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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITÉ
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Thirty-Sixth Ordinary Session
23 February - 1 March 1981
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

CM/1104 (XXXVI)

ANNEX 6

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
OAU COMMITTEE OF 19

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OF 19

The report we are submitting to your kind attention summarizes the activities of the OAU "Committee of 19" since the Thirty-Fourth Ministerial Council which afforded us the opportunity of putting things in their proper perspectives, if I may say so.

However with your permission, I shall not evoke the historical background referred to in the document concerning the setting up of the Committee, and its activities, up to the Thirty-Fourth Session of the OAU Council of Ministers.

Those who wish to refer to the document may do so. It must be recalled however that during the Thirty-Third Session of the Council of Ministers in Monrovia, the "Committee of 19" was enlarged and given double mandate:

- formulation of a new strategy for the liberation struggle in Southern Africa; and
- the co-ordination of assistance to the Frontline States.

The Thirty-Fourth Session of the OAU Council of Ministers in turn requested the "Committee of 19" to implement the resolution relating to this double mandate.

Consequently, at its request the Committee of Ambassadors met in Addis Ababa on 28, 29 and 30 March 1980 to prepare a draft strategy for the liberation struggle in Southern Africa and to study ways and means of securing assistance for the Frontline States,

On 15 and 16 June, 1980 the Fifth Ministerial Ordinary Session of the "Committee of 19" was held in Lome to consider the documents prepared by the Ambassadors in Addis Ababa.

With regard to the **strategy** for the struggle the Ministerial Session adopted what has come to be known as: "The Lome Declaration on the New Strategy for the Liberation of Namibia and the Elimination of Apartheid and Segregation in South Africa", (document PL/Dec./32(II) 43 - 80/Rev.3) adopted under symbol No. CM/1045(XXXV), Annex II by the Thirty-fifth Session of the Council and the Summit held in Freetown.

This strategy was designed in a flexible manner to allow Liberation Movements the freedom of choice with regard to the means and tactics to be adopted.

On the problem of assistance, the Ministerial Session endorsed the following recommendations of the Committee of Ambassadors:

- full application of Resolution CM/Res. 637(XXXI) on the procurement of 500,000 tons of crude oil, concrete material and financial assistance from external sources for the Frontline States;
- to this end, missions had to be undertaken to various states and institutions capable of offering concrete assistance;
- all the same, OAU Member States should, in pursuance of, the OAU Charter and the Mauritius Resolution envisage allocating in their national budgets funds for the assistance of the Frontline States.

Furthermore the Lome Ministerial Session proposed that a pledging conference be convened alongside the Freetown Summit so as to secure assistance for the Frontline States.

On the whole assistance was defined as a global development strategy aimed at:

- a) strengthening the economic potential and bases for a subsequent regional development;
- b) then reducing, if not gradually eliminating the dependence of some Frontline States on South Africa in a bid to create conditions for effective collective self-reliance.

Consequently as a personal contribution Togo submitted to the Ministerial Session of the "Committee of 19" a document entitled "Draft Co-ordination Programme for Assistance to Frontline States", a document which was distributed under symbol number ... PL/Dec.32(II)41.80.

While taking into account the limited resources of African States the document suggested a three-pronged action:

- request minimum aid from Member States mainly in the form of voluntary contributions,
- create greater awareness among African populations about the distressing problem of apartheid and associate them to a greater extent with their government's effort to improve the lot of their brothers in Southern Africa,
- strengthen the economies of the Frontline States and direct efforts towards an economic regrouping, which will serve a nucleus for the future community of Southern African States in order to gradually reduce their dependence on Pretoria.

While appreciating the document presented by Togo the Ministerial Session observed that: certain ideas dealt with matters which fell only within the competence of governments and that: proposals should also be considered by the Liberation Committee.

It was therefore decided to make an in depth study of the document for the comments of States concerned before the present Ministerial Council.

Finally the Lome Ministerial Session proposed that two Sub-Committees be appointed to secure assistance.

1. The Sub-Committee for Financial and Material Assistance composed of Togo (Chairman), The Sudan (Rapporteur) and Nigeria (Member).

2. The Sub-Committee on Oil supplies composed of Algeria (Chairman), Cameroon (Rapporteur) and Zaire (Member).

All these proposals and recommendations of the Lome Ministerial Session were approved by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Freetown Document CM/1045(XXXV). Thus it was left to the Committee of 19 to apply these recommendations.

The Sub-Committee on Financial and Material Assistance therefore held a meeting in September 1980 in Addis Ababa attended by Togo, The Sudan, Nigeria and Angola. See Document CM/1091(XXXVI).

Therefore in conformity with the recommendations of the 5th Ministerial Session of the Committee of 19, endorsed by the Freetown Summit of the Sub-Committee on financial and material assistance, drew up a programme of missions taking into account the relatively large number of countries and organisations to be visited, as well as the relatively limited time at its disposal.

