



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAINNE**

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
Addis Ababa  
TWENTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION  
PORT-LOUIS, MAURITIUS  
24 - 29 June 1976

CM/734 (XXVII)  
Annex II

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE O.A.U.  
IN EUROPE (PERMANENT DELEGATION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFICE OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA AND OTHER SPECIALIZED  
AGENCIES OF THE UNO SYSTEM)  
(From 1st July - 31 May 1976)



PART I: ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

1. In view of the wide range of activities being handled by the Permanent Delegation in the political, informational, economic, social and technical fields, it was necessary to increase the establishment of decision-making and administrative personnel. This had been clearly demonstrated in the course of the period under consideration when the Permanent Delegation was called upon to participate in several meetings and conferences taking place simultaneously in Geneva and beyond Headquarters. The timetable for the meetings revealed the increasing frequency of meetings of importance to the OAU. They deemed it necessary to recruit an Officer with a P3 salary-scale to reinforce the political and information department on the one hand, and on the other to create the post of Administrative Attache on a P1 salary-scale, in view of the fact that, since the Office was established, a bilingual secretary had been handling the office's administrative matters as a whole in addition to the work of the Secretariat. The full-time post of Administrative Attache at the office had become increasingly important in view of the fact that the personnel establishment and the office's activities had considerably increased. The Administrative Attache would, furthermore, be in charge of documentation.

2. Despite the corrective measures instituted by the Council of Ministers and the decisions of the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters, serious difficulties remained, impeding the drive and enthusiasm of the office and its activities, while at the same time endangering the morale of the personnel, which on several occasions had received no salary due to lack of funds or delays in transfer from Organization Headquarters. For the same reason, the Permanent Delegation had been unable to arrange OAU participation at certain important meetings of the specialized agencies held outside Geneva, such as the FAO in Rome, UNESCO in Paris, UNIDO in Vienna, etc.), where follow-up decisions on certain matters intimately concerned the vital interests of our Continent.

3. This already chronic situation had several times been brought to the attention of the General Secretariat in Addis Ababa. However, failing a speedy decision, the negative consequences which would ensue in the running of the Geneva office would very soon make themselves felt.

At a time when the OAU Office in Geneva was confident that it had solved its financial problems following a decision by the General Secretariat to carry out all the subvention transfers in Swiss Francs, it had been realized that nothing had been settled with regard to the deficit in the Office's budget as a result of the devaluation of the US Dollar in relation to the Swiss Franc and the currency exchange fluctuations in transfers and payments centred in Addis Ababa.

Indeed, the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters had decided that all subvention transfers to the Geneva Office should be effected in Swiss Francs at a fixed rate of 3 Swiss Francs to the Dollar. It was, in fact, for this reason that the Office budget for the 1975/76 financial year had been drawn up in US Dollars, but at a rate of 3 Swiss Francs to the Dollar. It had, unfortunately, been realized that subventions had been transferred in Swiss Francs, but at a lower rate than 3 Swiss Francs. Consequently, the Office budget had shown a big deficit of approximately 109,460 Swiss Francs.

The following table clearly showed the deficits recorded by the Office for the 1975/76 financial year:

Amount in US\$ (Transfers effected from Addis Ababa)	Rate	Equivalent in Swiss Francs actually received
32,000	2.83	90,502.06
25,000	2.46	61,582.50
80,000	2.65	211,968.00
30,000	2.61	78,246.00
50,000	2.59	129,375.00
60,000	2.55	152,766.00
1,888.15	2.50	4,729.25
277,188.75		729,168.81

While the budget amounted to 838,632.00 Swiss Francs (279,544.00 US\$ X 3), the Office actually cashed the sum of 729,168.81 Francs, or a deficit of 109,460 Swiss Francs, or 1/7 of its budget. It was highly desirable that the General Secretariat should assume responsibility for covering this deficit, in pursuance of Council of Ministers resolution CM/343 (XXIII), Purview Terms 4.

The Office would also like to receive subventions in four installments in order to handle the Office's financial affairs more effectively and ensure its proper working.

4. Moreover, the African Group at Geneva continued to request the Executive Secretariat to change the present premises containing the Permanent Delegation to enable it to hold more frequent meetings at a discreet distance from the Palace of Nations. Unfortunately, considerations of a budgetary nature, galloping inflation and increased rents, had made it impossible to change the premises. Unless an additional budget could meet the difference, the Secretariat would be unable to make a positive response to the request, even during the forthcoming financial year.

PART IIRELATIONS WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND SPECIALIZED  
AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS

5. The Permanent Delegation had worked to develop and strengthen cooperation ties between the OAU and organizations and specialized agencies of the UNO system headquartered in Geneva and in other European capitals.

