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REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN GROUP TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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I - Introduction

This report which covers the period from June 1974 to March 1975, consists of three parts:

- (1) Activities of the African Group during the 29th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
- (2) Relations between the OAU Executive Secretariat and the United Nations General Assembly.
- (3) Administrative and Information Activities of the Executive Secretariat.

(1) Activities of the African Group at the 29th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The 29th Session of the United Nations General Assembly was considered by a vast majority of international public opinion as the session of the Third World, and more particularly that of Africa, because of the victories scored by the African States, with the constant support of their friends of Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America. The International Organization is now in the process of becoming, to a continuously lesser degree, an instrument in the hands of the Western block, under the leadership of the United States of America and the Europe of the Nine. On all the major problems tackled by the 29th Session, the stances of the Third World countries were always prevailing, the fact which, of course, led to the generation of a frustration amongst the Western countries who did not hesitate to give vent to their views according to which the United Nations Organization is "weakening and will before long, meet the fate of the League of Nations if alertness is not exercised". Obviously, this is translating the disarray of Western countries vis-a-vis the cohesion of non-aligned countries, and particularly the dynamic cohesion and solidarity of the African Group to the United Nations.

As regards the political or economic problems, the African Group achieved great victories in spite of the lust for power expressed more than once by the Western countries.

A - POLITICAL MATTERS

(i) Apartheid and Decolonization

On the basis of the resolutions adopted by the Eleventh Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Mogadiscio, the African Group held several meetings during which agreement was reached on the strategy to be followed during the session's proceedings. Thus, a small committee was set-up to study the concrete problems related to the demand to expel South Africa from the United Nations. Later this committee was expanded to serve as a liaison group for the African Group as a whole.

In the first instances, the fate of South Africa, at the level of the credentials of the South African delegation to the 29th Session, was considered by most observers as one of the overwhelming facts of that session. As in the past, the African Group representatives waged a battle at the level of the Credentials Committee, and for the first time in five years, this Committee rejected, by 5 votes against and 4 in favour, the credentials of the South African delegation to the 29th Session. In conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, the report of the Credentials Committee was immediately submitted to the General Assembly which approved it and adopted, as a confirmation of this report, a resolution requesting the Security Council to reconsider the relations between South Africa and the United Nations Organization, specifically in the light of the rejection of that delegation's credentials.

Consequently, the Security Council met and, following an important discussion in which 45 delegations took the floor to denounce and brand the apartheid policy of South Africa and its illegal occupation of the International Territory of Namibia, a draft resolution, sponsored by the three African members of the Security Council, together with the delegation of Iraq, was submitted to the Council for approval. But during the discussions the Chairman of the African Group, with the effective participation of the Executive Secretary, held contacts with the delegations whose stands were not clearly defined on the draft resolution. These were the delegations of Peru and Australia. In fact, the African draft resolution required

nine positive votes for its adoption. The Africans together with China, the Soviet Union, Iraq, Byelorussia, and Indonesia added up to eight votes only. Consequently serious negotiations had to be carried out with Peru and Australia which, since the beginning, viewed the draft with sympathy. When it became clear that these two countries were going to vote for the draft resolution, then the Western countries, led by France, started to move in an unprecedented manner at the Security Council. They contacted the Executive Secretary and informed him that should the draft resolution be maintained in its original form, it would be faced with three vetoes instead of one, the United States (as some would have expected) would reject the resolution. Then, the Executive Secretary explained the representatives of France and Great Britain that, at the juncture, Africa had now reached, one veto or three vetoes would be exactly the same", and that these three vetoes, if ever expressed, would permit a further clarification of the positions of those countries towards the apartheid policy of South Africa.

When their arguments failed to score, the Western countries renewed their attack with so-called amendments which, in actual fact, were not so, and were categorically rejected by the Africans. The result of the vote on the draft resolution is well-known: ten in favour, three against and two abstentions (Costa Rica and Austria). Following the voting, the African Group, far from being depressed or discouraged, considered this as a great victory. Anyhow, from the beginning to the end of the debates, the African countries had no illusions and knew that, one way or the other, one of the Western countries would veto the draft. But what we were seeking was to obtain that 9 vote majority which was necessary to have the resolution adopted without the Western veto, and in fact 10 votes were obtained. In spite of these three vetoes, the majority of the delegations to the 29th Session remained unanimous in their recognition that Africa achieved a greater moral victory.

