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P. O. Box 3243

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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITÉ  
AFRICAINNE**

Secretariat  
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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Annex I

SPEECH OF MR. KAMANDA

Mr. President,  
Mr. Director-General,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I should like, first of all, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the OAU to express our sincere gratitude to the President of the Republic, His Excellency Leopold Sedar Senghor, the Party, the Government and people of Senegal for the extremely warm welcome extended to us; welcome which in all respects conforms with the best traditions of African hospitality and also for kindly consenting to play host to this Conference.

2. I should also like to thank the distinguished Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Rene Maheu, a man whose brilliance, culture, clarity in his statements and determination to ensure the realization of the ideals of UNESCO have always fascinated us, for being good enough to associate the Organization of African Unity with the preparation of this Conference.

3. If we can, today, publicly express satisfaction at the excellent relations of co-operation between UNESCO and OAU, we know we owe this mainly to the presence of a man who likes Africa at the head of UNESCO.

Mr. President,  
Mr. Director-General,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

4. The moment at which this Conference is being held will certainly influence our approach to the problem of science and technology applied to development.

You will permit me, I believe to remark briefly on the present international situation.

During the last eight months, Africa and the world have undergone profound changes from the point of view of thinking at the political, economic, trade and monetary levels.

5. In February 1973 in Accra, during the 2nd ECA Council of Ministers and in May 1973 in Abidjan, during the first African Ministerial Conference on Trade, Development and Monetary Problems, OAU drew the attention of African countries to the fact that the year 1973 was, within the context of their development, a decisive year which offered them the opportunity to participate in questioning the international economic, trade and monetary order whose flagrant injustices we claimed then, were likely to create a feeling of deep frustration and have serious consequences on international peace and security.

6. At that time, it was a way of inviting all concerned, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, for a dialogue in the interest of mankind and a more just establishment of co-operation among nations.

7. Events have proved those who shared this point of view right and convinced, we hope, the sceptics.

8. It sufficed to have the Youm Kippour war to offer the Arab countries the opportunity to use oil as a weapon in politics and thus to arouse among the raw material producing countries a new awareness.

9. As Paul Streeten strongly pointed out, "Under the present condition of the will of the Union, the developing countries, through their concerted action have an enormous bargaining power yet unused".

10. This therefore is what the countries of the Third World in general and Africa in particular now seem to be cognizant of more than ever before.

11. Thus, the world economic and trade order subsequent to Agreements and desolate texts prepared at the beginning of the century are no longer relevant, with the emergence of a profound awareness of the young nations and their determination to take their rightful place in the comity of nations.

12. The direct and indirect consequences of the Youm Kippour War for our planet have catapulted us all to the brink of a new world.

13. We should bear in mind the fact that the epoch which was shaped by ideas of the previous century; the ideas of a generation, is now coming to an end.
14. We therefore have to forge not only the cannons of the world of tomorrow, but also, and I shall say, above all, get used to them and prepare ourselves to live with them; in other words, have faith in the new values of a world in quest of more justice.
15. If on the one hand, the developed countries have realized that they are no longer invulnerable giants, censors of the world; on the other hand, the developing countries now know that they are not without support. Because after oil, they will direct their attention to other important raw materials since this is necessary.
16. Thus; nobody can tell today with the precision of yesterday, who is poor and who is rich; who is weak and who is strong. The oil and raw material producing countries are guided in their movement not by the desire to reduce standard of living in the developed countries, but to pose a real problem. We should set out to normalize a situation which in the past was characterized by the might of the stronger and not by the force of right.
17. These therefore are the conditions for a review of the world order.
18. In fact, in favour of international detente as a result of the initiative of the African countries and the Third World, in other words, the non-aligned countries, the countries of the Northern Hemisphere of the globe are re-organizing their relations in order to maintain their advance over the developing countries.
19. On the contrary, the countries of the southern hemisphere of the globe - the 4th Conference of Non-aligned countries in Algiers, has sufficiently proved this - want to oppose this movement of re-organization of relations among countries of the Northern hemisphere against the unity and solidarity of action of the poor, the oppressed peoples of yesterday, whatever their political and ideological differences, their linguistic differences which cannot in any way be an obstacle to co-operation, in order to work out mutual solutions to the common problems.

20. This development of the international situation, by creating effective conditions for dialogue and negotiation between the developed and under-equipped countries, should lead to a new concept of international co-operation devoid of the sequels of the past - which took the form of superiority or inferiority complexes - and envisaged as the equitable and rational organization of the inter-dependence of States of the world.

