



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat  
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الافريقية

السكرتاريه

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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAIN**

Secretariat  
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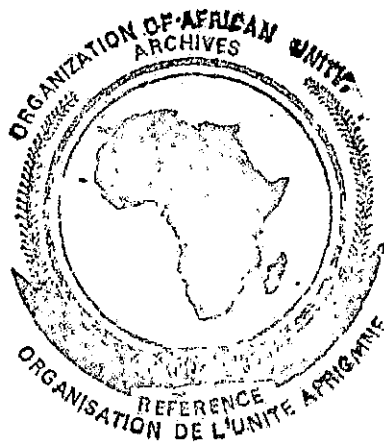
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REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS - INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOCUMENTATION,

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES IN AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOCUMENTATION, LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES IN AFRICA

(Application for Observer Status with the OAU)

The International Association for the Development of Documentation, Libraries and Archives in Africa (A.I.D.B.A.) was founded on 13 September 1957 as an association for the development of public libraries in Africa. In 1967 its activities included documentation and archives, and in 1972 it extended to museums.

The Association is created and administrated essentially by Africans and its aims are to elaborate both a doctrine and work methods - strictly African - in the four branches which it incorporates. However, in spite of its continental outlook, A.I.D.B.A. welcomes men of good-will from all countries, creeds and races. It will collaborate with all existing Africans and world-wide organizations which share the same view point with it. It desires to have by 1980 a net-work of archives, libraries, documentation centres and museums in operation covering the whole of Africa for the accomplishment of their cultural, intellectual and social missions. In addition to the above, the Association aims at:

- a) the re-grouping of all persons aware of the importance of documentation to civilization so as to co-ordinate their efforts for the safeguarding of archives and the development of libraries, documentation centres, scientific and technical services and museums in Africa.
- b) encouragement of the writing of African history and the participation in education of both youth and adults.
- c) organizing of a periodic round-table conference on the experiences of different African Countries with respect to archives, libraries, museums and documentation thereby enabling professional acquaintances and contacts to be made amongst the various African archivists, librarians, documentalists and museum curators.
- d) the running of a continuous publicity in favour of public reading and research.

The A.I.D.B.A. is represented by five vice-presidents each responsible for an economic sub-region established by the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Africa viz.

NORTHERN AFRICA: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, U.A.R., Sudan, Spanish North Africa, Tunisia, etc.,

WEST AFRICA: Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Dahomey, Niger, Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Spanish Sahara etc.

EAST AFRICA: Malawi, Zambia, "Zimbabwe", Madagascar, Mauritius Island, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Comoros Isls., Seychelles, The Afar and Issas Territories, etc.,

CENTRAL AFRICA: Cameroon, Tchad, Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo, Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi, Sao Tome and Principe, Equatorial Guinea, etc.,

SOUTHERN AFRICA: Angola, Mozambique, Republic of South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, etc.,

#### Membership

1. The membership is made up of the international association which is composed of sections or national associations, the waiting sections, other professional and cultural associations interested in the problem of archives, libraries, documentation centres and museum.

Associate members comprise states, countries and international association wishing to participate in the life of A.I.D.B.A. and to give it their moral support.

#### Finances

"The financial sources of the association consists of:

- a) the contributions of the national sections,
- b) the contributions and subscriptions of the members of the waiting section,

- c) the subsidies from governments, international institutions and private organizations,
- d) the returns from manifestations organized for the benefit of the association,
- e) all other legally authorized in-takings

#### General Comments

The A.I.D.B.A. is an African organization having an African effective membership. Its aims are the same as the objectives of the OAU and as such the association may be qualified for observer status under the conditions laid down in CM/162/Rev.2, Article 5(a) and (b) which are as follows:

- a) "The request shall conform with the fundamental principles set forth in the Charter of the OAU;
- b) The activities of the body seeking observer status shall be in conformity with the objectives of the OAU".

The Association has, however, been informed that the granting of observer status by the OAU, does not by itself place an obligation by the OAU to grant subvention to the Association.

If the application is approved the Association will be granted observer status under Category C which includes:

- i) "Inter-African non-governmental organizations, association or unions.
- ii) Inter-African non-governmental institutions".

