



ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY

Secretariat
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الافريقية

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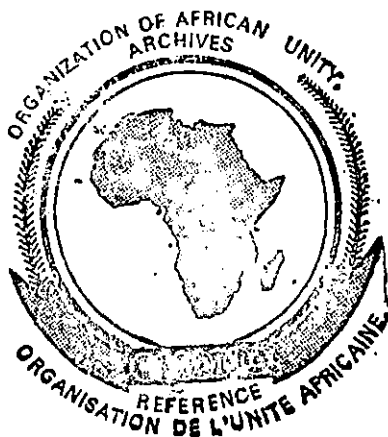
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Addis Ababa ••• اديس ابابا •••

CM/538(XXII)
(Part I) Rev.I

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Twenty-Second Ordinary Session
Addis-Ababa, February 27 - March 3, 1974

INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY GENERAL COVERING THE PERIOD
FROM JUNE 1973 TO FEBRUARY 1974



CM/538

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MICROFICHE

Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of my colleagues, the assistant Secretaries-General, on behalf of the entire staff of the Secretariat and on my own behalf, I have the pleasure to welcome you to the 22nd Session of the Council of Ministers.
2. I believe I need not go back to the various events which have marked the holding of this session nor the reasons which necessitated, first of all, its postponement in Addis and later, its resumption here in Kampala.
3. These events which were beyond our control explain why the provision of the charter regarding the holding of the budget session of the Council in February could not be complied with.
4. The sessions of your Council have always provided the opportunity for useful and fruitful discussions on the various aspects of the situation of our Continent and Organization. Furthermore, they have always been followed with special attention and great interest by observers and our own Member States.
5. With respect to the February session, in particular, though the questions dealt with are less exciting to world opinion, they are nonetheless very important because the image of the activities of an Organization is very often but the reflection of the image of its internal situation. This explains, in fact, why staff members of the Secretariat regularly follow the proceedings of this Session with considerable interest.
6. In this respect, one can state positively that OAU's world image has increased unquestionably since the celebrations of the 10th anniversary. Several of its initiatives have had undeniable impact on international opinion. As a result OAU is taken more seriously by the International Community today than ever before.
7. This has been achieved I should say only because of the excellent relations which have always existed between the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, His Excellency General Yakubu Gowon, and the General Secretariat.

His effective leadership and wise counsel were invaluable to us and we have no doubt that they will continue to be. The same can be said of the efficient and thoughtful guidance that H. E. Minister, Okoi Arikpo, Chairman of the 21st Session gave to the Secretariat during his term of office through his advice and action.

8. With regard to co-operation, we are in duty bound to mention the co-operation received by the Secretariat from the host country and its leader, His Imperial Majesty Haile Sellassie I. The donation made by His Imperial Majesty to our Organisation on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary is still fresh in your memories, I refer to the premises of the General Secretariat's Headquarters which have now become our property. We should like to take this opportunity to thank His Imperial Majesty once again for this gesture which has confirmed to the world that the idea of African Unity is of major concern to Him.

9. Lastly, I should like to express the Secretariat's gratitude to the Government and people of Uganda and to their eminent Head of State, the dynamic and courageous African statesman, Al-Hadj General Idi Amin Dada, for readily offering to host the resumed 22nd Session, for the material sacrifices they spontaneously made to this end and for the warm welcome accorded us on our arrival here and which we continue to enjoy in this hospitable land of Uganda.

10. Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, during the period which is coming to a close, the Secretary-General of the Organisation continued the tours he had started last year with a view to establishing contact with member states. In July 1973, at the kind invitation of the Government of Botswana, a Secretary-General of OAU was afforded, for the first time, the opportunity to cross the Zambezi and even to visit the South African border itself. This tour excited universal interest in the whole of Southern Africa and the Secretary-General came to the conclusion that such visits by officials from OAU member states to this part of Africa (that is to say, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland) help indisputably to boost the morale of our brothers from that part of the continent.

11. The Secretary-General also made two trips to West Africa during which he was able to acquaint himself with the problems posed by the drought in the Sahelian zone. He still has to establish contact with a number of countries in Central and Southern Africa and Madagascar, the only countries he has not yet visited. These visits are supposed to take place after this Session.

12. Your Council is called upon to consider an agenda which includes a number of financial and administrative matters along with a few political items, although this is mainly a budget session the situation is such that it is impossible to avoid all discussion on these items.

13. Included in the strictly Budgetary matters is of course, the consideration of the draft budget for the financial year 1974/1975. This draft budget which totals US\$ 6,223,245 represents an increase of nearly 35% as against the budget for last year. It should be mentioned, however, that this year's subvention to five all-African Organisations amounting to 600,000 dollars is included in this figure submitted by the Advisory Committee for your approval. Needless to say, the Secretariat hopes that the budget will be adopted without too many modifications since the Advisory Committee examined it with the scrupulous attention we well know, before adopting it and submitting it to you.

14. Also among the budgetary matters to be considered are three important documents: the financial report for 1972/1973, the statement of contributions to the 1973/1974 budget which shows that so far, that is to say, only two months before the end of this financial year, the contributions paid by Member States represent less than 50% of the budget voted, and the Report of the Board of External Auditors for 1972/1973. This Report which was examined in detail by the Advisory Committee, contains some criticisms and suggestions which the Secretariat will take into consideration in future.

15. Regarding administrative matters, your Council will have to decide first of all on the applications from several All-African Organizations for OAU Observer Status. Likewise, it will have to consider a draft Co-operation agreement with the U.N.D.P. This matter had been discussed by your Council a few years ago.

It is resubmitted to you, in an improved form this should lead the Council to adopt a positive and final decision on this matter.

