



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat  
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منظمة الوحدة الافريقية  
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFICAINE**

Secretariat  
B. P. 3243

الجنس الثاني \* Ababa

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Annex II

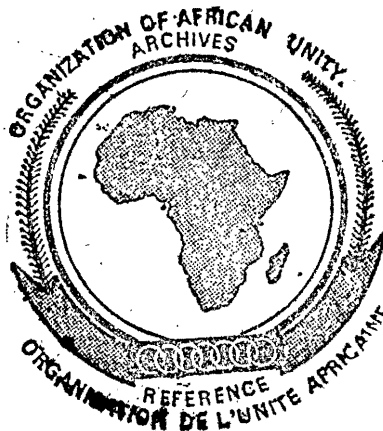
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REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES  
OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE OAU (PERMANENT DELEGATION OF  
THE OAU ACCREDITED TO THE EUROPEAN OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS)  
IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, COVERING THE PERIOD  
FROM 1 JUNE 1976 TO 31 MAY 1977 INCLUSIVE



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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE O.A.U. (PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE O.A.U.  
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Introduction

It is four years since the Executive Secretariat of the OAU was opened in Geneva. Over this period the functions of the Executive Secretariat have increased immensely.

Among its functions, the office serves as Secretariat for co-ordinating the activities of the African Group in Geneva, and as centre of information on OAU Policies and activities. The Executive Secretariat also represents the OAU in the United Nations system by virtue of its accreditation to the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva. On the basis of this accreditation the Executive Secretariat attends, as directed by the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU, as well as at its own initiative, any meetings and/or conferences of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies held in Geneva or elsewhere in Europe where these meetings and/or conferences are relevant, important and significant to the OAU and its Member States. Further, the OAU has over the years entered into co-operation agreements with the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, and an important aspect of the function of the Executive Secretariat has been to facilitate the concrete realization of the various programmes under these agreements. Finally, the Executive Secretariat is charged with direct contacts with non-governmental organizations and institutions whose activities contribute significantly to the struggle for majority rule and against white racism in Southern Africa.

Shortage of staff has however continued to be a major problem facing the Executive Secretariat. Greater effectiveness of the office could be achieved with greater augmentation of the staff.

With a view to strengthening the Geneva office, the African Group in Geneva has already proposed to the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU that additional competent and adequately qualified staff be recruited as soon as possible to serve at the Geneva Office.

The African Group has also proposed that the General Secretariat of the OAU should take a close look at the very serious cash-flow problem that has plagued the Geneva office during most of the four-year period of its existence with a view to finding a final solution.

(A) POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

(1) The Geneva Conference on the future of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)

Among the most important activities carried out by the Executive Secretariat in the political field during the period under review, related to the above-mentioned Conference which was convened by the British Government in Geneva from October 28 to December 15, 1976.

In convening the Conference the British Government was exercising one of the residual powers it reserved with itself as the colonial power under the 1923 Constitution which conferred self-rule to the white settler minority in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). These powers include:

- (i) External Affairs;
- (ii) Defence in the sense that the British Governor was the Commander-in-Chief of the Rhodesian Armed Forces;
- (iii) Constitution Affairs.

The purpose of the Geneva Conference was about the transfer of power to the majority in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) within a two-year time frame.

Unfortunately, due largely to the intransigence of Mr. Smith and members of his illegal regime, the Conference adjourned sine die on December 15, 1976, without reaching any formal agreement.

(a) Role of the Executive Secretariat

As soon as the Zimbabwe nationalist delegations arrived in Geneva, the Executive Secretariat spared no effort to give them all possible technical assistance, as directed by the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU.

The Executive Secretariat also fully co-operated with the official OAU delegation to the Conference (which comprised Sir Harold Walter, Foreign Minister of Mauritius and the then Chairman of the OAU Council of Ministers, and H.E. Colonel Joseph Garba, Foreign Minister of Nigeria), and with the representatives of the "Frontline States" who had arrived in Geneva to provide useful contact points for the Zimbabwe nationalist delegations.

Moreover, the Executive Secretariat kept the Chairman and members of the African Group in Geneva fully informed about the progress of the Conference. Similarly, the office kept the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU fully posted by way of telex on the day-to-day developments.

After the adjournment of the Conference the Executive Secretariat prepared and forwarded to the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU a full report on the Conference.

(b) Venue for the Conference

It may be casually mentioned here that the choice of Geneva as venue for the Conference was a bit unfortunate as it proves most unsuitable to the Zimbabwe nationalist delegations because, among other things, it is too expensive. It was confirmed by the nationalist delegations that the choice of Geneva as venue for the Conference was made by the British Government without consultation with the nationalist leaders even though the former British Foreign Secretary, H.E. Mr. Crosland, had announced in the British Parliament on 29th September 1976 that the Conference "to form an interim Government (in Rhodesia) would be held within the next few weeks anywhere in Southern Africa acceptable to the Rhodesians and Africans".

Worse still, the British Government had decided to pay hotel expenses for only nine delegates from each of the four Zimbabwe nationalist delegations. Yet, the nationalist delegations were obliged to bring to Geneva up to forty delegates each in order to produce a representative group. They had therefore to find money to pay for each of the thirty-one odd delegates. This was beyond their means. They lodged a formal protest with the British Government on this matter but the British Government flatly refused to change its decision.

In the circumstances, the Zimbabwe nationalist delegations were compelled to appeal for donations. The Scandinavian countries responded speedily and favourably to the appeal by granting, through the International University Exchange Fund which has its headquarters in Geneva, a total sum of Swiss Francs 170,000 or US. dollars 70,833.34 equivalent which the nationalist delegations divided equally among themselves.

As this report was being written the British Government was making yet another attempt to convene a constitutional conference on Rhodesia in June or July 1977 with a view to bringing about majority rule in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) through negotiations.

(2) Southern Africa

The liberation of Southern Africa still under white minority and racist regimes has continued to remain one of the major preoccupations of the Executive Secretariat.

Within the framework of the resolutions and declarations adopted by the Assembly of the O.A.U. Heads of State and Government, the Executive Secretariat initiated, during the year under review, several actions designed to mobilize world opinion against the racist regimes in Southern Africa.

One of such actions led to the adoption by the Human Rights Commission (an important body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council) at its thirty-third session held in Geneva from February 7 to March 11, of two important resolutions on the situation of human rights in Southern Africa. The first, containing three parts: A, B and C is on the report of the Ad hoc Working Group of Experts on the situation of human rights in Southern Africa; the second deals with political, military, economic and other assistance being given to the racist and colonial regimes in this part of the African continent.

Part A of the first resolution deals with the situation of human rights in Southern Africa as a whole and adopts the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad hoc working Group. It takes account of recent developments in South Africa, including apartheid in general and the Soweto massacres; of Namibia, in the case of which it condemns the "so-called constitutional conference" of Windhoek, and of Zimbabwe, in the case of which it recommends intensified humanitarian co-operation from the United Nations, and assistance to its neighbouring countries.

The resolution's Part B asks the Ad hoc Working Group to report on the treatment of prisoners in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Part C of the resolution deals with Namibia's status as a United Nations administered territory and seeks to protect its human and natural resources against abuse.

The second resolution (Annex I) "denounces and condemns" political, military and economic assistance that certain States are giving to South Africa and the illegal regime in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). It holds all forms of such assistance to be acts of complicity in the crime of apartheid.

(a) Non-governmental organizations

The Executive Secretariat has also used the opportunity of its contacts with non-governmental organizations and institutions in Europe to launch a fervent appeal to them to persuade their Governments to sever all commercial and sporting links with the racist regimes in Southern Africa and in this way show solidarity with the national liberation movements.

