



ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY

Secretariat

P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية

السكرتارية

ب. ب. ٣٢٤٣

ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAINNE

Secretariat

B. P. 3243

لجنة وزراء

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Twenty-Seventh Ordinary Session

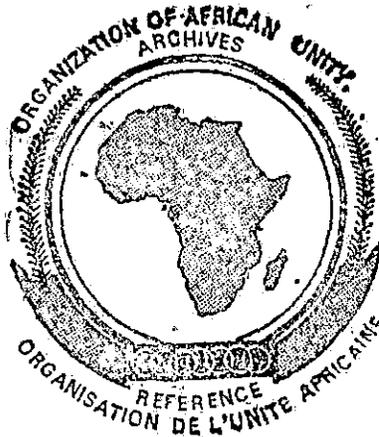
Port-Louis, Mauritius

24 - 29 June 1976

.CM/734 (XXVII)

ANNEX I

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-  
GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OAU EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-  
GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OAU EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

I - INTRODUCTION

The present report covers the period from July 1975 to March 1976 and includes three parts:

- (1) The Activities proper to the African Group
- (2) Relations between the OAU Executive Secretariat and the United Nations General Secretariat
- (3) Administrative and Information activities of the Executive Secretariat

(1) Activities proper to the African Group

The Thirtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly has obviously been a difficult session for the African Group and it is imperatively necessary that the supreme political instances of the OAU regain self-control, close their ranks and issue precise and consequent instructions to their representative in the International Organization.

In fact, the strength of Africa, the OAU strength have always been in the cohesion, coherence and active solidarity with which they tackled their own problems which were brought before the United Nations General Assembly. If such cohesion and solidarity were to disappear, the supreme goals of liberation, economic progress and rehabilitation of the African peoples which the OAU has assigned to itself would be seriously endangered.

However, before speaking of the work directly related to the Thirtieth Session and the activities proper to the African Group and the Executive Secretariat to the United Nations, it would be useful to briefly survey the Special Session of the United Nations on international economic cooperation.

## A - THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION

The United Nations Seventh Special Session on International Economic Co-operation was held from 1 to 16 September 1975. This session, as already known, followed the Special Session of April 1974 on Raw Materials which had then stressed the necessity of setting up a New Economic Order. Thus, the Special Session of September endeavoured in seeking the concrete measures and practical ways and means for contributing to establish a New Economic Order which the world agrees it needs today.

The Session was opened by an important statement of the Chairman of the General Assembly. H.E. Mr. A. Bouteflika, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Popular and Democratic Republic of Algeria. After reviewing the results of the Sixth Special Session convened at the request of the Non-Aligned countries, Mr. Bouteflika underlined in his statement that it had become clear that the prospects of the West is denied to a large extent from the draining of the wealth and exploitation of the labour of the peoples of the Third World and that the western economic apparatus, in spite of its obvious solidarity, rested on fragile and vulnerable foundations.

The Sixth Special Session of the Assembly, he said, had marked the International Community recognition of the true nature and magnitude of the problems of development. There was awareness now that in a complex and interdependent world economy, it was no longer possible for any country to impose solutions of its own choice.

The Seventh Special Session, Mr. Bouteflika added, confronts each nation of the world with historic responsibilities. The developing countries had proposed a pattern of co-operation that would allow countries to build their economies on the foundation of their own resources and make international trade the favoured instrument of an equitable distribution of world income. Mr. Bouteflika concluded in his statement by calling on industrialized nations to demonstrate clearly their will for practical co-operation

and to this effect he stressed once more that in the quest for new relationships the first step would be for the more fortunate to make the necessary concessions and yield to the legitimate aspirations of those to whom history, and sometimes nature, have been ungenerous.

Following this important opening statement, the work of the Session was carried out on two levels: one on the level of the General Assembly where some one hundred delegations participated in the general debate and the other on the level of the committees where attention was given to the following seven major lines which had been defined by the Economic and Social Council at its Fifty-ninth Session:

- (a) International Trade
- (b) Transfer of Resources to Finance Development & International Monetary Reform
- (c) Science and Technology
- (d) Industrialization
- (e) Agricultural Development
- (f) Restructuring of the United Nations System

In each of these areas, the developing countries perceived a situation unfairly biased against them.