The Sub-Committee then split into five groups. Three of them were each led by a representative of the three member countries and visited Scandinavian countries, European Socialist countries and Arab countries. The two other groups were led by Ambassadors accredited to Paris and New York.

It was proposed at the beginning that the first 39 groups be led by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member countries. A representative of a Frontline State was to be attached to each delegation as coordinator and consult other States of the region on their needs.

The Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity was to appoint an official of the Secretariat to each delegation:

The Choice of the countries to be visited was based on the following :-

- (a) Countries which always gave their unconditional support to the Liberation struggle in Southern Africa;
- (b) those which subscribed to the cause;
- (c) finally those capable of giving real assistance.

The final programme of missions was as follows :

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1. Group of Scandinavian countries: Togo (Chairman), Angola (Coordinator) for humanitarian assistance;
2. Group of Socialist countries for material and technical assistance: Nigeria (Chairman) Zambia (Coordinator);
3. Group of Arab countries for financial and technical assistance for development projects: The Sudan (Chairman) Botswana (Coordinator);
4. Group of Agencies in America for the financing of development projects: Nigeria (Chairman) Zimbabwe (Coordinator);
5. Group of Agencies in Europe for general assistance: Togo (Chairman), Mozambique (Coordinator).

According to the programme, the delegation which was to visit Scandinavian countries and agencies in Europe led by Togo carried out its missions from 25 January to 13 February, 1981.

Mission to Scandinavian Countries

In the Scandinavian countries, the delegation met the political and economic senior offices of Denmark, Copenhagen (from 25 to 26 January, 1981), Norway, Oslo (from 26 to 27 January, 1981), Sweden, Stockholm (from 27 to 29 January, 1981) and Finland, Helsinki (from 29 to 30 January, 1981).

Besides Togo (Chairman), that delegation was composed of :-

- Nigeria
- The Sudan
- Angola
- Zambia

In each of these capitals, we met representatives who were aware of the purpose of our mission and who proved to be receptive.

The enthusiasm with which we were received was in itself revealing.

On the question of assistance, we can give a general picture of the discussions which took place between the OAU Delegation and each country, since there were very striking similarities in the aid and assistance policies of these states.

Hence, the Scandinavian countries in general, have an aid policy considered "progressive" by Third World countries but highly selective;

- Progressive because it is granted preferably to liberation movements and primarily Frontline States;
- Selective because it is granted to a very limited number of states and movements to avoid according to the officials, exorbitant and management costs.

It should also be noted that 2/3 of the assistance preferably channelled through bilateral cooperation and the remaining 1/3 through the United Nations specialised agencies.

On each occasion, the OAU Delegation had to explain the aim of the mission by giving the background information to the establishment of the Committee of 19. It shared the alarming situation existing in Frontline States, as a result of the criminal acts of aggression perpetrated by the subject regime of South Africa.

Hence, by soliciting an emergency assistance, OAU was only drawing the attention to the collective responsibilities of the international community to the adverse effects of South African raids on the economies and development efforts of the countries which are subjected to daily attacks.

The Scandinavian countries, showed their programme of assistance to Frontline States and Liberation Movements. In any case, the assistance funds were on the increase.

Owing to the fact that assistance was subject to systematic planning, it was not possible for our hosts to make concrete offers; however, they all assured us that they had taken note of our requests and would take them into consideration for subsequent decision.

Discussions on the question of assistance invariably led to political issues, particularly on Namibia and Chad.

On Namibia, the Scandinavian countries shared the bitterness of the OAU on the failure of the Geneva talks. The OAU Delegation, consequently, reaffirmed its determination to continue to strongly support the liberation movement until final victory. It thanked the Scandinavian countries in particular for the legislative measures taken in support of the embargo on arms and oil supply to South Africa.

With regard to Chad, the delegation exercised caution limiting itself to general information and assuring our hosts of the determination and ability of Africa to solve this problem by its own means.

Missions to International Donor
Agencies in Europe

After the mission to the Scandinavian countries, the OAU Delegation of Ambassadors contacted the United Nations' Agencies and other institutions, namely :

- FAO, WFP, IFAD (ROME)
- WHO, UNHCR (GENEVA)
- UNIDO, OPEC (VIENNA)
- EEC (BRUSSELS)
- UNESCO, ACCT (PARIS)

Composition of the Delegation:

Togo, Tanzania, OAU General Secretariat.

As stated in the report submitted for your consideration, the delegation was warmly received by all and held fruitful discussions with all the institutions.

All the organizations, while showing their willingness to assist the OAU and the Frontline States, deeply deplored the fact that there were concrete projects on which practical decisions could have been taken.

It was, therefore, suggested that the OAU and more particularly the countries concerned to submit concrete projects for study and possible assistance. In the meantime, they all assured the OAU that they would increase their contributions to the Frontline States and possibly, intervene with other organizations for priority to be given to projects of the countries concerned.

CONCLUSION

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Report of the Chairman of the OAU Committee of 19

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