



ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY
Secretariat
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية
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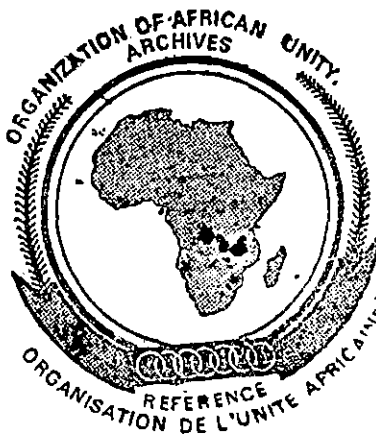
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Addis Ababa . . .

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Thirty-ninth Ordinary Session
Tripoli, Libya
26 July - 2 August, 1982.

CM/1197 (XXXIX)
Original: FRENCH

COMMEMORATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAU



COMMEMORATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAU

On 25 May 1983, the Organization of African Unity will be 20 years old. It will be an opportunity for the OAU and the Member States to mark this historic day by organizing different activities. What is required at this stage is to consider and plan activities as part of the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the OAU and to highlight the main themes.

The 20th Anniversary of the OAU will be a unique historic occasion for launching with increased zeal the dynamics of African unity and solidarity. While recalling the road travelled during the last twenty years and while making the peoples of the continent aware of the problems arising from the liberation struggle being waged on the political, economic, social and cultural fronts, emphasis could be laid on the means of collectively taking up the challenge thrown to Africa as this century draws to a close. For, as the Lagos Plan of Action has underscored, Africa's destiny cannot but be a common destiny; its development can only be self-sustaining, with collective self-reliance as a corollary. In short, the salvation of our continent lies in the deliberate and determined organization of the economic, social, cultural and political environment with the view to establishing the new international economic order.

As was the case during the organization of the OAU, (cf Annex I) the Tripoli Summit will set up a Committee to prepare, plan and coordinate the various events which will take place before and after 25 May 1983, in the country which will host the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and in other Member States. The commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the OAU brings out, under a new light, the problem of moulding and orientating the public opinion of African countries towards the objectives of liberation, solidarity and development. The new Pedagogy geared to African Unity

recommended by the Monrovia Symposium could serve as the central point around which will evolve the preparations for the commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the OAU. The Symposium on Africa's Development Prospects by the year 2000, organized in Monrovia, from 12 - 16 February 1979, on the initiative of the OAU Secretary-General, stressed, among other things, that if African countries were to maintain their narrow nationalism, they would realise that not only would the gap between the rich and the poor countries continue to widen but also that the continent would find itself marginalized, and reduced to playing the role of an agent of some power old or new.

In the face of this gloomy prospect, the Symposium recognized that African unity was a necessity and called for the following three measures:

1. "First the creation of an African Common Market based on progressive co-ordination and integration which would evolve in the form of concentric circles reflecting the economic areas existing on the continent".
2. "Secondly the abolition of visas among African Countries".
3. "Third the awakening of African public opinion to the idea of the unity of Africa so that it does not remain the preserve of political circles alone".

Another point on which the Monrovia Symposium dwelt has to do with culture "Culture frees mankind, and one of the cultural values is the duty of freedom". Particular emphasis was laid on "the fact that no development or political stability is possible as long as individual and collective rights go unheeded and basic freedoms which are inseparable from justice and solidarity are ignored".

Apart from the protection of the Human and Peoples' Rights, special attention should also be focused on the tragic plight of the five (5) million refugees on our continent, without, of course, forgetting the liberation struggles being waged by our brothers and sisters in Southern Africa especially in Namibia and South Africa.

The Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act which constitute the new development strategy for Africa require gigantic efforts at the national, regional and continental levels. For the continent's enormous resources to be developed with the main objective of satisfying the needs and aspiration of the African peoples, an intelligent and systematic campaign should be launched to sensitize and mobilize the active forces and the masses on the collective survival around the following themes: Solidarity, interdependence, unity of action and common objective. The free and effective participation of the people could easily be guaranteed if the African mass media accepted to become the vehicles for this noble task. This would mean in a way using the Lagos Plan of Action to mould the public opinions and mentalities towards creating a climate propitious to development.