(b) National Liberation Movements

The United Nations General Assembly and the O.A.U. have regularly adopted resolutions on moral and material assistance to the national liberation movements in Southern Africa and on recognition of these movements by the international community as the sole authentic representatives of their peoples.

During the past twelve months, the Executive Secretariat has spared no effort to ensure that the said resolutions of the General Assembly and the O.A.U. are implemented by the international community and especially by the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations Organization.

Specifically the Executive Secretariat has repeatedly called for increased humanitarian assistance to the national

liberation movements in Southern Africa, and has advocated the need for the Specialized Agencies to show greater flexibility and co-ordination in rendering such assistance.

(3) Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law (Fourth Session), Geneva, 14 April - June 1977

The Executive Secretariat's involvement in the work of the Fourth Session of the above-mentioned Conference convened by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to up-date the 1949 Geneva Conventions which have governed the treatment of prisoners of war over a period of nearly three decades, represents another important political activity which the Executive Secretariat carried out during the period under review.

The Executive Secretariat participated actively in the said session of the Conference, and co-ordinated the action of the African Group.

The African Group was instrumental in the adoption by the Conference of two important proposals concerning guerrillas and mercenaries, respectively.

The proposal on guerrillas is in the form of Article 42 which has since been added to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Protocols. It extends, for the first time, the rights of prisoners of war to guerrillas throughout the world.

The article was accepted by a big majority of delegations participating in the Fourth session of the Conference. Two delegations (Israel and Brazil) voted against the article.

The leader of the Israel delegation described the adoption of Article 42 by the Conference as "the end of Humanitarian Law". He also claimed that it "will encourage terrorism because anyone attacking a plane in a foreign country will now get a prisoner of war status".



Article 42, however, does not use the word "guerrillas", but refers only to "combatants". The article was drafted as a result of increasing incidence of guerrilla warfare throughout the world, and its adoption henceforth assures all "combatants" - regular soldiers and others - of the right to Red Cross protection.

The proposal on mercenaries was adopted by the Conference by consensus. It DENIES mercenaries the status of combatants and prisoners of war and, therefore, direct denial for them of the benefits of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and protocols.

#### (B) ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Concomitantly with political activities, the Executive Secretariat has carried out activities in the economic field. These too have been wide-ranging, important and significant to the interests of the O.A.U. and its Member States.

During the period under review, the Executive Secretariat represented the O.A.U., and assisted the African Group at the following major meetings of economic and social character held in Geneva:

- (i) 29th World Health Assembly and Executive Board, Geneva, 3 - 21 May, 1976;
- (ii) International Conference of ILO (63rd Session), Geneva, 1 - 23 June, 1976;
- (iii) 22nd Session of UNDP Governing Council, Geneva, 15 June - 5 July, 1976;
- (iv) ECOSOC: 61st (Summer) Session, Geneva, 12 July - 5 August, 1976;

- (v) UNCTAD: Trade and Development Board,  
Geneva, 5 - 23 October, 1976;
- (vi) Preparatory meetings on a Common Fund,  
Geneva, w.e.f. 29 November 1976;
- (vii) 61st Session of the International Labour Conference,  
Geneva, 2 - 29 June, 1976;
- (viii) Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund,  
Geneva, 7 March - 1 April, 1977;
- (ix) 30th World Health Assembly and Executive Board,  
Geneva, 2 May - June 1977.

Since a full report on the results of each of the above-listed meetings was prepared and forwarded to the Administrative Secretary-General of the O.A.U., they need only a brief mention here.

(a) ECOSOC: 61st (Summer) Session

The 61st Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was held in two parts: the first part in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, from 30 June to 9 July 1976; and the second part in Geneva from 12 July to 6 August, 1976.

The Abidjan session marked the first time that the ECOSOC met on the African soil. The session was devoted to the general discussion on economic and social problems.

President Houphouet-Boigny of the Republic of Ivory Coast addressed the opening meeting.

At the conclusion of its general discussion ECOSOC adopted the "DECLARATION OF ABIDJAN" (Annex 2) containing a statement of principles and objectives in international development policy.

When the Council reconvened in Geneva on 12 July, the Executive Secretariat participated in its deliberations and successfully co-ordinated the action of the African Group on all the items of the agenda which were of vital interest to the African region.

Partly as a result of the initiative of the Executive Secretariat, the ECOSOC adopted the following resolutions which are of direct interest to the O.A.U. and its Member States:

(i) Resolution on the African Inter-Ministerial Committee for Food:

This resolution (Annex 3) was adopted in the face of a strong opposition from some delegations from the Western industrialized countries notably United Kingdom, USA and Federal Republic of Germany, who adamantly maintained, among other things, that the African Inter-Ministerial Council for Food, being an inter-governmental organization, its meetings should not therefore (as requested by the O.A.U.) be financed by the United Nations system. They proposed that the matter be referred to the World Food Council (WFC) for study before the Council could take a decision on it.

The African Inter-Ministerial Committee for Food was established by the O.A.U. by resolution CM/Res. 413(XXIV) to act as the regional body of the World Food Council.

In the operative part of its resolution, the ECOSOC

- (a) requests all appropriate organizations of the UN system working in the field of agriculture, food and nutrition, particularly ECA, FAO, WFP, WHO, WMO and UNDP to intensify their co-operation with the African Inter-Ministerial Committee for Food;

- (b) further requests these organizations, in co-operation with OAU and ECA, to service the meetings of the Committee and its three Expert Committees;
- and (c) invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization to submit a progress report on the implementation of this resolution (Res. 2038(LXI)) to the July 1977 session of ECOSOC.

(ii) Resolutuion on aid to Mozambique

On April 13, 1976, the ECOSOC placed an item entitled "Assistance to Mozambique" on the agenda for its sixtieth summer session.

Subsequently, under the said item, the Secretary-General of the United Nations submitted to the Council a report of the United Nations mission which had gone to Mozambique to evaluate the financial, material and technical assistance required in order to enable the country to overcome the difficulties it was experiencing as a result of its decision to apply economic sanctions against Rhodesia in line with the United Nations General Assembly resolution.

By resolution 1987(LX) of 11 May 1976 the ECOSOC recommended a number of steps to be taken by the international community with a view to assisting Mozambique. The Council also requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to keep the question of assistance to Mozambique under constant review, to hold regular consultative meetings on the matter with representatives of all interested governments, regional organizations, regional and international financial institutions, and Specialized Agencies of the United Nations system, and to report to the Council at its sixty-first summer session.

For its consideration of the question of assistance to Mozambique at its sixty-first session, the Council had before it a report prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It was introduced in the plenary session by the United Nations Co-ordinator of aid to Mozambique, Ambassador A.A. Farah.

The United Nations Co-ordinator informed the Council that the initial response of the international community to the appeal for assistance to Mozambique had been encouraging; that more than US\$ 60 million in assistance had been pledged by some 32 nations since the appeal was issued. This amount did not include pledges made by international organizations and institutions such as the O.AçU. which had already earmarked US\$ 20 million for assistance to Mozambique.

The United Nations Co-ordinator, however, pointed out that although the amount so far pledged was generous it still fell far short of the needs of Mozambique. He appealed to those countries which had not yet responded to do so favourably as Mozambique, he said, was facing a very difficult economic situation as a result of its decision to implement a United Nations General Assembly resolution.

The Executive Secretariat, in the absence of any official delegation from Mozambique, strongly defended the case for assistance to Mozambique and called upon the Council to adopt unanimously the resolution that had been tabled by the African Group.

The Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution on assistance to Mozambique (Annex 4) by which, among other things,

It calls upon all Member States of the United Nations to provide immediate technical, financial and material assistance to Mozambique, and requests the Secretary-

General of the United Nations, in collaboration with the appropriate organs of the United Nations system, to organize all forms of financial, technical and material assistance to enable Mozambique to carry out its policy of economic independence from the racist regime of Rhodesia and enhance its capacity to implement fully the United Nations mandatory sanctions against Rhodesia.

(iii) Resolution on the problems of arid areas

The above-mentioned resolution

urges the Task Force on Arid Areas to continue with its work, and to report to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) as the Preparatory Committee for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Desertification to be held in Nairobi in August 1977, and to the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology for Development (ACAST) for its review of the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development.

The Executive Secretariat has always considered the problem of desertification as one of the major problems facing the African continent and has accordingly given it priority attention in its programme of work.

Reports from the Sahel region reaching Geneva are not good. It has been reported, for example, that the southward march of the Sahara desert toward the Equator has registered five and even six kilometres a year at some points. Consequently, large areas of once fertile woodland have suddenly become barren.

In the Sudan, the Sudanese National Council for Research has reported, all Nile irrigation schemes are threatened by this southward march of the desert. Also under threat are 2½ million feddans of pump irrigation, 7 million feddans of mechanical crop farming, 75 per cent of the world's gum arabic production, pasture for about 10 million livestock - indeed most of the land earmarked to make Sudan the breadbasket of the Middle East over the next 25 years.

(b) UNCTAD: Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund

The Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly held in Algiers in March 1974 adopted resolution 3087(XXVIII) which speaks of "a new international division of labour" and a "more equitable share of industrial activities" for developing countries.

Following closely on this Special Session a number of conferences were held under the auspices of the United Nations - on the sea, on food, on population. And in May 1976 in Nairobi, Kenya, UNCTAD held its Fourth session (UNCTAD IV).

All these conferences had one aim in common: a major re-ordering of the world economic system. In other words, the establishment of a New International Economic Order (NIEO), as demanded by the developing countries.

UNCTAD IV adopted resolution 93(IV) on the integrated programme for commodities, calling for a series of stocks of eighteen (18) key commodities\* which would be bought up and used to dampen down or stimulate the prices as required by increasing or reducing the amounts available on the open market, and in this way sustain the real incomes of developing countries.

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\* Bananas, bauxite, cocoa, coffee, copper, cotton and cotton yarns, hard fibres and products, iron ore, jute and products, manganese, meat, phosphates, rubber, sugar, tea, tropical timber, tin, and vegetable oils including oil, and oil seeds.

For this purpose a common fund of US\$ 6 billion was to be created to help with the stocks.

Briefly this is the background to the Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund which was convened by UNCTAD Secretariat from 7 March to 3 April, 1977 in Geneva.

The African delegations and the delegations from Asia and Latin-America attached great importance to this Conference because they sincerely believed that, quite unlike earlier UNCTAD meetings which had been either preparatory-just to talk rather than to commit to action- it was convened specifically for governments to engage in serious negotiations on a new form of international machinery which would be a vital part of the New International Economic Order (NIEO).

To their great disillusionment, after four weeks of lengthy debates, the Conference ended without any formal decision on a Common Fund.

In point of fact, all that the four weeks produced were calls from the major Western industrialized countries for additional information and more clarification. These countries had repeatedly argued that too many technical objections stood in the way of a vast common fund and for this reason they were reluctant to commit themselves without a far clearer appreciation of what was involved.

In a formal statement, on behalf of the Group of 77, Ambassador Ali Alatas of Indonesia described the results of the Conference as a "complete failure". The Group of 77, he said, had expected the Conference to result, at the very least, in a decision to establish a Common Fund, even if further negotiations might be required on the constituent elements of the Fund. He blamed the lack of political will on the part of the two other groups, representing the Western industrialized countries and the Communist countries of Eastern Europe.



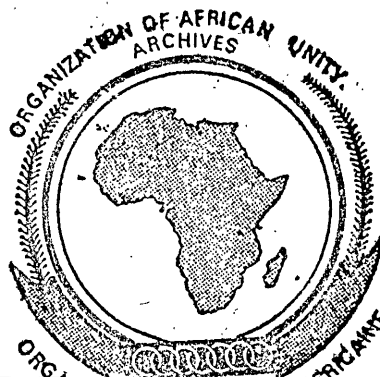
China has all along supported the developing countries' proposal for the establishment of a Common Fund for buffer stocks.

The UNCTAD Secretariat have since put out their version of the outcome of the Conference, as follows:

"During the course of the negotiations the developing countries affirmed their unanimous commitment to the establishment of a Common Fund, to serve as the main instrument for attaining the objectives of the Integrated Programme for Commodities as embodied in Conference Resolution 93 (IV) and to function as the central source of finance for specific objectives and purposes as outlined in a preliminary way. China supported the proposals made by the developing countries. Some developed countries supported, or were prepared to support, the proposals made by the developing countries, while a number of developed countries also expressed their readiness to participate in and financially support a Common Fund. The developed countries

submitted a discussion paper and a provisional position paper. The members of the European Economic Community agreed that there should be a Common Fund. Other developed countries stated that they were prepared to consider, with a positive and open attitude, the establishment of a common funding arrangement. The Socialist countries of Eastern Europe agreed in principle with the idea of a Common Fund in the Framework of the Integrated Programme for Commodities.

The President of the Conference, Ambassador Herbert S. Walker of Jamaica, also gave his own assessment of the Conference. In a statement in the concluding plenary session,



Ambassador Walker said that although it was not possible to proceed further at this session, it appeared there was a large consensus that a Common Fund should be established in accordance with resolution 93(IV) to serve as a main instrument of the integrated programme for commodities. Taking into account the urgency which the Conference attached to this work and the time-table agreed upon in Nairobi, it would seem desirable that the Conference should reconvene at a plenipotentiary level not later than November 1977.

There was no formal objection from any delegation to this summing-up by the President - even though it had proved impossible in the final 48 hours of the Conference to agree on even the most anodyne wording.

#### CONCLUSION

Notwithstanding the very serious cash-flow problem and the shortage of staff, the Executive Secretariat has endeavoured, during the period under review, to carry out conscientiously and efficiently all the duties assigned to it.

OPERATIVE PART OF THE SECOND RESOLUTION ON THE  
SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ADOPTED BY THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AT ITS THIRTY-THIRD  
SESSION

- "1. Again denounces and condemns with indignation the political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given by certain States to South Africa and to the illegal minority regime of Southern Rhodesia, either directly or through national or multinational companies;
- "2. Requests all States to take whatever steps they deem necessary to put an end to such assistance, and, to that end, to implement the measures provided for in operative paragraph 4 of its resolution 6 (XXXII);
- "3. Reaffirms that arms sales, nuclear co-operation agreements and the economic activities of national and multinational companies in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia constitute blatant acts of complicity in the crime of apartheid (a crime against humanity) and encouragement of the continuation of the policy of racial discrimination and colonialism, and represent a direct cause of the persistence of the illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist regime of South Africa and of the build-up of its military presence on Namibian territory in order to commit acts of aggression against the neighbouring African States and to interfere in their internal affairs;
- "4. Requests the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and its Special Rapporteur dealing with "the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the colonial and racist regimes in Southern Africa" to prepare the necessary material for a provisional general list

identifying those individuals, institutions, including banks, and other organizations or groups, as also the representatives of States, whose activities constitute political, military, economic or other forms of assistance to the colonial and racist regimes in Southern Africa;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for submission to the Sub-Commission at its thirty-first session, a preliminary report on the existence of partial lists concerning violations of fundamental human rights in Southern Africa drawn up by other United Nations bodies;

"6. Invites any competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that possess information likely to be of assistance in the preparation of the list referred to in paragraph 4 above to place that information at the disposal of the Secretary-General for transmission to the Sub-Commission before its thirty-first session;

"7. Expresses its thanks to the Special Rapporteur;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to accord to the Special Rapporteur all necessary assistance in order that his report may be completed as soon as possible;

"9. Decides to place on the agenda of the thirty-first session, as a separate priority item, the question of "Adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the colonial and racist regimes in Southern Africa".

