

ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY

SECRETARIAT  
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ADDIS ABABA

ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAINNE

SECRETARIAT  
B. P. 3243

CM/419/Part II

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Eighteenth Ordinary Session

Addis Ababa, February 1972

REQUEST FOR SUBVENTION BY THE CAMEROON INSTITUTE OF  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

YAOUNDE 26 MAY, 1971.

NO. 05600/DIPL/4

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Federal Republic of Cameroon has decided on the establishment of an Institute, the Cameroon Institute of International Relations.

The Institute, which will assume an international nature, will be open to Cameroonians and foreigners - more particularly, Africans.

The Government of Cameroon would thus wish to cooperate with OAU in the establishment of the said Institute and receive material and financial aid.

My Government particularly wishes that on opening the Institute, OAU should finance individual scholarships at the 3rd cycle stage in the form of annual diplomatic courses, and at the quasi-university training stage.

Furthermore, the Government would wish that preference be given to students of the I.R.I.C. at seminars and conferences organized by OAU.

I have hereto attached, the nature, aims and objects of the proposed Institute, the realization of which is of concern to my Government.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my high consideration.

SGD,

JEAN KEUTCHA

INTRODUCTORY NOTE OF THE CAMEROON INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS (I.R.I.C.)

NATURE AND AIMS OF THE IRIC

A - NATURE:

The IRIC is an establishment of higher education providing, in close collaboration with the Federal University of Cameroon, education in the field of International Relations. It shall be bilingual and of international vocation, not only by the nature of its lectures but also by the fact that it shall be open to all African countries from its inception. This is why, while working in close collaboration with the Federal University of Cameroon as regards the checking of qualifications and general administration, the IRIC shall enjoy considerable autonomy in its financial and administrative management and the formulation of its programmes.

B - AIMS:

A multi-purpose establishment, the IRIC will provide the following types of training:

1- University training: The IRIC shall admit, for a post-university course, Cameroon and foreign students wishing to complete their degree courses by specializing in the field of international relations and (prepare them) ensure for the presentation of theses for a post-graduate diploma or doctorate. Such students may be awarded scholarships enabling them to pursue higher studies with a view to becoming scientists, university teachers or national or international civil servants or they may be awarded scholarships by a Government or an international institution for a course in diplomacy open to holders of university degrees.

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Such a course would last one or several academic years, for scholarship students of the first category and one year, in principle, for those who are taking a short course. The later would have in-service training at ministries, diplomatic missions or international institutions. This would be done in the same way as the in-service training organized by the Carnegie Endowment at New York and Geneva or by the Paris International Institute of Public Administration. The same way as the lectures given at the Geneva International Institute of Higher Studies, the difference being that in this case, the future African cadres will be lectured against an African background. A factor which is indispensable to the strengthening of African concepts of international relations.

Lastly, for a rational use of skills, the Faculty of Law and Economics could request the IRIC entrust to its professors certain lectures on international relations intended for degree students and vice-versa.

2 - Quasi-university Training; This would be intended for civil servants or assimilated staff in charge of international relations in particular and who are intermediate staff in their own administration. This training course will pursue the aim of the present diplomatic and consular course in Yaounde.

The quasi-university programme will make it possible to provide these executive-class cadres - from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or other Ministries - with training that is indispensable in the field of international relations. Lastly, such quasi-university training shall make it possible to ensure some equilibrium in the disparity of qualifications of the African trainees which is often considerable.

Owing to the administrative structure of the French-speaking African States, it will be necessary to raise the level of the training course in relation to that in Yaounde. In order that those who have completed the course may be able to have the administrative category corresponding to their training, they should be assimilated with civil servants who

have completed the A cycle of the schools of Administration of Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Senegal. In other words, the terms and conditions of their admission should be the baccalaureat or a school leaving certificate of Cycle B of the said Schools of Administration (cycle A of the Schools of Upper Volta, Mali and Togo).

As for the civil servants at the level of the majority of those who are now taking part in the current training courses in Yaounde, their training should come under the programmes mentioned under number 3 below.

3 - Supplementary Training: Supplementary Training will be in the form of training courses, seminars or symposia lasting from a fortnight to six months. Their objective will be to provide a refresher's course or the study of given problems or groups of problems. For example: The Convention of Yaounde II, the deterioration of the terms of trade, etc... Meetings could also be organized between civil servants having to face problems of international relations and teachers who often have theoretical knowledge.

This type of training could ensure, as a priority, the refresher course of staff from ministries of Foreign Affairs whose level would, depending on the courses, range from junior administrative staff to high officials and Ambassadors. It could also make supplementary training to some intermediate level staff as is the case at present with the Yaounde course.

However, it is known that in these modern days, international relations are no longer reserved for the diplomats alone. The smallest merchant even the cocoa buyer are interested today in international rules procedures guiding the fixing of prices and movements of world trade, not to speak of the high officials of private and public financial and economic sectors who cannot discharge their duties effectively except by constantly following the international trends in their respective fields. The Parliamentarians and State officials undertaking numerous missions throughout the world are often required to be more diplomatic than career diplomats.