21. It is my view that even the creation of a consortium of consumer countries cannot check the present awareness of the developing countries and the process of transforming the world. And no sane mind can take the serious responsibility of using the gunboat to re-establish the order of absolute injustice.

22. It is clear that all the difficulties of the moment, all the problems of our era created by the existence of unjust relations between the developed and other countries, revolve around development.

23. This development, Africa wants harmonious, balanced and whole because it is a general process of change of structures which is not only political, but also economic and cultural.

24. Mr. President,  
Mr. Director-General,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the situation and the context within which this Conference of African Ministers Responsible for the Application of Science and Technology to Development is taking place.

25. As the title of this Conference denotes, we should tackle the problem of science and technology with the development of Africa in view, an accelerated, harmonious and integrated development.

26. This Conference is being held at a time when the premises on which Africa had based her development and conception of co-operation between nations are being fully put into question.

27. The context of our work is therefore clearly defined. In other words, this Conference will have to work out ways and means

of applying science and technology to speed up the development of Africa, the development that Africa desires.

28. In other terms, the conditions which must be fulfilled for science and technology to help in the development of Africa will have to be worked out.

29. As we said in Port Louis, Mauritius during the meeting of the OAU specialized Commission on education, science and culture: Science and Technology "are a way to development".

30. "But the same science and the same techniques do not always correspond to different levels of development".

31. "Illiteracy, cultural lateness, the incompatibility and the inadaptability of educational systems to the objectives could become sizeable drawbacks to the development of new ideas inherent in Science and Technology".

32. "Science is the prodigious and constant effort of man to refuse the unknowable and to penetrate the unknown. We should therefore encourage inventiveness, initiative and creativity among Africans, and can never sufficiently repeat the necessity for us to use our African experts in our development effort, instead of others, of equal competence, precisely because our own experts vibrate with the rhythms and pulsations of African culture, and can know our anxiety and impatience."

33. This is why, for instance, the aim is not the transfer of technology merely for the pleasure of transfer of technology or acceding to international conventions on the protection of patents, licenses or intellectual property simply to follow the fashion.

34. By adopting such an attitude, the African countries and possibly those of the Third World - although the situation in Latin America regarding this problem does not present itself in the same way - might impede their own progress.

35. This is why, because it is a necessity, it should be possible, to tap the infinite resources of the African's creative capacity.

36. One can hardly fail to recognize the fact that modern technologies are often improperly transferred to the poor countries.

37. As Paul Streeten justifiably wrote, they are often ill-suited to the physical, social and cultural conditions of the countries to which they are transferred. Often, there are no technologies developed to save capital be effective and materially adapted to the developing countries. They are yet to be invented.

It has been observed that only a very small proportion of the huge sums devoted to research and development actually goes into the invention of an appropriate technology.

38. The rapid transfer of certain methods and techniques may at times be an easy means of transferring those which are unsuitable and which might increase unemployment, under-employment, inequality and capital needs.

1. It is an established fact that the organization and technology which go with foreign capital destroy employment opportunities more rapidly than it is possible to create new ones. Instead of receiving genuine aid, the dependent economies are transferring their resources in greater amounts and thereby helping the industrial world more and more; as a result they are increasingly vulnerable to economic pressures and disorderly fluctuations in the prices of primary commodities.

2. It is an established fact too that dependence on foreign methods, foreign equipment or technical assistance is as subduing as a drug and deepens the ever-widening gap between the parasitic westernized cities and the neglected and abandoned rural areas. In such circumstances, it becomes difficult to find a cure for the lack of self-confidence arising from dependence. Constant encouragement to adopt western stands, techniques and methods stifles all possible initiatives to promote any independence of action. Hence in the inherited way of thinking, the decisive strength of foreign economic powers undermines the search for creative potential.

3. If our economies do not become independent in all areas they will continue to be dominated by the powerful economies of the

developed countries which impose structural limitations on them.