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P.S. This resolution was co-sponsored by Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, Rwanda, Upper Volta, Egypt, India, Peru, Cuba, Panama, Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. It was adopted by a roll-call vote of 24 in favour; 4 against (Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom and the United States of America), and 4 abstentions (Austria, Italy, Sweden and Uruguay).

2009(LXI). Declaration of Abidjan

The Economic and Social Council,

Meeting for the first time in Africa, from 30 June to 9 July 1976, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Ivory Coast,

1. WELCOMES the important statement of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ivory Coast before the Council at the opening meeting of its sixty-first session, in which he eloquently analysed problems of developing countries in general and those of Africa in particular;
2. REMAINS MINDFUL of the fundamental purposes of the United Nations, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the maintenance of international peace and security through, inter alia, effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, the development of friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character;
3. WELCOMES the emergence to independence of States - the majority of which are in Africa - as a result of their struggle for self-determination and national liberation;

4. CALLS for the speedy elimination of all forms of colonialism, neo-colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation, alien domination, racial discrimination and apartheid from the African continent and from wherever they exist and affirms that this should continue to receive very high priority among the major preoccupations of the international community;
5. DETERMINES that there is an imperative need to eliminate injustice and inequality which afflict vast sections of humanity and to accelerate the development of developing countries;
6. URGES all countries and international organizations to give added impetus to the efforts of the international community towards the achievement of the goals, targets and objectives of the development of developing countries through individual or collective action, taking fully into account the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolutions 3201(S-VI) and 3202(S-VI) of 1 May 1974), as well as the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (General Assembly resolution 3281(XXIX) of 12 December 1974), the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626(XXV) of 24 October 1970) and General Assembly resolution 3362(S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation;
7. FURTHER URGES all countries and international organizations to pursue with the maximum sense of urgency the implementation of agreements reached within the United Nations System, including those reached at the

fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and in other international conferences and for, the search for further agreements and the widening of the existing ones where appropriate, bearing in mind the need to conduct negotiations and, where agreed, preparatory meetings for this purpose, so as to provide concrete solutions to the problems of developing countries;

8. REAFFIRMS the need to implement special measures or specific action adopted in favour of the most seriously affected, least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries;
9. EXPRESSES its concern over the critical nature of the problems of development in Africa, reflected by the large number of African countries identified as least developed or most seriously affected countries, and urges developed countries, developing countries which are in a position to do so and the appropriate organs of the United Nations system to increase assistance to these countries;
10. AFFIRMS the need to increase substantially the level of food production in developing countries, particularly those in Africa, and to extend adequate assistance to them for this purpose;
11. URGES all nations to display the necessary political will and place adequate resources at the disposal of the United Nations, in order to enable it to fulfil its role in the economic and social fields;

12. FINALLY DECLARES that:

the objective of eliminating injustice and inequality and of achieving international co-operation for the promotion of economic progress and better standards of life, as well as social advancement and the encouragement of respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction, has yet to be achieved in large areas of the world; to this end, the Council declares its adherence to the principles of national independence, sovereignty, and self-reliance and its faith in co-operation, dialogue and negotiation between developed and developing countries, based on a real political will to promote an equitable and just system of international economic relations in conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

2020th Plenary Meeting

9 July 1976



2038(LXI). Co-operation between the African Inter-Ministerial Committee for Food and relevant United Nations Organization and Specialized Agencies

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution XXII of the World Food Conference concerning the creation of the World Food Council and its relations with regional bodies,

Recalling further paragraph 4(f) of resolution XXII of the World Food Conference, stating that full co-operation should exist between the World Food Council and regional bodies in formulating and following up policies approved by the Council and that these bodies should be serviced by existing United Nations bodies or bodies of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the region concerned,

Noting with satisfaction that the Organization of African Unity has established the African Inter-Ministerial Committee for Food, whose functions and mandate in the African region are in line with the objectives of the World Food Council and that the Committee co-operates with the World Food Council,

1. TAKES NOTE of the draft resolution submitted to the World Food Council at its second session on the African Inter-Ministerial Committee for Food;
2. REQUESTS all appropriate organizations and specialised agencies of the United Nations working in the field of agriculture, food and nutrition, particularly the

Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, to intensify their co-operation with the African Inter-Ministerial Committee for Food;

3. REQUESTS all relevant organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations working in Africa to service, in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa, the meetings of the African Inter-Ministerial Committee for Food and its three expert committees, namely the Food Security and Programme Committee, the Economic Committee and the Finance Committee, and to take all necessary action to assist them in the performance of their tasks;
4. INVITES the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution and to draw the attention of the World Food Council at its third session to this matter.

2020(LXI). Assistance to Mozambique

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Security Council resolutions on the question of Southern Rhodesia, in particular resolution 232(1966) of 16 September 1966, declaring that the situation in Southern Rhodesia constituted a threat to international peace and security, and resolution 253(1968) of 29 May 1968, imposing mandatory sanctions against Southern Rhodesia,

Commending the decision of the Government of Mozambique to implement mandatory sanctions against Southern Rhodesia in accordance with Security Council resolution 253(1968),

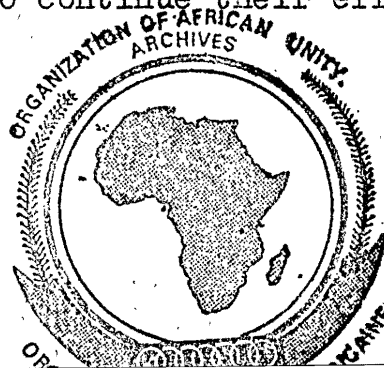
Appreciating the very substantial sacrifices made by the Government and the people of Mozambique as a consequence of the closure of the border with Southern Rhodesia,

Recalling Security Council resolution 386(1976) of 7 March 1976, appealing to all States to provide immediate technical, financial and material assistance to Mozambique and requesting the Secretary-General in collaboration with the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, to organize with immediate effect all forms of financial, technical and material assistance to enable Mozambique to carry out its policy of economic independence from the racist regime of Southern Rhodesia and enhance its capacity to implement fully the United Nations mandatory sanctions,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1987(LX) of 11 May 1976, strongly endorsing the appeal of the Security Council to the international community to provide immediate financial, technical and material assistance to Mozambique,

Taking note of the report by the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique,

1. NOTES WITH SATISFACTION the measures taken by the Secretary-General to organize an effective programme of international assistance to Mozambique;
2. EXPRESSES APPRECIATION for the assistance so far provided to Mozambique by Member States and the United Nations system;
3. TAKES CAREFUL NOTE of the fact that the assistance received to date falls short of the amount required by Mozambique to deal with the special economic problems arising from the implementation of the measures decided upon in Security Council resolution 253(1968);
4. CALLS upon all Member States to respond generously to the appeal of the Security Council and to provide assistance, bilaterally and multilaterally, whenever possible in the form of grants, to enable Mozambique to bear the great cost arising from the implementation of sanctions and to carry out its normal development programme;
5. REQUESTS the United Nations and all its organizations and specialized agencies to continue their efforts to assist Mozambique;



6. REQUESTS the United Nations Special Fund to give special and favourable consideration to the needs of Mozambique;
7. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to ensure the continuation of an effective programme of financial, material and technical assistance for Mozambique during 1977, and to continue close co-operation with the Government of Mozambique in the mobilization of the necessary resources;
8. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to ensure that appropriate financial and budgetary arrangements are made to continue the mobilization of resources, and to co-ordinate the international programme of assistance to Mozambique;
9. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary-General to arrange for the review mentioned in his report to be given the widest circulation as soon as it is completed;
10. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to keep the situation under constant review, to hold regular consultative meetings with representatives of Governments of all interested Member States, regional organizations, intergovernmental agencies, regional and international financial institutions, and specialized agencies of the United Nations system; and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session.



