



**ORGANIZATION OF
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
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REPORT OF THE OAU SUB-COMMITTEE OF 19 ON ASSISTANCE TO
THE FRONTLINE STATES ON ITS MISSION TO THE SCANDINAVIAN
COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN EUROPE



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Introduction

1. During its Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in June 1980, the OAU Council of Ministers, adopted resolution CM/Res.786(XXXV) which reads as follows:

- "1. ADOPTS the Report of the Committee of 19 and endorses the recommendations therein;"
- "2. INVITES the Committee of 19 in collaboration with the Coordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa, to continue its work, including the assessment of the situation in the neighbouring countries;"
- "3. UNDERTAKES firmly again to give material and financial assistance to all the Frontline States;"
- "4. APPEALS to all the peace-loving countries of the world to grant assistance to the Frontline States namely: Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe and then combine their efforts with those of the African countries in order to strengthen the struggle against the racist Pretoria regime;"
- "5. CALLS on all regional and international organizations to continue to give priority

assistance to the Frontline States."

2. In adopting this resolution, the Council renewed its determination and solemn commitment to secure material and financial assistance for the Frontline States.

3. In adopting report CM/1045(XXXV), the Council also endorsed ipso facto, the setting up by the Committee of 19, of two sub-committees to undertake missions with a view to soliciting the necessary financial and material assistance, and oil supplies needed by the Frontline States, to enable them surmount the economic and social problems arising from the repeated acts of aggression perpetrated by the racist regime of South Africa.

4. It should be recalled that the OAU Committee of 19 on Assistance to the Frontline States appointed the following countries as members of the two sub-committees:

a) Sub-committee on financial and material assistance

1. Togo (Chairman)
2. Sudan (Rapporteur)
3. Nigeria (Member)

b) Sub-committee on supply of oil

1. Algeria (Chairman)
2. Cameroon (Rapporteur)
3. Zaire (Member)

5. It was further decided that the two Sub-committees should avail themselves of the services of the OAU General Secretariat for

the accomplishment of their missions.

6. Under Resolution CM/Res/786(XXXV) in pursuance of the recommendations contained in the afore-mentioned report, and in particular that concerning the mission entrusted to the two Sub-committees, the OAU Sub-committee of 19 on material and financial assistance to the Frontline States met in Addis Ababa, from 17 to 19 September 1980, and drew up its mission programme, according to which missions were to be carried out in five groups, to non-African States and financing agencies capable of granting urgent assistance to the Frontline States.

7. In compliance with its programme, the OAU Sub-committee of 19 on Assistance to the Frontline States made all necessary arrangements for the missions to be carried out to Scandinavian countries and International Institutions based in Europe.

8. The first group of the Sub-committee therefore visited Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. The second group contacted the following International Organizations: FAO, IFAD, WFP, WHO, UNHCR, UNIDO, OPEC, UNESCO/^{EEC} and ACCT (Cultural and Technical cooperation Agency).

I. Missions undertaken by the OAU Sub-committee of 19 to
Scandinavian countries

9. In compliance with the programme of visits drawn up in September 1980 by the OAU Sub-committee of 19 on Assistance to the Frontline States, the members of the Ad Hoc Sub-committee met as planned at the Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, on 25 January 1981 at 7:00 p.m., and left together for Copenhagen, Denmark, the first leg of their mission which took them, from 25 to 30 January 1981, to the Scandinavian countries: Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

10. The Delegation of the OAU Sub-committee was composed of: Togo (Chairman), Angola (Coordinator), Sudan (Member), Zambia (Member) as well as a representative of the OAU General Secretariat. It was led by Mr. CHEAKA Toure, Directeur de Cabinet, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Togo.

A. Mission of the OAU Sub-Committee of 19 to Denmark

11. The Sub-committee arrived in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 25 January 1981, in the evening. It was received the following day, 26 January 1981 at 11:00 a.m. by H.E. Ambassador P. DYVIG, Under Secretary of State at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and his assistants.

12. Ambassador P. DYVIG welcomed the OAU delegation on behalf of his Government. He then briefly spoke of the active role which has always been played by Denmark in support of African countries before inviting the Chairman of the OAU Sub-committee of 19 to explain the purpose of the mission.

13. The Chairman of the Sub-committee thanked the Danish Government for receiving the mission of the OAU Sub-committee. He then conveyed the apologies of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Togo who should have led the mission to the Scandinavian countries, but had been prevented at the last moment by political situation in Africa, particularly recent developments in Chad. In this respect, he mentioned the efforts made by Togo within the framework of OAU, to obtain peace and bring about reconciliation in Chad.

14. Mr. CHEAKA said the proposal by the Current Chairman of the OAU that a meeting be convened immediately on Chad was the main reason why the Togolese Minister of Foreign Affairs was unable to lead the delegation.

15. Speaking on the purpose of the mission, the Chairman of the Sub-committee first defined the mandate of the Sub-committee. He said that its mission consisted in seeking financial and material assistance, on behalf of independent Africa, for the Frontline States. The emergency aid sought in this respect was to help these countries, victims of repeated acts of aggression by the South African regime, to overcome their economic and social problems.