Contrary to the Sixth Special Session, the Seventh Session was mainly marked by a new mood of conciliation and above all, the wish to achieve results. However and in spite of their good will, negotiations were extremely arduous and it was only at the last minute that an agreement was reached on one global document. Thus, after much difficulties and extensive discussions during which the action of the African Group identified itself with that of the Group of 77, a series of measures was finally accepted by the western developing countries and most significantly by the United States and the nine countries of the European Common Market which at the beginning were against it. It should be underlined that all along the negotiations, Socialist countries as well as China supported the position of the Group of 77.

The final document submitted as one unique resolution consists of seven parts and covers all the major topics considered during the Session.

(a) On International Trade, the resolution calls for concerted efforts to expand and diversify the trade of developing countries, to improve and diversify their productive capacity, promote their productivity and increase their export earnings. All this is with a view to counteracting the adverse effects of inflation in order to eliminate the economic imbalance between developed and developing countries.

Regarding ways to preserve the purchasing power of developing countries, the resolution calls for a number of options to be studied on a priority basis. Thus, for example, the Secretariat of the UNCTAD is asked to continue studying indexation schemes (linking the prices of raw materials exported by developing countries to the prices of manufactured goods imported by them).

Developed countries are asked to reduce or remove, where feasible or appropriate, non-tariff barriers affecting developing countries' exports. The resolution also calls for the elimination of restrictive business practices adversely affecting international trade and appeals for temporary emergency measures to deal with the problems of countries most seriously affected by economic crisis. It urges for the expansion of trade between the Socialist countries of Eastern Europe and developing countries.

(b) On the Transfer of Resources for Development, the resolution stresses that financial assistance should, as a general rule, be untied. Developed countries agree to have as their economic aim an effective increase in official development with a view to achieving the target defined by the "International Development Strategy" adopted in 1970.

Concerning specific proposals for aid, the text of the resolution states that when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) considers the creation of new special drawing rights, it should look into the establishment of a link between Special Drawings Rights (SDR) and development assistance. As another financing measure, the resolution cites the urgent need to increase substantially the capital of the world Bank Group of agencies and calls for an increase of the resources of other United Nations development institutions.

The need for an increased access by developing countries to the capital market of developed countries was also underlined and in this connection, the General Assembly has invited other governmental bodies to examine ways and means of increasing the flow of public and private resources to developing countries.

(c) On International Monetary Reform, the resolution stated that the role of national reserve currencies should be reduced and the special drawing rights should become the central asset of the International monetary reform. Arrangements for gold should also be consistent with the agreed objectives of reducing the role of gold in the system to achieve a fair distribution of new international liquidity.

As to decision-making bodies on monetary and financial matters, the text states that the participation of developing countries in international and finance institutions should be adequately increased and made more effective.

The resolution also stresses the necessity of expansion and liberalization of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) compensatory financing facility; a programme to assist countries in financial difficulty as a result of a sharp drop in earnings arising either from natural causes or from a sudden deterioration in price of a main export.

(d) Regarding Industrialization, the resolution endorses the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action and calls upon all governments to implement their undertakings in this connection. Developed countries are requested to encourage the redeployment to developing countries of industries that are less competitive internationally. Other proposals call for a system of consultations between developed and developing countries, and among developing countries themselves, to facilitate the implementation of industrialization goals.

(e) On Food and Agriculture, the text states that the solution to world food problem lies primarily in increasing rapidly food production in the developing countries. To this effect, a number of steps are suggested including increase aid to developing countries for agriculture and food production, easier access for food and agriculture products from developing countries to the market of developed nations and the establishment of policies by developed countries to ensure stable and suitable supply of fertilizers and other production inputs to developing countries at reasonable prices.

On co-operation among developing countries, the Seventh Special Session calls upon all developed countries and the United Nations System to support and assist the efforts of developing countries aimed at strengthening co-operation amongst themselves.

(f) Finally, the Session calls for the establishment of an ad-hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social sectors of the United Nations System.

As everyone knows, there was not a complete agreement on all the points in the resolution, for the United States, some members of the European Community and Japan expressed reservations on their ability to meet the targets set for development aid.

In addition, the United States also expressed reservations on several other points, including indexation of commodity prices to the prices of manufactured goods and on the proposed link between the creation of Special Drawing Rights and the development of assistance.

However, inspite of these reservations, there was an overall agreement. Nonetheless, even with such an agreement, many observers are questioning the concrete implementation of these measures and are wondering when this new economic order will be effectively established.

Hence the special interest stirred up by the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation organized at the initiative of the French Government.