The Permanent Representative of the OAU, in taking up his post, had made a point of visiting all the seats of those organizations and had had working sessions with the Directors and General Secretaries. During these meetings, he and they had touched on all aspects of relations between the OAU and those agencies. Special attention had been devoted to certain points which were important to Africa, among them:-

- Activities of the specialized agencies in the African region and aid and training programmes for Africa;
- Cooperation agreements established between the OAU and these agencies and the state of their implementation;
- Africa's representation on their governing bodies and in their secretariats;
- The priority to be accorded assistance programmes to African countries that have acceded to independence, the less advanced and those most seriously affected;
- activation of the procedure for the admission of states acceding to independence;
- assistance to national liberation movements recognized by the OAU and their effective participation in meetings and conferences under the auspices of the UNO system;
- The question of African candidatures;

- The state of implementation of decision by UNO policy-making bodies in the field of decolonization, including measures designed to isolate the racist and colonialist regimes of Southern Africa, such as the United Nations Programme for the "Decade of struggle against racism and racial discrimination" in conformity with Resolution 3377 (XXX) of the United Nations General Assembly;
- The programme of action on international development and economic cooperation drawn up by the Sixth and Seventh Extraordinary Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly;

6. Thus, within the framework of these activities, the Permanent Representative of the OAU, took part, at the Palace of Nations on 5 April 1976, in an OAU Inter-agency meeting, in accordance with Resolution 1892 (LVII) of the Economic and Social Council to review the state of implementation of the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly and other United Nations resolutions with the aim of securing improved coordination between the two OAU and UNO systems.

7. Having regard to the fact that most of the United Nations assistance programmes for the African region were financed by the UNDP, which had remained the main funding source for the activities of the specialized agencies in Africa and elsewhere, the Permanent Delegation had made a point, on more than one occasion, of raising the question of the reduction in the volume of UNDP support, which was hampering .....contd.

the implementation of the current assistance programmes for Africa, to say nothing of the drawing up of additional assistance programmes in the various fields, in response to the ever-growing needs and requirements of the African region. In so doing, the Permanent Delegation had taken an active part in the meetings of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme whenever it had met in Geneva (Twentieth Session).

8. The Permanent Delegation expressed its satisfaction at the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to begin a dialogue and a working relationship between the ECA and the African Group at Geneva. Thus the OAU Office on 22 March 1976 organized a working session of the African Group, attended by Dr. Adedéji, the Executive Secretary. This meeting, convened in association with the UNCTAD Board, had reviewed the role of the ECA, and the information and technical details it was in a position to supply through the OAU to facilitate the work of the African Group for economic or technical matters dealt with in Geneva.

9. Within the framework of its contacts with non-governmental organizations, the Permanent Delegation had always sought to forward OAU objectives and alert public opinion in Europe against the colonialist and racist regimes in Southern Africa. An example of this was its participation in a symposium organized in the Federal Republic of Germany by a Catholic Organization, the "Katholischer Arbeitskreis Entwicklung und Frieden" on the topic of "The Conflict in South Africa", with a group of University researchers and professors. Representatives of certain African embassies in Bonn had taken part in it. Discussions dealt with:

- The policy of the homelands and Bantustanization;
- ways of eliminating apartheid;
- Economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations;
- Trade relations with Rhodesia and South Africa.

10. It should be noted here that the scope of the Permanent Delegation, as regards relations with the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, would be more amply dealt within the following Parts.

PART III.ACTIVITIES IN THE POLITICAL, DECOLONIZATION AND INFORMATIONAL FIELDS

11. During the period under consideration, the Permanent Delegation had taken an active part in several meetings of a political charter and had laboured to strengthen OAU action in the political, decolonization and informational fields.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

(Twenty-sixth session, Geneva,

6 - 14 October 1975)

12. The Permanent Delegation and the Director of the BPEAR represented the OAU at the meetings of this Committee. During the meetings, the African members of the Committee exerted praiseworthy efforts, with the backing of the OAU representatives. On the matter of the Programme's activities, the OAU drew the Committee's attention to the tremendous task of national reconstruction which remained to be undertaken for former territories under colonial domination in Africa and the assistance which would be needed for the repatriation of the refugees and displaced persons. Moreover, vigorous action was undertaken on the question of the under-representation of the African region both on the Executive Committee, where Africa occupied only 6 of the 30 seats, and among the personnel of the High Commissioner. The Committee took a decision to the effect that every possible consideration should be given to the feasibility of reviewing the composition of the Executive Committee, having regard to the criteria of geographical representation as enunciated in Resolution 1166 (XII) of the United Nations General Assembly. The Permanent Delegation proposed that all decisions

on the subject of interest to Africa be followed up.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (Thirty-second Session, Geneva,  
2 February - 5 March 1976)

13. The Permanent Delegation, which represented the OAU on this Commission, played a very active part in the meetings, both in the debates and in coordinating the action of African States who were members of the Commission. Representatives of national liberation movements also took part in the meetings, and the OAU did everything possible to facilitate their task.