16. To enable the Danish delegation to better understand the problem, the Chairman of the Sub-committee gave the historical background of the Committee of 19 from its inception to the establishment of the two Sub-committees entrusted with actually undertaking the mission assigned to the OAU Committee of 19 on Assistance to the Frontline States. Unfortunately, the constraints imposed by the racist regime of South Africa on these States were such that the African countries with their limited resources were compelled to turn to those friendly countries which had always helped them, to request additional aid for the Frontline States. He said that the mission was an urgent appeal from the OAU to friendly countries which had always assisted African countries spontaneously and shown concern for the peoples fighting for their freedom. He further stated that the economic and social situation facing the Frontline States was in fact more than deplorable: the clinics, dispensaries, schools, bridges, roads - in short - the infrastructures of those countries had been destroyed by raids from South Africa. Hence, countries which love peace, freedom and justice should come to the aid of those States which are now targets of racist South Africa because they offered shelter to those fighting for freedom and independence.

17. The Chairman of the Sub-committee expressed on behalf of the

OAU sincere gratitude to the Danish Government for its assistance to Third World countries in general and the Frontline States in particular. In this regard, he acknowledged the very substantial contribution made by the Scandinavian countries to the Conference of Frontline States held recently in Maputo from 27 to 28 November 1980. He requested the Danish delegation to approach its Government on behalf of the Sub-committee of 19, for an urgent and concrete humanitarian assistance to the Frontline States either through the OAU or directly to the countries concerned while keeping the OAU informed.

18. In reply to the Chairman of the Sub-committee of 19, the Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Mr. DYVIG, first thanked the leader of the OAU delegation for his statement pointing out that the direct contact between the OAU and Danish delegations enabled him to understand all aspects of the problems confronting the Organization of African Unity. He indicated that he would make a report to his Government and then explained in detail the policy of Denmark towards African countries since African countries began to attain independence in the sixties. He said that the Danish Government had always placed special emphasis on development policy in its relations with African countries including the Frontline States. He further indicated that Denmark would continue to assist the Frontline States within the limits of its capacity.

19. The Under Secretary of State pointed out that his country's national budget had already been approved by Parliament. It would be necessary to wait until the next financial year before the question could be taken up first by the Government and then by Parliament before a concrete response could be given.

20. This meeting was followed by another informal one at 3:00 p.m. during which the Danish delegation received an in-depth briefing on

the burning issues of Africa namely the Chad question and the breakdown and failure, of the Conference on Namibia held last January in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations.

21. The Sub-committee left Copenhagen the same day at 6:00 p.m. for Oslo, Norway.

B. Mission of the OAU Sub-committee of 19 to Norway

22. The OAU Sub-committee of 19 arrived in Oslo, capital of Norway, on 26 January 1981, in the evening. It began discussions with the representatives of the Norwegian Government at 11:00 a.m. the following day. The Sub-committee first made a courtesy call on the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway before being received by Mr. Paal BOG, the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, to begin discussions on the specific purpose of the mission.

23. Mr. BOG began by welcoming members of the Sub-committee to his country. He pointed out that Norway was closely following the situation in Africa and wished to learn more about it from the OAU delegation.

24. The Chairman of the Sub-committee first thanked the Government of Norway for the welcome extended to his delegation. He explained why the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Togo who was to have led the delegation to the Scandinavian countries was absent and went on to define the objectives of the Sub-committee's mission. The Chairman briefly described the situation prevailing in the Frontline States and the problems brought about by the continued raids of the racist regime of South Africa. He stated the reasons that had prompted the OAU to set up the Committee of 10 which was later enlarged to

the Committee of 19. He said that the Committee's mission was to explore the possibilities of providing assistance for the Frontline States. Mr. CHEAKA explained in detail the mandate of the OAU Sub-Committee of 19 and gave the reasons for the countries selected. He said that the Sub-Committee's mission was to solicit humanitarian assistance for the Frontline States.

25. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee thanked Norway, on behalf of the African countries, for its pledge of contribution at the Maputo meeting in November 1980. He added that Africa had never entertained any doubts about the assistance from the Scandinavian Countries in general and Norway in particular. It was in fact, this confidence that accounted for the presence of an OAU delegation for additional emergency aid to cope with the critical situation prevailing in that part of Africa.

26. Replying on behalf of the Norwegian Government, Mr. BOG first spoke of the relations between his country and Africa dating back to the decolonization era.

27. On the question of assistance, Mr. BOG said that it had already been included by the Norwegian Government in its programmes for certain African countries including Tanzania. With regard to additional aid, the Norwegian Government spokesman said that it could not take a decision there and then. He pointed out that a decision of that nature should follow the procedure used in the adoption of the national budget: The Government must obtain the approval of Parliament before granting any aid whatsoever. He added that the Norwegian Government could, if necessary, extend its aid in the field of education to the children in the Frontline States from its contributions to the programmes it was implementing in African countries. He took note of the problem to be submitted in a report to his Government.

