



**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الافريقية
السكرتاريه
ص. ب. ٣٢٤٣

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAIN**

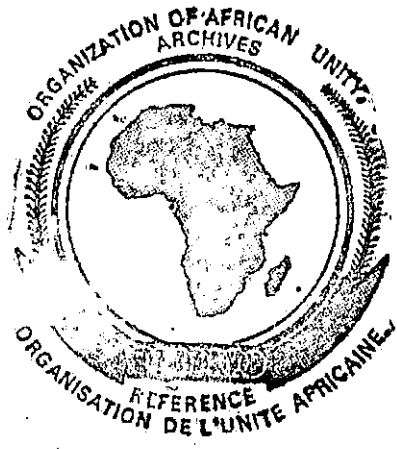
Secretariat
B. P. 3243

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Nineteenth Ordinary Session
Rabat, June 1972

Addis Ababa * ادیس ابابا

CM/466

THE SECOND PAN-AFRICAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL



CMO466

MICROFICHE

THE SECOND PAN-AFRICAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Introduction :

1. Zaire has withdrawn its invitation to host the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival in Kinshasa. According to the constitution of the African Cultural Council that was established by the OAU to stage the Cultural Festival regularly, and according to previous OAU decisions, the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival was to be held this year.

2. During the historic and very successful first Pan-African Cultural Festival, which was held in Algiers from 21st July to 1st August 1969, at the kind invitation of the Government of Algeria, the Government of Zaire invited the OAU to stage the Second Cultural Festival in Kinshasa. The invitation was contained in a note No. 05825/02/000519/69 dated 1st August 1969, a copy of which is attached hereon as Appendix I. That invitation was confirmed verbally during the Second meeting of the African Cultural Council (ACC) which was held in Mogadiscio, at the kind invitation of the Government of Somalia, in October 1970. In the ACC's report in document SC/CULT/20/Vol. III under the title "The Venue" the following was recorded:

"The African Cultural Council unanimously accepted the offer by the Democratic Republic of Congo that Kinshasa should be the venue of the 1972 Second Pan-African Cultural Festival and the OAU Secretariat was requested to convey the acceptance to the appropriate authorities."

N.B. : (The invitation from the Democratic Republic of Congo, which had initially been received in 1969, was confirmed by the delegate to the ACC from that country)"

The report of the ACC was circulated to all Member States on the 1st March 1971, urging them to begin preparing for the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival in 1972. The Secretariat had also put in motion other activities relating to that Festival, such as an appropriate letter to the Government of Zaire and posters to be used for publicity. It was while these and other preparations were going on that the Secretariat received a note from the Government of Zaire, No. 05811/02/883/71 dated 10 August 1971, advising that due to material reasons the holding of the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival in Kinshasa will not be possible. A copy of that note is attached hereon as Appendix II.

3. At the instruction of the Second Ordinary Session of the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission the Secretariat conveyed the above sad news to all Member States, and also invited any State that wished to host the Second Cultural Festival to notify it. Up to the time of writing this report, no invitation to host that Second Cultural Festival, had been received from any Member State by the Secretariat.

Preparations for the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival

4. As already reported at the time the letter of withdrawal was received from Zaire, the African Cultural Council, the Member States and the Secretariat, had already started to prepare for the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival due to be held sometime in 1972. At its meeting in October 1970, held in Mogadiscio, Somalia, the ACC had handled the scope and definition of the elements for the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival.

5. The main theme of that Festival was selected and was to be : "Africa 1972 - Highlights of development in the arts." For the symposium, which was to take place concurrently, the chosen theme was: "Authenticity and development of African arts and cultures : research and civilizations. Role of culture in the struggle, development and unity." The Festival would be composed of twelve sections, which were defined, and the general as well as specific rules for each of these, were formulated. The ACC also dealt with non-competitive events such as film shows and cultural exhibitions. These and other details relating to the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival were contained in the report of the ACC, which was circulated to all Member States in March 1971. The remaining tasks were to be dealt with in subsequent meetings of the ACC, which were to be held at the site of the Festival.