Category C observers may:

- i) "attend the public sessions of OAU Specialised Commissions during discussion of a matters of particular interest to them,
- ii) communicate a written declaration to the Commission through the medium of the Administrative Secretary-General and after approval by the Chairman of the Session",

Annexed to this paper are the Constitution (Annex I) and the Memorandum of Activities (Annex II) of the A.I.D.B.A.

**TITLE 1. DENOMINATION AND AIM**

**ARTICLE 1.** There is hereby formed between those who adhere to the present by-laws an association named International Association for the development of Documentation, Libraries, and Archives in Africa (A.I.D.B.A.)

Each national section to be placed under the regime of the law governing the associations in the interested state and is governed by the special by-laws limited to its own jurisdiction, the present general by-laws serving as a base to the association on an international level.

The international headquarters are provisionally established in Dakar. These headquarters may be transferred to any other place after consultation with the members of the Executive Bureau.

**ARTICLE 2.** The purpose of the association is:

- a) the regrouping of all persons aware of the importance of documentation to civilization so as to co-ordinate their efforts for the safeguarding of archives and the development of libraries, documentation centres, scientific and technical services and museums in Africa.
- b) the encouragement of the writing of African history and the participation in education of both youth and adults.
- c) the organizing of a periodic round-table conference on the experiences of different African Countries with respect to archives, libraries, museums and documentation thereby enabling professional acquaintances and contacts to be made amongst the various African archivists, librarians, documentalists and museum curators.
- d) the running of a continuous publicity in favour of public reading and research.

ARTICLE 3. A.I.D.B.A. aims at obtaining from the authorities the organization in each African state:-

1. a national service whose object is a) the constitution and conservation of public archives b) the safeguarding of private archives.

2. of a national system of Libraries depending on a national Administration and comprizing of:-

- a national preservation library which acts as a legal depot and whose purpose is the acquiring, conserving and passing on to future and present generations all printed material and the essence of the written civilization.

- Public libraries for the spreading of culture in all social sectors and thereby assuring the education of the African collectivities.

- school libraries destined for teachers and pupils.

- University libraries at the disposition of universities and other establishments of higher education and more important for the use of professors and students.

- specialized libraries and documentation centres for scientific and research institutions, public administrations, private societies, professional associations etc.,

3. National and regional centres of documentation.

4. national museums, and of course, provincial and municipal museums.

ARTICLE 4. In order to achive its aim, the association proposes for adoption by each African state:-

1. a general law on documentation

2. a special law and appropriate regulations to enable archive and museum services to be set up with the necessary resources for their smooth functioning

3. a special legislation and regulation on libraries and documentation centres.

ARTICLE 5. The association will - finances permitting - give scholarships to archivists, librarians, documentalists, museum-curators so as to further their competency and professional formation.

#### TITLE II COMPOSITION

ARTICLE 6. The international association shall be composed of:-

1. Sections or national associations, the waiting section, other professional and cultural associations interested in the problems of Archives, Libraries, Documentation centres and museums

2. Associate members comprizing of States, countries and international associations wishing to participate in the life of A.I.D.B.A. and giving it their moral support.

The members living in countries where a national section has not yet been organized are attached to the "Waiting Section" which is administered by the Executive Bureau of the Association's Central Committee.

ARTICLE 7. The following categories of members constitute the national associations, others and the waiting section:-

1. founder members
2. active members
3. associate members
4. benefactor members
5. honorary members.

The annual subscription shall be a minimum of:-

One thousand five hundred francs (1,500) for founder members  
One thousand francs (1,000) for active members  
Five hundred francs (500) for associate members  
Five thousand francs (5,000) for benefactor members (or the equivalent of the above C.F.A. Francs in the national currency of each country)  
Honorary members are exempt from subscriptions, however, they make gifts to the association.

**ARTICLE 8.** A founder member may be any member who having joined the association during the first twenty years (1957-1977) and accepts to participate in the organization of a national section and who pays the relevant subscription.