#### B - THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

##### (1) Economic Questions

During the Thirtieth Session, the issue of the representation of Africa in the Paris Conference led to serious clashes within the African Group. In fact, according to decisions taken by the Preparatory Conference, Africa was to be represented at the Conference by four additional countries as Algeria and Zaire were already members of the Preparatory Conference. When the African Group took up the matter, there were 19 candidatures. In spite of all appeals for withdrawals, the 19 countries involved insisted in their candidatures for almost three weeks and the African Group had to request, more than once, the postponement of the date set for submitting candidatures. After several meetings of the Group to decide on the four candidatures of the African Group, the Chairman of the Group and Executive Secretary were requested to undertake separate consultations with each African State to record their preferences and thus ascertain the four countries enjoying majority support. It should be underlined that the Group had

decided to give the four seats to the four regional groups, namely: the West, the North, the Center and the East. As the Eastern and Central regions had only submitted unique candidatures, the seats allocated to these two regions were granted to the Cameroon and to Zambia. As for the West and North, consultations on sub-regional basis indicated that the majority preferred Ivory Coast for the West and Libya for the North. However, within all the OAU Member States, the majority was in favour of Nigeria and Egypt.

Nigeria and Egypt rejected the results of consultations on sub-regional basis. Contrary to the practice within the Group when such situation arose. After very tedious debates within the African Group during which violent statements were exchanged, the Group ended by deciding to allocate the two seats to Nigeria and Egypt.

It is to be underlined that because of the important and commendable results achieved by the Seventh Special Session and by the interest stirred up by the Paris Conference, the Thirtieth Session of the General Assembly examined in a different way questions of economic nature inscribed on its agenda.

In fact, a kind of wariness prevailed specially now that the stage of general definitions and agreements in principle on economic issues had already passed. The Second Committee which deals with economic matters had then to study ways and means to implement some of the decisions and recommendations made by the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the General Assembly. Accordingly, the substantial part of the 41 resolutions adopted in this field consisted of instructions to Specialized Institutions asking them to take the necessary means each in its field of competency, to implement some of the decisions already adopted. A substantial part of these resolutions also consisted of directives and requests to the Secretary-General to study matters and report to the Thirty-first Session.

Even for resolutions such as those related to assistance in case of natural disasters, a co-operation amongst developing countries, on the acceleration of the transfer of resources to developing countries, on the establishment of an international fund for agricultural development, or a special fund for land-locked developing countries, on the United Nations Conference on Desertification as well as the resolution on the United Nations Conference on Water, and on all resolutions of direct concern to African countries, no concrete, immediately applicable and beneficial recommendation was made. Thus, in Resolution 3440 (XXX) on Assistance in Case of Natural Disaster, the Assembly called upon all United Nations Member States to provide voluntary contributions to the expanded Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries Stricken by Natural Disasters. It also called for the encouragement of the creation of national fund raising committees.

Resolution 3442 (XXX) calls for a special emphasis on programmes of co-operation amongst developing countries on regional, sub-regional and international levels.

In Resolution 3488 (XXX), the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to undertake a general study on the role which the public sector can play in economic development. As for Resolution 3490 (XXX) concerning the implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, the Assembly urged all States and the United Nations organs to report to the Secretary-General on measures they have to take to implement this Plan of Action.

According to Resolution 3504 (XXX) it was decided to set up a special fund for land-locked developing countries to compensate for their additional transport and transit costs.

In Resolution 3505 (XXX), the Assembly urged all States to undertake the necessary changes in their economic and social structure in order to ensure the participation of women on an equal basis with men, to the development process. It also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the extent of participation in the various fields of activities.

Probably the most important document adopted during the Thirtieth Session is Resolution 3517 (XXX) concerning the appraisal of progress in the implementation of the development strategy. In this resolution which in fact is a lengthy declaration, the Assembly noted, first of all, that the process of mid-term review and appraisal takes place at a time when the international economic situation is continuing to change and when events have been following each other so rapidly as to shake the foundations of the existing economic order.

The Assembly considered that the developed countries have not, by and large, implemented the policy measures of the International Development Strategy. Developed countries, said the resolution, have expressed an inadequate tendency to consider that development should be the central focus of issues requiring effective and consistent solutions.

On the question of goals and objective, the Assembly deemed that some goals were met or exceeded owing mainly to the developing countries's own efforts.

Concerning the evaluation of the implementation of policy measures, the Assembly has noted that little progress has been realized by international action in the field of commodity trade. It pointed out that the issue of access to markets for primary commodities has not been solved.

