



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**  
Secretariat  
Addis Ababa

منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية  
البيروقراطية  
عند عتبة  
Addis Ababa

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAIN**  
Secretariat  
B. P. 9243

Addis Ababa

COUNCIL OF MINISTER

Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session

Addis Ababa - February 1975

CM/626 (XXIV)

Consideration of Application for Subventions Submitted by  
Organization of African Trade Union Unity



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

16th December, 1974.

Your Excellency,

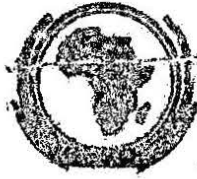
I enclose herewith, for your information and necessary action, a copy of a message received from the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ghana.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Y B TURKSON)  
Ambassador

H.E. Mr. William Eteki Mboumoua  
Administrative Secretary-General  
Organization of African Unity  
Addis Ababa

FOR SEGEN. FROM AKUMU, OATUU ACCRA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE BUDGETARY MEETS MONDAY 16/12/74 AND THAT OATUU REQUEST IS NOT ON THE AGENDA. WE STRONGLY APPEAL THAT OATUU WHOSE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY RESTRICTED BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDS, SHOULD BE ON TOP OF THE LIST OF THE AGENDA. ALL OUR PROGRAMMES SEMINARS, WORKERS EDUCATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, ANTI-COLONIAL ACTIVITIES PENDING ONCE AGAIN WE APPEAL THAT YOU HAVE OUR LAST YEAR BUDGETARY REQUEST FOR 896,000 DOLLARS. OUR REQUEST REMAIN THE SAME AND NOW THAT WE HAVE TO TRAIN WORKERS OF THE NEWLY LIBERATED AFRICAN COUNTRIES OF THEIR NEW ROLE WHICH IS TO SUPPORT THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO CONSOLIDATE INDEPENDENCE - WORK HARDER FOR ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION, THE DEMAND WILL EVEN BE HIGHER THAN BEFORE.



ORGANIZATION OF  
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Secretariat  
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منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية

المكاتب العامة  
ب. ب. 3243

ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAINNE

Secretariat  
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Addis Ababa

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session

Addis Ababa, February 1975

CM/626/Add.I

REQUEST FOR SUBVENTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN TRADE UNION UNITY (ACCRA - GHANA)

ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN TRADE UNION UNITY  
ACCRA  
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

25.12.74

MEMO TO MEMBERS OF THE OAU BUDGETARY COMMITTEE

Your Excellencies,

May I on behalf of Workers of Africa wish you a happy and prosperous new year.

May I also thank Your Excellencies for the US\$ 200,00 which you gave us as subvention for the year 1973/1974.

Your Excellencies are meeting at a time when many radical changes are taking place in Africa. Workers of Africa need to be united and oriented to face the new challenge facing Africa. Unless this is done and done urgently, enemies of Africa will try and use economic problems like unemployment and unpredictable cost of living as a result of the world inflation to cause unrest.

We have started training Union Leaders to be more realistic both nationally and continentally. The response has been very positive. In a number of countries where we are negotiating for the unification of trade unions nationally, we are also trying to reconcile trade unions to their governments and ruling parties. We are opposed to "Western type of Trade Unionism", which is built on permanent suspicion of the Government. We are devising a theory which is best for Africa. This particularly urgent as far as Angola, Guinea Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Mozambique and Seychelles are concerned. We have marked a small scheme.

Your Excellencies, we have to move fast before imperialist and their agents move in to sow seeds of confusion.

Your Excellencies, will remember that last year we made a request for US\$ 896,220.00 which could have given us a modest start.

The Labour Ministers Conference in March 1974 in Conakry, after examining the budget, resolved to recommend to Your Excellencies that OATUU should be granted US\$ 600,00 for the years 1974/1975. As you will find in the report of activities attached, we have had to cut down drastically on a number of our programmes to enable us to operate effectively.

Your Excellencies will be glad to know that in spite of all these difficulties we have been able to project new image for African Workers to the dismay of international trade union centres which were busy dividing workers of Africa. One of the internationals officially dissolved its regional organisation in Africa, which is a great step forward. There are, however, other regional organisations supported by super powers who are spending millions of dollars in Africa.

Your Excellencies, if we are to make the impact you expect us to do, then Your Excellencies should grant us US\$ 896,220 as subvention for the year 1975/1976, to enable us to buy equipment, e.g. a small press to enable us to print bulletins and educational materials.

We have agreed with the Secretariat and Ghana Government to raise very strongly the question of check-off and remission of funds to OATUU by national trade union centres, as some central banks have been stopping remission to us. This is important as we are anxious that with check-off being accepted continentally and remission being regular, OATUU should be self-sufficient. Your Excellencies, to be able to do this involves meeting with national centres and governments and this too entails making numerous visits.