The corporate bodies (associations, societies etc.) may only join as benefactor members. Life membership may be acquired by subscribing once in the same year a sum equal to ten times the annual subscription.

International honorary members are proposed by the Executive Bureau and approved by the International Council of the Association. On a national level they may be elected by the General Assembly.

**ARTICLE 9.** Every African organization, regional or sub-regional, may affiliate with A.I.D.B.A. given they share a common goal in respect to archives, libraries, documentation, scientific and technical information services and museums and example "Groupe de travail permanent interafricain de promotion de la documentation de sciences sociales" constituted by the Dakar seminar of April 1967.

**ARTICLE 10.** A.I.D.B.A. itself may affiliate with any other Continental (African) group as a specialized institution looking after the development of archives, libraries, documentation centres, scientific and technical information services and museums.

**ARTICLE 11.** The Executive Bureau will promote a tight co-operation between AIDBA and each of the following institutions:

- The African Cultural Society (A.S.C.) S.A.C.
- The international federation of Librarian associations (FIAB)
- The international federation of Documentation (FID)



- The international Counsel for Archives (CIA)
- The international Commission on Museums (ICOM)
- The Museum Association of Tropical Africa (AMAT) and all other international cultural organizations dealing with the development of archives, libraries, documentation centres, scientific and information services and museums.

### TITLE III ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE 12. The highest organ of AIDBA is the Congress which brings together at least once every three years, the Central Committee, the different delegations and member associations and the individual members living in countries where no association affiliated to AIDBA exists.

ARTICLE 13. AIDBA is administered by a central committee comprizing:

- 1) an international executive Bureau of 6 members-
  1. President general
  2. Secretary general
  3. Cultural secretary
  4. Administrative secretary
  5. Treasurer general
  6. Legal and financial advisor
  
- 2) five executive sub-regional bureaus each comprizing:
  1. vice-president general
  2. executive secretary
  3. treasurer
  
- 3) 7 Work Commissions each directed by a president
  1. Commission on organization, Finance, Information, and propaganda
  2. Commission on Archives
  3. Commission on Libraries
  4. Commission on Documentation and scientific/technical information
  5. Commission on Museums

6. Commission on professional training and status of archivists, Librarians, documentalists and museum-curators
7. Commission on Education and Culture

4) Delegations comprizing:

Presidents, Secretaries general, Treasurers general of the national sections affiliated to A.I.D.B.A.

- ARTICLE 14. The central Committee and its components are instituted for the creation and development of archives, libraries, documentation, scientific and technical information, museum services and related institutions, in conjunction with the various African governments.
- ARTICLE 15. The members of the central committee shall be elected for a period of three years by the General Congress. The election shall be by secret vote.
- ARTICLE 16. The General Assembly shall be held once every three years and shall fix the site of the following-to be held in the different headquarters of the national sections and in rotation.
- ARTICLE 17. The central committee is represented by the president general, the secretary general or a member designated to represent the association at international meetings.
- ARTICLE 18. Each national section is administered by a Steering Committee of no more than sixteen members; under no circumstances should the number be higher than one third of the number of the Section's members.
- ARTICLE 19. Each new national section shall be administered by "a provisional administrative committee" whose term of office may not exceed one year at which time a definite administrative committee must be established.
- ARTICLE 20. The executive bureau and the central committee assemble respectively at least before each of the Association's General Assembly.

At least half of the members must be present so that the deliberations may be valid. Decisions are taken by a majority vote. In the case of a divided house the Chairman's vote is decisive.

- ARTICLE 21. The president or the secretary general shall represent the association before justice and in all acts of civil life.
- ARTICLE 22. The activities of the whole of the organization in their respective sub-regions shall be co-ordinated by the vice president general.
- ARTICLE 23. The secretary general shall co-ordinate the activities of the whole of the association assisted by a cultural and administrative secretary.
- ARTICLE 24. Answers to problems of a cultural aspect concerning archives, libraries, documentation centres and museums shall be sought by the cultural secretary.
- ARTICLE 25. The administrative secretary shall write up the minutes of the executive bureau's meetings, as those of the central committee and General Assembly.
- ARTICLE 26. The accounting - subscriptions of the members of the waiting section, the contributions of the national sections and the general management of the association's funds shall be the task of the treasurer general.
- ARTICLE 27. The Association's funds are to be placed in one or many Banks. A postal checking account may also be opened in the name of the association.

