate explanations.

The above document should be presented in time for the meeting of the working group scheduled to take place in Addis-Ababa in early February.

16. The Committee decides that a new draft budget incorporating the amendments and suggestions made by the Committee at its present session be prepared by the Bureau and submitted to the Working Group not later than February the 1st, 1971;

that the Bureau should readjust its financial year to coincide with that of the OAU General Secretariat. It entails that the present budget should be amended to cover a period of 18 months running from January 1971 to June 1972.

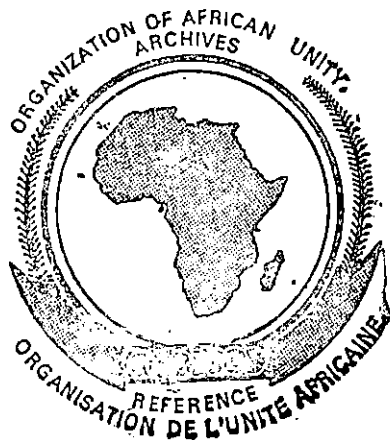
The Committee finally decided that in the execution of the budget efforts should be made by the Bureau to adhere to the items provided for under the budget of the current year.

17. The Committee recommends that in presenting the results achieved by the Bureau and its network of correspondents, efforts should be made for detailed statistics to be presented giving the actual breakdown of the cases settled by nationality. As far as possible these statistics should specifically cover cases actually placed through the Bureau's machinery. Furthermore, efforts should be made to present up-to-date

lists of scholarship and employment offers, including all pertinent details concerning these offers.

18. The Committee recommends that whenever for one reason or another a refugee falling within the purview of the Bureau has been settled with the consent of the Bureau through other channels the Bureau should consider refunding the costs involved to the organization which has advanced the funds.

It is however understood that as far as possible the work of the Bureau should be used for settlement with a view of the Bureau becoming the central organization for all settlement of individual refugees in Africa.



1971-06

Report of the Administrative Secretary General on the refugees' problem: activities of the OAU Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees

Organization of African Unity

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