39. What is no doubt needed is:

- to mobilize resources for an adequate technology;
- to develop a technology locally, or to be more exact, a technology through integration at the human, social and national levels;
- to take measures to stem the intellectual outflow from the continent;
- to attach greater importance to the discovery and application of productive technologies;
- to identify all the obstacles to the application of science and technology in order to remove them and so that technologies may be effectively utilized for development;
- to organize close co-operation between the African Universities and research Institutes, in particular, to ensure the participation of Universities in applied research;
- to organize co-operation between the various administrative bodies, the industrial sector, businessmen, Universities and research Institutes for the training of African scientists;
- to ensure that the local scientific and technological research results are used in production and to organize, to this end, co-operation between the scientists and the financial institutions to promote the application of research results to economic industrial and other projects;
- to use African scientists and other African experts when tackling the problem of application of science and technology to the development of Africa. In fact, it has become apparent that foreign experts are often preferred to African scientific personnel.

39.1 Forceful measures should be taken to keep technologically stagnant industries out of our countries.

40. What is more, it is absolutely necessary to organize inter-African scientific and technological co-operation to ensure co-ordination of the activities of the different African countries in this field and to make joint efforts, at the regional or sub-regional level for the utilization of African research results in the implementation of multinational industrial, agro-industrial or agricultural development projects.

41. We remain convinced that the mobilization of the Continent's immense manpower resources with a view to stimulating and channeling the creativity and inventiveness of Africans will accelerate the transformation of African economies and secure a rapid improvement in the living conditions of our peoples.

42. It is in this spirit that the African Declaration on Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence adopted by the Tenth Ordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government calls upon Member States, in substance,

- to guarantee to the entire population the right to education and training based on African realities and provided in a form suited to Africa's need and development objective;

- to direct University and higher education programmes to the training and research needed to ensure Africa's scientific and technological independence, and to effect radical changes in the economic and social environment in the interest of development;

- to take appropriate measures to put an end to the brain drain from Africa and to prompt qualified Africans living abroad to return with a view to the rapid phasing-out of technical assistance from outside Africa;

- to give full support to the programme of the Association of African Universities and other institutions for the fostering of co-operation in particular areas of training and research ... and, on the other, to investigate the economic, social, cultural, scientific and technological problems that are of particular importance for African development;

- to take measures to facilitate the transfer of appropriate technology to African countries on easy terms, and to control the restrictive practices which militate against such transfers;

- to promote industrial, scientific and technical cooperation between African countries, since greater importance should be devoted to the alignment of interests which transcend our States' national frontiers than to concessions made by developed countries.

43. The need to intensify inter-African scientific and technological cooperation should not be taken as a move towards isolation, for we are firm believers in international cooperation. In order to recover one's identity and self-respect, the whole focus of the economy

must be changed. Instead of looking to the outside, the latter should focus itself inwards, and devote more efforts to solving local problems than to dealing with those resulting from contact with the industrialized world. For this reason each country should find its own way to development, experiment with local methods and rely on local resources.

44. It is simply a matter of learning from our experience and of relying essentially on ourselves in the sphere of development. Moreover, we shall not be the first in the history of development to fall back on ourselves for a space.

45. In this connexion, Paul BAIRQCH has rightly pointed out that: "If it is illusory to expect the economic history of currently industrialized countries to reveal simple recipes to solve all the problems of under-development, it is even more absurd-and also more dangerous - to ignore the lessons to be learned from the countries' first experiments in industrialization...Many appear to admit - explicitly or implicitly - that the periods of protectionism are only accidents in the history of the commercial policies of the developed countries: accidents of short duration which have had the effect of disturbing a basic situation in which free trade was the dominant factor. The reality is, however, quite otherwise. As far as international trade is concerned, it is liberalism which constituted the accident or accidents, and protectionism the constant".<sup>(1)</sup>

46. This statement is almost entirely true, for apart from certain periods in the development of the United Kingdom - an exception which proves the rule - it has been established that in the course of two centuries, from 1750-1950 periods of free trade lasted for less than 20 years for almost all the currently industrialized countries.

47. The great champions of laissez-faire and laissez-passer had also discovered the manifold advantages of protectionist tariff barriers behind which they could shelter.

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(1) Paul BAIRQCH, "Free trade, Myth and Reality", CERES - FAO PUBLICATION Vol. 5 No.2 March/April, 1972.

48. Moreover, Paul STREETEN has reminded us that: "More than 20 years have elapsed since PREBICH, SINGER and MURDAL announced that the main cause of the poor countries' predicament was the increasingly unfavourable trade balance between their exports of raw materials and their imports of manufactured goods".

49. The three writers suggested that, in order to escape from the dependence in which they thus found themselves, developing countries should, under the protection of tariff barriers proceed with their own industrialization and self-development.