Having drawn the conclusions from the Security Council deliberations and the rejection of the Arab-African draft resolution, the African Group requested the Security Council's President to transmit, at his earliest, to the General Assembly the report on the Security Council's proceedings. This was actually done, and on the

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occasion of the General Assembly's consideration of this report, the Group asked the President of the General Assembly to give his interpretation of the rejection by the General Assembly of the South African's credentials. Taking his courage in both hands, as a good militant of the African cause, and in spite of the pressures being constantly exerted upon him by the American press, the President of the General Assembly unequivocally and solemnly declared that, in his opinion, the General Assembly's rejection of the South African delegation's credentials meant that this delegation was not entitled to take part in the 29th Session proceedings, and that the South African delegation should, consequently, put an end to its activities during the 29th Session. Therefore, the delegation of South Africa withdrew. Nevertheless, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom contacted the Executive Secretary to ask whether the African Group would adopt the same position towards the South African delegation during the 30th Session of the General Assembly. Obviously, he was acting on behalf of the South Africans. The Executive Secretary told him that if no substantial changes occur in the South African policy in South Africa itself, Namibia and Rhodesia, the African position would certainly remain unchanged.

On the other hand, while the Security Council and the General Assembly examined the problem of the apartheid policy of South Africa and reached the above-mentioned decisions, the Special Political Committee, which was entrusted with the task of a more detailed examination of apartheid and its aftermath on African peoples and the international community, had the item on its agenda.

At the end of several sittings, this Committee adopted a series of five resolutions on the question of the apartheid policy of the South African Government which were grouped together in one general resolution number 3324 (XXIV).

These five resolutions dealt respectively with the question of arms embargo against South Africa, the release of political prisoners, the situation in South Africa, the Special United Nations Fund for Education in South Africa, and lastly the programme of action of the Special Anti-Apartheid Committee.

In the resolution on arms embargo, the United Nations General Assembly considering that the full implementation of the arms embargo against South Africa aimed primarily at preventing a further aggravation of the situation, requested the Security Council to urgently reconsider the item entitled : "the Question of Racial Conflict in South Africa resulting from the apartheid policy of the South African Government" in order to take measures by virtue of Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter, so that all countries would completely cease to supply arms, ammunitions, military vehicles, spare parts for such vehicles and any other kind of military equipment to South Africa, and would put an end to any military co-operation with that country.

In the resolution concerning the release of political prisoners, the General Assembly, having reaffirmed its conviction that the release of the leaders of the oppressed people of South Africa, and of other opponents of apartheid imprisoned and subjected to restrictive measures, was a precondition to any peaceful solution, urged the South African Government:

- (a) To grant an uncondition amnesty to all persons imprisoned or subjected to restrictive measures for their opposition to apartheid or for acts resulting from such opposition, as well as to South African political refugees;
- (b) To revoke all repressive laws and regulations restricting the right of the population to struggle to put an end to racial discrimination, including the Unlawful Organization Act of 1960 by virtue of which the African National Congress of South Africa and the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania as well as other organizations were declared unlawful;
- (c) To allow the South African people as a whole to exercise their right to self-determination, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

The general resolution on the situation in South Africa reaffirmed that the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa by all means available to them for the total elimination of apartheid was legitimate and deserved the support of the International Community. It condemned the acts of States and foreign economic interests which continued to collaborate with the South African regime in violation of the General Assembly resolutions and thus encouraging it to pursue its inhuman policy and reinforced the political, economic, military and other relations between Israel and South Africa. It also recommended that the South African regime be totally excluded from any

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participation in international organizations and conferences under the United Nations auspices, as long as it would continue practicing apartheid and would not respect the United Nations resolutions concerning Namibia and Southern Rhodesia.

It is worth mentioning that during the voting on these three resolutions which were the most important, the Western countries had abstained (France, Belgium, Italy, Japan, Netherlands and United Kingdom) or voted against United States, United Kingdom, Netherlands and Ireland .

Finally, with regard to the Programme of Action of the Special Anti-Apartheid Committee, the General Assembly asked the Special Committee to organize in 1975, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, a seminar to study the present situation in South Africa and the means of promoting a public anti-apartheid action.

The Special Committee decided to organize this seminar in Paris from 28 April to 2 May 1975, the choice of the French capital was made with the hope of being able to reach more properly European public opinion and particularly French opinion, bearing in mind the relation between the French Government and the regime of Pretoria.

