

Ref : OAU.BRU/Bur.Mtg. (XIII) SR

MINUTES OF THE
BUREAU OF THE OAU GROUP OF AMBASSADORS
HELD ON 20/8/86 AT 11 A.M. IN THE OAU PERMANENT OFFICE

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I. Participation

- a) Chairman a.i. (H.E. Ambassador Seydina O. SY, Ambassador of Senegal and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps).

- b) Members : Algeria
Kenya
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
Zambia
Nigeria (as outgoing Chairman of the Bureau of the OAU Group of Ambassadors in Brussels).

- c) Observer : African National Congress (ANC).

- d) Secretariat : Permanent Office of the OAU in Brussels : Mr. G. Kainamuri
Director a.i.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

- 1. The agenda below was adopted without amendments.
 - i) Communication from the Chairman.
 - ii) Adoption of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Bureau (Doc. OAU.BRU.BUR/Mtg. (XII) SR.).
 - iii) Brief by the outgoing Chairman on the following :
 - Visit by the Delegation of the OAU Group of the Hague, 26th June, 1986 - during the Summit of EEC Heads of State and Government.
 - Brief by the Chairman of the OAU Group on the 22nd

Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU and the 44th Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers, Addis-Ababa, July 1986.

iv) Situation in Southern Africa.

v) Presentation of gifts to former colleague Ambassadors who left Brussels; contributions to the account of the OAU Group.

vi) Any other business.

III. Communication from the Chairman (Item 1 of the Agenda)

2. In his communication to members of the Bureau, H.E. S.O. SY, Ambassador of Senegal and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps welcomed members of the Bureau to the meeting. He explained that he had been requested to be the Chairman of the Bureau because the substantive Chairman of the OAU Group, H.E. Mr. I. MUNYESHYAKA, (Rwanda) was attending to other duties in his country. He also added that the Bureau had to meet because there were important and urgent issues which the OAU Group had to deal with in the months of August and September as indicated on the Agenda. This was all the more important especially because the forthcoming summit meeting of the EEC Heads of State and Government and the ACP/EEC Joint Assembly in September which would have a bearing on political developments in Africa.

IV. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting of the Bureau (Doc. OAU.BRU.BUR.Mtg. (XII) SR.) (Item N° 2 of the Agenda)

3. The Bureau took note of the minutes and directed the secretariat to send them to the members of the outgoing Bureau for adoption.

V. Brief by the outgoing Chairman (Item N° 3 of the Agenda).

- Visit by the Delegation of the OAU Group to the Hague, 26th June, 1986 during the Summit of EEC Heads of State and Government

4. In introducing the brief on the above mentioned subject, the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps, H.E. Ambassador SY explained that the leader of the OAU Delegation to the Hague, H.E. Mr. J.O.B. IROHA (Nigeria) could not attend the meeting because he had left Brussels to attend the Non-Aligned Conference in Harare. Before leaving, however, he had requested the Dean who was also a member of the delegation to brief the Bureau about the results of

their mission to the EEC Summit in the Hague.

5. The Chairman reminded the Bureau of the mandate which the OAU Delegation had been given by the OAU Group during the Plenary Session of 16th June, 1986 at ACP House which was :

- (a) An OAU delegation would go to the Hague before the EEC Summit in order to express Africa's call for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria regime as the only instrument which would enhance the dismantling of Apartheid.
- (b) To prepare and submit a memorandum to this effect and which would, inter alia, dismiss arguments that sanctions would not achieve anything or that blacks would suffer more because of sanctions.
- (c) The Chairman would, in addition, contact the British and Dutch representatives to the EEC in order to further explain that the imposition of sanctions against South Africa by the EEC would be a clear gesture of their commitment to dismantle apartheid as contained in the Lome Convention.
- (d) The delegation would consist of the Chairman of the OAU Group, the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps and the Director of the OAU Office in Brussels.
- (e) The Chairman would also seek the support of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors and find out the possibility of a joint delegation.

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6. The Dean informed the meeting that the above mentioned mandate was fulfilled. He said that arrangements were made to meet the D/G of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands at the request of his Minister who was at the time President of the Council of Ministers of the European Community in order to express and convey through him to the European Summit Africa's concern for the deteriorating situation in Southern Africa and the need for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

7. The OAU Delegation was joined by the Chairman of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors. During their discussion, a comprehensive Memorandum ^{1/} was submitted with a specific request to bring it to the attention of the Presidency of the European Summit.

8. After an exchange of views on the brief by the Chairman on the result of the Hague Summit, the Bureau of the OAU Group agreed that further diplomatic pressure should be applied especially to those countries of the EEC particularly Britain which continue to block the imposition of sanctions.

