



ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY

Secretariat
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منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية

السكوتاديسه

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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
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Secretariat
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Addis Ababa * * * * * CM/611 (XXIII)

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Twenty-Third Ordinary Session

Mogadiscio, Somalia, 6-15 June 1974

R E P O R T
OF THE TWENTY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



CM 0611

33p

MICROFICHE

The Twenty-Third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers was officially opened in Mogadiscio on 6 June 1974 at 7:00 p.m. by Jaalle Siyad Barre, President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council of Somalia.

In his address, President Siyad Barre observed that the Twenty-Third Session of the Council was being declared open at a time that marked a decisive turning point in the history of Africa and the world on account of the imminent important changes and events.

The President then turned to the problem of decolonization and economic development in Africa as well as the Middle East problem and concluded that the task facing the Council of Ministers was of vital importance in view of the present world and African situation from both the political and economic standpoints.

On the economic plane, President Siyad Barre suggested, among other things, that practical measures be taken to promote inter-African co-operation in all fields, for instance in communications, trade, civil aviation and maritime transport. He underscored the need for a common front vis-a-vis the developed countries.

In conclusion, President Siyad Barre called on the Council of Ministers to approach its work and the consideration of the various matters before it with a sense of devotion and unflagging commitment to Africa's cause in order to ensure that the aspirations of millions of Africans throughout the continent who have placed high hopes in the Organization of African Unity, are realized.

Speaking on behalf of the Council of Ministers, the Foreign Ministers of Senegal, Libya and Malawi, each in turn, expressed their thanks to President Siyad Barre, the Government and People of Somalia for the extremely warm welcome accorded to all participants.

The three Ministers all expressed their thanks to President Siyad Barre for his wise advice and declared that his message would inspire the Council throughout its deliberations.

The Ministers then proceeded to elect the officers of the Twenty-Third Ordinary Session of the Council. The officers, as proposed by Algeria and seconded by Tanzania and Cameroon, were as follows :

Chairman: H.E. OMAR ARTEH
Foreign Minister of Somalia

First Vice-Chairman: H.E. VITOR MARIA
Foreign Minister of
Guinea-Bissau

Second Vice-Chairman: H.E. CECIL DENNYS JR.
Foreign Minister of
Liberia

Third Vice-Chairman: H.E. P. LUSAKA
Minister for Community
Development of Zambia

Rapporteur: H.E. UMBA-DI-LUTETE
Commissioner of State for Foreign
Affairs and International
Cooperation of Zambia.

The nomination of H.E. Victor Marie, Commissioner for Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau, reflected the Council's appreciation of the heroic struggle of the PAIGC and other liberation movements in territories still under Portuguese

domination, as well as the Council's conviction of the success of their struggle for total independence at the current negotiations with the Portuguese authorities.

The Council later adopted the agenda as presented by the General Secretariat with the addition of 3 items, namely:

- 1) The admission into CAFRAD of States which had not yet joined it (proposed by Morocco)
- 2) The application for observer status by the All-Africa Conference of Churches (proposed by Liberia)
- 3) The establishment of an Inter-African Airlines (proposed by Sierra Leone)

The Head of the Zaire delegation slightly amended the wording of the item which his country had asked to be placed on the agenda. The item now reads: "Problem of drought and its implications in the countries of the Sahel as well as in other countries threatened or affected by drought."

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Council distributed the various items of the Agenda between the Plenary, Committee A (Political Affairs) and Committee B (Inter-African Cooperation in the economic, scientific, cultural and educational fields).

The Plenary's agenda dealt with :

- 1) The presentation of the Annual Report of the Administrative Secretary-General on the activities of the Organization - CM/571.