28. The working session was followed by an exchange of views on African problems, more precisely, on the situation in South Africa after the breakdown of the Geneva Conference on Namibia held in January 1981. The political situation in Chad was also discussed.

29. The Sub-Committee left Oslo the same day for Stockholm (Sweden), the third leg of its mission to the Scandinavian countries.

C. MISSION OF THE OAU SUB-COMMITTEE OF NINETEEN TO SWEDEN

30. The OAU Sub-Committee of Nineteen visited Stockholm, Sweden, from 27 to 29 January 1981. During this short period, it successively held discussions with Mr. Hans BLIX, Under-Secretary of State for Development and International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, and Mr. Curt STROM, Acting Director-General of the Swedish International Development Authority (S.I.D.A.).

31. The Sub-Committee was received at the Swedish Foreign Ministry on 28 January 1981 at 11 a.m. by Mr. BLIX, Under-Secretary of State and his assistants.

32. After the OAU delegation was welcomed by the Swedish representative, the Chairman of the Sub-Committee explained the aim of the Sub-Committee's mission. He first thanked Sweden on behalf of independent Africa for having agreed to receive the OAU mission, and especially for its policy towards the Third World in general and the Frontline countries in particular.

33. After reviewing the situation of the Frontline countries, he said that the purpose of the Sub-Committee's visit in Sweden was to seek material and financial assistance for these countries whose infrastructures had been destroyed by the Pretoria regime. What

was required was urgent humanitarian aid over and above the normal assistance granted by Sweden to individual African States to cope with an emergency situation. In this regard, he thanked the Swedish Government for its recent assistance to the Conference of the Frontline countries in Maputo.

34. He explained that if the OAU Sub-Committee of Nineteen had approached Sweden, it was because it had taken into consideration the following criteria regarding countries to be visited:-

- i) Countries friendly to Africa
- ii) Countries which have always supported the African cause
- iii) Countries capable of offering assistance

In conclusion, he said that the Sub-Committee had come to Sweden with the hope of obtaining concrete results so as to prepare a report for submission to the next Session of the Council of Ministers scheduled for February 1981 in Addis Ababa.

36. Speaking on behalf of the Swedish Government, Mr. BLIX, the Under-Secretary of State, pointed out that his country was committed to a long-term policy of cooperation and development towards the countries of Southern Africa including Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia and in the near future with independent Zimbabwe. He further stated that Sweden had given a special assistance to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Red Cross, as part of the Humanitarian Programme for Southern Africa. He mentioned Sweden's increasing support to liberation movements, such as SWAPO and ANC, refugees and other victims of South Africa's apartheid policy, as well as Sweden's contribution to training programmes through various international organizations as well as to United Nations Programmes.

37. The Under-Secretary of State stated that his Government had already submitted to Parliament the budget estimates for the 1981/82 financial year, which included Sweden's assistance to African countries. Nevertheless, he added, the programmes drawn up were not inflexible and they could be modified whenever necessary.

38. He said that his country which was in favour of dialogue was prepared to give due consideration to the problem submitted to it by the Sub-Committee and consider how best Sweden could respond to these problems as expeditiously as possible and increase its assistance.

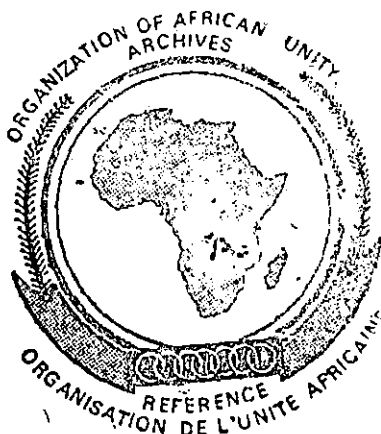
39. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee thus availed himself of the opportunity to thank Sweden for its readiness to assist Africa.

40. After these talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Sub-Committee went to S.I.D.A. and was received by Mr. Curt STROM, Deputy Director-General of the Authority.

41. Mr. STROM explained to members of the Sub-Committee, S.I.D.A.'s role in decision making on matters relating to bilateral cooperation for development. He pointed out that S.I.D.A. was responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Swedish bilateral cooperation for development. The Sub-Committee and the officials of S.I.D.A. then exchanged views on the OAU mission.

42. Mr. STROM briefed the Sub-Committee on S.I.D.A.'s scope of activities and its limitations in the field of cooperation. He underscored the Parliament's role in his Government's decisions.

43. After hearing the explanations of the OAU delegation, the S.I.D.A. Director-General said he had taken good note of the request of the OAU and that S.I.D.A. which understood the urgency



of the matter would consider it accordingly.

44. The Sub-Committee left Stockholm the next day, 29 January, 1981 for Helsinki, Finland.

D. MISSION OF THE OAU COMMITTEE OF NINETEEN TO FINLAND

45. The mission of the OAU Sub-Committee of Nineteen to Helsinki started on 30 January 1981 at 9.30 a.m. with a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Paavo VAYRYNEM, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

46. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee first thanked the Minister for receiving the delegation. He went on to explain the aim of the mission, stressing the difficulties facing the Frontline countries and OAU's reasons for undertaking this mission to secure assistance from countries which were in a position to provide the financial and material assistance needed by the Frontline countries. He thanked the Minister for Finland's usual contribution to African countries.

