



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat  
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAIN**

Secretariat  
B. P. 3243

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

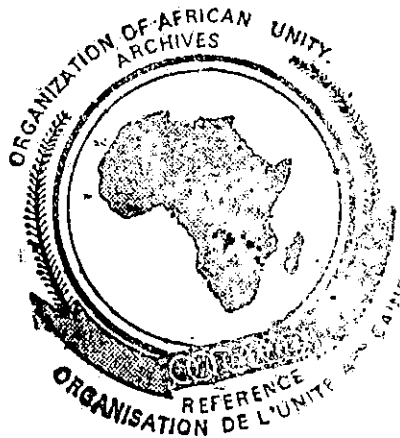
Twenty-Third Ordinary Session

Mogadiscio, Somalia, June 1974.

CM/604(XXIII)

Item: OAU POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT



OAU POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

1. The establishment of an OAU Postal Administration was approved in principle by the Council of Ministers in Rabat in June 1972 by Resolution CM/Res.279(XIX). In accordance with this resolution, the General Secretariat subsequently undertook to consult the Member States in order to get their views and suggestions to facilitate the formulation of a rational basis for the establishment of such an administration.
2. The request to Member States included points on:
  - a. the administrative, technical, cultural and financial implications of the operation of the proposed OAU Postal Administration;
  - b. names and addresses of possible sources of information, such as philatelic organization and prominent philatelic experts in the respective Member States;
  - c. names and addresses of internationally recognized philatelic experts or consultants who could be contacted by the General Secretariat for information.
3. As the response from Member States was inadequate, the General Secretariat requested the Twenty-First Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers for further guidance. Upon this request, the Council adopted Resolution CM/Res.308(XXI) urging "all Member States to co-operate with the Administrative Secretary-General, especially by forwarding before February 1974 the required information."
4. The General Secretariat then sent a further reminder to all Member States requesting their prompt response, to enable the General Secretariat to compile a report on the subject. Some replies started to come in by mid March 1974. At the writing of this report, only thirteen Member States had responded to the General Secretariat's request. The Member States which had replied are: Botswana, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

5. Some of the replies pointed out various areas to which the General Secretariat could direct its attention for further studies. The major points raised can be summarized as follows:

- a. The establishment of an OAU Postal Administration might be considered in the context of an OAU Posts and Telecommunications Organ, which could examine all the aspects of an OAU Postal Administration. Such an organ could consider the expediency of the establishment of either an OAU Postal Administration or an OAU Philatelic Agency, while at the same time it undertakes the co-ordination of all activities in Africa in matters of Posts and Telecommunications.
- b. Specialized studies must be undertaken in order to assess the provisional volume of production, distribution, cost of printing and the personnel required. This might be done by some expert from Member States who would be assisted by an expert from the Universal Postal Union.
- c. The OAU should request the assistance of the Universal Postal Union to undertake a comprehensive study on the proposed OAU Postal Administration. Such a study shall include what relations the OAU Postal Administration can establish with Universal Postal Union itself and the Restricted Unions in Africa.
- d. The administrative, technical and financial aspects of the establishment of an OAU Postal Administration must be properly assessed prior to its establishment.

6. While this summary gives a general idea of the trend of thinking, these Member States have also directed the General Secretariat to possible sources of information. The following names have been suggested, for example:

- a. The Crown Agents  
United Kingdom
- b. Bureau d'Etudes des Postes et Telecommunications  
France
- c. Ancien Maison Theodore Champion  
France.

- (vii) Assemble and manage for the OAU the entire personnel necessary to establish and operate the administration .
- (viii) provide funds and all financing necessary for everything except the initial revolving fund to be provided by the OAU. They do not, however, indicate in money terms how much their contribution would be.

9. Finally, United Philatelic International suggests that it would establish a company with the exclusive purpose of serving as the agent of the OAU for a period of seven to ten years. It would operate under the name of the Philatelic Agency of the OAU or any other name that the OAU would like to give it. In addition, the company would recruit and train African personnel to assume operating responsibility as rapidly as possible.

10. On the other hand, the Kenny International Corporation has submitted the following proposal to the General Secretariat.

- a. They are prepared to carry out a study of all facets of the project and charge only the actual cost involved;
- b. If the project is approved, they are prepared to provide experienced technicians, equipment, systems, procedure and any capital required for the establishment of a postal and philatelic operation for the OAU. For this they would charge some percentage (they do not say how much) of the revenue of the business.

11. The General Secretariat has also contacted the Imperial Ethiopian Government, requesting the initiation of consultations on the possible arrangements that would be made to enable the OAU to establish a Postal Administration. The General Secretariat is awaiting the response and it is hoped that consultations will get underway soon.

12. It is appreciated that the responses so far received from Member States contain substantive suggestions. In the view of the General Secretariat, however, replies from at least half of the Member States are needed to provide a dependable basis for a decision of the Council on this important matter.

13. The General Secretariat therefore believes that the following steps could help facilitate an eventual meaningful decision on the matter:
- a. The General Secretariat should be afforded opportunity to make further contacts with those Member States which have not responded to earlier appeals for philatelic information to do so;
  - b. The General Secretariat is to contact the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union again and request them for any assistance which they might be in a position to render to the OAU in the evaluation of the proposal;
  - c. The General Secretariat is to contact all the sources suggested by Member States for further information and additional evaluation of the proposal;
  - d. The General Secretariat is to continue to study the proposals of the United Philatelic International and Kenny International Corporation and assess their merits, along with any other proposals that might be made in due course;
  - e. The General Secretariat is to compile all the suggestions from Member States, and any other views, suggestions and proposals to be considered by a Committee of Experts drawn from Member States for their appraisal of the project in all its aspects;
  - f. The General Secretariat is to present the Conclusions of the Committee of Experts to the Council of Ministers at its 25th Session for a concrete decision.



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