To correct injustice and inequity, the Assembly indicated that the International Community should favour the establishment of a more balanced and fair system of international economic relations.

## (2) Political Questions

As in the past, political issues were, once more, in the central focus of the activities of the Thirtieth Session of the General Assembly.

(a) Palestine and the Middle East

The question of Palestine and the Middle East had a prominent place in the work of the Thirtieth Session. It would be recalled that during the Twenty-ninth Session, by a historic decision, the General Assembly had decided to allow the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) to participate in its works as one should recall the important Declaration made then by Mr. Yasser Arafat.

It was within this framework that the debates of the Thirtieth Session took place on the question of Palestine. Following a very important discussion, four resolutions were adopted on this issue. The first Resolution 3375 (XXX), after expressing the firm belief of the General Assembly that the participation of PLO in all efforts and discussions is essential for achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and requested the Security Council to study and adopt the necessary measures and resolutions to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable national rights in accordance with Resolution 3326 (XXIX) of the General Assembly.

The resolution also calls for the invitation of the PLO, as the Representative of the Palestinian people, to participate in all efforts, deliberations and conferences on the Middle East which are held under the auspices of the United Nations, on an equal footing with other parties on the basis of Resolution 3236 (XXIX),

As for the second Resolution 3376 (XXX) it expresses in its preamble the deep concern of the General Assembly that no real progress has been achieved towards the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable right in Palestine, including the right to self-determination without external interference and the right to national independence and sovereignty, as well as the right to return to their homes from which they have been displaced and uprooted.

In the operative part, it is decided to establish a committee on the Exercise of the inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People composed of twenty Member States. This committee is requested to consider and recommend to the General Assembly a programme of implementation designed to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their rights recognized in paragraphs 1 and 2 of General Assembly Resolution 3236 (XXIX), and to take into account, in the formulation of its recommendations for the implementation of the programme, all the powers conferred by the Charter upon the principal organs of the United Nations.

The first resolution was adopted by 101 votes for, 8 against and 25 absentions, while the second scored 93 votes for, 18 against and 27 abstentions. It should be pointed out that the United States, Israel and some Western countries, as well as Central Africa voted against the two resolutions. However, in spite of the dissident votes, the general feeling was that the United Nations is irrevocably committed to seeking a solution to the problem of Palestine which would enable it to correct the injustice done in 1947.

An important Resolution 3414 (XXX) was also adopted on the situation in the Middle East. In this resolution, the Assembly recognized that peace is indivisible and that a just and lasting settlement of the question of the Middle East must be based on a comprehensive solution under the auspices of the United Nations, which would take into consideration all aspects of the Middle East conflict, including, in particular, the enjoyment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable national rights, as well as the total withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since June 1967. This resolution, after reaffirming that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible, condemns Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories in violation of the United Nations Charter, the Principle of International Law and repeated United Nations resolution

It also requests all States to desist from supplying Israel with any military or economic aid as long as it continues to occupy Arab territories and deny the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

As for the two other resolutions, they condemn Israeli practices in occupied Arab territories and demand that this country puts an end to the colonization of Arab territories. The Assembly declared null and void all measures taken by Israel to change the institutional structure and established religious practices in the sanctuary of Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in the city of Al-Khalil.

However, the document which raised most comments was the resolution adopted by the Social Committee, Resolution 3379 (XAA) on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. This resolution, drafted by the Third Committee in the framework of its activities concerning the rights of man, and in particular, to the Decade for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, after recalling Resolution 3151 (G) (XXVIII) in which the General Assembly, condemned, inter-alia, the unholy alliance between South African racism and zionism, declared that the General Assembly determined that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination.

Allies of the Jewish State immediately grasped this resolution and used it for all sorts of publicity harmful to the interests of the Palestinian people and also of blackmail by clamouring in their most official circles that the International Organization had just decided the destruction of the State of Israel. The host country also started threatening many countries of the Third World having voted for this resolution with economic asphyxy by cutting its economic aid.

This mood created prevailed all through the remaining part of the work until the end of the Session.



The African Group was confronted with difficult times all through the drafting and the adoption of this resolution. The problem was to find a formula which would avoid linking zionism to that of the decade of struggle against racial discrimination. The Group could not meet officially and each Member State acted according to the instructions of its government.