47. The Minister said he was happy to receive for the first time, a delegation from the OAU and to hold fruitful talks with representatives of the Pan-African Organization. He referred to Finland's aid to Africa including most of the Frontline countries as well as to his country's recent pledging declaration at the Maputo meeting. He declared that his government was willing to consider OAU's requests which he said would be taken into consideration in future during the drafting of the budget. He said that being a rather small country, Finland could assist only within the limits of its capabilities. He expressed the hope that other countries would follow its example.

48. The talks with the Foreign Minister were followed by a working session at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during which the OAU Sub-Committee and the Finnish representatives, at the request of Finland which was interested in African problems reviewed the general political situation in Africa and especially the Chadian and Namibian questions.

49. At this sitting, the Finnish representatives explained to the Sub-Committee the various projects and programmes of assistance implemented by Finland under bilateral cooperation with the following African countries: Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya and Egypt.

50. The Finnish representatives added that Finland's cooperation was extended to non-African countries such as Sri-Lanka and Vietnam and spoke of the possibility of increasing the number of countries to be assisted in the next two years. They went on to say that Finland was also implementing projects within the framework of multilateral cooperation jointly with international organizations and United Nations Specialized Agencies.

51. If at present, Finland was not in a position to provide the Frontline countries with cash, it could at least help implement the priority programmes of these countries through the financing institutions with which it has relations of cooperation. However, to secure their assistance, projects must be clearly defined and well formulated.

52. The OAU Sub-Committee of Nineteen ended its mission in Helsinki with a Press Conference organized at the Press Headquarters. This Conference offered the Sub-Committee the opportunity to inform the Scandinavian countries about its mission.

II. MISSION OF THE OAU SUB-COMMITTEE OF NINETEEN TO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN EUROPE

53. In compliance with the programme prepared in September 1980 by the OAU Sub-Committee of Nineteen for assistance to the Frontline countries, this group charged with the responsibility of establishing contacts with international institutions in Europe, went from 2 to 13 February 1981 successively to the Headquarters of the following institutions: WFP, FAO, IFAD, WHO, UNHCR, UNIDO, OPEC, EEC, UNESCO and ACCT (Cultural and Technical Cooperation Agency).

54. The delegation of the Sub-Committee of Nineteen which visited the above-mentioned Institutions, was composed of H.E. D. ALI, Ambassador of Togo to Paris and Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Mr. Jodo da Silva ATAIDE, Mozambique's Chargé d'Affaires in Lisbon and Coordinator for the Frontline countries, and Mr. Ngung MPWOTSH, Representative of the OAU General Secretariat.

Nigeria and Sudan which were to be members of the delegation had earlier indicated their inability to participate.

55. The delegation of the OAU Sub-Committee of Nineteen responsible for establishing contacts with International Institutions with Headquarters in Europe started its mission on 2 February 1981 with Rome. During its stay in the Italian capital, the delegation was successively received by officials of the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as well as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

1. Visit to the WFP Headquarters in Rome : 2 February 1981

56. The delegation of the Sub-Committee was received at the WFP Headquarters on 2 February 1981 at 11 a.m. by Mr. Bernardo de AZEVEDO BRITO Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

57. The Head of delegation of the sub-committee of 19 first thanked the Representative of the WFP Director-General for organizing the meeting with the OAU mission. After conveying the apologies of the Representatives of Nigeria and the Sudan who were held up by other engagements, the Chairman of the sub-committee briefly presented the precarious economic and social situation of Frontline States, resulting from the continued attacks from the South African regime. He then gave the reasons which had prompted the Organisation of African Unity to set up the Committee of 10 which was later enlarged to a Committee of 19 entrusted with the task of seeking the material and financial assistance needed by the Frontline States to enable them to rebuild their economies destroyed by the racist regime of Pretoria. In his statement, he stressed that Africa was looking forward to an emergency assistance from friendly countries and institutions capable of assisting Frontline States.

58. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee commended the efforts made by WFP to assist African countries. He explained that Africa which was already receiving a substantial assistance from WFP once again turned to the latter for a supplementary effort because of the disastrous situation in the Frontline States. He stated further that within the African context, some countries such as Algeria, Nigeria and Togo had made offers within their means. He hoped other countries would follow their example.

59. Replying to the Sub-Committee's request, the Representative of the Director-General observed that WFP was mainly concerned with food programmes and projects. It's primary objective was to increase the development programme which would enable states to achieve a self-sufficiency in food. To this end, he cited seven countries, including the Frontline States, with which WFP was carrying out development projects in the different areas, such as

forestry, dairy and so on. These countries were Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. He pointed out that WFP devoted about 90 percent of its budget to development programmes and 10 percent to emergency assistance, which was very low. Emergency cases applied only to a specific, precise and clear situation such as flood or draught. In all these cases, the assistance given was free, but subject to prior approval from the Director-General.