**ORGANIZATION OF  
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منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية  
السكرتارية  
ب. ب. ٣٢٤٣

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAIN**

Secretariat  
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أبجاء Abjia

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
TWENTY-NINTH ORDINARY SESSION  
JUNE 23 - 30, 1977  
LIBREVILLE, GABON

CM/808 (XXIX)

Annex III

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES  
OF THE OAU SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON INTER-  
AFRICAN CO-OPERATION



T A B L E   O F  
C O N T E N T S

PAGE

1. INTRODUCTION .....	1
2. OAU SCIENCE POLICY ....	5
3. PRIORITIES .....	6
4. MACHINERY .....	8
5. PROJECTS .....	10
6. NUCLEAR POWER	16
7. DOCUMENTATION CENTRES...	17
8. REGIONAL CENTRES FOR ADVANCED TRAINING AND RESEARCH	17
9. <u>TECHNICAL BUREAUX:</u>	
- Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) .....	20 - 22
- Inter-African Soils Bureau (IAS)	22 - 23
- Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR)	24 - 25
- Publications Bureau .....	25

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON INTER-AFRICAN CO-  
OPERATION ACTIVITIES OF THE OAU

I N T R O D U C T I O N

This report gives a resume of the activities of the Executive Secretariat for science and technology and its bureaux in the past decade. It is unfortunate that the time at the disposal of the Executive Secretariat does not permit of an exhaustive and detailed account of its performances in the past decade in the way that benefits and justifies the amount of efforts put into Inter-African co-operation in the field of science and technology over the years. Be that as it may, the report of the Executive Secretariat submitted hereunder and the specialist reports submitted by the Directors of IBAR, BIs and the IAPSC give a bird's eye view of the modest efforts accomplished so far and an idea of work in hand and in progress.

The Executive Secretariat and its scientific bureaux have been considerably hampered by two major problems:-

- a) shortage of staff;
- and b) shortage of investment fund for multilateral and regional projects.

Because of the shortage of staff, the various expansion programmes of the Executive Secretariat over the past 10 years have not been fully executed. For example, in 1971, the Scientific Council of Africa (CSA) which is the main scientific adviser of the OAU in respect of the application of science and technology to development in Africa requested that the Executive Secretariat based in Lagos should be expanded to allow effective co-ordination of Inter-African Co-ordination in the field of science and technology in view of the increasing demand by Member States for its services.



The Executive Secretariat as the main co-ordinating machinery was to have:-

- a) a division on Agriculture, Oceanography and Sea Fisheries;
- b) a division on Natural Resources;
- c) a division on Industrial and Technological activities;
- d) a division for the Co-ordination of Field Work or the permanent Bureaux and field joint projects;
- and e) an Administrative and Finance Division.

The details of the activities of the Executive Secretariat as approved by the Heads of State and Government and each divisions is summarized in Document L(73)13 which is attached to this report.

Consequently, work in hand and in progress being carried out by the Executive Secretariat and its Bureaux with the advice of the CSA and all the scientific panels created by the CSA as approved by the Council of Ministers and Assembly of Heads of State and Government have been done by an over-stretched and extremely limited staff.

Secondly, some of the extremely important continental projects involving co-operation among 20 or 30 and more States used to attract external financial and technical aid according to the wish of the participating Member States. Today, the position has changed tremendously. The developed Nations of the world who constitute the back-bone of the donor agencies have been giving diminishing assistance to African regional and co-operative projects. This is because they consider such projects as largely multilateral and therefore does not boost their individual ego. Further still, the present international bias against financial and technical assistance to Africa springs from the erroneous conception of the value and significance of the so-called "oil wealth".

They now prefer bilateral assistance which is usually given in a discriminatory fashion to a handful of Member States. This tendency is not in the interest of the OAU and Africa. The real interest of Africa lies in the encouragement of joint, cooperative and regional projects in which 10 to 15 member states in the same ecological zone could easily participate and pool their resources for the improvement of the welfare and augmentation of the standard of living of their people.

When joint and co-operative projects are undertaken, for example like the Survey of the Fisheries of the Tropical Atlantic involving some 19 Coastal States in West Central Africa; Member States see from the report on the project the great advantage of joint action; they are therefore better able to co-operate in the overall interest of the development of a whole region or the whole of Africa.

One of the projects at present in hand is Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD) (J.P.31). This project seeks effective co-operation of all OAU Member States stretching from Mauritania on the Atlantic Ocean Coast to Somalia on the Indian Ocean Coast. It embraces field work by scientists of no fewer than 26 Member States, viz: Mauritania, Senegal The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Upper Volta, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Niger, Togo, Popular Republic of Benin, Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Zaire, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Cape Verde Island, and Guinea Bissau. Such a gigantic project is usually executed by grouping these Member States into sub-regional groups. For example, the work in the Senegal River Basin area will involve all Member States of the Senegal River Basin countries and others in the area like The Gambia which do not belong to the Senegal River Basin area. Similarly, the Conseil de l'Entente countries will be grouped together with Ghana to ensure co-operation of that regional group while East African Community will be grouped together with Somalia and Ethiopia for purposes of co-operative activities.

The main activities done jointly under the project outlined at a technical OAU/SLMC meeting in January, 1976 in Ouagadougou are grouped under:-

- i) Research Priorities: This is the listing of the cereals which are of primary importance in the areas, viz, sorghum, millet, maize, rice and groundnuts.
- ii) Field Co-operation: By this, the scientists expect that each Member State co-operating in the project would appoint a national organiser for the project who will co-operate in the sub-region under the OAU International Coordinator to ensure the distribution of improved high yielding, disease resistant, drought resistant varieties of the different cereals.
- iii) Post Harvest Activity: which involves the encouragement of each Member State in the area to plan the post harvest research and development in a co-operative way while ensuring that each country would have enough strategic grain storage locations by building silos or other forms of storage which could be convenient to individual farmers or the national government as the case may be.

The whole idea is to make each Member State his brothers' keep in time of need. Grains would be stored up in several locations in each country so that food could be rushed to needy parts of the same country or neighbouring country in time of need.

Similarly, activities are also planned in the Livestock Production field and the Control of Livestock Disease. It is hoped that this meeting would give the Executive Secretary enough support to overcome the two major difficulties i.e. personnel and investment fund, to be able to carry out its duties as is contained in the Terms of Reference outlined under the OAU Science Policy hereunder.

#### OAU SCIENCE POLICY

Historically, the technical co-operation duties of the Executive Secretariat has been defined in the terms of reference contained in the report of the Algiers meeting of scientists from OAU States of February, 1964. The duties are designed to achieve the intention of the Heads of State to promote a spirit of brotherly love among all African States through technical co-operation at all levels and to ensure the improvement of the standard of living of the people of Africa.