Their action bore, in particular, on two important items of the agenda, which moreover formed the subject of lively discussions, namely:

- a) The disastrous consequences for human rights of political, military, economic and other assistance extended to the racist and colonialist regimes of Southern Africa;
- b) The Report of the Ad Hoc Panel of Experts concerning the violation of human rights and the fundamental liberties, including the policy of racial discrimination and segregation and the policy of apartheid in all countries, particularly in the colonial and dependent territories and countries.

A resolution on each of the two items was adopted by the Commission. The Permanent Delegation drew up a comprehensive report on the session's work for the attention of the Secretary-General,

while stressing the scandalous attitude of Western-bloc countries, who had described the relations between their countries and the racist regimes of Southern Africa as "relations based on commercial cooperation", a cooperation they allegedly maintained with all countries throughout the world. A copy of this report had been sent to the Executive Secretariat of the OAU in New-York, for the purpose of coordinating African action at the Sixtieth Ordinary Spring Session of ECOSSOC (New-York, April 1976). The Permanent Delegation requested the New-York Office to do everything possible to counter the intrigues and manoeuvres of the Western countries, which were trying to minimize the danger represented by the disastrous policy of the racist regimes in Southern Africa, not only for Africa but for International peace and security as well.

DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON THE REAFFIRMATION AND DEVELOP-  
MENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW APPLICABLE IN  
ARMED CONFLICTS (Third Session - Geneva)

21 April - 11 June 1976.

14. In the course of the two previous sessions of the Conference on Humanitarian Law, the action of the African States, supported by the OAU Secretariat, which coordinated that action had enabled Africa to achieve tangible success, and in particular induced the Conference to accept the principle that wars of liberation are international armed conflicts and should consequently be governed by the provisions of the Geneva Conventions. The current Third session should finish work on the remaining articles, and in particular:

- article 42 - new category of war prisoners;
- article 65 - fundamental guarantees;

- article 74 - suppression breaches of Protocol;
- article 84 - Conventional Relations upon the entry into force of the Protocol.

It, moreover, went on to draft the final instrument of the Conference and introduce the signing ceremony preceding ratification.

The Permanent Delegation observed with deep regret that only eleven African countries had taken part in this session, while a single representative of the national liberation movements principally concerned by the provisions of article 42 under discussion, was present.

Africa's under-representation at the Third Session of the Diplomatic Conference had given rise to sharp criticism within the Group of Non-aligned countries, whose action was thus considerably restricted, in view of the fact that the said articles would have been endorsed by the Plenary with a two-thirds majority; it was extremely probable that the interest of Africa and the national Liberation Movements would suffer through relevant provisions unadapted to the exigencies of the situation in Africa and the Third World.

To contend with this critical situation, the Permanent Delegation in collaboration with the African states present, undertook to take the necessary steps with the Conference Committee to request the convening of a Fourth session in the hope that Africa would be more adequately represented.

The Permanent Delegation had taken steps to alert Headquarters, and had suggested that the OAU should launch an urgent appeal to all Member-States in order to ensure an adequate and active African representation at these meetings, particularly at the Fourth

Session which was under consideration. To this end, the Permanent Delegation would be submitting a comprehensive report to the Secretary-General at the end of the present session on the progress of the work of the current Third session.

15. The political action of the Permanent Delegation was also continued outside international conferences and meetings. It thus made a point of associating the OAU with action undertaken by the High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to voluntary and programmed repatriation of Angolan refugees and their settlement.

16. Moreover, the Permanent Delegation did not fail to react when specialized agencies or other organizations of the United Nations system exceeded their terms of reference and undertook action likely to harm Africa's vital interests. This was the case when the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees thought fit - without prior consultation with the OAU - to give a favourable response, on 1st April 1976, to a request for assistance emanating from the illegal authorities of South Africa in Namibia, on behalf of Angolan refugees in Namibia.

The Permanent Delegation, while drawing the attention of the HCR in the most decided way to the dangerous political implications of such a step, was able to successfully coordinate OAU action from Addis Ababa, New-York and Geneva.

17. The Permanent Delegation expressed satisfaction at the relations existing between the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which was headquartered in Geneva. It intended to continue and develop these relations, having regard to the useful information communicated to it by the ICRC on its action in the African region, as well as the progress of events in areas of tension or armed conflict in our Continent. The Permanent Delegation was induced to

use its good offices with certain African governments to facilitate the task of ICRC delegations visiting Africa on humanitarian missions.

Also within the framework of developing cordial relations between the OAU and the ICRC, the Permanent Delegation intended to organize in the coming weeks besides the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law - an OAU/ICRC Symposium in Geneva on the work and research of Mrs. DIALLO (Senegal) on "The African Tradition and similarities between African humanism and the principles of the Geneva Conventions". The ICRC would be assuming all the financial implications with regard to the organization of this symposium.