- 2) Portugal and the liberation of Mozambique, Angola and the Cape Verde Islands (proposed by Tanzania) CM/570/Rev.1/Add.1
- 3) The Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the other Portuguese colonies with respect to the new situation created in Portugal as a result of the change of Government (proposed by Guinea) - CM/570/Rev.1/Add. 2
- 4) OAU Assistance to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau - (CM/582).
- 5) The Middle East situation - CM/575/Rev. 1
- 6) The Report of Committee B on the Twenty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers - - CM/Cttee.B.Rpt.1 (XXII)
- 7) OAU Assistance to Equatorial Guinea - CM/598
- 8) The problem of drought and its implications in the countries of the Sahel as well as in other countries threatened or affected by drought (proposed by Zaire) - CM/570/Rev.1/Add.3.
- 9) Progress report on Negotiations between African countries and the European Economic Community - CM/588.
- 10) Effects of the oil embargo on Member States:
a) Report of the Committee of Seven - CM/600
b) Review by the General Secretariat - CM/603
- 11) Report of the Administrative Secretary-General on Afro-Arab Cooperation - CM/606
- 12) The Report on the Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on Raw Materials and Development (New-York, April 1974 CM/599).

- 13) Request for observer status by the All African Conference of Churches.
- 14) Request for observer status by the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (proposed by Cameroon).
- 15) Admission to CAFRAD of Member States who have not yet done so.
- 16) Report of the Programme Committee for the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of OAU - CM/561
- 17) Consideration of the provisional agenda of the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Government - AHG/69/Rev.
- 18) Date and venue of the Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Council.
- 19) Any other business.

The Agenda of the Committee on Political and Decolonization
Problems Dealt With:

1. The Report of the Administrative Secretary-General on decolonization : CM/573:
 - a) i) Territories under Portuguese colonial domination;
 - ii) Territories under French colonial domination;
 - iii) Territories under Spanish colonial domination;
 - iv) Territories under British colonial domination;

- v) Problem of Namibia;
 - vi) Apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa;
 - b) International support of the struggle for decolonization.
2. The report of the Administrative Secretary-General on the problem of sanctions :
 - CM/585 i) Southern Rhodesia
 - CM/595 ii) Investment in South Africa
 - CM/596 iii) Oil Embargo: a weapon against the regimes of Southern Africa.
 3. The Report of the Twenty-Second and Twenty-Third Sessions of the Coordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa - CM/572.
 4. Report on the activities of the African Group at the United Nations - CM/597
 5. Report on the activities of the OAU's Bureau in Geneva - CM/574;
 6. Report of the Administrative Secretary General on the Bureau of Placement and Education of African Refugees;
 7.
 - a) Report of the Commission of Ten on the Enlargement of the Bureau's terms of reference and examination of the Draft Statute - CM/583/Annex II;
 - b) Co-operation of the Bureau with both the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations and the Voluntary Organizations - CM/583/Annex III;
 - c) Obstacles to the implementation of the OAU resolutions on Refugees - CM/583/Annex IV;

7. Report on the meetings of the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law - Geneva (20 February to 29 March 1974).

The Agenda of Committee B was as Follows:

1. Report on the meeting of the Third Ordinary Session of the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission in Mauritius - CM/584.
2. Establishment of an Executive Secretariat for Education, Culture and Human Sciences (proposed by Senegal) - Report of the General Secretariat CM/584/Appendix I.
3. Report of the Administrative Secretary General on the meetings of the Conference of African Ministers on the Application of Science and Technology to the Development of Africa (CASTAFRICA) organized jointly by UNESCO, ECA and OAU in Dakar - CM/576.
4. Report of the Administrative Secretary General on preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, in Caracas, Venezuela - CM/590.
5. Report on the activities of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission - STRC - Lagos - CM/594.
6. Report of the Administrative Secretary General on Economic, Social, Transport and Communications matters and Inter-African Technical Co-operation - CM/591.
7. Report of the Second Conference of African Ministers of Industry - CM/577
 - a) Proceedings and recommendations of the Conference;
 - b) Action undertaken in implementation of the recommendations.

- 8) Progress report on the Establishment of an Association of African Trade Promotion Organization - CM/587.
- 9) Report on the Implementation of the African Declaration on Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence (Addis Ababa, May 1973) and the recommendations of Abidjan (May 9 - 13, 1973) - CM/578.
- 10) Report of the first meeting of the Interim Committee on the Establishment of an African Highway Association - CM/579.
- 11) Report on the sub-regional meetings on Combined Transport Arrangements in Eastern Africa - CM/589.
- 12) Progress report on the meetings of the African Civil Aviation Commission.
 - a) establishment of an Inter-African Airlines (proposed by Sierra Leone). CM/604
- 13) OAU Postal Administration - CM/604
- 14) The Pan-African Telecommunications Fund - CM/580
- 15) Technical Co-operation:
 - 16 CM/607 - a) Report of the Secretary General on Technical Co-operation between Member States;
 - CM/601 - b) Report on the activities of the United Nations Working Group on Technical Co-operation between Developing Countries.
- 16) Report of the Administrative Secretary General on:
 - a) the Eleventh Session of the Conference of African Labour Ministers - CM/581
 - b) the Twelfth Session of the Conference of African Labour Ministers - CM/601

c) The relations between the Conference of African Labour Ministers and OAU - CM/602.