Each withdrawal issued by the treasurer general must be counter-signed by the president general or secretary general. One of the two latter must reside in the same town as the treasurer general.

#### TITLE IV - FUNCTIONING

- ARTICLE 28. Members of the association shall not be entitled to any remuneration while fulfilling their duties as members of the steering committee or the services they are called upon to render to libraries. However, when sent on mission on behalf of the association they will receive a flat rate indemnity the rate of which shall be fixed by the executive bureau. Their transportation costs shall be borne by the Association. On the other hand, the executive bureau may be allowed a permanent secretariat whose members shall receive a salary taking into account the financial possibilities of the association.

ARTICLE 29. The General Assembly shall approve the accounts at the close of the financial year and adopt the annual budget prepared by the executive bureau as well as discussing other items on the agenda. It renews the central committee at the expiration of its term.

ARTICLE 30. The Central Committee shall create a national section in each African state and provoke their federation in a sub-region of AIDBA viz.

- Austral Africa
- Central Africa
- West Africa
- East Africa
- North Africa

The federal sections could group together in a "Federal Union".

So that a national section may be constituted at least fifteen members or founders of which one third living in the future headquarters of the section, must reside in the interested state.

ARTICLE 31. The national sections of and the affiliated associations to A.I.D.B.A. shall, at the beginning of each financial year, send a moral and financial report to the executive bureau in duplicate one to the president general, the other to the secretary general. The secretary general shall make a synthese of all of the reports and review the activities of the association. A three-yearly report prepared by the executive bureau is submitted to the central committee and the general assembly for approval.

ARTICLE 32. Common expenditure is shared by the national sections and the affiliated associations of A.I.D.B.A. The rate of this contribution is fixed at 20% of each association's budget and is deposited with the treasurer general.

#### TITLE V RESOURCES & RESERVE FUNDS

ARTICLE 33. The resources of the association consist of:-

- a) the contributions of the national sections
- b) the contributions and subscriptions of the members of the Waiting Sections
- c) the subsidies from governments and international institutions and private organizations

- d) the return from manifestations organized for the benefit of the association
- e) all other legally authorized in-takings.

ARTICLE 34. The association may set up a reserve fund for the annual deposit, at the end of term, of all excess funds which are not necessary for its functioning during the first six months. The quota and composition of the reserve funds will be fixed by the executive bureau and the central committee, to be approved ultimately by the General Assembly and placed in a deposit account.

ARTICLE 35. The association shall set up monetary accountancy by keeping records of receipts and expenditures as well as stock records.

ARTICLE 36. Each section or affiliated association shall have its own budget. The general budget shall be established each year by the executive committee; its main lines to be approved every three years by the central committee and the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 37. The accounts of the Treasurer general of the Executive Bureau are audited by two members designated by the General Assembly.

#### TITLE VI AMENDMENT OF THE BY-LAWS TRANSFORMATION OR DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 38. The present by-laws may be amended by the General Assembly at the proposal of the executive bureau, the central committee, a national section or affiliated association.

ARTICLE 39. When archives, libraries, documentation centres, scientific and technical information services and museums have reached a state of perfect organization in Africa A.I.D.B.A. may be transformed into a number of benevolent or professional associations corresponding to its activities or be dissolved in favour of existing specialized institutions. The decisions are taken by the General Assembly and carried out by each national section.

ARTICLE 40. The General Assembly of each section when called upon to decide on the dissolution of the Association and especially convened for this purpose by individual letters, must be composed of at least one half plus one of the members (active). In such case, voting by mail shall be allowed for those members who reside outside the headquarters town of the section.

If there is no quorum, the Assembly shall be reconvened no less than a fortnight later by individual registered letters and can then hold valid deliberations whatever the number of the members present and of votes cast,

In either case, the dissolution shall be pronounced by a two thirds majority vote of the General Assembly which shall immediately appoint two or more commissioners to liquidate the property of the Association. The net proceeds of the liquidation shall be transferred to an association having a similar purpose which shall be designated by the General Assembly.