(ii) Namibia

In the very context of the implementation of the Mogadiscio resolution on Namibia, the African Group has decided to request a meeting of the Security Council before the end of the 29th Session to examine the situation in the international territory of Namibia. The Council met on Tuesday the 17 December and adopted unanimously, for the first time, a resolution on this question. In this resolution the Security Council urged South Africa to take the necessary measures for the withdrawal of its illegal administration from Namibia and for the transfer of powers to the people of this territory with the assistance of the United Nations.

The Security Council also requested that while awaiting the transfer of power, South Africa should respect the provisions of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, release all political prisoners, put an end to the application of laws and practices racially discriminatory and politically repressive in Namibia, and grant unconditionally to all Namibians in exile all the facilities to return to their homeland without being subject to detention, intimidation and

imprisonment. The Council has also decided to meet in May 1975, at the latest, so as to examine the reaction of South Africa to this resolution and eventually to study the appropriate measures to be taken, in conformity with, the Charter.

Many delegations have considered this resolution to be too mild. In fact, some of these delegations would have preferred a resolution which would not only have condemned in unequivocal terms South Africa for its illegal occupation of Namibia, but in which the Security Council would have pledged to take the appropriate measures for sanctioning South Africa.

However, delegations in favour of the resolution including that of SWAPO were of the opinion that the issue had already reached a certain dramatic intensity during the meeting of the Security Council on the expulsion of South Africa from the United Nations. It was accordingly necessary to have an unanimous decision of the Security Council which would in no way give a pretext to the Western countries to use their veto or abstain.

Taking into account these factors, the African Group thought it more advisable not to insist on a resolution imposing a coercive or punitive action against South Africa as it had intended.

When this report was being prepared, other than the declaration of intention, there was no concrete indication on the real intentions of South Africa concerning the implementation of the resolution of the Security Council.

On the other hand, on a recommendation by the Fourth Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3259 on Namibia. This resolution, consists of six sections and was adopted without any opposition but with 15 abstentions, that is all the Western countries and Sweden, Denmark and Malawi.

In Section 1 of the resolution, the legitimacy of the struggle waged by the Namibian people, through all means, was reasserted and the SWAPO was recognized as the authentic representative of the Namibian people.

In Section 3, the General Assembly authorized the setting up of a permanent observer mission of the SWAPO at the United Nations to be financed by the budget of the United Nations Council for Namibia. (This Mission has been already set up and is functioning normally).

Section 4 concerns the protection of the natural resources of Namibia. It reasserts the right of the Namibian people to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and condemns the policy of those States which continue to support foreign and other economic interests exploiting the natural and human resources of Namibia.

The two other sections are related to the dissemination of information on Namibia.

(iii) Southern Rhodesia

Following an intensive debate in which actively the Representatives of the Liberation Movements of Zimbabwe participated, the General Assembly adopted, on a recommendation from the Fourth Committee, two resolutions on the issue of Southern Rhodesia.

In the first resolution 3297, the General Assembly "reasserts that any attempt to negotiate the future of Zimbabwe with the illegal regime on the basis of independence before the establishment of a government of the majority would violate the inalienable rights of the people of the UN Charter".

It underlined the responsibilities of Great Britain which was urged to "take all the necessary measures to release all political prisoners and convene a constitutional conference".

The second resolution deals with the action of governments to intensify pressure on the Rhodesian government to induce it to accept the principle of majority rule.

In the same context and with a special reference to Southern Africa, the General Assembly also adopted with a vast majority, a resolution on the activities of foreign and other economic interests which hinder the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

After condemning the increasing intensification of activities of foreign economic, financial and other interests which continue to exploit human and natural resources of colonial territories, to accumulate and export the tremendous profits realized at the expense of the interests of the inhabitants, especially in Southern Africa, thus preventing the peoples of these territories from achieving their legitimate aspirations to self-determination and independence, the General Assembly reasserted that exploiting these natural resources,

could lead to their exhaustion. It also stated that accumulating and sending home huge profits and using them to enrich foreign settlers and consolidate colonial domination on these territories, foreign economic, financial and other interests currently having activities in the colonial territories of Southern Africa, represented a major obstacle to political independence and the enjoyment of the natural resources of these territories by the local populations.

It also urged the colonial powers as well as their governments which so far did not take up the necessary legal, administrative and other measures towards those of their citizens and moral persons falling under their jurisdiction who own and exploit concerns detrimental to the inhabitants of the colonial territories, especially in Africa, in order to put an end to the activities of these concerns and to prevent new investments contrary to the interests of the inhabitants.

