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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAINNE

Secretariat
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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CM/714(XXVI)

PROGRESS REPORT ON

THE SECOND ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR



CM 0724

10 p.

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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
SECOND ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR

1. It should be recalled that the Council of Ministers of the OAU meeting in its Twenty-Fifth Ordinary Session at Kampala, Uganda, from 18 to 25th July 1975, adopted Resolution CM/Res.443 (XXV) on the Second All-Africa Trade Fair. The said resolution inter-alia set up the Organising Committee of Ten, established the terms of reference of this Committee, and decided that "the Organising Committee shall meet as soon as possible, and at any rate before December 1975, with a view to, inter-alia, estimating the financial contributions of the OAU towards the successful staging of the Fair and to submit these estimates to the Advisory Committee on Financial and Budgetary Matters and thereafter to the Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers (See Annex 1).

2. The OAU General Secretariat sent a mission during February 1976 for consultations with the Algerian authorities. During consultations, all parties were guided by resolution CM/Res.443 (XXV). Following are the results of these consultations:
 - i) According to the Algerian authorities, the staging of the Second All-Africa Trade Fair from 27 August to 12 September 1976 as specified by the resolution is not suitable due to the fact that these dates overlap with the month of Ramadan and the Moslems' Feast. This will represent a problem to both participants from different African countries and to the visitors of the Fair. Besides, at this time of the year, Algiers is normally very hot. The Algerian authorities propose that the Fair be staged from 1st October till 17th October 1976. They also believe that the final dates of the Fair should be left to the Organising Committee of Ten.

 - ii) The Algerian authorities decided to convene the Organising Committee of Ten as from 1st March till 3rd March 1976 and requested the OAU to extend the invitation for this meeting to the ten Member States of the Organising Committee. A cable has been sent on 9th February 1976 to the ten Member States of the Organising Committee, namely Algeria, Kenya, Zaire, Cameroon, Egypt, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Liberia and Senegal.

- iii) On the expected number of participating countries, the Algerian authorities hope that all the African countries will take part in the Fair, and according to them they believe that the participant African countries will not be less than 40 countries.
- iv) On the allocation of and charges for space, the Algerian authorities informed that the Algerian International Fair has an area of 300 hectares of land which is enough to satisfy all the requirements of all Member States, as far as space is concerned. There are built pavilions for Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania and Libya. An area of 30,000 sq.mts and two pavilions, one with 5,000 sq.mts and the other with 8,000 sq.mts consisting of all the necessities including three restaurants and self-service restaurants has been assigned, specially for Member States who cannot afford payment of rent. As for charges for space, Member States have in principle to pay the rent for their spaces. This will be decided upon and fully dealt with in the forthcoming meeting of the Organising Committee of Ten according to the interests of African unity. The Algerian Government will bear the costs of the cultural groups, such as folklore, musical, etc.
- v) As for the number of foreign and local visitors to the Fair, the Algerian authorities believe that the number of local visitors will run between 3,800,000 and 4,200,000. As for the foreign visitors, the Algerian Government will undertake a large propaganda campaign in order to attract visitors as far as possible and with the aim to acquaint foreign visitors with the achievements of African countries in all fields.
- vi) The Algerian Government proposes a special pavilion for the Organization of African Unity in order to illustrate the activities and the achievements of the Organization.
- vii) In addition to the cultural groups which will be invited, the Algerian authorities will arrange for film festival to show the African films of Member States' production. Also an African book festival will be arranged for, together with a round-table on economic and commercial relations of African

countries among themselves and African countries with the outside world. African writers, scientists and intellectuals will be invited to give their participation in the Fair. Two competitions will be arranged for, one to deal with an economic subject and the other to deal with literature subject; also a competition for African childrens' drawings on a subject to be specially specified by the Organising Committee. For this reason, 10 prizes in the form of visits to Algeria and other African countries will be assigned to the winners.

viii) The Algerian Government will make the propaganda campaign in the foreign and African newspapers, expenses of which is expected to be huge. They will also invite press people from the largest press houses in the world, together with imminent personalities in different fields, with the aim to acquaint the outside world with the African production and African achievements. Accordingly no estimate of the fair earnings and/or losses could be given at this stage. However, the matter should be left together with the assessment of the overall financial outlay and respective contributions of the host government and the OAU Secretariat to the Organising Committee of Ten.

3. As for the symposium on (The Promotion of Intra-African Trade) which is to be convened concurrently with the Fair, the Algerian authorities believe that the ECA made a good contribution on the symposium which was arranged at the First All-Africa Trade Fair in Nairobi. However, it was agreed that OAU could clarify this with the ECA to find out how far they can contribute to the symposium, and the matter should be dealt with by the Organising Committee of Ten. As far as the symposium is concerned, invitations will be sent to Arab and African Organizations concerned, as suggested and approved by the Organising Committee of Ten.

4. The host government will supply all necessary services and facilities including guides and associates who speak foreign languages to facilitate the task of the participants. This will also include Secretariat, interpreters, etc.

5. As for the frequency of meetings of the Organising Committee, the Algerian authorities believe that they have beforehand all the capabilities, requirements, and the efficient framework to arrange for and run the Fair successfully. Nevertheless, the number of meetings of the Organising Committee should be left to the Organising Committee itself to decide upon according to the organizational stages that the committee will go through, and each date of meeting can be inscribed on the Committee's agenda respectively.