#### TITLE VII INTERNAL STATUTES

ARTICLE 41. An internal by-law shall determine the details of the functioning of the Executive Bureau, the central committee and the General Assembly.

- Adopted by the General Assembly of the Senegalese Section in Dakar - 10 September 1967.

Dr Samba N'D GUEYE  
President of the Session

- Amended and rectified by the General Assembly of the Togolese Section in Lome - 14 August 1970

G. Kwaovi JOHNSON  
President of the Session

- Amended by the General Assembly of the Mauritanian Section in Nouakchott - 12 October 1970

Bakar Ould AHMEDOU  
President of the Session.

- Amended by the 6th Congress of A.I.D.B.A. in Abidjan -  
13 September 1972

Kanyinda Nbayi Wa Tshiendo  
Vice-president general for  
Central Africa  
President of the Session

Rapporteur  
F K W DADZIE  
Secretary General.

A.I.D.B.A. ACTIVITIES FROM 1957 TO 1974 AND ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT  
FEW DECADES

A.I.D.B.A.'s aim is to bring together vocational or professional associations and other agencies and persons who are aware of the importance of libraries, documentation centres, archives and museums in a society, to coordinate their efforts for the development of such agencies throughout Africa.

In 1974 U.N.E.S.C.O., OAU and African Governments organized a conference which was held in Dakar, on the application of science and technology to development (CASTAFRICA).

At that Conference stress was placed on the importance of documentation in scientific and technical activities, and it was recommended that documentation centres should be set up to give logistic support to these activities.

In addition, we know that information and documentation provide the basis of all organized activities.

Indeed libraries, archives and museums are instruments for providing information, documentation and education.

These documentary agencies are very necessary for keeping people constantly informed and are vitally important for social and economic training.

Archives, libraries, documentation centres and museums are one of the surest means of making available to communities the instruments of information and education they enshrine.

In addition to their intellectual and cultural missions, they contribute effectively to the economic and social progress of the peoples of the world.

As educative agencies, they improve living conditions and thus promote economic activity. The better educated people are, the easier it is to raise their technical level, and the greater their success vocationally or professionally.

We can therefore clearly see that the instruments of education and culture must be multiplied in the developing countries. The school in the first place, since its role is paramount, then libraries which should supplement the work of the school by developing in children and young people a love of reading, so that they



can develop into adults capable of appreciating books and deriving the maximum benefit from them.

The countries currently referred to as the developed countries were well aware of this and libraries, museums, archives and documentation centres played an outstanding part in their nation-building and development process.

Generally speaking, in African countries, insufficient account is taken of the potentialities of these agencies. With the rapid growth of knowledge, science, technology, expanding needs and the demand for trained, qualified and well-informed staff for economic social and cultural development, the role of libraries and other documentary agencies will become what it really should be in our African States.

But if in Africa the instruments of education and information are to attain their objective without undue delay, they must make use of the culture of Africa and the African national languages.

Indeed, the rehabilitation, enrichment and use in all fields of our national languages, are essential conditions for our economic progress and cultural development.

Language is the most important heritage of a people. It is the supreme prop of a nation's thinking and the most effective instrument for spreading knowledge among the masses. Consequently, every African should some day learn to read and write in his mother tongue and in the dominant national language.

Of course, French, English, Portuguese and Spanish will, as far as we are concerned, still be the media for international communication and certain African languages like Swahili, Haoussa, Pheul and Arabic will one day become languages for intra-African communication.

All this must be seriously studied and planned. The coloniser spent half a century imposing his language on us. We can at most take the same time having a national language adopted by the inhabitants of our individual countries.

Indeed, each of our States has a dominant national language; Hassania in Mauritania, Wolof in Senegal, Bambara in Mali, Malinke in Guinea, More (or Mossi) in Upper Volta, Gingbe (or Mina) in Togo, Fon in Dahomey etc....