16. With regard to the OAU's conditions of service, the Council of Ministers will recall that at its 20th Ordinary Session, after criticizing the attitude of some staff members and certain aspects of the conditions of service of our Organization the Secretary-General promised to make a detailed study of the said conditions of service and eventually submit amended and improved texts. As a result of the staff's collaboration at various levels, the General Secretariat was able to prepare the final draft of the following documents:

- (a) revised staff Regulations
- (b) revised Regulations for non-statutory staff;
- (c) new per diem rates and comments on post adjustment allowances;
- (d) memorandum on the question of quota in the recruitment of staff.

17. These documents were submitted by the General Secretariat to the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters for its consideration and opinion. But in view of their tardy submission to the Advisory Committee, since the preparation of these documents required an in-depth study on the part of the Secretariat, the Committee decided to examine them as soon as possible after the present Session and will, it is hoped, be in a position to submit its comments to a forthcoming Session of the Council of Ministers for decision. This is also the case for the Adu, Younis and Osindero reports and the Administrative Secretary-General's comments on them.

18. The Administrative Secretary-General sincerely hopes that for the sake of the morale of the Organization's Staff, the Council of Ministers will decide to take a final decision on these matters in the very near future.

19. As regards structural problems, three documents are submitted for your approval.

- (a) a report on the restructuration of the Refugees Bureau, drawn upon the basis of recommendations of this Bureau's Co-ordinating Committee as empowered by your Council, the Committee of Ten being directed by your Council to follow-up refugee problems;

- (b) a report proposing the assimilation into the General Secretariat of the Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition of Niamey, concomittently with the closure of the Publications Bureau based in that town, whose ineffectiveness, or rather uselessness, had already been brought to the attention of your Council;
- (c) a document already adopted by the Liberation Committee concerning the structure, functioning and management of the Executive Secretariat of the Liberation Committee. This document has been previously considered and adopted jointly by the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters and the Standing Committee of the finance administration of the Liberation Committee at the request of your Council itself. Its adoption will finally put an end to the kind of controversy stirred up last year in this very place in connexion with the management of the Executive Secretariat of the Liberation Committee.

20. Besides these documents and reports of budgetary or administrative concern, several other reports are being laid before you:

- a report on OAU Technical Assistance to Equatorial Guinea;
- a report on Guinea Bissau and the request for financial assistance submitted by this State;
- a report on the setting up of an Ad Hoc Secretariat to assist African States in negotiations with the EEC;
- a report of the drought in the Sahelian Region;
- a proposal for OAU sponsorship of the nomination of Mr. M'BOW to the post of Director-General of UNESCO, a nomination already sponsored by the African Group at UNESCO and by the General Conference of non-Aligned Countries that has just concluded its meetings in Algiers.

21. This list shows that your Council faces the prospect of considerable activity with regard to administrative matters in the four effective working days assigned to it.

22. However, in the same way as last year's Budgetary Session gave rise to much political discussion on account of the blockade of Zambia by Ian Smith, so this year, too, it will not be possible to avoid some political discussion, by reason of the crisis in the Middle East of problems raised by the prospects for Arab-African cooperation opened up by the decisions of the 8th Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, and on account of the divers implications of the oil embargo and its effects on African countries.

23. At political level, four spheres call for consideration by your Council:

- in Guinea Bissau, the continued presence of the Portuguese colonialists requires urgent action to put an end to this state of affairs. The Defence Commission, which met recently in Conakry, has already examined this matter and has proposed practical measures to be laid before you;
- in Southern Africa, there is reason for gratification, more particularly at the success achieved recently on the one hand by FRELIMO, testifying to the intensification of the struggle and the undeniable extension of the field of its military activities, and on the other by the ZANU freedom-fighters, whose activities are spreading the feeling of insecurity as far as Salisbury;
- in the Middle East, Israel has now, as a result of Egypt's vigilance and the pressure of world opinion, withdrawn from the West Bank of the Suez Canal. However, the battle is still raging on the Golan Heights, and this calls for the continuation of all the actions that are being undertaken on behalf of the establishment of a lasting peace in this region;
- finally, in the field of Arab-African cooperation, it might be appropriate to study the initiatives taken on both sides to give practical effect to this cooperation so as to guarantee that such cooperation is, right from the start, directed into channels which will take account of the well-known interests of both sides.

24. - at economic level, the most urgent matters, concerning the Pan-African Telecommunications Fund and seagoing transport, have been placed on your agenda, but it must be acknowledged that the situation gives cause for much greater concern by reason of the increases in oil prices and those of other products that are essential to the proper working of the economies of the African States.

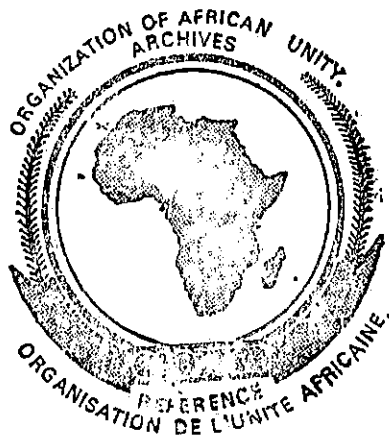
25. In this connexion, the 8th Extraordinary Session had appointed a Ministerial Committee of 7 Member States to study the effects of this situation on the African countries and ways of alleviating the difficulties. The report of this Committee is now before you, and will be the subject of comment, in the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, by your colleague the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, H.E. Dr. Mansour Khaled.

Mr. Chairman,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the past, you have invariably, in your consideration of problems laid before you shown a positive approach and a commendable sense of the importance of the subjects discussed. The Secretariat earnestly hopes that this will also characterize the present session, and that your deliberations will result in practical decisions reached after mature consideration, which will have a positive impact on the future of our Organization.



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