17) Report on African Non-Governmental Organizations - CM/592

It was further decided that the First Vice-Chairman would preside over Committee A, the Second Vice-Chairman over Committee B, and that the Third Vice-Chairman would assist the Chairman of the Council at the Plenary.

The Council of Ministers also set up a Drafting Committee composed of the following countries:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. Uganda | 10. Liberia |
| 2. Kenya | 11. Guinea Bissau |
| 3. Lesotho | 12. Morocco |
| 4. Somalia | 13. Sudan |
| 5. Zambia | 14. Algeria |
| 6. Senegal | 15. Gabon |
| 7. Mali | 16. Chad |
| 8. Libya | 17. Zaire ++ |
| 9. Cameroon | |

The Drafting Committee had to break into three groups to be able to cover the proceedings of the Plenary and the Committees A and B.

1. The Plenary Meeting of the Council of Ministers

++ Member of the Bureau of the 23rd Session of the Council of Ministers.

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The Plenary Meeting of the Council of Ministers

Request submitted by the Chief Minister of Seychelles

Before considering its agenda, the Plenary Meeting of the Council of Ministers heard a message from the OAU Administrative Secretary-General concerning the request by the Chief Minister of Seychelles to be allowed to address the OAU as an observer or in any other capacity.

Following a lengthy debate during which several views were expressed, some in favour of allowing the Chief Minister to address the Council of Ministers directly, and others - because of the OAU's recognition of the opposition party (SPUP) as the liberation movement representing the people of Seychelles - proposing that the Chief Minister should first address the Liberation Committee in accordance with the rules and regulations of OAU if there has been a change in the attitude of his ruling party. Finally, the Council of Ministers decided that the Chief Minister of Seychelles should be heard first in Mogadishu on Monday 10 June 1974 at 10.00 a.m. by the Liberation Committee which would then immediately report to the Twenty-Third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

This decision was cabled to MR. MANCHAM, Chief Minister Seychelles, who, in message No.0828/8 of 8 June 1974 accepted to come to Mogadishu to address the Liberation Committee.

Report of the Committee of Seven

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, H.E. Mansam Khalid, as Chairman of the Committee of Seven, presented the Committee's report to the Council of Ministers.

The Council then debated at length the contents of the report. Several speakers congratulated both the Members of the Committee of Seven and the OAU General Secretariat on the excellent report presented.

As regards the substance, several delegates said that while appreciating the results of the first contacts between the Committee of Seven and the Arab League in Cairo which heralded an era of fruitful co-operation between the Arab countries and OAU Member States they felt the special US \$200 million fund offered by the oil-producing countries was not big enough to cover their balances of payments deficits arising from the substantial rise in the price of oil. They expressed the hope that this sum would eventually be increased.

To this end, several speakers were of the opinion that the African oil-producing countries which were not contributing to this fund, might do so, if only symbolically, in order to ease the difficulties facing others who did not produce oil, particularly land-locked and other countries, affected by the transport or similar natural disasters.

Almost all the delegates who took the floor expressed the view that the US \$200 million offered by the Members of the Arab League should be paid to the African Development Bank which would administer the Fund. The OAU Committee of Seven was also asked to cooperate with the representatives of importing countries in defining the terms and conditions of access to the Fund.

Several speakers emphasized that the support of the Arab cause as reflected in the severing of diplomatic relations with Israel was not subject to bargaining nor was it in exchange for money; this had never been their attitude towards the issue. In fact this solidarity with the Arab cause was only a sign of support for the triumph of any just cause anywhere in the world. Hence, we should not link the specific problem of contributions by oil-producing countries to alleviate the effects of the impact on the economies of the non-oil producing countries arising from the substantial increase in oil prices with the severance of relations with Israeli.

Other speakers, on the other hand, pointed out that it was never the intention of Arab oil-producing states to impose an oil embargo on African countries. The embargo had been aimed at the enemies of the Arab cause.

Finally, several speakers were of the opinion that trade should be promoted between Arab oil-producing countries and African countries which produce other raw materials and essential commodities.

At the end of the debate, it was decided that the US \$200 million should be paid to the African Development Bank and that the OAU Committee of Seven should cooperate with the importing countries in defining the terms and conditions of access to the fund.

Another appeal was made to the oil producers particularly the African oil-producing countries to consider the possibility of increasing their contributions to the fund.

The fund will be open to all oil-importing countries especially the land-locked and draught-stricken countries.

Furthermore, the Council of Ministers requested that the Committee of Seven continue its contacts and that the Administrative Secretary-General should inform Member countries of the Arab League of the views of Member States on this matter so as to report to subsequent sessions of the Council of Ministers.

The Council thanked members of the Arab League not only for the offer of US \$200 million but also, and above all, for this show of solidarity reflected in this offer.

- Statements by the Representative of the United Nations of Special Committee on Decolonization and the Chairman of the United Nations Council for Namibia

The Council of Ministers later heard, at their request, statements by H E RACHID DRISS, Permanent Representative of Tunisia at the United Nations in his capacity of Representative of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization and by H E RALEIGH E JACKSON, Permanent Representative of Guyana at the United Nations in his capacity of Chairman of the United Nations Council for Namibia.

The Council of Ministers, after expressing its gratitude and congratulations to the two speakers on their important statements, decided that both addresses should be considered as conference documents and submitted to Committee A, entrusted with political matters, for use as reference documents.

The Middle East Situation and the Palestinian Question

The Assistant Secretary-General responsible for Political Affairs and Decolonization presented report CM/575/Rev. 1 on the Middle East situation. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt then made a statement on the latest developments in the region.

Several speakers took the floor to express their unflinching support for the Arab peoples in their struggle for the recovery of their occupied territories.

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers recalled that the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Council held in Kampala decided, after hearing the representative of Egypt, that there could not be lasting peace in the Middle East unless the following principles were adhered to:

1. Complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 ;
2. Liberation of Jerusalem;
3. Exercise of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mauritania also presented to the Council the following draft resolution which was sent to the Drafting Committee of the Plenary.

Draft Resolution on the Middle East Situation and the
Palestinian Question

The OAU Council of Ministers meeting in its 23rd Ordinary Sessions in Mogadiscio from 6 to 11 June 1974;

After hearing the statement by His Excellency the Head of the Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt;

Recalling all previous OAU resolutions on the Middle East re-affirming that the total withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories and the exercise of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people are pre-requisite to any just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Seriously concerned that, despite recent agreement on disengagement of forces between Egypt, Syria and Israel the cease-fire will remain precarious because of Israel's persistent refusal to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories and to recognise the legitimate and inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people;

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the statement of the Head of the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt,
2. **REAFFIRMS** its resolution CM/Res. 321 (XXIII)
3. **AFFIRMS** that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East should be based on the following fundamental principles;
 - a) Complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 to the June 4, 1967 lines;
 - b) The liberation of the Arab city of Jerusalem;
 - c) The exercise of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination;
4. **DECLARES** its full support for the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in their heroic struggle against Zionism and racism.

5. INVITES the OAU Administrative Secretary-General to follow closely developments in the Middle East situation and to report to the 23rd Session of the Council of Ministers;
6. DECIDES to retain "the Middle East situation" as an important item of the agenda of the next session of the OAU Council of Ministers.

- OAU Assistance to Equatorial Guinea

Presenting report CM/598 on OAU assistance to Equatorial Guinea, the representative of the General Secretariat recalled that in consonance with the proposal of the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters, it was recommended to the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Council that the OAU Office in Malabo be closed down for lack of experts.

The Head of the Equatorial Guinea delegation informed the Council of Ministers meeting in Kampala that his Government would like the Office to be maintained since it still needed all kinds of assistance, especially in the medical field. The representative of Equatorial Guinea stated further that his government had sent a report to the OAU General Secretariat on the type of assistance required.