The languages which are used respectively by the great majority of the inhabitants can be enriched as and when necessary <sup>by</sup> borrowings from other national languages, African ones as well as those from outside Africa.

The languages of Europe themselves have borrowed from Arabic, and continue to borrow words from one another when technological transfers occur and new concepts arise.

The particular national language selected will have to play an essential role in the development of education, culture, science, technology and the country's economy.

Prejudice has dubbed African languages poor, but they are rich in vocabulary and concepts.

Distinguished African linguists, historians, sociologists and economists like Cheikh Anta Diop and Pathé Diagne, of Senegal, among others; the specialist in Nordic civilization, Erika Simon, a French woman of Danish origin, have eloquently demonstrated the potentialities of Negro-African languages, in which every concept and indeed the exact sciences can be taught. These languages can be used as catalysts of our development.

Indeed, we need to spread knowledge and modern techniques to the 80% of our still illiterate brothers. It is not in French, English, Portuguese or Spanish that we shall reach our African masses who are our productive force, and without whom our development plans can never succeed.

If we mean to become an industrial society by the year 2,000 we must make full use of our own cultural values, especially of our national languages.

African intellectuals, in other words, the 10 to 15% of the Africans who can read and write in an imported foreign language or an African one, and can think for themselves, should start tackling this job without delay.

Our intellectuals should produce literature, devise the tools of language and manuals in African national languages; they should collect oral traditions, translate, conduct research into and analyse our African languages.

In this way our citizens will have available to them new alphabets in our urban and rural public libraries and in our national languages and books and newspapers without which they would lapse once more into illiteracy.

Our libraries, documentation centres, archives and museums would also have a constantly growing number of publications in our own languages.

All specialists and persons who are convinced of the outstanding role of national languages, libraries and other documentary agencies in our economic, social and cultural development should combine their efforts to ensure that some day throughout the length and breadth of Africa, knowledge at the highest possible level may put an end to obscurantism, poverty and disease.

This is the reason why on 13 September 1957 librarians, archivists, documentalists, museologues, men of culture, politicians and workers in various sectors established at Saint-Louis, Senegal, the International Association for the Development of Documentation, Libraries and Archives in Africa (A.I.D.B.A.), on an intra-African and international basis. The same day they founded a national association in a number of countries, thus making their contribution to the immense task we have just described.

After seventeen (17) years of effort, we have some positive results to show.

#### Sensitizing Governments and people

As a result of the existence of the international association, national associations and individual members living in different countries, Governments and people have been made aware of problems of planning and the gradual organization of an effective documentation network including libraries of all types, special documentation centres public and private record offices and museums, and African communities have steadily increased their familiarity with libraries.

Sometimes, the very existence of the association has produced reactions resulting in the setting up or development of libraries, documentation centres, record offices or museums.

#### Training of technicians

Since the development of documentary agencies depends on the availability of a body of qualified technicians, one of the first things the association did was to embark on professional training.

Consequently, special training courses were organized in and outside Africa, making it possible for a number of African technicians to receive training or follow refresher courses.

Moreover, our association has made a great contribution to the establishment or extension of schools for librarians, archivists and documentalists in West and East Africa (Dakar, Kampala and Accra).

Every year since 1964 we ourselves have been organizing a training course which lasts a few months, the aim being to initiate young people into techniques relating to libraries, documentation, archives and museums. In this way, candidates with a level of training ranging from the BEPC<sup>1</sup> to a university degree, can attend appropriate crash training courses and acquire the ability to perform auxiliary tasks and sometimes even administer a documentation unit. However, since the profession calls for serious specialist training, most of the trainees are oriented towards schools for librarians, documentalists, archivists and museographers, on the basis of their university qualification.

By way of guarantee as regards a career, we made sure that special cadres or units were established in the civil service of certain States.

#### Establishment and development of libraries, documentation centres, archives and museums

The action we took enabled us to adopt a system of planning and legislation or regulations regarding libraries, archives, documentation and museums, and also the gradual establishment of agencies in the following countries: Senegal, Mauritania, Ivory Coast, Niger, Mali, Upper Volta, Togo, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Zaire, etc... where there now exist national libraries, national archives, national documentation centres and national museums or organizations in lieu thereof.