### (3) Apartheid

On this issue, the African Group was inspired by the Twelfth Summit held in Kampala for drafting the resolutions which were finally adopted by the General Assembly. The racist policy of the Pretoria regime was the subject of several resolutions. In one of these resolution, the Assembly again calls upon the racist regime of South Africa to grant an unconditional amnesty to all persons imprisoned or restricted for their opposition to Apartheid. It strongly condemns the "Terrorism Act" and other repressive legislation designed to suppress the legitimate struggle of the South African people for freedom and self-determination.

In another resolution, the Assembly proclaimed that the United Nations and the International Community have a special responsibility towards the oppressed people of South Africa and their Liberation Movements and towards those imprisoned, restricted or exiled for their struggle against Apartheid. It reiterated its determination to devote all necessary resources, in close co-operation with the OAU to eradicate Apartheid from South Africa.

It also condemned the establishment of Bantustans as designed to consolidate the inhuman policies of Apartheid and called upon all governments not to deal with institutions or authorities of the Bantustans.

The Assembly also requested the Special Committee against Apartheid to continue and to intensify its campaigns in favour of the legitimate struggle of the Liberation Movements recognized by the OAU and called upon the Committee to support campaigns against collaboration by governments and transnational corporations with the racist regime of South Africa.

In conclusion, the Security Council was requested to consider urgently the situation in South Africa.

(4) Decolonization

With the liberation of the Portuguese colonies, some thought that the problems of decolonization would be relegated to second place. This was not at all the case. At the conclusion of very important deliberations within the Fourth Committee which submitted several resolutions on territories still to be decolonized such as Namibia, Zimbabwe, so-called French Somaliland.

(5) Namibia

Two resolutions were adopted on Namibia. In the first one, the Assembly condemned South Africa for its persistent refusal to withdraw from Namibia and for its manoeuvres to consolidate its illegal occupation of the territory by organizing a so-called constitutional conference, with a view to creating divisions, among ethnic groups and furthering its policies of Bantustans.

In this text adopted by 110 votes for and 7 abstentions (United States, United Kingdom, Belgium, Canada, France, Federal Republic of Germany and Italy), the Assembly urged the Security Council urgently to take up again the question of Namibia.

Expressing its grave concern at the militarization of Namibia, the Assembly condemned the military build-up by South Africa and the forceful removal of Namibians from the Northern border for military purposes.

It considered that the situation in Namibia threatens peace and reaffirmed the legitimacy of the struggle waged by the Namibian people by all available means against the illegal occupation of their country. It also called upon all those States which have not yet done so to break off their economic relations with South Africa that concern Namibia and demanded that the exploitation of Namibian uranium by private organizations and transnational corporations ceases forthwith.

In the second resolution, the Assembly decided to allocate to the United Nations Fund for Namibia, the sum of US \$200,000 and renewed to support SWAPO in its legitimate struggle by all means

against the illegal occupation of its country by South Africa.

Although there was no vote against, the two resolutions, it should however be pointed out and deplored the abstention of Western countries: Belgium, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, United Kingdom and United States whose equivocal stand constitutes a moral comfort to Pretoria.

(6) Rhodesia

On Southern Rhodesia, two important resolutions were also adopted. In the first resolution unanimously adopted, the Assembly called upon the United Kingdom, the Administering Power, to take the necessary measures to enable Zimbabwe to accede to independence, in accordance with the aspirations of the majority of the population. Contrary to the previous years, the United Kingdom joined the majority.

The Assembly expressed its support to the people of Zimbabwe in its efforts under the leadership of the African National Council to secure a majority rule government. It reaffirmed that no independence would be acceptable before such a government in Zimbabwe and underlined that any settlement relating to the future of the territory must be worked out with the full participation of the African National Council, the sole and authentic representative of the aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe.

In this text, the Assembly demands the termination forthwith of the execution of freedom fighters and the release of all political prisoners, the removal of all repressive measures, in particular, the arbitrary closure of African areas, the eviction, transfer and resettlement of Africans and the creation of so-called "protected villages." It also demands the removal of all restrictions on political activity and the establishment of freedom and equality of political rights.

In a second resolution adopted by 103 votes for and 6 abstentions (Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, United Kingdom and United States), the Assembly condemned all violations of the mandatory sanctions imposed by the Security Council and deplored the fact that certain Member States do not strictly enforce them. It also condemned the continued importation of chrome and nickel from Rhodesia to the United States and called upon this country to repeal all legislation permitting such importation.

Reiterating its conviction that the scope of sanctions must be widened, the Assembly requested the Security Council to consider taking all the necessary measures in that regard.

The Assembly called upon all governments to ensure strict compliance by all individuals under their jurisdiction and prevent or discourage emigration to Rhodesia. Governments were requested to forbid the operations of Air Rhodesia, the Rhodesia National Tourist Board and the Rhodesian Information Office and to invalidate passports for travel to the territory.

(7) So-called French Somaliland

By 109 votes for and 20 abstentions, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 3480 (XXX) in which it called upon France to grant immediate and unconditional independence to the people of the so-called French Somaliland (Djibouti) and to withdraw its military forces from this territory. It considered that, if an urgent settlement is not found, the situation in this territory could become a threat to peace and stability in the region and might affect adversely international peace and security. In order to accelerate the process of independence of the people of this territory, the Assembly called upon France to release political prisoners and the return of the representatives of the Liberation Movements recognized by the OAU and of all refugees in accordance with the Convention of the OAU relating to the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, 1969. It finally called upon all States to renounce all claims on this territory.

France did not participate in the vote.

(8) Spanish Sahara

This question has seriously upset the African Group during the Thirtieth Session. As soon as the Report of the Visiting Mission of the Committee of 24, the Advisory Opinion delivered by the International Court of Justice and the Declaration of Principle signed in Madrid between Spain, Morocco and Mauritania were published, two trends emerged within the African Group. The first one insisted that whatever may be the formula envisaged, the Sahara population must be able to be freely consulted on its future in accordance with the right of peoples to self-determination and independence contained in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

As for the second trend, it deemed that the issue of the Spanish Sahara was a special problem and as long as a general and realistic agreement has been reached between the parties directly concerned, it was then necessary to support such an agreement. Confronted with this situation, it was practically impossible for the African Group to submit a draft resolution as previously done. Two drafts sponsored by the representatives of the two trends were presented to the Fourth Committee which adopted both of them.

These two resolutions were later on adopted by the General Assembly. The first resolution 3458 (A) (XXX) requested Spain as the Administering Power, to take immediately all necessary measures, in consultation with all the parties concerned and interested and under the United Nations supervision so that all Saharans originating in the territory may exercise fully and freely their right to self-determination.

Adopting by 88 votes for and 41 abstentions, the text requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Spain and the Committee on Decolonization to make the necessary arrangements for the supervision of the act of self-determination. The Assembly urged all parties to exercise restraint and to desist from any unilateral or other action outside its decisions.

In the second Resolution 2358 (B) (XXX) adopted by 56 votes for, 42 against and 34 abstentions, the Assembly took note of the Tripartite Agreement concluded in Madrid by Morocco, Mauritania and Spain. It requested the interim administration provided for in the Agreement, to organize "a free consultation" with the assistance of a United Nations representative appointed by the Secretary-General. According to the text, this consultation must ensure that all Saharan populations could exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

The two resolutions reaffirmed the right of all Saharan populations to self-determination. Several Asian countries, the nine Member States of the EEC, as well as Guatemala, Rwanda and Lebanon voted in favour of the two texts.

In the framework of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, other resolutions were adopted. They deal with the report of the Committee of 24 for 1975. Activities of the economic interests and others impeding the implementation of the Declaration and the activities of Specialized agencies and International Organizations towards implementing this Declaration.

In these resolutions, the Assembly condemned the persistent flow of foreign immigrants in the colonial territories of Southern Africa, the expulsion and resettlement of local inhabitants and the increase of foreign economic interests obstructing the implementation of the Declaration.

It requested all States to refrain from supplying assistance to the South African Government and the illegal regime in Rhodesia as long as they do not recognize the right of the peoples of Namibia and Zimbabwe to self-determination and independence. It also called upon the international community to grant their moral and national aid to these two peoples.

The Assembly requested all administering powers to implement the Declaration on Decolonization and withdraw forthwith their military bases from colonial territories and refrain from establishing new ones.

The Assembly has requested the Committee on Decolonization to continue seeking adequate means for the immediate and integral implementation of Resolution 1514 (XV) in all territories which did not so far achieve independence. To this effect, it specifically requested the Committee to ensure the respect by all Member States of the resolutions on decolonization, namely those related to Namibia and Rhodesia, and to continue giving a special attention to the small territories.

By 117 votes for, 2 against (Israel and the United States) and 6 abstentions (Bahamas, Costa Rica, El Salvador, France, Guatemala and Uruguay), the Assembly declared itself in favour of large dissemination of information on the dangers of colonialism.

The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to use all available means to inform on the action of the United Nations in decolonization. It also requested that the activities of the United Nations information centers, namely those of Western Europe be intensified.

#### C - GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In addition to the difficulties encountered by the African Group during the Thirtieth Session, some of which have already been pointed out, it should be stressed that the situation did not improve when it came to solve the question of candidatures to the Security Council and to the International Court of Justice.

In fact, it should be recalled that during the Kampala Summit, all the recommendations of the African Group on candidatures to International Organization had been approved with the exception of candidatures to the Security Council due then to be allocated to the sub-region of the West and on which Nigeria and Togo have had objections as to the candidature of Benin. The Summit had referred the issue to the African Group for further consultations. At the United Nations level, consultations continued until the opening of the Thirtieth Session and it was not before the arrival of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Togo, two days before the vote, that a settlement was reached when Togo accepted to withdraw its candidature. Previously, Nigeria had withdrawn in favour of Benin.

But, the African Group was not more fortunate when it was to submit one African candidate for the International Court of Justice. In spite of numerous consultations and the various meetings of the African Group on this issue, it was quite impossible to agree on one candidate and the African Group presented itself for the vote in the General Assembly and the Security Council with three candidates. Finally Nigeria was elected with a strong majority but the general impression was that of a deep disagreement between Africans.

However, the difficulties of the African Group were far from ending. At the conclusion of the Session, six African countries submitted a draft amendment to be inserted in the resolution of the Special Political Committee on the Apartheid policy of the South African regime. This draft amendment condemned, in substance, the invasion of Angola by the South African forces and considered such an invasion aiming at perpetrating and expanding the policy of Apartheid to the independent African States. When the General Assembly was about to vote on this resolution and the amendment, another African country introduced a sub-amendment to the said amendment condemning all other foreign interventions in Angola.

The co-sponsors of the amendemnt explained that while agreeing in condemning all other interventions in Angola, they condemned that the resolution on the policy of Apartheid of the South African regime was not the appropriate resolution for this general condemnation. This was taking place five days before the end of the General Assembly's work. The Group had to urgently meet to find a solution to this catastrophic situation but all attempts were fruitless and it returned to the General Assembly with the amendment and the sub-amendment. Most fortunately, ten minutes before the vote, the co-sponsors of the amendment and the sub-amendment withdrew them.

From what preceeds, it is quite easy to assume that the Thirtieth Session was one of serious contradictions within the African Group which held during the said session more meetings and official consultations than ever before. It may be that such crisis which our Organization is going through. Thus it would be most advisable that all necessary attention be directed to such a situation in order to safeguard our cohesion and our unity of action as they constitute the power of the Group of African States within the United Nations.

#### D - MEETINGS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Alongside with the Thirtieth Session, the Security Council held a series of meetings on African questions, as well as, on the situation in the Middle East. It met twice to consider the question of the Spanish Sahara and also had to approve the admission of the Comoro Islands to the United Nations.

After the session and all through the first quarter of 1976, the Council had also to convene on important issues such as Namibia, Middle East, Mozambique, the Jerusalem question, Angola and Southern Rhodesia.

The first meeting on Namibia was held at the end of January 1976 and led to the unanimous adoption by the Council of a resolution in which the Security Council condemned South Africa for its continued occupation of Namibia. The Council also demanded from South Africa to put an end to the policy of Bantustans and stated that it was imperative to hold free elections in this territory under the United Nations supervision and control.

Until the transfer of power to the Namibian people takes place, the Council demanded from South Africa to respect the contents of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, to release all Namibian political prisoners, to end the enforcement in Namibia of racial laws and practices particularly discriminatory and grant free return to all Namibians in exile.

The Council decided to meet at the latest in August 30, 1976 to study the reaction of South Africa on this resolution.

Most of the observers considered this session of the Security Council as an outstanding success for SWAPO and its liberation goals in Namibia. However, it remains to be seen if South Africa will pay attention to the relevant contents of this resolution and the most interesting would be to know to what extent the Western allies of South Africa would exert pressure on the regime.

The meeting of the Security Council on Mozambique was also a success and the ensuing resolution while congratulating the Government of Mozambique for its decision to sever all economic and commercial relations with Southern Rhodesia, condemned the acts of provocation and aggression, including, the military incursions against the People's Republic of Mozambique by the illegal minority regime of Southern Rhodesia.