60. The Assistant Director-General stated that WFP could offer further assistance to Frontline States in the implementation of their programmes and projects. Hence well defined proposals should be submitted to the organization which would give them due consideration in conformity with the rules and regulations. Mr. Bernardo told the Sub-Committee that WFP was currently increasing its assistance to African countries.

2. Visit to FAO Headquarters in Rome

3 February 1981

61. The delegation of the OAU Committee of 19 was first received by the FAO Deputy Director-General on 3 February 1981 at 10.00 a.m. for a working session and later, by the Director-General himself.

62. The Chairman of the Committee first thanked the Director-General through its Representative for the hospitality accorded to the OAU delegation. He gave the historical background of the OAU Committee of 19 and indicated the aim of the mission. He further stressed that OAU was making an urgent appeal to FAO for emergency assistance on behalf of the Front Line States.

63. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee congratulated FAO on behalf of the OAU for its usual assistance to African countries. He added that the supplementary assistance requested by OAU would enable the

Frontline States to overcome their economic and social difficulties, resulting from the acts of aggression perpetuated by the Pretoria Regime. He observed that FAO could grant that emergency assistance directly to individual Frontline States and then inform the OAU.

64. The Deputy Director-General underscored the relations which had existed so far between FAO and OAU which had always pursued the same goals as during the preparation of the Lagos Plan of Action. He explained that FAO was not a funding organization. The Funds earmarked for FAO technical cooperation were low. He added that what FAO could do was to persuade some United Nations funding organisations such as UNDP to implement emergency projects for the Frontline States.

65. After these discussions, the Sub-Committee had talks with the various FAO Heads of Sections before being received by the Director-General. The talks were based on the different projects being implemented by FAO in the Frontline States. The FAO experts explained, in detail, the scope and diverse nature of the assistance FAO had so far given to Southern African States, particularly the Frontline States. They underlined the campaign being undertaken by the FAO Director-General to mobilize funds for an emergency assistance to 26 African countries, including all the Frontline States, which had suffered from famine caused mainly by draught, locusts, armed conflicts and influx of refugees into some regions. The FAO experts provided the Sub-Committee with document with a summary of projects financed by FAO.

66. Upon receiving the Sub-Committee, the Director-General agreed that the OAU was right in appealing to the International Community for emergency assistance. He added that had the OAU mission come two months earlier, in other words, immediately after the Pledging Conference held in September 1980, it would have obtained a more substantial assistance. Unfortunately, the delegation arrived when contributions had already been pledged.

67. The Director-General declared that he was ready to devote special attention to the problem within the framework of an Emergency Food assistance programme if a formal application were submitted for the year 1981. In view of the fact that FAO only dealt directly with Governments, the Frontline States would have to demonstrate their interest by collaborating closely with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. In this connection, he intimated that he intended opening two FAO offices in Angola and Zimbabwe to facilitate contacts between the Organization and the Governments of those countries.

In conclusion, he emphasised that all things being equal, he would ensure that the Frontline States were given priority in the implementation of FAO programmes.

3. VISIT TO IFAD HEADQUARTERS IN ROME

4 February 1981

68. The leader of the mission, Ambassador D. Ali, having been recalled urgently to Paris, the Chargé d'Affaires of Mozambique in Lisbon and the Representative of the OAU General Secretariat were received by H.E. Abdelmuhsin M. Al-Sudeary, President of IFAD on 4 February 1981, at 10 a.m.

69. After apologising for the absence of Ambassador Ali who had been recalled urgently to Paris the previous day, the representative of Mozambique gave the background to the establishment of the OAU Committee of 19, before briefing the IFAD President about the purpose of the mission which was to request institutions capable of doing so, to give emergency assistance to the Front Line States.

70. Responding to the request made by the OAU mission, the President of IFAD, first described the International Fund for Agricultural Development as a UN Specialised Agency whose main objective is to help developing countries increase their food production, improve nutrition and fight against poverty in rural areas. Consequently, IFAD could not give emergency assistance in kind. The President informed the mission that IFAD was financing projects in African countries including Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It could offer further assistance to the Front Line States under its co-operation with certain Banking Institutions which finance IFAD projects. He promised to establish further contacts with African countries to help them understand the importance and activities of IFAD.

4.

VISIT TO WHO HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA5 February 1981

71 The delegation of the OAU Sub-Committee was received at the World Health Organization Headquarters in Geneva, by the Director-General of the Organization on 5 February 1981, at 4 p.m. and Dr. Quenum; WHO Regional Director for Africa. The OAU delegation was lead by H.E. Mr. A. AGBENOU, Ambassador of Togo in Bonn, in the place of Ambassador D. ALI, who was recalled urgently to Paris from Rome.