We have been less successful where reading for the general public is concerned, since in this respect the embassies of foreign countries still organize and administer public libraries in the majority of French-speaking African States. But such libraries which should exert a great influence on the various communities concerned and play an important role in our development, ought to be under the national administration.

Consequently, we shall be taking action to secure the co-operation and technical assistance of developed countries, to enable us to organize our national networks of urban and rural reading matter for the general public; soon we shall be

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<sup>1</sup> Brevet d'Enseignement du premier Cycle: the primary school leaving certificate.

organizing competitions for the production of literature for children and adults in African languages and also in the imported foreign languages, in co-operation with the regional centre known as the Centre Régional de Promotion du Livre, recently established at Yaounde.

Finally, we have managed out of our own resources, to organize a public library which was set up at Saint-Louis in Senegal in 1962 and later transferred to Dakar and installed in 1969 at the Demba Diop Stadium, in a room very kindly placed at our disposal by what was then the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport.

This particular library which has a Children's Section and an Adult Section, contains over three thousand (3,000) books and a number of newspapers and reviews. It will be developed in the years ahead, in the not-too-distant future. It will serve as a centre where librarians we are training to select reading matter for the general public in different countries, can put their training into practice.

#### Conferences on planning and organizational problems.

the  
A.I.D.B.A. and/affiliated national associations have to their credit a number of technical conferences which have enabled senior African staff to compare notes and study problems relating to the planning, organization and suitable operation of documentary agencies.

The most important of such conferences directly organized by A.I.D.B.A. or at its request are as follows:

- October 1969 at Dakar (Senegal): the first one-day school concerned with libraries in West Africa (at the end of it a request was made, among other things, for the establishment of the Dakar Librarian's School for French-speaking Africa).
- October 1961 at Copenhagen (Denmark): the first Afro-Scandinavian conference concerned with libraries (one of its practical results was a fund-raising drive in Denmark which helped with the organization of the Kampala Librarian's School in Uganda; the 35 million fr. CFA collected was initially earmarked for the establishment of a pilot public library in Dakar).
- September 1962 at Enugu (Nigeria): Seminar on the development of public libraries in Africa (organized by UNESCO at the request of A.I.D.B.A.)

- April 1964 at Saint-Louis, (Senegal): One-day school devoted to the subject of libraries in Africa.
- October 1965 at Saint-Louis and Dakar (Senegal): first one-day school concerned with archives and African history.
- September 1972 at Abidjan (Ivory Coast) and September 1973 at Brazzaville (Congo): Sub-regional conferences on problems of planning and organizing an efficient documentation network in West and Central Africa.
- September 1974 at Paris: An inter-governmental conference on the integrated planning of national machinery for servicing documentation, libraries and archives. All UNESCO member-States were invited to attend that international meeting. A.I.D.B.A. made a substantial contribution to the concept for integrating documentation, libraries and archives, which motivated the holding of the conference.

The two sub-regional conferences in Abidjan and Brazzaville paved the way for two major conferences envisaged for the current year and organized directly by A.I.D.B.A.. They are as follows:

- From 13 to 20 April 1975 at Dakar: The second Afro-Scandinavian conference on libraries which will aim at stimulating co-operation for the development of public libraries in the African countries least developed in this particular field.
- From 7 to 14 September 1975 at Accra-(Ghana): African conference on documentation, libraries, archives and museums under the auspices of OAU.

In order to prepare the ground for these two conferences to be held in the current year (1975), two members of A.I.D.B.A.'s Executive Bureau went on a tour of fourteen countries in West and Central African in 1974, and held consultations with the authorities and the technicians. The delegation succeeded in whipping up interest among the affiliated national associations and laying the foundations for the establishment of other national associations or for their affiliation with A.I.D.B.A. Ethiopia has just become a member of A.I.D.B.A., and other countries - English-speaking, Arabic-speaking, French-speaking and Portuguese speaking - will follow suit in due course.



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# Request for Observer Status- International Association for the Development of Documentation, Libraries and Archives in Africa

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