It requested all States to take effective measures to end the supply of funds and other forms of aid, including the supply of military equipment, to regimes using these supplies to oppress the peoples of colonial territories and repress their national liberation movements.

In conclusion, in resolution 3300 concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Peoples and Countries, the General Assembly urgently requested all specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations Organization as well as all the States, to grant forthwith all moral and material aid to African colonial peoples struggling to liberate themselves from colonial regimes and recommended in particular that the concerned institutions establish and develop their relations and their collaboration with these people in consultation with the Organization of African Unity. They should also draw up and implement concrete programmes of assistance with the active collaboration of the concerned national liberation movements.

(iv) Portuguese colonies

With the process of decolonization rightly started by the new Government of Lisbon in the African territories under Portuguese domination, the debate on the Portuguese colonies occupied a pre-dominant place during this 29th Session. It was in the first place,

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the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mario Soares, who made an important statement before the General Assembly, in which he clearly and unequivocally committed his Government to carry to a satisfactory end the decolonization of Portuguese colonies in Africa. Then it was the President of the Republic of Portugal, General Gomes, who came personally before the International Community to confirm the pledge made by Mr. Soares. Finally, it was Mr. Antonio D'Almeida Santos, Minister of Inter-Territorial Co-ordination who made definite precisions on the calendar of the decolonization of the Cape Verde Islands, Sao Tome and Principe as well as Angola. All these eminent personalities have insisted on the necessity of the International Community and especially African States normalizing their relations on all levels with Portugal, as long as there were no more major dispute between the African independent States and the new Portuguese Government. All these diplomatic activities on the part of these Portuguese representatives have led to the adoption of important resolutions by the 29th Session, in which deserved praise was addressed to the Specialized Agencies and Bodies of the family of the United Nations, and in which they were also requested to lift their embargo and ban on the Government of Lisbon.

During their stay in New York, the two Portuguese Ministers have formally requested to meet the African Group. They expressly requested the help and co-operation of the African States to normalize their diplomatic, cultural, economic and other relations with the Government of Lisbon.

(v) Spanish Sahara and Other Territories

This year the question of the so-called Spanish Sahara had known especially important developments on the basis of the proposal of Morocco to bring this issue to the International Court of Justice. After the remarkable interventions of the two Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Representatives of Mauritania and Morocco before the General Assembly, the two delegations agreed on a draft resolution requesting the International Court of Justice to define on the basis of documents to be submitted by both Morocco and Mauritania, whether the so-called Spanish Sahara was a res nullius when Spain occupied it on the one hand and if not, what were the links between this territory on the one hand and Morocco and the whole of

Mauritania on the other. When this draft resolution was submitted by the African Group, many delegations expressed their concern on the fact that this resolution did not bear in mind the right of the population of the Sahara to self-determination and that this could constitute a dangerous precedent for the African countries which have been since their independence fighting for the same principle. After long deliberations, contacts made and the setting up of a drafting committee, the Group ended by adopting the draft resolution in which it reasserted the right of the population of the Sahara to self-determination and in which it was clearly stated that the advisory views of the International Court of Justice would not affect the implementation of resolution 1514 of the General Assembly. This resolution was later adopted by the General Assembly.

Another outstanding result of the 29th Session was the adoption of the resolution on co-operation between the Organization of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity. In this resolution the General Assembly accepted the participation on a regular basis of all liberation movements in the work of its main committees, as well as in all the conferences to be convened under the auspices of the United Nations Organization. The financial implications of this resolution amounting to more than 25,000 dollars were also approved.

Under other Territories (Comoro Islands, Seychelles Islands) resolutions were adopted in which appeals were launched to the administering Powers to expedite the process of decolonization of these territories.

Then, in the framework of efforts exerted on the question of Disarmament, it is noteworthy to mention the various initiatives taken and proposals made by several Regional Groups on denuclearized zones. The OAU had examined this issue after its creation but it was not followed up. It would be advisable that decisions be taken to this effect at a time when each region is trying to protect itself against the negative aspects of nuclear energy.

(vi) Palestinian Question

For many observers, the most salient point of the 29th Session of the General Assembly was without any doubt, the hearing of the delegation of the Organization for the Liberation of Palestine led

by its President, Mr. Yasser Arafat. He made an important statement before the General Assembly which was greeted as a declaration of peace by the majority of the International Community with the exception of Israel and its traditional allies. At the conclusion of an important debate during which several African delegations participated, a draft resolution was adopted by a vast majority, granting, among others the status of observer to the Organization for the Liberation of Palestine. Many observers have considered after 29 years of injustice towards the Palestinian people, that the United Nations at last engaged on the road to justice with the hope that the Palestinian people would recover in the years to come their legitimate rights. In this context, the participation and contribution of the African countries have been outstanding and this led the United States and their Western friends to speak of an Arabo-African and Eastern European conspiracy.

B - ECONOMIC MATTERS

If the 29th Session of the General Assembly has entered in the annals of the United Nations as one of the richest sessions in political events, it is beyond doubt that economic problems were not neglected. In fact, these problems drew the attention of the delegations but unfortunately as it has always been the case, the resolutions adopted did not make headlines in the press as was the case for the political matters.

In fact, some forty resolutions among which some were very important for the future of international economic relations were adopted in the economic and social fields.

Thus a first group of resolutions was adopted on matters of international trade and co-operation among developing countries.

From these resolutions, a special mention should be made on resolution 3309 (XXIX) concerning multilateral trade negotiations. In this resolution, the General Assembly having expressed its convictions on the present international economic situation, considered that the aims of the multilateral trade negotiations should be to achieve the expansion and liberalization of trade among all countries, improve the standard of living and welfare of the peoples of the world and in particular secure additional benefits for the international trade of developing countries.

It stressed the need for the full and effective application, whenever feasible and appropriate of differential treatment in favour of developing countries in the different fields of the negotiations, so as to ensure additional benefits to these countries.

It also stressed the importance of avoiding escalation of restrictions on trade and, to this end, urged developed countries to refrain from introducing or increasing the incidence of custom duties or non-traffic barriers on products currently or potentially of special export interest to developing countries, or from having recourse in any other manner to unilateral measures of either general or specific nature to restrict the export earnings of developing countries.

Lastly, the General Assembly urged developed countries which have recently introduced or imposed import restrictions that adversely affect the products of interest to developing countries and in particular restrictions specifically directed against such countries, to eliminate them as soon as possible.

Within this series of resolutions, a special reference should be made of the resolution 3241 (XXIX) concerning co-operation between developing countries in which the General Assembly took note of the determination of the non-aligned countries and other developing countries to provide by self-reliance and joint efforts and through mutual solidarity and assistance, the necessary conditions for their independent and accelerated economic and political development, and also urged specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system to provide continuing support for the promotion of economic co-operation among developing countries.

Another series of resolutions was adopted on matters of international aid to countries victims of natural catastrophes. In that series, resolution 3319 (XXIX) dealt with special measures concerning the specific needs of land-locked developing countries. This resolution calls upon relevant bodies of the United Nations system and on members of the International Community, including regional development banks, to give a special attention to the problems strictly related to the land-locked developing countries in the assistance which they allocate to national, regional and sub-regional projects of infrastructure and transport. It also calls upon all Member States and qualified international organizations to assist land-locked

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developing countries in order to facilitate their use of the right of free access to and from the sea, as stipulated in the relevant agreements.

Another similar resolution stressed the necessity of organizing a special assistance to island developing countries.

Resolutions 339 (XXIX) and 3340 (XXIX) provide economic, financial and technical aid to the Government of Guinea-Bissau as well as to the States emerging from territories still under Portuguese domination.

Lastly, resolution 3337 (XXIX) which deals with international co-operation to combat desertification decided to convene in 1977 a United Nations Conference on Desertification to give an impetus to the international action to combat desertification. This resolution also foresees the setting up of a secretariat to prepare for this conference and whose duties would be the following:

- (a) The preparation of a world map of the areas affected and areas likely to be affected by the process of desertification.
- (b) The assessment of all available data and information on desertification and its consequences on the process of development of the affected countries through the enlisting of all the expertise available from the public and private institutions and organizations of Member States, including ongoing and planned research, studies and activities within the UN system.
- (c) The preparation of an effective, comprehensive and co-ordinated programme of action, against desertification, including the building up of indigenous and autonomous science and technology capacity in the areas concerned.

A third group of resolutions is related to the activities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as well as to the problems of the United Nations Programme on Environment (UNEP).

Other resolutions were also adopted on the issues of Population as well as on the situation of world food.

All these resolutions were adopted without any substantial opposition as they did not affect the sacro-saint principles which constitute the pillars of the Western capitalist economy.

However, the most important decision taken in the economic-social field during the 29th Session is the acceptance by the International Community of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

In fact, this document describes in a comprehensive and exhaustive manner in its Articles 34 the economic rights and duties of the States. Previously in its preamble, the Charter states the fundamental principles or elements on which economic relations as well as political and other relations between States should be based.

The principles are:

- (a) Sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States;
- (b) Sovereign equality of all States;
- (c) Non-aggression;
- (d) Non-intervention;
- (e) Mutual and equitable benefit;
- (f) Peaceful co-existence;
- (g) Equal rights and self-determination of peoples;
- (h) Peaceful settlement of disputes;
- (i) Remedying of injustices which have been brought about by force and which deprive a nation of the natural means necessary for its normal development;
- (j) Fulfilment in good faith of international obligations;
- (k) Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (l) No attempt to seek hegemony and spheres of influence;
- (m) Promotion of international social justice;
- (n) International co-operation for development;
- (o) Free access to and from the sea by land-locked countries within the framework of the above principles.

This document was adopted by a roll-call vote by 120 Member States of the United Nations with 10 abstentions and 6 votes against. Countries having voted against were: Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, United States, while Austria, Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Israel, Holland, Norway and Spain abstained.

The analysis of this vote clearly shows on the one hand, Western countries either voting against or abstaining and on the other hand, the vast majority of UN Members, that is, countries of the Third World and the Socialist countries.

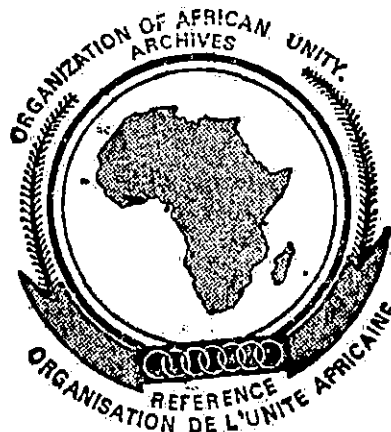
The opposition of the United States of America, amongst other countries, helps to better understand the threats of Secretary of State, Mr. Henry Kissinger, to go and conquer, as in the past, the oil wells of the Middle East, if America deems it necessary. With such tendencies, the possibility of establishing a true era of harmonious economic relations at the international level could appear as a wishful thinking. But beyond such threats of the American authorities, it is the general attitude adopted by the developed countries towards the Third World countries which is disquieting.

In fact, the true sense of their negative vote is to be interpreted as their will not to co-operate in the establishment of the new economic order considered by the Special United Nations Session on Raw Materials as necessary for the future of peace and security in the world.

Concerning the economic problems, it goes without saying that the struggle for more economic justice is extremely more complex and arduous than the struggle for political liberation.

Indeed, if it were possible for liberation movements to take up arms to destroy the unjust colonial and oppressive order, it would be more difficult to have recourse to the same formula in order to destroy the present economic order controlled and directed by the developed countries.

The struggle to be launched in this field would therefore be more dynamic and political and should be based on persuasion and conviction of the complementarity and solidarity of men all over the world in shaping their destiny.



(2) Relations between the General Secretariat of the United Nations and the Executive Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity

During the period under review, co-operation between the United Nations General Secretariat and the Organization of African Unity Executive Secretariat in New York was strengthened.

First of all, upon the initiative of the United Nations, the OAU Executive Secretary undertook in May 1974 missions with the Special Committee against Apartheid in several countries of Europe. A similar mission to Latin America was also undertaken by the OAU Executive Secretary with the UN Council on Namibia. These missions gave the OAU Representative the opportunity to directly convey to the public opinion in the visited countries the viewpoint of the OAU on the very objectives of these missions.

In fact, at the conclusion of these missions and in each country visited, press conferences were organized during which questions were put as to the goals, realisations and difficulties of the OAU.

On the one hand, within the framework of strengthening relations between the two organizations and at the initiative of the General Secretariat, the United Nations Education Programme for Southern Africa (UNEPSA) decided to allow the Representative of the Executive Secretariat to attend its meetings as one of the observers.

This enabled the OAU Representative in New York to follow the activities of this programme on which very scarce information had been so far transmitted to the OAU.

In a similar context, the Committee of the Security Council on Sanctions against Southern Rhodesia which was only attended by the members of the Security Council also granted Observer status to the OAU.