The 20th Anniversary of the OAU should be celebrated with particular Pomp and pageantry in the country which will host the 20th Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The General Secretariat should, therefore, undertake frequent consultations with the host country for the preparation of the various activities.

This historic day should also be commemorated in all Member States as well as in the OAU Regional offices in New York and Geneva. African Embassies in the world cities such as Paris, London, Tokyo, Moscow, Rio de Janeiro, etc.. could come together to organise different activities to sensitize the public opinion of their countries of accreditation.

The following are the various measures and activities being planned for the 20th Anniversary of the OAU:

- Declare 25 May as a public holiday in all OAU Member States;
- Abolition of visas among African countries. If that is not possible at least allow a free movement of persons within each region of the continent;
- Launch exchange programmes of African technical assistants and experts between Member States;
- Initiate student and academic staff exchange Programmes between African universities and institutions;
- Request Member States to issue commemorative stamps.

Activities aimed at promoting the interaction of the continent's cultural heritages should be undertaken not only in the large public buildings in African Capitals but also in Market places, factories, working places, schools and universities.

There will also be:

- Sports tournaments;
- Traditional dances;
- Painting exhibitions;
- Photo exhibitions depicting the Liberation Struggle and on the most remarkable stages in the History of the OAU;
- Exhibitions of African works of Art and Artisanal products

- Exhibition of books published by African writers and by Africanists;
- Exhibition of all the documents produced by the various bodies of the OAU;
- Festival of African films;
- Conferences and Seminars on African Unity;
- Encourage the organisation of courses and research on the OAU in African schools and Universities.

In the same vein, the newspapers, news agencies, televisions, radios, cinemas of Member States as well as the PANA and the General Secretariat should be mobilized to undertake short-term, medium term and long-term activities to sensitize the urban and rural population of the continent as much as possible.

For this perspective, the following should be undertaken:

- Publication of brochures on the activities of the OAU from 1963 to 1983;
- Printing of booklets, posters, folders on Pan-African themes;
- Shooting of documentary films on the OAU;
- Featuring of radio and television programmes on the OAU.

As part of the organisation of these various activities marking the 20th Anniversary of the OAU, an appeal should be made to all Member States so that they may give their full and effective support to the OAU General Secretariat by putting their written, sound, photographic or film archives at the Secretariat's disposal while making as much publicity of the commemoration as possible.

CM/1197 (XXXIX)

Annex

CM/Res.258 (XVII)

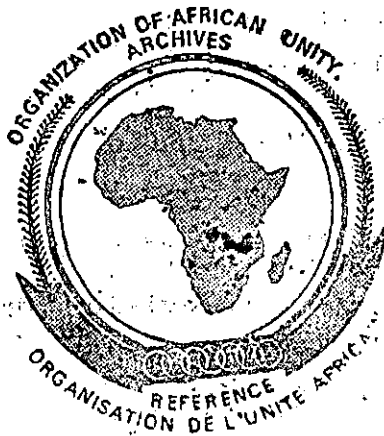
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TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAU

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Seventeenth Ordinary Session, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 15 to 19 June, 1971,

Considering the forthcoming Tenth Anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity in 1973,

RECOMMENDS that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government should establish a programme committee to plan and organize activities for the celebration of that Anniversary.





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MICROFICHE

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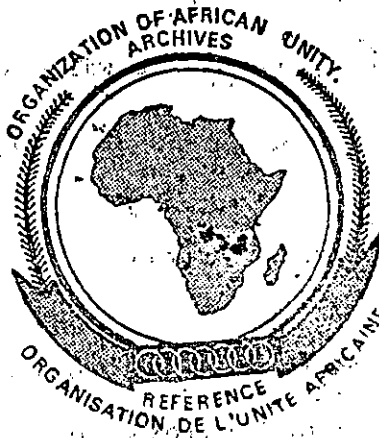
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