- a) to deal with all scientific and technical matters affecting the general development of Member States including matters which may be referred to by the Assembly of Heads of State and the Council of Ministers;
- b) to promote the training and exchange of scientific, technical and research personnel;
- c) to formulate scientific policies and to execute on request joint programmes of scientific and technological research;
- d) to promote the effective utilization of the results of research with a view to accelerating economic and social development of Member States;
- e) to handle external aid for projects of common interest sponsored by the Commission;
- f) to provide facilities for the dissemination of information to workers in the fields of science and technology in Africa;
- and g) to conduct scientific surveys of the natural resources of the continent.

And to enable the Commission to carry out the above-mentioned functions, it is permitted:-

- i) to establish advisory and executive organs;
- ii) to prepare scientific and technological plans and programmes;
- iii) to organize scientific and technological conferences and seminars;
- iv) to establish training and research institutes and information centres; and
- v) to collaborate with international scientific and technological organizations in matters of mutual interest.

PRIORITIES:

In translating these broad objectives to practical propositions, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government approved a priority list of areas of co-operation among Member States at its meeting in Accra, October, 1965. These are:-

- i) Agriculture
  - crop research
  - animal health and production
  - soils and irrigation
  - forestry (humid, arid areas and savannah)
- ii) Oceanography and Fisheries
  - including the problem of sea bed.

- iii) Biological Research viz Aquatic Biology, Taxonomy and Ecology including research on African Medicinal Plants and exploitation of plants and animal resources for the benefit of man.
- iv) Industrial and Technological Research and Development:  
These include the application of modern scientific and technological techniques viz:-
  - a) establishment of iron and steel complexes in designated regions of Africa;
  - b) encouragement of chemical industries to produce fertilizers, pesticides and other essential consumer goods for building houses, foot-wears and educational materials, establishment of ceramic industries and cement production in Member States;
  - c) research in building materials, designs and construction;
  - d) engineering - civil, mechanical, chemical, etc.
  - e) stimulating multi-disciplinary regional and national industrial and technological institutes for research and development;
- (v) a) geology and mineralogy i.e. exploration and utilization of Africa's mineral resources.  
A survey of the known resources is envisaged;
  - b) hydrology, climatology and meteorology;
  - c) cartography and surveys;
- vi) Physical and Mathematical Research:  
Physics, Chemistry and Computer Sciences, Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy; solar energy.

- vii) Manpower Development:  
Encouraging regional and national training of much needed Scientific and Technological manpower including exchange programme for research workers.
- viii) Promotion of appropriate legislation by way of conventions to encourage joint action by Member States, e.g. African convention on Nature and Natural Resources.

MACHINERY:

To execute this programme, the Heads of State directed that an appropriate organizational machinery should be established.

The machinery for the execution of these programme under the general direction of the Administrative Secretary-General is made up of the executive secretariat with its sub-regional offices. These are:-

Executive Secretariat itself

Inter-African Bureau for Soils (IBS)

Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR)

Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC)

and Publications Bureau.

The Heads of State have approved the establishment of the Scientific Council of Africa (CSA) which comprises eminent African Scientists, designated by the Governments of member states of the OAU. The Council advises the OAU on scientific and technological problems of development in Africa. It is a unique continental scientific body and it is truly representative of the continent. Furthermore, there are panels of scientific committees which deal with important and urgent areas of activity. These ad hoc scientific committees are designed to assist the Administrative Secretary-General and his officials in translating broad principles into practical terms. Some of these are:-

- i) International Scientific Council of Trypanosomiasis Research and control.
- ii) Panel of Scientists on Agriculture and the Mechanization of Agriculture;
- iii) Panel of Scientists on Geology and Mineralogy;
- iv) The Panel of Scientists on Food Science and Food Technology;
- v) Panel of Scientists on Oceanography and Fisheries;
- vi) Panel of Scientists on African Medicinal Plants;
- vii) Panel of Scientists on Science and Technology
- viii) Panel of Scientists on Cartography maps and Survey;
- ix) Panel of Scientists on Building Materials, Design and Construction;
- x) Panel of Scientists on Iron and Steel Development in Africa;
- xi) Panel of Scientists on Chemical Industries and Fertilizers;
- xii) The Inter-African Phytosanitary Council;
- xiii) Inter-African Panel of scientists on Animal Health and Production.
- xiv) Inter-African Panel of scientists on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.



PROJECTS:

With the aid of these panels which are composed of African scientists who give their services free to the Organization, the Executive Secretariat has been able to conceive and plan a number of projects some of which have been completed while others are still in progress.

Field projects usually attract external technical and financial assistance. The responsibilities of the Executive Secretariat are fourfold:-

- i) to initiate projects which are of regional interest either to the whole of Africa like the Production of the "Pedological Map of Africa" or a region of Africa like the "Survey of the Fisheries Resources of the Tropical Atlantic";
- ii) to draw up the project in a way which will make it attract technical and financial assistance at the international level;
- iii) to look for such assistance as Member States might require; and
- iv) executive the programme.

Within the past decade, the Executive Secretariat has handled the following projects:-

- i) An Internal Map of West Africa (JP.24)
- ii) Pedological (or soil) Map of Africa (JP.11)
- iii) Guinea Trawling Survey. Survey of the Fisheries Resources of the Tropical Atlantic (JP.19)

- iv) Joint Campaign against cattle disease -  
Rinderpest Phase 1 to III in the West and  
Central Africa (JP.15)
- v) Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia  
Vaccine Research (CBPP) JP.16);
- vi) Improvement and Development of Major Cereal  
Crops Research (JP.26);
- vii) Joint Campaign Against Rinderpest - Eastern Africa  
(JP.15);
- viii) Joint Field Campaign against CBPP (JP.28);
- ix) Project for the Establishment of Plant Protection  
and Plant Quarantine Centres in Africa (JP.29)
- x) Project for Drug Research Centres Using African  
Medicinal Plants (JP.27);
- xi) Training of Phytosanitary Inspectors in Africa;
- xii) Control of Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis (JP.30)
- Xiii) Semi Arid Food Grain Research and Development (JP.31)
- xiv) Handbook for Phytosanitary Inspectors in Africa.



Eight of these projects have now been completed. The Anti Rinderpest Campaign - JP.15 for example, now require only follow-up measures by all the member states that participated in the project. These are Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Mali, Guinea, Upper Volta, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Togo, Benin, Sudan, Tanzania, Niger, Chad, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia and Nigeria. The Project was carried out in 5 phases between 1963 and 1975. The Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) which is the specialized organ of the Executive Secretariat for livestock development is now charged with the responsibility for co-ordinating the work of member states on the follow-up measures to ensure that the entire cattle population is immunised against the disease.

The need for the establishment of a chain of plant quarantine centres in Africa and training of pest control and plant quarantine officers of member states, is a perennial problem which will continue to receive the attention of the OAU and all International Agencies in the agricultural field. This project has been code-named Joint Project No. 29. It is specifically supervised by the Directorate of Plant Protection and Plant quarantine centres based in Yaounde.

The campaign against contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia (CBPP) known as JP.28 is also still in progress particularly in West and Central Africa. This is because action has been taken against this disease in Eastern Africa along with the Anti-Rinderpest campaign.

The research on African Medicinal Plants and the preparation of Traditional Pharmacopoeia in member states (JP.27) is a new industrial research project which was commenced on the initiative of the OAU Executive Secretariat for Science and Technology. The report of this project shows that about 8 research centres are actively co-operating with the OAU on the project. Only

last summer, the WHO has also indicated interest in this research work. It is hoped that other International Organizations will co-operate with Africa in this important field.

The control of Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis is an extremely sensitive area of Inter-African co-operation because, almost one-half of the arable land of Africa South of the Sahara is infested with this disease. Consequently, both man and animal are unable to inhabit the infested area. The Executive Secretariat of the OAU has taken active action in co-operation with OAU member states, the WHO and FAO in combating this scourge.