6. There were evidences that on receipt of the report of the ACC, several Member States had started to prepare for participation in the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival. The Secretariat too, among other things, began working on how to carry out effective publicity for the Festival, and work on suitable posters had started. Work on the organisational aspects had also been started.

7. All these preparations have now been suspended in the air, due to the withdrawal of the invitation of Zaire.

Actions taken since that withdrawal

8. Both formal and informal actions were taken to see whether a host country could be found for the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival. The matter was reported to the Second Ordinary Session of the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission, which was held in November 1971 in Cairo, Egypt. The Commission discussed the case at length, including what could be done to secure a host country for the Second Cultural Festival. No solution could be found at that time. It then directed that the Secretariat should inform all Member States about the situation, and invite any Member State which wished to host the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival, to notify the OAU. This information was relayed to Member States in a note No. SC/CULT/20/Vol.III/614.71 dated 20 December 1971. Although enquiries have been received from some Member States regarding what is involved in hosting the Cultural Festival, no Member State has so far agreed to play host to the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival. The present position is therefore that, after the withdrawal of Zaire, no Member State has yet offered to play host to the next Cultural Festival. The Council of Ministers and through it, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, are hereby informed of the present situation regarding the Pan-African Cultural Festival.

9. The invitation to any Member State to host the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival is still open and any offer in this connection would be most welcome.

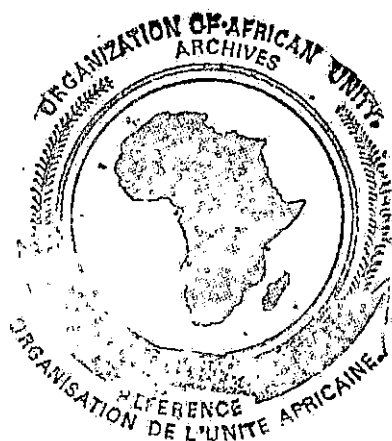
To conclude

10. Aware of the enthusiastic response that Member States gave to the first Pan-African Cultural Festival, it would be a set-back if the second and subsequent ones are not held as planned. It was with pride and great satisfaction that Africa and the world witnessed the fantastic cultural events that were successfully performed in Algiers, Algeria in 1969, and it would be a set-back not to build on that sound foundation that was laid then. The satisfactory results achieved then, the praise that followed the end of the Festival and the bright future that opened up for African Cultures, call for faith, determination and sacrifice in carrying on with what has been well-begun. Above all, the vital role played by culture in Africa's motivation, identity and development, places a heavy responsibility on the governments of all Member States to support, participate in and develop the regular Pan-African Cultural Festivals.

11. It is sincerely hoped that early offers will be received from some Member States to host the next Pan-African Cultural Festival. The Council of Ministers is invited to consider what measures to take to stage the Second Cultural Festival, and what is to be done to avoid the repetition of the current temporary set-back to African cultures in general, and to the Pan-African Cultural Festival in particular.

March 1972.

Addis Ababa.



C O P Y

CM/466

Appendix I

Embassy of the Democratic
Republic of Congo
P.O.Box 499 - Algiers - R.P
No 05825/02/000519/69

The Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo presents its compliments to the OAU General Secretariat and has the honour to inform the Secretariat that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo would like to organize the second Pan-African Cultural Festival for 1972.

While requesting the OAU General Secretariat to inform all Member States the Embassy wishes to avail itself of this opportunity to renew the assurance of its high consideration.

C O P Y

CM/466

Appendix II

Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo
P.O.Box 2723 - Tel. 44287
Addis Ababa

Ref. No. 05811/02/883/71

The Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo presents its compliments to the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity and, upon the instructions from its Government, has the honour to inform the Secretariat that it will not be possible to hold the second Pan-African Cultural Festival in Kinshasa in 1972 for material reasons.

The Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo wishes to thank the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity for its understanding and avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurance of its high consideration.

AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

1972-06

The Second Pan-African Cultural Festival

Organization of African Unity

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/7733>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository