



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat  
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAINNE**

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B P. 3243

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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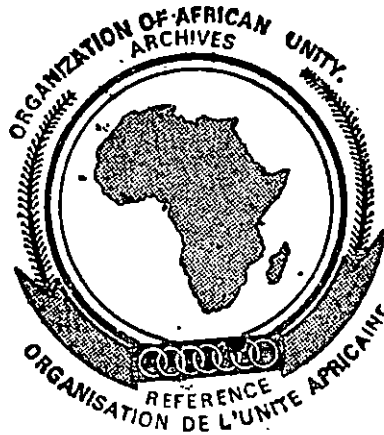
Twenty-Fifth Ordinary Session

Kampala, 18 - 25 July, 1975.

CM/656 (XXV)

Annex 1

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN  
UNITY IN EUROPE (PERMANENT DELEGATION IN  
GENEVA) COVERING THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 1,  
1974 TO MAY 31, 1975



REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IN EUROPE (PERMANENT  
DELEGATION IN GENEVA) COVERING THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 1,  
1974 TO MAY 31, 1975

I N T R O D U C T I O N

On May 31, the Executive Secretariat completed about one year and ten months since it began to operate, with full diplomatic status, as a Unit of the OAU Secretariat in Europe. Most of the teething problems which plagued the Executive Secretariat during the first twelve months of its existence have been surmounted although some problems concerning administration and finance still remain to be resolved.

In its report for the period June, 1973 to May 31, 1974 (Doc. CM/574(XXIII), the Executive Secretariat stated the following as its functions as enunciated in the Rabat decision of the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Summit of the African Heads of State and Government on the basis of which the Executive Secretariat was established:

- (i) to undertake OAU activities as directed, within the overall OAU struggle against colonialism and against apartheid and racial discrimination;
- (ii) to maintain contacts and undertake activities with the International Organizations located in Europe and with European countries.

In carrying out these functions the Executive Secretariat has been guided by the resolutions and declarations adopted by the Assembly of the African Heads of State and Government. Furthermore, the Executive Secretariat has continued to work closely with the African Ambassadors in Europe with whose co-operation it has endeavoured to implement conscientiously and efficiently the said resolutions and declarations.

CHAPTER IAdministration & Finance

With the departure of Ambassador Saleh Bassiouny, the former Executive Secretary, the Executive Secretariat has been run by an Acting Executive Secretary assisted by one officer and two bilingual secretaries.

Given the wide scope of the activities which the Executive Secretariat is expected to undertake in the political, information, economic and social fields, it will be appreciated that the need for additional - technically competent - staff is an urgent one.

(a) Material situation of staff

The Executive Secretariat wishes to record its appreciation for the decision taken by the Council of Ministers at its Twenty-Third Ordinary Session held at Mogadiscio (Doc. CM/Res.343 (XXIII)), which decision, among other things, provides that the "Statutory Permanent Staff (of the Executive Secretariat in Geneva) shall contribute 20 per cent of the basic salary for reasonable housing rent and the rest will be borne by the OAU".

Undoubtedly, the above-mentioned decision of the Council of Ministers has helped ease the heavy financial burden suffered by the staff of the Executive Secretariat. Nevertheless, in the light of the phenomenon of world-wide inflation with the consequential erosion of salaries and allowances payable to the staff, the Executive Secretariat is constrained to state that an upward review of salary-scales seems highly desirable.

CHAPTER IIActivities in the political and decolonization field

In conformity with the Rabat decision referred to elsewhere in this report, the Executive Secretariat has activities in the political and decolonization field as its major preoccupations.

Therefore during the period under review, the Executive Secretariat actively participated in all major meetings organized either by or under the auspices of the United Nations or by the various Non-Governmental Organizations in Europe at which the questions of apartheid and decolonization were discussed. At all times the Executive Secretariat used the opportunity of its participation in such meetings to explain OAU's viewpoints.

(a) South Africa

Among the viewpoints the Executive Secretariat has consistently sought to explain is that South Africa is a big threat to international peace. That the military budget of South Africa has been doubled in the last two years. At the figure of 500 million pounds sterling it is now the largest single item in the South African budget.

The Executive Secretariat has maintained that the only plausible explanation for the purpose of such a huge military budget is that the Government of South Africa, notwithstanding Mr. Vorster's recent overtures, is bent on backing up its repressive policies with ever increasing force, aimed primarily at the control of the disenfranchised black African majority that makes up 82 per cent of the population of South Africa.

In the light of these facts, the Executive Secretariat has therefore continued to work for the isolation of the Government of South Africa in line with the decisions of the OAU Member States. The latest action in this direction culminated in the suspension of the Government of South Africa from the membership of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

With the assistance of the Executive Secretariat, the African delegations to the 7th Congress of WMO which was held in Geneva from April 28 - May 23, submitted a draft resolution operative paragraph 3 of which calls upon WMO to "immediately suspend the Government of South Africa from exercising its rights and enjoying privileges as a Member of WMO until it renounces its policy of racial discrimination, and abides by the United Nations resolutions concerning Namibia".

Despite the opposition of most of the delegations from the Western industrialized countries who cast negative votes, the resolution was adopted by the Congress after 66 roll-call votes had been cast in its favour - thanks to the solidarity of the African, Arab and Socialist countries' delegations.

(b) Liberation Movements

The General Assembly of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity have regularly adopted resolutions on moral and material assistance to Liberation Movements, on recognition of these Movements by the international community as the sole authentic representatives of their peoples, and on economic sanctions against the South African and illegal Smith regimes.

During the past twelve months the Executive Secretariat has spared no effort to ensure that the said resolutions of the General Assembly and the Organization of African Unity are implemented by the international community and particularly by the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations

### Material Assistance to Liberation Movements

In regard to material assistance to Liberation Movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity, the Executive Secretariat wishes to report that there has been a discernible improvement in the attitudes of many of the Specialized Agencies who, not long ago, often resorted to all kinds of legalistic excuses or so-called constitutional constraints in order to delay the effective implementation of the General Assembly resolutions.

It is reassuring to note that some of the Specialized Agencies have already begun, with the approval of their Governing Bodies, to work out concrete programmes of assistance not only to Liberation Movements - but also to the newly independent African States.

### Recognition of Liberation Movements by the Specialized Agencies

At the time of writing this report, Liberation Movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity have been accorded observer status by practically all the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations. Having thus been recognized Liberation Movements do now get regularly invited to all important meetings organized by the Specialized Agencies.

### Economic Sanctions

In regard to the economic sanctions promulgated by the United Nations General Assembly against the South African and illegal Smith regimes, the Executive Secretariat wishes to report that it has continued to appeal particularly to the Western industrialized nations to implement without reservations the General Assembly resolutions and in this way to contribute to the freedom struggle in Africa.

At the same time the Executive Secretariat has kept a close watch on sanctions violations, and has accordingly informed the Administrative Secretary-General.

CHAPTER IIIActivities in the economic and social field

Concomitantly with activities in the political and decolonization field, the Executive Secretariat has continued to play its role of co-ordinator of the activities of the African delegations to all major meetings of economic and social character.

During the period under review the Executive Secretariat serviced the African Group at the following major meetings, and fully reported to the Administrative Secretary-General in the usual manner:

- (a) ECOSCO: 57th (Summer) Session, Geneva, 3 July - 2 August 1974;
- (b) WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE: Bucharest, Rumania, August, 19 - 30, 1974;
- (c) WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: Rome, November 5 - 10, 1974;
- (d) UNCTAD:

Trade and Development Board, 14th Session (Part I), Geneva, August 20 - September 14, 1974;

Joint Advisory Group of UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre, Geneva, January 21 - 24, 1975;

8th Session of UNCTAD Committee on Commodities, Geneva, February 10 - 21, 1975;

Special Session and 14th Session (Part 2) of the Trade and Development Board, Geneva, April 21 - May 2, 1975.

The question of the prices and terms on which countries exchange raw materials has clearly emerged as the dominant theme of the world economics. UNCTAD's contribution to the search for a solution has centred on its proposal for an "over-all integrated programme for commodities", which has attracted considerable interest from the Group of 77.

The main elements of this integrated programme are, first, an attempt to move urgently from the field of consultation to that of negotiation; second, the setting of wider objectives for international commodity arrangements, in addition to the traditional objectives of stable and remunerative prices; third, the incorporation in commodity arrangements of new principles and techniques, such as the indexation of prices; co-operative action among producers, wider use of buffer stocks and compensatory payments.

It is now generally accepted that in the past ten years since UNCTAD was founded there has not been a break-through of any kind in the problems of commodities of direct export interest to the majority of developing countries. With this "New Approaches" to international commodity problems and policies, it is hoped that the much desired break-through may finally be achieved.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which is due to hold its summer session in Geneva in July, will review the UNCTAD proposal. It will do so again in December, so that hopefully the UNCTAD Conference (Fourth Session) which is scheduled to take place for the first time on the African soil (in Nairobi, Kenya), during May 1976, can launch the negotiations.

e) UNIDO: Second General Conference, Lima, Peru, March 12 - 26, 1975;

By its resolution 363 of the Twenty-third session the Council of Ministers "invites the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU and the Executive Secretary of the ECA to service



the African Group during all preparatory meetings as well as during the Second General Conference of UNIDO".

Consequent upon this resolution of the Council of Ministers, the Administrative Secretary-General directed the Executive Secretariat to represent the OAU at all the scheduled meetings preparatory to the Second General Conference of UNIDO. The meetings were held in Vienna, Austria during December 1974 and January 1975 and at Algiers during February 1975. The Executive Secretariat fully participated in all these preparatory meetings, and serviced the African Group. Furthermore, an officer from the Executive Secretariat was part of a two-man OAU delegation to the Second General Conference of UNIDO which was held in Lima from March 12 - 26, at the kind invitation of the Government of Peru.

The major achievement of the Group of 77 at Lima was undoubtedly the adoption, by a substantial majority, of the Lima Declaration and plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation in which is recommended, among other things, that by the year 2000 the share of developing countries of world industrial production should be 25 per cent.

Given their present share of only 7 per cent, this means that in order to close the gap, developing countries would have to ensure that during the next two decades their economies grow faster than those of the developed countries. With this end in mind, the Lima Declaration sets out "the main principles of industrialization" and defines "means by which the international community as a whole might take broad action" to establish a new international economic order. It envisages a process of "continuous consultations" in redeploing world industry and bringing about a new international division of labour. And it recommends that UNIDO be made a United Nations Specialized Agency with a new "industrial development fund" and undertake the central co-ordinating role in this.

The other recommendations in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action range from a call for the full implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States to the integration of women in the process of development and the preservation of the environment.

Since a detailed report on the conference will be submitted to the Council by the ECOSOC Department of the OAU Secretariat, the Executive Secretariat has found it appropriate, in the context of this report, to give only a brief summary.

#### CHAPTER IV

##### African Candidatures

The OAU Member States unanimously endorsed Mr. Amadou Mahtar M'BOW of Senegal and Dr. Abdelrahmane KHANE of Algeria as the sole African candidatures for the posts of Director General of UNESCO and Executive Director of UNIDO respectively.

As part of a united action by the African Group, the Executive Secretariat circulated texts of the relevant OAU resolutions to all European Governments, through their Permanent Representatives in Geneva, and solicited their support.

While the successful elections of the two candidates is a cause of legitimate pride to the Member States of the OAU, the election of Mr. M'BOW is also a matter of symbolic and historical importance. Because his election to the top post of Director General of UNESCO has marked the first time in history that an African has been elected as head of a United Nations Specialized Agency.

In addition to UNESCO and UNIDO, Africans now head the following organizations:

International Telecommunications Union (ITU) -  
Mr. Mohamed Mili from Tunisia;

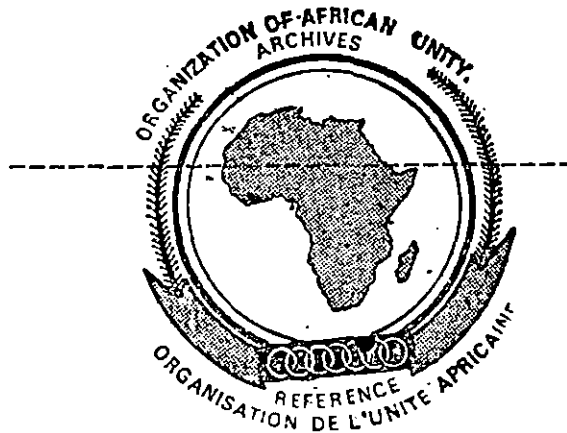
Universal Postal Union (UPU) - Mr. Mohammed Sobhi  
from Egypt.

African has also shown interest in the post of Director General of FAO which is due to fall vacant. Nigeria and Ghana are fielding one candidate each.

The Executive Secretariat has had the opportunity of exchanging views on this subject with the African Group within FAO. The majority feeling is that if the OAU Member States are sincerely interested in the post of Director General of FAO, it is urgently necessary that they choose one strong candidate behind whom they should throw the full weight of their diplomatic support.

### C O N C L U S I O N

In spite of almost chronic financial difficulties which have continued to greatly hamper its normal operation, the Executive Secretariat has during the period under review endeavoured to discharge conscientiously and efficiently the duties assigned to it.



1975-07

Report on the Activities of the  
Executive Secretariat of the  
Organization of African Unity in Europe  
(Permanent Delegation in Geneva)  
Covering the Period from June 1, 1974  
to May 31, 1975

Organization of African Unity

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