For all those, this additional training becomes a necessity.

THE ACTIVITIES OF I.R.I.C.

In order to reaffirm the African and international vocation in the implementation of this project, Cameroon should like to obtain the assistance of a certain number of international institutions and countries. This assistance could be in specific fields in order to avoid duplication.

In this Institute, the Carnegie Endowment, for example, by following the policy mapped out for the current course, could continue to contribute to an annual training course. This time, this course at a higher level, could be for civil servants who are holders of a bachelor's degree or an equivalent or of a level corresponding to the special cycle of ENAM, the B cycle of the Schools of Administration of Ivory Coast and Senegal and the A cycle of the Schools of Administration of Mali, Upper Volta and Togo, etc.... That course, whose terms and conditions of organization will be laid down by mutual agreement with the Carnegie Endowment will, in fact, replace the course now organized within the framework of the Geneva African University.

For the purpose of specifying contributions, for example, Switzerland could, through the Geneva International Institute of Higher Studies, lend scientific and material co-operation.

In addition to Switzerland which will not participate as a State but through an Institution (The Geneva Institute of Higher Studies) and the Carnegie Endowment, Cameroon has thought of other institutions. They include especially institutions which have this type of training as part of their programme, such as UNITAR or UNDP.

U N I T A R

UNITAR would organize, within the IRIC framework the course of the same level as that which is now being given at Yaounde. For this purpose, the Carnegie Endowment could concentrate on the quasi-university course.

UNITAR would thus become a partner like the Carnegie Endowment in its relations with Cameroon and make a contribution to the overall budget of the course. UNITAR could accept to collaborate in the setting up of the programme by the IRIC and it could also supply a teacher for several years and possibly organize seminars or take part in the organization of such seminars.

UNITAR which had already expressed the wish to organize the Yaounde course in 1970 would thus be able to provide training on a permanent basis. Its representative would be a member of the Steering Committee constituted as would be seen later, of International Institutions solely.

#### U N D P

The UNDP could participate mostly by helping to finance the UNITAR course and scholarships for individuals to pursue studies of the Third cycle in the form of annual courses in diplomacy and within the framework of quasi-university training. Furthermore, UNDP could assist in the purchase of all United Nations documents needed by the IRIC for its library.

#### OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

E C A, O A U and O C A M could finance scholarships and probably bear the costs of the professors' salaries. In seminars and conferences organized by them, preference would be given to the IRIC.

UNESCO could contribute to the library and perhaps supply a professor. One of the problems of UNESCO in Africa seems to be that of a centre for storing its documents. The IRIC could remedy these shortcomings.

In addition to International Institutions, Cameroon has thought to associate States with the work of IRIC.

AFRICAN STATES

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Their action would be on a long-term basis, for the time being, such action could be limited to two things:

- the granting of scholarships or
- participation in connected expenses such as the payment of travel cost for one of their nationals who has succeeded in obtaining a scholarship.

OTHER STATES

Appeal to other States, for example of the United States and Federal Germany, could be requested to provide annual scholarships for individual studies or for participation in a course; they could also be asked to make a small contribution towards library and construction costs. Other countries could, if they desired, participate in the same manner.

We feel that particularly countries like France, Great Britain, United States, U.S.S.R., Belgium, Spain, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany...could provide their periodic publications of interest to IRIC, free of charge.

We also feel, in the light of the experiment carried out with UNITAR in 1969 that some countries could agree to take trainees who have finished their course at IRIC for practical training of several weeks in their institutions specialized in Foreign Relations, be they economic or diplomatic. Similarly, the International Institutions - this would make good the Africans' inadequate knowledge of these institutions and help facilitate effective action in and out of these institutions.

The draft statutes were drawn up on the basis of all these considerations. Also on the basis of these considerations, the bodies in question shall be approached specifically.

In this note, a number of things must however be pointed out in respect of the organs of IRIC.



ANNEX II

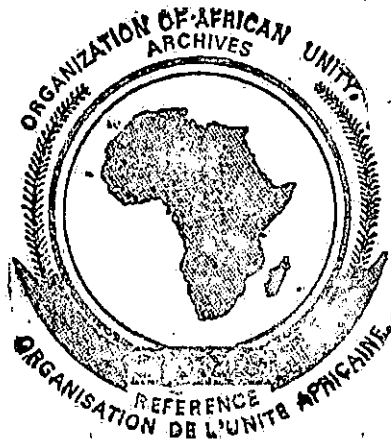
There will be a Steering Committee consisting of the founders and could also comprise representatives of international institutions like UNITAR or UNDP.

This Steering Committee could propose changes in the IRIC statutes, the professors and administrative officers. It could also propose the participation of other institutions which make substantial contributions to the activities of the IRIC.

The Director would be appointed for a fixed period (3 to 5 years).

The Director of Cameroon nationality should assume a post of lecturer in the IRIC.

The Director would be assisted by a Deputy Director in charge of studies. The African States could possibly take part in the Steering Committee through an International Institution like OCAM or OAU.



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