72. Ambassador AGBENOU first thanked the WHO Director-General on behalf of the OAU for the activities undertaken by his Organization in Africa. He told the Head of WHO that the OAU was expecting additional effort from the World Health Organization in its specific field to alleviate sufferings in the Front Line States. He intimated that the current OAU Sub-Committee mission was aimed at informing and making States and International institutions aware of the situation prevailing in the Front Line States which continued to worsen as a result of persistent acts of aggression by South Africa. He requested that, should the WHO be in a position to respond positively to the urgent appeal, it should do so through the OAU, or inform its General Secretariat.

73. In his reply to the Sub-Committee, the Director-General stated that WHO had always responded positively to Africa's call. The Organization had always maintained good relations with Liberation Movements, within the framework of its competence. He pointed out that WHO had a regular Budget which can only be modified in accordance with certain procedures laid down by the United Nations Regulations. In any case, he added, in view of the fact that it was WHO's duty to support Government actions, it was the responsibility of the States concerned to submit specific programmes.

74. He stated further that the OAU message had been well noted and that the Organization would continue to support OAU actions within the means at its disposal and, if OAU could mobilise the moral will of the African countries to submit specific programmes, the work of WHO would be facilitated.

5. VISIT TO THE UNHCR HEADQUARTERS; GENEVA

6 February 1981

75. The delegation of the Sub-Committee visited the main office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 6 February 1981, where it was received by Mr. HARTLING, High Commissioner.

76. Aware of the efforts made by the UNHCR in Africa which alone had 50% of the world refugees, the Sub-Committee stated that the purpose of its visit was to inform the UNHCR of the situation in Africa and support its activity in the field of refugees which concerned primarily the Front Line States.

77. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees thanked the Sub-Committee for the visit. He mentioned the special attention the UNHCR paid to refugee problems in Africa. He explained the current moves undertaken by the UNHCR for the preparation of an international conference to be held in Geneva from 9 to 10 April, 1981. He pointed out that the above-mentioned conference pursued the same objectives as the OAU mission that consisted in mobilising additional resources for the implementation of programmes in favour of refugees in Africa and also in assisting host countries. He said that all OAU Member States would participate in the conference. The Specialised Agencies of the United Nations and the OAU as well as African Liberation Movements would be invited as observers.

78. The Sub-Committee availed itself of that opportunity to declare its support for the UNHCR action.

6. VISIT TO THE UNIDO HEADQUARTERS, VIENNA

9 February 1981

79. The delegation of the OAU Sub-Committee of 19 was welcomed at the UNIDO Headquarters on 9 February 1981, by Mr. CARRE, Deputy Executive Director.

80. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee stated the objectives of the mission namely to apprise the agencies of the increasing difficulties faced by Frontline States, encourage the agencies in their activities and request them to step up their assistance in their respective fields.

81. The representative of the Director General informed the OAU delegation that UNIDO had only limited resources. It depended on the UNDP. Mr. CARRE added that, in pursuance of certain resolutions of the United Nations, UNIDO had made special efforts in favour of Frontline States. He explained the various programmes implemented by UNIDO in Mozambique, Zambia and Angola. He pointed out that special attention was given to Zimbabwe, particularly after its independence and the cooperation existing with Tanzania.

82. Mr. CARRE stated that, in the light of the situation obtaining in the Frontline States, UNIDO, was ready to consider the possibility of increasing its activity, for example, in the fields of assistance to refugees, and training as is the case with Namibia where UNIDO had a programme. Mr. CARRE added that notwithstanding the limited financial resources of UNIDO, it could however put some technological skills at the disposal of these countries. He mentioned the

cooperation that existed between UNIDO and the OAU General Secretariat in the field of training.

83. Mr. CARRE pointed out that if OAU could find sources of finance, UNIDO was prepared to provide it with technological skills. In this connection, he suggested that the OAU delegation should avail itself of its stay in Vienna to get in touch with the OPEC Special Fund.

84. The talks with the Deputy Executive Director were followed by a working session with Heads of the various UNIDO sections at 4 p.m. At the end of this session, UNIDO was ready to accept priority projects which the OAU would like to see implemented and to defend them at the next meeting of the United Nations Agencies to be held in April 1981, in Addis Ababa, in collaboration with banking institutions such as the ADB, BADEA, etc...

85. UNIDO requested the Sub-Committee, to communicate immediately after its mission of the Frontline States' priority projects in the field of training before the meeting of April 1981. If there were a general request from the Frontline countries, UNIDO would be able to study it at regional level. The UNIDO representatives stressed the need to maintain permanent contact with the OAU.

7. VISIT TO THE OPEC HEADQUARTERS, VIENNA

10 February 1981

86. At 11 O'clock on 10 February 1981, the delegation of the Sub-Committee proceeded to the OPEC Special Fund Headquarters where it was received by Dr. Ibrahim F.I. SHIHATA, Director-General.

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee explained the purpose of the visit as a mission of contact to inform institutions capable of providing assistance about the disastrous economic and social situations of Frontline States and consider together to what extent emergency aid could be given to them.

87. The Director General of the Fund declared his readiness to help in the field of funding projects or programmes of Frontline States provided that the latter made a request which would be considered by the Head Office.