In view of the foregoing, the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers decided to ask the Administrative Secretary-General to assess in co-operation with the Government of Equatorial Guinea the assistance required by this country and to report to the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers

Report CM/598 submitted for the consideration of the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Council was therefore the product of the General Secretariat's contacts with the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

After a short statement by the representative of Equatorial Guinea, the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Council adopted the report of the General Secretariat with all its recommendations.

- Problems of drought and its effects in the countries of the Sahel and other countries affected or threatened by drought (Proposed by Zaire)

H.E. UMBA-DI-LUTETE, Commissioner of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Zaire spoke on the problem of drought and its effects in Africa especially the drought stricken countries in the ~~sahelian~~ region and elsewhere.

He underscored the effect of the drought on the economies of the afflicted States and dwelled on the OAU's shortcomings, as an organization as far as seeking solutions to the problem of drought was concerned, especially as various international organisations and several non-African governments have shown interest in this problem.

In Conclusion, Africa and OAU should address themselves to this problem irrespective of what international agencies and African governments were doing, the Commissioner of State formally proposed:

1. the financing by OAU of a comprehensive study of the drought problem with a view to determining its origin, causes, duration and the rate at which it speeds so as to take appropriate measures to check this scourge;
2. the representation of the OAU on the bodies studying of the drought problem in African and, in particular, on the inter-State Committee for the anti-drought campaign in the countries of the Saheli Region whose headquarters is in OUAGADOUGOU;

3. the immediate establishment of an Emergency Relief Fund to be placed at the disposal of the Inter-State Committee on drought.
4. the possible establishment of a second Inter-State Committee in the East Africa countries affected by drought;
5. promotion of bilateral assistance, and lastely;
6. the allocation of a portion of the annual budget of each State to the affected countries.

Several speakers took the floor to congratulate the representative of Zaire on his commendable initiative and to support his proposals.

The Representative of Kenya further proposed that an OAU Standing Committee be set up to study drought in Africa.

At the end of a lengthy and extremely fruitful debate, the Council approved Zaire's proposals and referred them to the Drafting Committee to be put in the form of recommendations.

The Council further decided to set up an OAU Standing Committee on drought. The Committee, comprised: Uper Volta, Chairman of the Inter-State Committee for the drought-stricken countries in the Sahelian region and:

- Kenya
- Zaire
- Ethiopia
- Morocco
- Algeria.

- Assistance to Guinea-Bissau

After hearing the report CM/582 on OAU assistance to the Republic of Guinea Bissau, the Council of Ministers decided unanimously to grant the sum of one million pounds requested by the Republic of Guinea-Bissau for the consolidation of its independence.

This decision was a follow-up to the recommendation by both the Twenty-Second Ordinary Session of the Liberation Committee and by the OAU Defence Commission held in Canakry in 1973.

This sum was granted in addition to the £ 200,000 voted by the Twenty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council to Guinea-Bissau to enable that Republic to meet its urgent needs.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE B OF THE 22nd ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

In introducing document CM/Cttee B.Rpt. I (XXII), the representative of Tanzania, in his capacity of Rapporteur, said that the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Kampala from 1 to 4 April, 1974, had been unable to adopt Committee B's report for technical reasons. That was why the members of the Committee decided then to meet in Mogadishu shortly before the opening of the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers to adopt the report and submit it to the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Council for its approval.

The representative of Tanzania ~~thereafter outlined the scope~~ of the various recommendations embodied in the report which dealt, in the main, with matters relating to Inter-African Co-operation in the economic, social, scientific, educational and cultural fields. The report also tackled the drought problem in Africa.

Afro-Arab Co-operation:

The representative of the General Secretariat introduced report CM/606 on Afro-Arab co-operation, which briefly outlines the General Secretariat's efforts to strengthen Afro-Arab co-operation since the Summit Conference of Arab States held in Algiers, the Eighth Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in

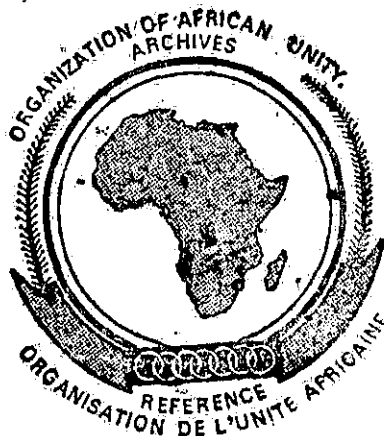
Addis Ababa on 19th November 1973 which, by its resolution No. 20, requested that co-operation between Arab and African countries should be strengthened in the economic field with particular reference to the high cost of oil and in the social and political fields.

The report also dealt with the efforts made by the Committee of Seven and the outcome of the Conference on oil-products held in Tripoli under the auspices of the ECA, during which important decisions were taken on co-operation between Arab and African countries.

Since the matter had been discussed during the debate on the report of the Committee of Seven and the Drafting Committee had been asked to prepare a draft recommendation reflecting the various views of the delegates, the Council of Ministers decided to take note of the report.

Portugal and the liberation of Mozambique, Angola and
Cape Verde Islands.

This item was put on the agenda at the request of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. In introducing document CM/570/Rev.1/Add.1 on this item, the representative of Tanzania said in substance that his Government merely wished to draw OAU's and Member States' attention to the issue so that a suitable stand or strategy may be adopted in view of the new political developments in Portugal.



After the statement by the Representative of Tanzania, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea introduced document CM/570/Rev.1/Add.2 on the item entitled: "The Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the other Portuguese colonies with respect to the new situation created as a result of the change of government in Portugal", which had been included in the agenda at his Government's request. This was because the Council of Ministers had decided to consider the two items together.

In support of the initial observations made by the Representative of Tanzania, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea said he could hardly over-emphasise how opportune it was for the OAU to include in the agenda of the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Council, for priority consideration, a problem which was of serious concern to each and every OAU Member State, namely the application of the new strategy dictated by the stepping up of the process of complete and effective decolonisation of the sister countries of Angola, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe as well as the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands following the change of government in Portugal.

He also pointed out that Angola, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands and Mozambique have been fighting for 15, 11, and 10 years respectively against Portuguese colonialism with the help and active solidarity of progressive parties and States.

in general and the OAU in particular, with the sole aim of achieving unconditional independence for their countries and real national sovereignty for their peoples.

He added that in spite of all the atrocities "the Portuguese colonialist troops have suffered defeat, ~~after defeat,~~ thanks to ^{our} united front and the implications of opposition from among the Portuguese people who, worn out and fed up with a war that is not theirs, began a struggle interspersed with successful acts of sabotage which drove the fascist Portuguese government to the wall.

From then on, the victory of our brothers fighting for their freedom, our victory, became inevitable even to those who had been denying its inevitability. But what do we see today ? Portuguese colonialism with its hands still stained with the blood of Mondlane, Amilcar Cabral and thousands of our martyred brothers impudently wants to be seen as the very embodiment of the defence of the principles of freedom, dignity and justice. We are not taken in by this hoax because we do not believe in miracles. Indeed imperialism has no heart. It knows and defends its interests alone. Imperialism gives up only what the people snatch from it. This explains our joy at the news that the second and subsequent phases of the talks between the PAIGC and the representatives of the Portuguese government, will, we hope, take place on African soil in Algeria".

Speaking, in his turn, the Foreign Minister of Senegal congratulated the representatives of Tanzania and Guinea on their initiatives in placing this important item on the agenda. He felt, however, that since the problem was familiar to everybody, it would be better to give the floor to the liberation movements themselves to state precisely what they required from . . . OAU and the African States in the current phase of the development of the struggle.

The Minister of Rural Development of Zambia took the floor next to say he hoped the Twenty-Third Session of the Council Session would attach to this problem the importance it deserved. He considered the negotiations between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde Islands and Portugal to be of great importance within the context of the total liberation of Africa. He hoped that the negotiations dealt with the ways and means of putting an end to Portuguese aggression against the independent state of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands. With regard to Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands these negotiations, he felt, should be guided by the urgent need to respect Africa's territorial integrity. He called upon Portugal to announce publicly and categorically that it accepts the principle of African independence since the present attitude of the Portuguese Government, as reflected in its vague views and policies on independence was unsatisfactory. Indeed, there could be no compromise on the question of total independence of the African territories under Portuguese domination. He believed that it was not the changes which had taken place in Portugal itself which had led to the liberation of the Portuguese people but rather, that it was the liberation struggle in Africa which had decidedly brought about the downfall of fascism in Portugal.