Furthermore, the Executive Secretariat through its livestock officers is in the process of publishing a Tsetse Distribution Map of Africa for which it has received generous financial assistance from the Nigerian Government. This map will be up-dated from time to time jointly by the scientists in all member states and the Executive Secretariat of the OAU in co-operation with WHO and FAO. Training schemes are also being organised in co-operation with other international agencies under the aegis of the OAU for scientists from some 24 member states of the OAU who will in turn train field control and laboratory research officers in member states on the problem of combating tsetse and trypanosomiasis. This project has been named JP. 30.

Following the recent unhappy and tragic experience of the drought in a number of African states, the Executive Secretariat with the approval of the Scientific Council of Africa has launched a grain development programme known as "Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development "(JP.31) with the assistance of a number of international organizations. This cereal project deals

with sorghum, millet, maize, rice, legumes and other staple food grains. Reference has been made to this project in the introduction to this report. It is known as Joint Project No. 31 and it is expected to be carried out in active co-operation with member states in all the 26 states concerned.

It is hoped that the launching of this regional project will encourage each member state to make specific budgetary provisions for improvement in research and development of food grains. The most important new element in this project is the emphasis on Post Harvest Activity which has been hitherto neglected. It is considered that if all member states of the OAU co-operate in ensuring research on the storage of grains and establishment of stock of grain reserve, Africa will not be confronted with the embarrassing position of asking food aid from outside the continent. This is not to deny the concept of inter-dependence of nations in the jet age. It is however aimed at ensuring that OAU member states seek to depend on one another rather than external agencies.

Other elements of industrial and technological research on which the Scientific Council of Africa (CSA) have made concrete proposals are research and development in the field of building construction, design and technology. The Scientific Council of Africa (CSA), discovered that very few member states of the OAU have Institute for Building Research for active research on local materials for building houses or other constructional activities. The Scientific Council of Africa's suggestion is therefore aimed at further training of personnel for each member state and encouragement of regional centres in building technology by the improvement of existing small research centres.

Similarly, cartographic work is in its infancy in Africa. Because of the security nature of cartographic activities, and because of the importance of maps development planning, The Scientific Council of Africa (CSA) has also suggested that the OAU member states should take joint action in the development of cartographic services in Africa and the training of scientific personnel to handle cartographic matters. It also considered that in view of the highly sophisticated remote sensing equipment already developed by advanced countries, Africa requires to re-train its Cartographers to ensure that they keep abreast of modern changes.

The other project of extreme importance to all OAU member states particularly in view of the need to develop agricultural resources pari-passu with industrial development is recommended that Iron and Steel Complex be established in more states in Africa. To this end, it has recommended that existing sub-regional groupings like Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), East African Community and other sub-regional groupings should pool their resources to ensure maximum utilization of their industrial power to assist in a rapid economic take-off by the economies to ensure maximum utilization of their industrial power to assist in a rapid economic take-off by the economies of member states to sustained economic growth.

The need for a comprehensive survey of the natural resources of Africa is intimately related to the cartographic project. However the Executive Secretariat proposes to convene shortly, a meeting of the Panel on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources so that the 1968 Algiers Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources might be reviewed to keep abreast of modern changes.

## Nuclear Power

The problem of energy is now a very sensitive problem the whole world over. Consequently, the Panel of Scientists on Technology, has recommended that there is an urgent need for Africa to get involved in the nuclear technology even if this may be at peripheral but important areas like the use of radio isotopes in medicine, development of new crop varieties through irradiation, etc. There is need also for the building of additional reactors in some of Africa's research establishments, research institutes or Universities, to acquire the technology of the utilization of nuclear energy for generating power. The world's consumption of energy is rising steeply and sources of energy are being ruthlessly depleted. Natural gas and petroleum are being exploited at such a rate and on such a scale that in another two decades they may cease to be of importance as energy sources because of scarcity due to depletion. Nuclear energy will gain the ascendancy. The need therefore for Africa to preserve and conserve her energy sources is obvious. At the moment, not only is the petroleum in Africa being tapped mostly by foreign interests at a fast rate but, African countries themselves are utilising as little as 0.01%. The other important energy source, Uranium is also being tapped by these foreign interests. The danger is obvious that these power resources may be exhausted by the time African countries need them for their own technological advance. African countries with uranium deposits should therefore not permit exploitation of this resource by foreign countries. It must be noted that known deposits in Europe and America are being conserved whilst exploitation is greatest in Africa.

### Documentation Centres

There is urgent need for collecting and disseminating information about the scientific work carried out in different African states. Already, the OAU/STRC has 3 Bureaux which do some documentation viz; Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) in Nairobi, Inter-African Bureau for Soils (IBS) in Bangui and Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) in Yaounde.

The OAU could therefore prepared itself in co-operation with the UNESCO for the establishment of Science and Technology Libraries and Documentation Centres at least initially on a regional basis. Such institutions would serve as depositories for current scientific development throughout the world through acquisition of the right kind of international journals.

There is need for the establishment of Research Notes and Records covering all the fields of science and technology on the research results done by African scientific workers which could be circulated among scientific establishments and institutions.

### Regional Centres for Advanced Training and Research

The Executive Secretariat has reported at the last C.S.A. meeting that comprehensive proposals are already on hand for the establishment of one of the centres of advanced research and training recommended by the CSA. The Council of Ministers of the OAU has approved the establishment of the centre for advanced training and research on Earth Sciences since 1972.

The project which is a pilot scheme in the establishment of a chain of 10 centres for advanced training and research in Africa is expected to supplement the efforts of member states to train highly skilled scientific personnel for various national services as a part of the development effort of each state. It is also expected to supplement and support through research and development, the effort of member states to achieve accelerated



development aimed at higher living standard of their citizens.

The list of the 10 centres approved at the time enunciate:-

- i) Earth Sciences (including geology, geophysics, mineralogy, etc.)
- ii) Applied Science and Engineering;
- iii) Food Science and Technology;
- iv) Water Resources, Planning and Development;
- v) Marine Science and Technology;
- vi) Human Medicine and Pharmacology;
- vii) Veterinary Science;
- viii) Climatology and Meteorology;
- ix) Basic Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics) and
- x) Social Sciences (documentation, teaching and research).

The estimated cost of the project at the time the proposals were approved was about 4 million US dollars. Of this, the host country, Kenya was expected to donate land and a cash sum of one million US dollars.

Unfortunately, not much has been done by way of actually establishing the centre since the proposals were approved. It might be necessary at this meeting that concrete proposals be made to enable this project to take off the ground.

One proposal that come readily to mind is that the Council of Ministers might empower the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU to encourage the development of some existing University or Institutions of Higher learning in OAU states where any of the disciplines outlines above are at present being run to assist such institutions to be developed into regional centres. Such centres will cater for students from other African states under an OAU or UN Fellowship to be arranged by the Executive Secretariat for Science and Technology. In this way, the OAU will get around the prohibitive cost of establishing new centres de novo.

The Executive Secretariat is at present running Laboratory and field Courses on this principle in Cairo, Egypt, Ibadan, Nigeria and Nairobi, Kenya. Similar courses are planned under the OAU jointly with WHO and FAO on trypanosomiasis research and control is scheduled for Bobodioulasso in Upper Volta.

The main objective is to ensure an overall improvement in training and manpower development because shortage of personnel at all levels has become one of the most important constraints in the execution of economic development programme of most OAU states.

In the past decade, the Executive Secretariat has trained well over 700 persons under different training courses in several disciplines by encouraging member states with some facilities to improve on these in the interest of Inter-African co-operation. The Secretariat is happy to report that all OAU states with some facilities have responded favourably to the Executive Secretariat's appeal on this issue. Council might wish to agree to recommend this approach to assist manpower development.