8. VISIT TO THE EEC HEADQUARTERS, BRUSSELS

11 February 1981

88. Before proceeding to the EEC Headquarters, the Sub-Committee had a meeting with African Ambassadors, members of the OAU Committee of 19, at the ACP House. At the end of this short consultation, the representatives of Nigeria and the Sudan, who so far had not formed part of the delegation, joined the other members of the Sub-Committee to participate in the visit to the EEC Headquarters.

The Sub-Committee was received at the EEC Headquarters by Mr. M. FOLEY, Acting Director General for Development, together with his close colleagues.

89. The delegation of the OAU Sub-Committee, led by H.E. Mr. Agbenou, Ambassador of Togo to Bonn, was joined by His Excellency Mr. K. Dagadou, Ambassador of Togo and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps, their Excellencies Chief AFOLABI and M. SIDDIG, Ambassadors of Nigeria and the Sudan to Brussels respectively.

90. The delegation of the Sub-Committee informed the representatives of the European Economic Community that it had been mandated by the OAU Council of Ministers, as Sub-Committee of 19, to draw the attention of the international community to the increasing difficulties faced by Frontline States in their struggle against apartheid in South Africa. The delegation thanked the Community for the humanitarian assistance provided through the machinery of the Lome Convention within the framework of initiatives taken at the coordinating conference on Development in Southern Africa held in Maputo and within the framework of the United Nations Institute for Namibia. The delegation called for additional efforts on the part of the community, considering the increase in violence in this part of Africa.

91. The representatives of the European Economic Community stressed the cooperation existing between the EEC and Frontline States as well as the commitment of the Community which spends more than 150 million American dollars per annum on Southern African countries. They stated that this amount could be increased with the Lome II Convention.

92. The EEC representative pointed out that he would make a report to the Commission and the Economic Council on the issues raised by the OAU delegation in order to enable them to consider the possibility of granting additional assistance to Frontline States.

93. Both parties agreed that this first meeting between the OAU delegation and the European Economic Community should be considered as the beginning of a dialogue with a view to mobilising necessary economic and humanitarian assistance for the Frontline States. After this meeting a press release was published.

9. VISIT TO THE UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, PARIS

13 February 1981

94. The delegation of the Sub-Committee, led by H.E. D. Ali, Ambassador of Togo to Paris, was received by Mr. M. MBOW, Director General of UNESCO, accompanied by Mr. J.B. KABORE, Assistant Deputy Director General, and Mr. Y. LIJADU, Head of Africa Division.

95. The Director General of UNESCO listened to the statement made by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the purpose of the mission. He praised the OAU's initiative to seek emergency assistance for the Frontline States. He pointed out that UNESCO supported the United Nations programmes for Southern Africa aimed at assisting countries of the region to become more self-reliant. UNESCO's action, he added, was geared towards free development which excluded the type of development that sought to keep some countries in conditions of perpetual dependence. That is why UNESCO gave priority to education.

96. As far as UNESCO's assistance was concerned, the Director-General pointed out that UNESCO was not a funding agency and could only help in the field within its competence namely the technical field by putting at the disposal of the States concerned the skills needed for the preparation of projects and programmes.

He indicated that in some of the contacts he would have with some Financing Institutions, he could plead in favour of the Frontline States. He finally expressed the wish that the discussion thus started would be continued.

10. Visit to the Headquarters of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation - Paris, 13 February, 1981.

97. The delegation of the OAU Sub-Committee visited the Headquarters of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation on 13 February, 1981 at 3.00 p.m.

It was welcomed by the Secretary-General of the Agency Mr. M. Dan Dicko.

98. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee stated that the purpose of the visit was to obtain aid for the Frontline States, on behalf of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

99. The Secretary-General of the Agency pointed out that the Agency deals mainly with cultural matters. He emphasised the fact that the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation was an open Agency although it basically catered for French speaking countries. It provided assistance in its specific field, that is in training and culture. It could therefore offer scholarships to Frontline States for the training and advanced training of civil servants of these States. He asked the OAU to facilitate contacts between the Frontline States and the Agency in areas where the Agency could be useful.

100. The OAU Sub-Committee of 19 entrusted with establishing contact with International Institutions in Europe ended its mission on 13 February 1981 at 4.00 p.m.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

101. At the end of the mission of the OAU Committee of 19 on Material and Financial Assistance to the Frontline States, it is relevant to sum up the representations made to the Scandinavian Countries and Specialized Agencies based in Europe.

102. The mission per se was necessary. It afforded the Scandinavian Countries visited the opportunity to listen for the first time to the voice of Africa through a mission of the Organization of African Unity, thus marking the beginning of a dialogue between those Countries and the OAU.

103. This mission definitely has the merit of making the Scandinavian Governments aware of the problems facing the Frontline States. Indeed throughout the discussions that the Sub-Committee had with them, the Countries visited showed understanding and willingness to help the Frontline States.

104. On the whole, they agreed to bear in mind OAU's request when planning their assistance programme to African Countries, since most of these Countries have already adopted their budgets for the financial year 1981/82.