The Foreign Minister of Guinea Bissau intervened to clarify his government's stand on the current negotiations with the Portuguese government and on the problem of the territorial unity of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands.

In his address, the representative of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea congratulated the African Liberation Movements on the tremendous efforts they had exerted in the national liberation struggle. Recalling the difficulties encountered by his country immediately after independence and the aid extended by OAU, the representative of Equatorial Guinea announced that his government had decided to grant 2 million pesetas to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau as a contribution to its struggle for liberation.

The representative of the Liberation Movement of Sao Tome and Principe spoke next and explained his movement's stand on the problem of the liberation of his country. He explained the difficulties it was encountering in obtaining effective aid from the Liberation Committee and asked the OAU Council of Ministers to help settle these problems.

The Vice-President of FRELIMO then made a brilliant statement analysing the political situation in Portugal and Mozambique and concluded that the fascist forces in Mozambique had been disarmed by the determination of the Mozambican people to attain their independence under the banner of FRELIMO. He drew the attention of the

Council of Ministers to the fact that, although the fascist government of Portugal had been overthrown, the new liberal government was still basically colonialist and, as a result, the liberation struggle being waged in Mozambique under FRELIMO's leadership was not over. He further declared that the problem of FRELIMO and Mozambique remained, as the past, the ability to resist the assaults of the enemy, who was ceaselessly manoeuvring, and conquer him. He therefore proposed that the OAU Council of Ministers study the form of assistance needed by his movement and country in all areas in order to carry through their liberation struggle.

After a thorough examination of the matter, the Council decided to adopt a declaration, based on that of the Twenty-Third Ordinary Session of the Liberation Committee in Yaounde, which would reflect its views and Africa's new strategy on this crucial problem.

Reports of the Twenty-Second and Twenty-Third Special
Session of the Liberation Committee.

These reports were introduced by the Chairman of the Twenty-Second Session and the Chairman of the Twenty-Third Ordinary Session of the Liberation Committee.

The Liberation Committee held a Special Session in Mogadishu, under the chairmanship of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Republic of Cameroon, to hear the Chief

Minister of Seychelles, who had expressed the desire to address the OAU Council of Ministers, and report to the Twenty-Third Session of the Council.

At the end of the debate, the Council of Ministers adopted the reports and recommendations of the two aforementioned Sessions of the Liberation Committee, and granted observer status to the Party of the Chief Minister of Seychelles, Mr. MACHAM.

On the distribution of materials especially of military nature the council decided to continue with the already laid down and accepted procedure of the OAU.

Applications for observer status submitted by the
All Africa Conference of Churches and IRIC.

These applications for observer status were submitted by Liberia and Cameroon respectively.

The representative of Libya laid before the Council the application for observer status presented by the Islamic Dawa's Association whose headquarters is in Tripoli and which is headed by Sheikh Mohamoud Sobhy, the Secretary General of the Association.

After a brief discussion and in view of the fact that the papers of the All African Conference of Churches had been submitted late, the Council referred this application for observer status to one of its subsequent sessions for consideration, to allow Member States the time to make an in-depth study of this matter.

However, the Council granted observer status to the IRIC.

MEMBERSHIP OF CAFRAD

This matter was introduced by the representative of Morocco who expressed the hope that many Member States of the Organization would join this Institution.

He proposed a draft resolution appealing to Member States who had not yet done so to join CAFRAD.

The Council of Ministers unanimously adopted the draft resolution presented by Morocco.

- Report on the Extraordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Raw Materials and Development.

The representative of the General Secretariat introduced Report CM/599 concerning the results of the Extraordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Raw Materials and Development held in New-York in April 1974 on the initiative of the Government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

The Council of Ministers took note of this report and called upon the OAU General Secretariat to carry out studies on the implementation of the recommendations of the Extraordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly contained in Report CM/599.

- Progress Report on negotiations between African countries and the European Economic Community (EEC)

Report CM/588 on this matter was submitted by the OAU General Secretariat in the absence of the Chairman of the African Group negotiating in Brussels. Following a statement by the representative of the General Secretariat, the Council of Ministers decided to take note of the information regarding progress so far made in the negotiations between African countries and the EEC.

Provisional Agenda of the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

The General Secretariat presented to the Council document AHG/69/Rev.1 on the provisional agenda of the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

After a brief discussion, the Twenty Third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers decided to recommend to the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the assembly of Heads of State and Government the following agenda:

1. Formal opening
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Organisation of work
5. Presentation of the Administrative
6. Secretary-General's report on the activities of the Organisation for the period from June 1973 to June 1974
6. Consideration of the Recommendations of the Eighth Extraordinary Session of the Council
7. Consideration of the Recommendations of the Twenty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council
8. Consideration of the Recommendations of the Twenty Third Ordinary Session of the Council.
9. (a) The Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the other Portuguese colonies in the wake of the new situation created by the change of Government in Portugal. (proposed by Guinea)
- (b) The territories under Colonial domination in Africa.
10. Statement by the President of Senegal on some aspects of the contacts, between the Portuguese Authorities and the Representatives of the Liberation Movements.

11. Admission of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to the Coordination Committee for the liberation of Africa
12. The Middle East situation.
13. Date and venue of the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.
14. Any other business.

Date and Venue of the Twenty Fourth Ordinary Session of the Council

Since no country offered to play host to the Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, it was decided that the Council meet at the OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa in February 1975.

As regards the exact date, the Administrative Secretary-General was asked to fix it in consultation with the current Chairman of the Council of Ministers and to notify the ~~number~~ states.

The Representative of Mauritius then took the floor to inform the Council that his country was inviting the Twenty Fifth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government to meet in Mauritius.

ADDENDUM OF THE REPORT OF THE PLENARY COMMITTEE.

The Council of Minister unanimously adopted the Report of the Plenary Drafting Committee with the following modification;-

REPORT.

1. On page 13 the heading should read thus;-
"The Situation in the Middle East and the Palestinian Question".
2. On page 29 Regarding the date and Venue of the 25th Ordinary Session and the following at the end of the page:-

"However, after the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Uganda recalled that during the 10th Summit in Addis Ababa, an understanding had been reached to hold the 12th Summit in Kampala, the Council agreed that the 25th Ordinary session of the Council of Ministers and the 12th Summit would take place in the Uganda Capital in June 1975.

RESOLUTIONS.

3. CM/PLEN/Draft/Res.1/REV.1 the title should read as follows:-
"RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION" and operative paragraph 3 (c) should read as follows:

"(c) The exercise by the Palestinian People of their right to self determination and the recognition of their national rights".

REQUEST BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF PORTUGAL TO MEET THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL.

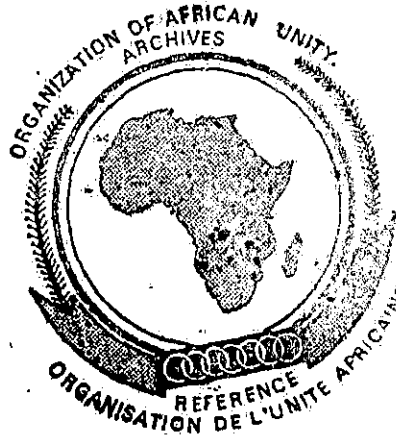
1. The Council considered this request and decided that the Administrative Secretary General should be authorized to meet Mr. Mario Soares, Foreign Minister of Portugal at the Headquarters of the Organization to allow the Foreign of Portugal to explain according to his wish the Policy of his country regarding the future of African territories still under Portuguese domination.

The Council expressed its gratitude to the Government of Mauritius for this offer. With regard to the venue of the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, it was decided that this was a matter for the Heads of State and Government themselves to decide.

The representative of Uganda then took the floor to say that he reserved the right to intervene on the matter later, since his government was also considering playing host to the Twelfth OAU Summit.

- Report of the Programme Committee for the Tenth Anniversary Celebrations of the OAU.
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Since the Chairman of this Committee was unable to attend, the Council of Ministers, in its afternoon Session on 11 June 1974, decided to postpone consideration of this matter to the morning of 12 June 1974.



1974-06

Report of the Twenty-Third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

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