18. At informational level, the Permanent Delegation devoted itself to the task of reinforcing OAU action in this field in Europe within the limits available to it. While responding to requests emanating from organizations, groups or individuals on OAU activities and objectives, it made a point of attending a certain number of conferences or symposia during which it explained Africa's attitude to the main current problems. Moreover, in close collaboration with the offices of the national Liberation Movements recognized by the OAU in Europe, the Permanent Delegation published a number of press releases, which were extensively distributed. Thus, as an example, on 7 May 1976, the Geneva Office was induced to put out a communique to proclaim, in the name of the OAU, the rejection of a British Government plan to send an EEC mission of enquiry to Namibia, which it branded as a manoeuvre to sidetrack the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations Security Council on Namibia of January 1976.

PART IVACTIVITIES IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL  
AND CULTURAL SPHERES

19. During the period under review, the activities of the Permanent Delegation in the above fields increased in scope. Notwithstanding its very limited establishment and budgetary constraints, the OAU Office was able to carry through satisfactorily its role of coordinating the activities of African delegations during all important meetings of an economic, social, scientific, technical and cultural character that were held in Geneva or in various European capitals in which the headquarters of the specialized agencies are located, and to which the Permanent Delegation is accredited, namely:

- the FAO in Rome
- UNESCO in Paris
- UNIDO in Vienna
- UPU in Berne
- IMCO in London

Having regard to the fact that this period was characterized by intense international activity in these fields, with several meetings taking place simultaneously both at headquarters and beyond, it was clearly necessary for the Permanent Delegation to establish its priorities with regard to participation. As we stressed in the foregoing, due to a lack of budgetary allocations, especially towards the end of the current financial year, the Permanent Delegation was unable to take part in certain meetings although these were important for Africa. Such, for example, was the case for the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Executive Board of UNESCO (end May 1976).



20. For all the meetings attended by the Permanent Delegation, detailed reports were drawn up and submitted to the attention of the Secretary-General. To recapitulate, the more important activities of the Geneva Office in the fields mentioned might be listed as:-

ECONOMIC SPHERE

21. a) ECOSOC - Fifty-Ninth Session (summer): (Geneva, July-August 1975);
- b) Trade and Development Council, Fifteenth Ordinary Session Geneva, 5 - 16 August 1975 ;
- c) Third Ministerial session of the Group of 77 (Manila, January/February 1976);
- d) Seventh Special Session of the Board of UNCTAD (Geneva, 7 - 20 March 1976);

Since this session was, in brief, a preparatory session for UNCTAD IV in Nairobi, it was clear that the Permanent Delegation would play an important role in coordinating the action of the African Group, which had joined with the action of the Group of 77 to present a united negotiating front in dealing with Group B (Western industrialized countries), Group D (socialist countries) and China. Several meetings of the African Group were held both at the seat of the Permanent Delegation and at the Palace of Nations to draw up the strategy to be adopted by Africa and to harmonize the action of the Group of 77.

Unfortunately this session, although it had enabled a wide exchange of views and clarified the attitudes of the various groups, did not succeed in obtaining tangible results or genuine progress. It was unable to advance negotiations based on the Manila document or submit to UNCTAD IV draft recommendations with a view to concrete decisions. This was due to the intransigence and lack

of political goodwill by the industrialized countries in committing themselves or accepting the fundamental positions of the Group of 77 with a view to the establishment of a new, just and equitable economic order, and in particular:

- an improvement in market structures in the field of raw materials and basic products;
- an integrated programme for basic products;
- a common fund to finance buffer-stocks of basic products;
- improved access by the developing countries to markets of the developed countries;
- indexation as a method of adjusting the price of basic products;
- an improvement in the scope and content of the generalized system of preferences;
- an improvement in the industrial capacity of the developing countries;
- restrictive trade practices of transnational companies;
- the problem of the debts of the developing countries and that of deficits in their balance of payments;
- reform of the international monetary system;
- reinforcement of the technological capacity of the developing countries;

Generally speaking, it could be said that the industrialized countries at the seventh special session of UNCTAD abstained from stating an opinion on certain points and did not pledge themselves to negotiate, while on others they bluntly rejected the Manila document.

Moreover, the Permanent Delegation, in close collaboration with the General Secretariat, made a detailed review of the OAU Dossier at the Fourth Session of the Conference on Trade and Development held in Nairobi (5 - 28 May 1976), while it delegated its representative to join the OAU delegation, chaired by H.E. the Secretary-General to the said session.

1976-06

# Report of the Administrative Secretary-General on the Activities of the Executive Secretariat of the O.A.U. in Europe (Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva and Other Specialized Agencies of the UNO System)

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