6. The Algerian authorities explained that the Organising Committee of Ten could not be invited to convene previously, as many international conferences were taking place during the time elapsed, and due to the fact that Member States were busy attending the Conference of African Trade Ministers, and due to the fact that Algeria puts great importance to the Fair that the Algerian Minister of Trade himself should chair the Organising Committee. Also the Algerian authorities during this period were busy in attending the Annual Conference of the International Fairs' Union which was held in Bogota, Colombia. In this conference the application of the Johannesburg Fair to get the membership of the Union completely failed as a result of the manoeuvring of the African members of the Union.

7. The propaganda campaign will include the following: pertinent propaganda activities by representatives of the Algerian Ministry of Trade in Paris, London, Zurich, Marseilles, Tunis, Casablanca, Tripoli and Beirut - by all the Algerian Embassies in all countries - through advertisements in the large world newspapers - by the OAU - propaganda pamphlets and brochures will be printed as soon as their Minister of Trade approves it on his arrival from Manila. These pamphlets and brochures will be sent to all international organizations concerned including African Chambers of Commerce and Economic Organizations. During the meeting of the International Fairs' Union in Bogota, the Algerian delegation took the initiative and gave information on Second All-Africa Trade Fair, its organizations, its purposes, etc., and expressed their welcome to those interested in participating or visiting the Fair. Accordingly, the Administrative Committee of the International

Fairs' Union decided to visit the Second All-Africa Trade Fair and to hold a meeting to deal with the technical co-operation among the International Fairs' Union and the existing African Fairs. The International Fairs' Union also expressed its willingness to co-operate and give technical advice and assistance to African countries interested in establishing new fairs in the future.

8. The Algerian authorities also believed that there is a big possibility towards co-operation and co-ordination of activities of the existing African Fairs, under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity. According to them, this could be achieved through convening a meeting of the African Fairs within the framework of the OAU.

9. The Council may wish to consider the new dates as proposed by Algeria for the staging of the Fair.

10. By Resolution CM/Res.212 (XIV), the Council of Ministers approved that the OAU contribute a sum of £51,000 (equivalent to US.\$142,800 at this time) towards the administration costs of the First All-Africa Trade Fair staged in Nairobi, 1972. In order to gain time and to give elasticity to the General Secretariat, the Council may wish to vote an initial allocation for the OAU contribution to the costs of staging the Second All-Africa Trade Fair, to be inscribed in the budget for the financial year 1976/77, taking into consideration the dollar devaluation, and the uprising costs.

11. The Council of Ministers might wish to consider the proposal of Algeria on a special pavilion for the Organization of African Unity, and if approves it, the Council may wish to vote an initial amount for this purpose.

12. The Council of Ministers will also need to take into account the fact that the current budget of the OAU only includes the small sum of US.\$4,081.30 to cover missions of OAU officials to Algiers for consultations with the Algerian authorities on the Fair. Due to the fact

that new dates (from 1st to 17th October 1976) have been proposed for the staging of the Fair, and due to the fact that the Organising Committee of Ten will have to meet several times, specially at the pre-fair staging, which will necessitate several missions for OAU Official to Algiers, it is necessary for the Council to give special authority to the General Secretariat to spend on this whatever sum may be voted to cover costs of these missions as need arises.

13. The General Secretariat intends to submit another progress report on the achievements and conclusions of the Organising Committee of Ten to the Council at its Twenty-Seventh Ordinary Session.

Action Required

14. The Council of Ministers is invited to consider the matter and instruct the General Secretariat thereupon, particularly on paragraphs 9, 10, 11, and 12 above.

RESOLUTION ON THE SECOND ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR

The Council of Ministers of the OAU Meeting in its Twenty-Fifth Ordinary Session at Kampala, Uganda, from 18th to 25th July 1975,

Recalling its resolution CM/Res.277 (XIX), in particular operative paragraph 3,

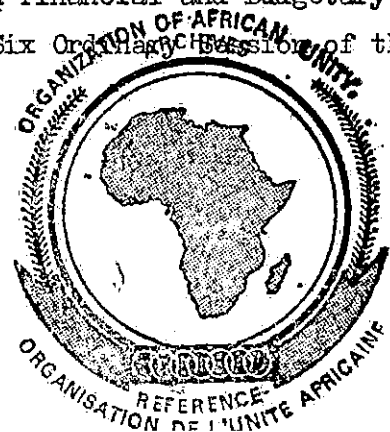
Having considered the report on the Second All-Africa Trade Fair (CM/680),

Appreciative of the laudable efforts of the Government of Algeria in its preparations for the successful staging of the Second All-Africa Trade Fair,

1. DECIDES that the Second All-Africa Trade Fair will be staged in Algiers from 27 August to 12 September 1976;
2. TAKES NOTE of document CM/680,
3. SETS UP an Organizing Committee of Ten composed of Algeria, Kenya, Zaire, Cameroon, Egypt, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Liberia and Senegal.

The terms of reference of this Committee will be to ascertain:

- i) the exact number of participating countries;
 - ii) the allocation of and charges for space;
 - iii) the number of foreign and local visitors to the Fair;
 - iv) an estimate of Fair earnings:
 - v) an assesement of overall financial outlay and respective contributions of the host Government and the OAU Secretariat; and
 - vi) Organization and Character of a Symposium on 'The Promotion of Intra-Africa Trade' to be convened concurrently with the Fair;
4. DECIDES further that the Organizing Committee shall meet as soon as possible, and at any rate before December 1975, with a view to, inter-alia, estimating the financial contributions of the OAU towards the successful staging of the Fair and to submit these estimates to the Advisory Committee on Financial and Budgetary Matters and thereafter to the Twenty-Six Ordinary Session of the Council.



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Progress Report on the Second All-Africa Trade Fair

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