9. In this connection, the following was agreed upon :

- a) An OAU Delegation consisting of all members of the Bureau and the ANC representative in Brussels would seek to meet the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the EEC (representing the Presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers). Such a meeting should be held before the Summit Meeting of the EEC Heads of State and Government.
- b) The same Delegation would seek to meet all the other eleven (11) EEC Member States Ambassadors responsible for Community matters in order to further persuade and explain to them that the imposition of sanctions against South Africa would constitute the only peaceful alternative towards the abolition of Apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa.

- c) The OAU Office in Brussels should prepare another memorandum which would further urge the 12 EEC Governments to urgently impose sanctions against the Pretoria regime.

VI. Brief by the Chairman of the OAU Group on the 22nd Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU and 44th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers (Addis-Ababa, July 1986) (Agenda Item N° 4)

10. The Chairman recalled that before going to Addis-Ababa to attend the above mentioned meeting, the OAU Group of Ambassadors in Brussels had given him a mandate together with the outgoing Chairman of the OAU Group in Brussels, to see the Secretary General of the OAU and the Chairman of the OAU Advisory Committee on Financial and Administrative Matters on the status and role of the Permanent Office of the OAU in Brussels.

11. He explained that after meeting the Secretary General of the OAU, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee as well as a number of other Ambassadors and Ministers with whom they had fruitful discussions in Addis-Ababa on the status of the OAU Office in Brussels, there was no fear for the closure of this Office any more. They were re-assured by the Secretary General of the OAU, that their discussions had thrown more light on the picture and important role of the Office as well as the need to maintain it. The Bureau was further informed that his matter would be further discussed by the Advisory Committee in November this year.

12. In connection with the 22nd Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU and the 44th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, H.E. Ambassador SY drew the attention of the Bureau to relevant Declarations and Resolutions of the Summit and those of the Council. He pointed out that there were some important resolutions which the OAU Group in Brussels could follow-up with a view to contribute to their implementation. These included, inter alia, those relating to the critical situation in Southern Africa and the problem of Africa's indebtedness especially as regards the OAU Group's preparations for representation to be submitted to the forthcoming EEC Summit and the Joint ACP/EEC Assembly which will be held in September 1986.

VII. The situation in Southern Africa (Agenda Item N° 4)

13. In discussing the situation in Southern Africa, the Chairman gave the floor to Mr. G. MOTSEPE, ANC Representative in Brussels in order to appraise the Bureau of the recent developments in the liberation struggle.

14. The ANC Representative thanked the Chairman and the entire OAU Group for their continuing support to the ANC in the struggle to rid Africa of the scourge of Apartheid. Mr. Motsepe informed the meeting that the liberation struggle had now entered a crucial phase at all levels and that international support was needed more than ever before.

15. The ANC Representative explained that in spite of the imposition of the State of Emergency in order to cover-up the intensification of atrocities inside South Africa, ANC had launched a successful campaign to make South Africa ungovernable. The Bureau was informed that civil disobedience was at its highest. Refusal to pay rents, closure of schools and factories coupled with successful destruction of military as well as para military targets in South Africa had put the whole country in a state of panic. As a result, white emigration from South Africa has gone up together with capital flight especially because of the increase of violence. The fact that some multinational companies have been the target of ANC attacks is a signal that these should stop collaborating with the racist regime and join in the struggle to dismantle apartheid.

16. Mr. Motsepe concluded by thanking the OAU Group of Ambassadors in Brussels for their continued support and he urged them to intensify diplomatic pressure on EEC Member States to immediately impose sanctions against South Africa because this would shorten the life of Apartheid and eliminate further bloodshed.

17. The Bureau was informed that following the decision of the Mini Summit of the Commonwealth Heads of State and Government in August to impose sanctions against South Africa, the Pretoria regime has now increased the destabilisation of the economies of neighbouring Front Line States especially Zambia and Zimbabwe. In the process however, South Africa has found itself in a dilemma because the measures it has taken against Zambia and Zimbabwe have direct effects on the South African economy itself as well as the economies of those countries in Southern Africa which South Africa did not intend to retaliate against.

18. After an exchange of views on the situation in Southern Africa, the Bureau concluded by re-iterating the OAU Group support for the liberation struggle. It was further agreed that the Front Line States should not be made to suffer and bear the burden of South Africa's economic sabotage alone. The Bureau felt that this was an international burden to be borne by the international community as a whole and that efforts should be made to sensitise the International Community to support the Front Line States.

VIII. Presentation of gifts to former colleague Ambassadors who left Brussels and contributions to the Account of the OAU Group (Agenda Item N° 5)

19. In introducing this item, the Director a.i. of the OAU Office informed the Bureau that a number of African Ambassadors had left Brussels for other assignments. Like it has been the Group's practice in the past, the Bureau was requested and it authorised the OAU Office to buy presents which would be sent to them through their respective Embassies.

IX. Any other business (Agenda Item N° 6)

20. As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned at 13 hours

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Minutes of the Bureau of the OAU Group of Ambassadors held on 20 September 1986 at 11a.m. in the OAU Permanent Office

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