Once again, accept our best wishes and highest regards.

(J.D. AKUMU)  
Secretary-General OATUU



SUMMARY REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF OATUU (1973/1975)

Although we did not receive our subvention from the OAU until late 1974, we were able to undertake a number of activities with the money donated by affiliates.

1) 1973: June - July

We, together with the United Nations Committee against Apartheid, the ILO and with other world trade union movements, sponsored a World Trade Union Conference in Geneva in June 1973. The conference was a great success and some racist who were sent by Vorster to come and confuse the conference were rejected after OATUU took objection.

Many Western Recruiting Centres for whites to South Africa have been closed. We intend to intensify this action. OATUU delegation made strong international impact and addressed meetings in West Germany and Switzerland against sending whites to South Africa. At the International Labour Conference the OATUU joined others in condemning Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

2) 1973: September

We attended the non-aligned conference in Algiers and we are co-sponsors of the workers resolution which was unanimously accepted by Heads of States and Governments.

Currently we are jointly sponsoring a world trade union conference on trade and development.

3) 1973: November/December

We together with the ILO arranged a very useful seminar in Nairobi just before the ILO Regional Conference.

During the Regional Conference, the OATUU with the OAU formed a trade union action committee against apartheid and colonialism. The committee is composed of: Madagascar, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Guinea, Liberia, Senegal, Nigeria, Congo Brazzaville and Zaire.

The Committee has been active and will be submitting its reports to OAU and to OATUU.

4) 1973: December - January 1974

It came to our notice that at the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Western and Eastern international trade unions were claiming that they were speaking for Africa, while we all know that our interest cannot be the same as theirs. We have therefore protested and the OAU Executive Office in New York is helping us to get direct say in the non-governmental affairs of the UNO.

5) 1974: March

OATUU attended the African Labour Ministers Conference in Conakry and we were able not only to discuss OATUU subvention but we were also able to discuss unity of workers of Africa and ways and means of strengthening trade unions in Africa.

6) 1974: June/July - Geneva

OATUU pursued very vigorously employment of Africans in the ILO Secretariat in Geneva. We are glad to report that we now have two employed three months ago; they are: Mr. G. Fogam of Cameroon and Mr. Salam Gaye of Senegal. We will continue to put pressure on the ILO Secretariat. (Mr. Fogam is the ILO Deputy Chief of Workers Education and Mr. Salam Gaye is Assistant Chief of the Workers Relations Branch).

We pressed for the ILO funds to train workers and for further fellowships for African workers; the response is positive.

Politically OATUU spearheaded the campaign which made it possible for the resolution censoring Israel to be passed.

7) 1975: January 12-18

A Seminar in Nairobi between African workers and European workers to discuss ways and means of controlling the multi-national companies and some social aspects of the current negotiations taking place between Africa and EEC has been arranged. The seminar will also examine ways and means of putting pressure on European unions to press their governments positively.

8) 1975: February 5-12 - Accra

This seminar will mainly concern itself with the international labour standards with special reference to Africa.



9) 1975: February 25 - March 2 (Douala - Cameroon)

This seminar, which is mainly for French speaking Africa, will work out ways and means by which African trade unions can work together with their governments to hasten development of Africa.

10) 1975: April - Africa's women workers day (Accra or Dakar)

Arrangements are going on for African women workers day in accordance with UNO decision.

11) 1975: May - Seminar (Accra)

This seminar, which will be mainly for English speaking Africa, is to examine ways and means by which unions can work together with governments of Africa to hasten economic development.

12) 1975: Visit to national trade union centres

OATUU would like to report that our delegations have visited many countries in an effort to create trade union unity.

Your Excellencies will be glad to know that the prospects are very encouraging in Dahomey, Upper Volta, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria and Seychelles.

With your help we will achieve unity in these countries by the end of 1975.

13) 1975: Anti-Apartheid Symposium

Special workers training scheme for the new liberated and the non-liberated African workers. All these and many other activities are still waiting for funds.

The above activities have been joint ventures, made possible by affiliates.

The funds we received from the OAU and affiliates could not buy machines, furnish our offices and engage in the above activities.

We have had to cut down drastically (i.e. we have only one car) to be able to engage in the above-mentioned activities.

It is therefore vital that Your Excellencies approve for us the amount of US\$ 896,220.00 for the year 1975/1976.

Accept our best wishes and highest regards.

Yours sincerely,  
(J.D. AKUMU)  
Secretary-General OATUU

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1975-02

# Consideration of Application for Subventions Submitted by Organization of African Trade Union Unity

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