On the other hand, during the period under review, the General Secretary and members of his Cabinet worked closely with the Executive Secretary. There were regular consultations almost daily on all African issues brought before the United Nations.

The example which clearly demonstrates the excellent relations between the General Secretariat and the Executive Secretariat was the appointment of the Executive Director of UNIDO in Vienna. In the framework of the implementation of the Mogadiscio resolution concerning this question, the OAU Secretary General during his stay in New York, had reiterated to the UN Secretary General the wish of African countries to keep this post. But by the time the decision of the African countries had been communicated to the UN Secretary General, the Latin American Group had already submitted its candidature. It was then necessary to explain to the Latin-American Group the principle on which the African countries were taking their stand: Africa was not adequately represented on the managing bodies of the UN and it was in view of that they insisted on keeping the Vienna post. However, the Latin-Americans insisted on their part and it was only after difficult negotiations and at the end of several meetings between the two groups, on the one hand, and between the two groups and the Secretary General on the other hand, that a solution was found to the problem. The African candidate, Mr. Abderrahman Khene was elected without opposition.

However, this election was not possible without a kind of "Gentleman's agreement" with the Latin American Group that the African Group would support their candidate for the post of Secretary-General of UNEP when it will become vacant.

(3) Administrative and Information Activities of the Executive Secretariat

Along with the activities mentioned above, the Executive Secretariat had a very busy year on the administrative level inspite of the limited number of its staff.

It thus assumed efficiently the Secretariat of the African Group during some forty meetings which were held. Thirty nine summary records of these meetings were drafted and distributed to all Permanent Missions.

Moreover, the Executive Secretary and his Assistant gave almost twenty talks and lectures on the OAU in various American universities, to several visiting groups: scholars, militarymen and businessmen, as well as at the radio and TV.

In this context, the Executive Secretary attended as observer, the Eleventh Annual Conference of the OIC (Opportunities Industrialization Centers) in Atlanta, Georgia, from 2 to 5 February. The OIC is a political organization led by the Reverend Leon Sullivan and its aims are:

- (a) The training of the "neglected" minority groups in the United States, that is the blacks, the Puerto-Ricans and the pro whites who are in the same social category as the blacks.
- (b) The creation of employment for these "cadres" and their placement in industry.

Some 1,200 delegates from 120 cities in 47 states, where the OIC is active, attended the Annual Conference this year.

President Ford came to speak before this Conference. Four Governors, a certain number of Senators and Chairmen of several big companies such as the ATT (American Telephone and Telegraph), Gulf Oil and General Motors also took the floor as guest of honour.

There was also the distribution of awards on national level, and the Ralph Bunch Award or the International Prize, was bestowed on Mr. Samora Machel, Chairman of the FRELIMO for his exemplary and considerable contribution to the liberation struggle of the African peoples.

It is noteworthy to recall that the OIC had in 1972 awarded the prize of the liberation struggle to the OAU for the unique role played by this Organization in the struggle for the liberation of the African continent and for the consolidation of African unity.

Several Ambassadors and Diplomatic Representatives accredited in New York and Washington were also present.

During the celebration of the International Day, the OAU Representative made an exposé on the aims and achievements of the OAU as well as on the problems which confront the OAU and the African States. This exposé was hailed by all delegates as a major contribution for a better understanding of the OAU in the United States of America.

Moreover, it should be recalled that the OIC functions in 4 African countries where it has developed four pilot projects and that it plans to open new centers in six other countries during the coming months.

The general feeling of the African Representatives who participated in this conference was that the OIC was accomplishing a good work for the blacks in the USA as well as in Africa and it should be encouraged.

II - Conclusions and General Observations

Before concluding, it should be noted that the debates which took place in the General Assembly on the study of item 20 of the agenda: Strengthening of the UN Role in the Maintenance of Peace.

The Western countries with the United States at their head seized the opportunity of the discussion on this item too violently and unexpectedly attack the countries of the Third World and the victories they scored all along this session.

They spoke of the "mechanical majority" and "tyrannical majority" thus describing the results of the democratic game in which they evidently did not believe anymore. Obviously the reasons of this explosion of anger were the victories scored by the Third World countries on problems such as Palestine and apartheid policy of South Africa, the decision of the General Assembly to ban this delegation from attending the work of the session and the decisions taken on the economic level and especially the adoption of the Charter on the Economic Duties and Rights of the States.