The resolution called upon all States to grant Mozambique financial, technical and material assistance to enable this country to normally implement its economic programme of development, and increase its possibilities to strictly apply the sanctions. As a follow up to this resolution, a United Nations delegation, appointed by the Secretary-General, went to Mozambique to assess the various needs of this country.

In accordance with the resolution of the Twenty-sixth Session of the OAU Council of Ministers, the African Group called for another meeting of the Security Council on the question of the South African aggression against Angola. Before the beginning of the said meeting, South Africa informed the United Nations that it had withdrawn all its troops from Angola. As a result, there were serious attempts, especially on the part of Western countries, to cancel the meeting of the Security Council.

However, the African Group met and decided that as long as the Security Council meeting was requested to consider the issue of South African aggression against Angola, the withdrawal of the South African troops could not in any way justify the cancellation of the Security Council meeting.

During the deliberations, several African and non-African delegations took the floor to denounce and condemn the acts of South Africa in Angola, and in Namibia. A resolution was adopted by 9 votes for and 6 abstentions (United States, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Japan and China). It condemned the South African aggression against the People's Republic of Angola, demanded from South Africa to stop using the international territory of Namibia to organize its acts of provocation and aggression against the People's Republic of Angola and all other neighbouring countries. Finally, the resolution asked South Africa to pay compensation for the damage and destruction inflicted on Angola and to return the equipment and material belongings which the aggressors looted from Angola.

On April 6, 1976, the Security Council has, at the conclusion of a short debate, adopted unanimously a resolution on the broadening of sanctions against the white minority racist regime of Salisbury.

In this resolution, the Council requested Member States to take appropriate measures to see to it that their nationals and persons residing in their States, do not insure products exported to Southern Rhodesia.

It also requested them to prevent their nationals and persons residing in their territories to grant any commercial or industrial firm, the right to use their name to sell or purchase products or offer services to Southern Rhodesia.

Although this resolution did not cover all the possibilities of sanctions against Rhodesia, it should be noted that it contributes a major step towards an effective blockade against this regime.

The Council also held two meetings at the beginning of the year, one on the situation in the Middle East and the other on the question of Jerusalem.

Israel did not participate to the first meeting while the second was deadlocked by a United States veto which blocked the Security Council recommendations concerning the situation in Jerusalem.

It should be noted that for all these meetings, the African Group met to adopt a common strategy and agree on a minimum recommendations which contributed to inspire the three African members of the Security Council all along the negotiations.

(2) Relations between the OAU Executive Secretariat and the United Nations General Secretariat

As in the past, a fruitful co-operation has prevailed all through the period under review between the two Secretariats.

Direct consultations between the Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General increased. Contacts between the Executive Secretary and responsible United Nations officials on all sorts of problems of common interest for the two organizations developed.

We should be gratified by such a co-operation which reflects again, the respect and outstanding credit of the OAU at the United Nations level.

The Executive Secretariat has also continued to actively participate in the activities of the Special Committee of 24, of the Special Committee against Apartheid and of the United Nations Council for Namibia and other meetings of the General Secretariat and Specialized agencies where its contribution was always highly appreciated.

(3) Administrative and Information Activities

As we have already pointed out, the African Group had to convene numerous meetings during the period under review and especially during the Thirtieth Session of the General Assembly. In spite of this effective increase of meetings, the Executive Secretariat had to efficiently service the African Group during more than fifty meetings held. Most of the summary records were drafted and transmitted to the Missions in relatively short periods taking into account the limited number of our staff.

Similarly to these activities, the Executive Secretary and his staff have carried out the tasks of projecting the image and the aims of the OAU by participating in lectures and conferences in various American universities, to meetings of businessmen and to radio and television broadcasts. To this effect, some fifteen various conferences were attended.

It should also be stressed that the Secretariat was very actively requested from Washington, and most particularly, by the Congress when the advisers of several American senators and congressmen invited us to give lectures on Africa and more specifically on Southern Africa.

CM/734 (XXVII)

Annex I

Page 27

In the context of information activities, the Secretariat has endeavoured to contribute to the clarification of the situation in Angola and the role played by the OAU in this connection especially after the first Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government when the enemies of Africa launched their campaign of blackmail against the Organization of African Unity.



AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

---

Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

---

1976-06

# Report of the Administrative Secretary-General on the Activities of the OAU Executive Secretariat to the United Nations

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

---

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/9542>

*Downloaded from African Union Common Repository*