TECHNICAL BUREAUX:

The 4 technical bureaux of the Executive Secretariat at present are IBAR, BIS, IAPSC and the Publications Bureau. However, the panel on building research and technology has recommended that in the interest of inter-African co-operation a building research and building technology bureau be established. Similarly, the symposium on Cartographic Services and the Training of Cartographic personnel also suggested that the OAU should have attached to the Executive Secretariat a Bureau to take care of cartographic matters in Africa, particularly in view of the present tendency the whole world over to improve on the sophisticated equipment being used for cartography, maps and surveys.

The Publications Bureau is now functioning within the Executive Secretariat in Lagos and this has accentuated the problem of developing it into a documentation centre as recommended by the CSA. While the existing bureaux do some documentation, it is extremely important to note that shortage of data is one of the problems confronted by planners in Africa. Improvement of documentation services is therefore a necessary desideratum to the Executive Secretariat.

INTER-AFRICAN PHYTOSANITARY COUNCIL (IAPSC) is based in Yaounde Republic of Cameroon, its functions are:-

To assist Member States to -

- a) prevent the introduction of diseases, insect pests, and other enemies of plants into any part of Africa;
- b) eradicate or control them, so far as they are present in the area;
- c) prevent their spread.

Services rendered:

The Scientific Secretary (or his assistant) makes periodic visits to member countries to discuss with Government experts the problems and difficulties faced in plant protection matters.

He distributes to Member Governments documents, circulars and information sheets dealing with all aspects of phytosanitation; i.e. legislation, geographical distribution of pests, diseases, noxious weeds and their host plants, the dangers which would occur if such pests, diseases and noxious weeds not present in Africa were to be introduced by various means, education of travellers in phytosanitary risks, organization of plant protection services, establishment of plant quarantine stations, training of phytosanitary personnel etc.

He also maintains close liaison with other international organizations interested in plant protection and organises meetings on these subjects.

The Scientific Secretary of the IAPSC is also in charge of JP.29 i.e. the establishment of Plant Quarantine Centres and Training of Phytosanitary Inspectors.

The meeting of Inter-African Phytosanitary Council held in Blantyre, Malawi in 1973 recommended that this branch of the activities of the OAU be expanded to cope with increasing demand for services by Member States. To this end, it Recommends:-

- i) setting up of ad hoc bodies including a Panel of Scientific Consultants and a Permanent Executive Committee;
- ii) establishment of good documentation centres in member countries and also at the IAPSC Secretariat in Yaounde;
- iii) improving the Phytosanitary scientific journal to keep member governments informed about pest and disease situations in Africa and around the world;
- iv re-organizing the IAPSC so as to encompass most of the plant protection activities on the continent; and
- v) to strengthen the Secretariat personnel by employing an additional Assistant Scientific Secretary.

It is hoped that Council will agree to the proposals for expansion so that this arm of the OAU might fulfil its task more effectively.

INTER-AFRICAN SOILS BUREAU (BIS) is based in Bangui, Central African Republic. Its functions are:-

- to maintain close contact with organizations, services and persons concerned with conservation and utilization of soils in Africa and outside Africa.
- to maintain an up-to-date specialist library;
- to provide an information service on general and specific subjects;
- to provide up-to-date lists of specialists working in
- The Director or his Deputy makes periodic visits to member countries and participates in meetings dealing with soil science and agronomy in Africa and elsewhere;
- Close contact is maintained with organizations, service and persons concerned with conservation and utilization of soils in Africa; and outside Africa;

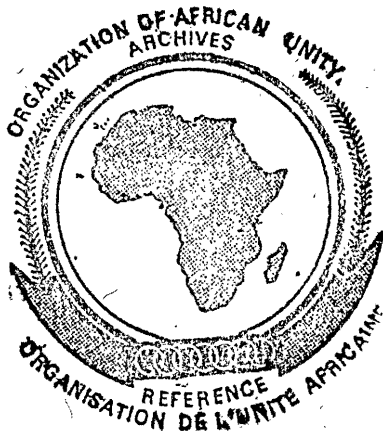
- The maintenance and constant improvement of specialised Library. At the present day (1976) it includes 4,000 books, 10,000 pamphlets and 614 periodicals;
- The reception and systematic examination of 614 pedological and agronomic periodicals which provide the material for a documentary index in which index cards are classified by author and by subject according to a very detailed scientific plan. This enables the rapid selection of index cards relating to particular subjects;
- The compilation and diffusion of bibliographies on specialized subjects as requested. The range of these bibliographies is very wide; basic bibliographies for specific missions or research, lists of literature on very specific subjects, drawing up of basic lists of works for the establishment of a library etc.
- The selection and forwarding of bibliographic index cards concerning scientific questions followed up by the BIS at the request correspondents;
- The publication, three times a year of the periodical "African Soils" which contains original contributions;
- The publication of a "Quarterly Analytical Bulletin" 4 times every year drawing the attention of persons or organizations interested in soil science in general and conservation and utilisation of soils in particular to 120 - 150 analysis of some of the most important articles dealing with this subject;
- and - The Bureau keeps a list of the soil specialists working in Africa and also receives the annual reports as well as the reports of projects from research stations and centres working in its scientific field.

INTER-AFRICAN BUREAU FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES (IBAR) is based in Nairobi, Kenya. Its functions are:-

1. to establish and maintain a uniform procedure for collecting animal disease statistics from Member Government showing:-
  - a) the technical and economic aspects of the contagious diseases of animals and any other diseases which may threaten the domestic livestock of Africa;
  - b) outbreaks of those diseases and their development;
  - c) methods of control and prophylaxy;
  - d) research work in progress on these diseases.
2. to establish an information and documentation centre for the up-to-date distribution of information;
3. to assist member states in maintaining follow-up measures at the end of each Phase of the Rinderpest Campaign.
4. to encourage animal production and improvement of livestock industries in Member States.

Services rendered:

The Director and his officers visit member countries and participate in meetings in Africa and elsewhere which deal with the problem of animal health and production. The bureau maintains close relations with international bodies concerned with similar problems like the O.I.E., FAO, WHO, and others. A member of



its staff participated in a recent Livestock Development Study of parts of Africa.

The Bureau publishes 'The Bulletin of Epizootic Diseases of Africa' quarterly. This deals with the aspects of veterinary science of particular importance to Africa. It also distributes a monthly and quarterly 'Summary of outbreaks of animals diseases' on twenty eight selected diseases of special interest, based on information supplied by the veterinary services of Member Governments. From the information supplied, geographical distribution maps are also compiled and published. The IBAR bulletin now has an Editorial Board. It is also being suggested to change its title. Abstracts are made from the world veterinary literature and the annual report of veterinary departments in Africa for distribution. Information leaflets on a great variety of subjects of general veterinary interests are prepared for distribution to field officers to whom such information would not otherwise be readily available. Both the IBAR Bulletin and information Leaflets are now printed and published in Nairobi.

A very important function of the Bureau is the organization of training courses and seminars on subjects suggested within its area of competence. The Director of IBAR is also the Secretary of the ISCTRC and International Co-ordinator - JP.28.

#### PUBLICATIONS BUREAU:

The Publications bureau distributes the various documents issued by all organs of the STRC.



1977-06

# Report of the Administrative Secretary-General on the Activities of the Executive Secretariat of the OAU (Permanent Delegation of the OAU Accredited to the European Office of the United Nations) in Geneva, Switzerland Covering the Period from 1 June 1976 to 31 May 1977 Inclusive

Organization of African Unity

African Union

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