105. It would be unrealistic to expect immediate results since budgets in these Countries are adopted after lengthy procedures. Government proposals or estimates must first be approved by Parliament before they are implemented.

106. The Countries visited asked that specific projects be submitted to them in time for consideration. It is therefore necessary in this / context for the OAU to maintain follow-up contacts with the Scandinavian Countries.

107. The same response was shown by the Heads of Institutions visited. The International Institutions which are more or less operational were ready to co-operate with the Frontline States in the implementation of their projects and emergency programmes.

108. Emerging projects or programmes should therefore reach the appropriate Institutions as soon as possible.

109. The Institutions stressed their willingness to provide Technical Staff, if necessary to the Frontline States, to prepare emergency project documents upon request.

110. It is therefore desirable in both cases, that the contact established with the Scandinavian Countries and International Institutions be followed up to ensure greater co-operation through the OAU.

Mission of the OAU Sub-Committee of 19 to the Scandinavian
Countries

OAU Delegation

Country	Representative	Title
1. Togo (Chairman)	M. CHEAKA Touré	Directeur de Cabinet Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Co-operation
	H.E. D. Ali	Togo's Ambassador to Paris
	H.E. A. AGBENOU	Togo's Ambassador to Bonn
2. Angola (Co-ordinator)	H.E. OLGA Lima	Ambassador, Director of Political Affairs
3. Nigeria (member)	H.E. A.G. SOBIR	Nigerian Ambassador to the Scandinavian Countries
4. Sudan (member)	H.E. E.A. ELAMIN	Sudan's Ambassador to the Scandinavian Countries
5. Zambia (member)	H.E. K. KANGWA	Zambia's Ambassador for International Co- operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lusaka
General Secretariat	M. NGUNG MPWOTSH	Chief of General Poli- tical Affairs.

048/81

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria presents its compliments to the General Secretariat of the Organisation of African Unity and with reference to its Note No.047B/81 of 23rd February, 1981, has the honour to request that the attached document on the Proposal for the Establishment of an OAU Boundaries Commission be circulated to all OAU Member States during the current meeting of the 36th Session of the Council of Ministers.

The document is being submitted now with the hope that all Member-States will be able to familiarise themselves with its contents as well as make appropriate comments on them to allow for a useful discussion of the item at the 37th Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers.

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the General Secretariat of the Organisation of African Unity the assurances of its highest consideration.

Addis Ababa, 24 February, 1981

The General Secretariat
Organisation of African Unity
Addis Ababa.

Proposal for the Establishment of an
OAU Boundaries Commission

The problems caused by the indeterminate character of most African boundaries are becoming very grave, and require urgent attention at the continental level. In many cases, some inter-African borders are ill-defined, and even where they are clearly defined, such borders are often not well-demarcated. In virtually all cases, these borders are colonial legacies, the product of European rivalries and territorial acquisitions in Africa. Even though these boundaries have been accepted, on the whole, in post-colonial Africa, there are often unintended border violations generally by the security police because of the lack of well-defined alignments and demarcations.

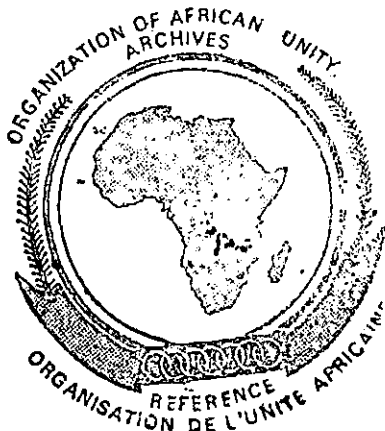
Apart from the problems caused by the indeterminate character of land boundaries, there is even greater uncertainty over maritime boundaries, some of which remain largely ill-defined. The existence of an ill-defined maritime boundary constitutes such a serious potential for tensions and border conflicts in Africa, that no time should be further lost in resolving this serious problem.

In the light of these considerations, it is considered desirable that an OAU Boundaries Commission be created to which all issues relating to border problems, and on which bilateral agreement is not reached, may be referred, where the parties concerned agree to do so. The essence of this proposal is to de-politicise border problems, so that they are then considered, in the main, as technical problems. The Commission will consist of experts, and all OAU member states will have the right to be represented on the Commission whenever cases in which they have a direct interest are referred to it.

Functions - The Commission will have the following functions :-

- (i) to liaise with boundaries Commission in member states and serve as a clearing house for the boundary claims of member states;
- (ii) to engage in the registration of claims and of agreed alignments, thereby providing a multilateral notification system which will help in resolving boundary problems;
- (iii) to organise a pool of boundary service corps from which boundary experts can be seconded to member states lacking such skilled personnel;
- (iv) to serve as the repository of the official maps of member states, which will make it easier to determine future boundary disputes between member states; and
- (v) to assist member states in resolving border disputes.

Nigerian Delegation.



1981-02

Report of the OAU Sub-Committee of 19 on Assistance to the Frontline States on its Mission to the Scandinavian Countries and International Institutions in Europe

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