50. If these views are true with regard to economic and commercial development they must also Mutatis Mutandis held with regard to scientific and technological development.

51. However, courage and determination are called for if Africa is to do this.

51. 1. T. MENDE, for his part, has stated that: "...Long after having ceased to believe in it and to act accordingly, the North Atlantic world continues to make a pretence of believing in the virtues of supply and demand in its relations with the formerly colonized world. This is tantamount to a refusal to consider all the facts which go to prove that simple contact between rich and poor accentuate and perpetuate inequality, and that the economic forces generated by such inequality tend to maintain the weaker partner in a situation of inferiority. Decolonization and two centuries of experience of aid have not altered the fact that the small North Atlantic portion of humanity is in possession of more than two-thirds of total world revenue. Neither have they helped to allay the growing suspicion that under-development continues to result from the very process which simultaneously generates economic development".

51. 2. In order to succeed, we should not hesitate to pay the price involved in a certain degree of isolation or even in remaining aloof from the industrialized world, which is both hostile and inevitably interventionist. For we are all aware that it was during periods of temporary isolation, when they were deprived of capital, imports and foreign experts, that the production potential, skills and resources of certain Latin American countries, for example, were brought into play, with the result that they were successful in their attempts to revamp the development process. It has been shown that rapid modernization, industrialization and development are compatible with a certain degree of

isolation with regard to the world system.

52. If the use of the oil lamp today seems more natural in Africa than in the West, this is perhaps because Science and Technology, which should be employed for peaceful ends, should nevertheless not be permitted to overshadow the other social values and lead to a mechanistic system which crushes man, and to a society in which Science and Technology, from being tools at man's disposal, become his master and enslave him.

52. 1. If the scientific aspects of universal modern education are necessary to our development, then the moral and cultural content of this education must be African, so as to reaffirm a socio-cultural identity endangered by foreign influences.

53. Science is, and should be, in the service of man, but man is not, and should not be, the slave of Science and Technology.

54. As for the necessary equilibrium, that is up to us to discover and define.

55. Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Director-General  
Honourable Ministers,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Such were the remarks which, on behalf of the Secretary-General and the OAU, I have felt duty-bound to make at the start of the work of this important Conference.

56. As regards yourself, the Director-General of UNESCO, I wish to say that to you, once again, must be accorded the merit of having raised a crucial problem at the right time.

57. We are, moreover, aware that in the search for the conditions necessary for the achievement of scientific and technological independence in Africa, as in the search for the appropriate conditions which Science and Technology must satisfy in order to contribute effectively to the harmonious and expeditious development of Africa

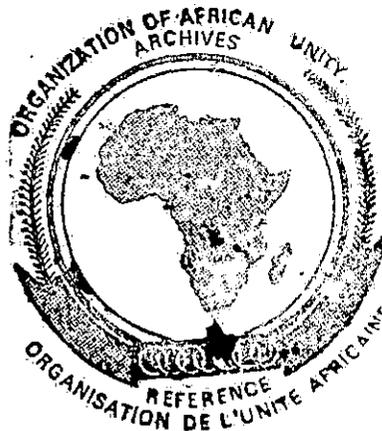
with the aim of achieving genuine independence, we can rely on you and on the experience of UNESCO, which has spared no effort in placing itself at the disposal of Africa.

57. 1. The events which have occurred in the course of the last eight months have shown us, as T. MENDE has emphasized, that "the desire to be freed from imported stereotypes and imposed living-styles, and to return to a national or cultural identity that is more natural and dependable or to assimilate what seems to be indispensable in the outside world, is not destined to disappear. It may even grow stronger as the pressures in favour of standardization increase. Indeed, this could well become the fascinating central theme during the remaining quarter of this century, as one human grouping after another attempts to adapt the successive waves of foreign influences and select, digest and transform them and thus forge its own authentic personality on its own anvil.

57. 2. The world has for nearly three centuries been subject to Western supremacy. This supremacy has not only been exhausting to others but to the West itself as well. For this reason, as the eminent Hungarian Economist T. MENDE has remarked, the pendulum is now swinging backwards, and voluntary isolation, wherever this is possible, is perhaps no more than a stage on the road to a corrective De-Westernization.

58. In conclusion, I venture to hope that this Conference will as a result of the decisions it eventually takes, constitute a landmark in the annals of the history of African development.

59. LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION !  
LONG LIVE THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY !



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# Speech of Mr. KAMANDA

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