However, the Third World countries, and at their head, the African countries took up the challenge that the West had launched. They denounced the anachronic and hypocritical stand of the Western countries which in substance were always ready to fight to defend democracy when such democracy was their advantage, but did not hesitate to deny it when they did not stand to gain from it.

The conclusion to be drawn from these debates is that the West is no longer able to police the rest of the world as was the case a few years ago for "the doomed of this earth", that is the countries of the Third World, have become aware of their power.

In this awakening, the role of the African countries gathered within the African Group at the United Nations is noteworthy.

Year after year, the African Group to the United Nations is becoming stronger and more powerful and is becoming particularly the center of all major decisions which are drafted or endorsed before being submitted to the General Assembly. To confirm this fact, during this session the Group had to hear, at their own requests, the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Portuguese Minister for Inter-Territorial Co-ordination, the

Palestinian delegation led by the number 2 of that Organization, the Representatives of Turkey, Greece and Cyprus on the Cypriot question, the Representative of Spain on the Spanish Sahara and a delegation of the Autonomous Government of Comoros. All these delegations came to the African Group to request its support and understanding of the various problems which concern them and on their respective stands on these problems. And the Group proved once more its cohesion, dynamism, vigilance and availability in all instances.



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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Twenty-Fifth Ordinary Session
Kampala, 18 - 25 July, 1975.

CM/656 (XXV)
Annex 1

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN
UNITY IN EUROPE (PERMANENT DELEGATION IN
GENEVA) COVERING THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 1,
1974 TO MAY 31, 1975

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IN EUROPE (PERMANENT
DELEGATION IN GENEVA) COVERING THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 1,
1974 TO MAY 31, 1975

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

On May 31, the Executive Secretariat completed about one year and ten months since it began to operate, with full diplomatic status, as a Unit of the OAU Secretariat in Europe. Most of the teething problems which plagued the Executive Secretariat during the first twelve months of its existence have been surmounted although some problems concerning administration and finance still remain to be resolved.

In its report for the period June, 1973 to May 31, 1974 (Doc. CM/574(XXIII)), the Executive Secretariat stated the following as its functions as enunciated in the Rabat decision of the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Summit of the African Heads of State and Government on the basis of which the Executive Secretariat was established:

- (i) to undertake OAU activities, as directed, within the overall OAU struggle against colonialism and against apartheid and racial discrimination;
- (ii) to maintain contacts and undertake activities with the International Organizations located in Europe and with European countries.

In carrying out these functions the Executive Secretariat has been guided by the resolutions and declarations adopted by the Assembly of the African Heads of State and Government. Furthermore, the Executive Secretariat has continued to work closely with the African Ambassadors in Europe with whose co-operation it has endeavoured to implement conscientiously and efficiently the said resolutions and declarations.

CHAPTER I

Administration & Finance

With the departure of Ambassador Saleh Bassiouny, the former Executive Secretary, the Executive Secretariat has been run by an Acting Executive Secretary assisted by one officer and two bilingual secretaries.

Given the wide scope of the activities which the Executive Secretariat is expected to undertake in the political, information, economic and social fields, it will be appreciated that the need for additional - technically competent - staff is an urgent one.

(a) Material situation of staff

The Executive Secretariat wishes to record its appreciation for the decision taken by the Council of Ministers at its Twenty-Third Ordinary Session held at Mogadiscio (Doc. CM/Res.343 (XXIII)), which decision, among other things, provides that the "Statutory Permanent Staff (of the Executive Secretariat in Geneva) shall contribute 20 per cent of the basic salary for reasonable housing rent and the rest will be borne by the OAU".

Undoubtedly, the above-mentioned decision of the Council of Ministers has helped ease the heavy financial burden suffered by the staff of the Executive Secretariat. Nevertheless, in the light of the phenomenon of world-wide inflation with the consequential erosion of salaries and allowances payable to the staff, the Executive Secretariat is constrained to state that an upward review of salary-scales seems highly desirable.

CHAPTER IIActivities in the political and decolonization field

In conformity with the Rabat decision referred to elsewhere in this report, the Executive Secretariat has activities in the political and decolonization field as its major preoccupations.

Therefore during the period under review, the Executive Secretariat actively participated in all major meetings organized either by or under the auspices of the United Nations or by the various Non-Governmental Organizations in Europe at which the questions of apartheid and decolonization were discussed. At all times the Executive Secretariat used the opportunity of its participation in such meetings to explain OAU's viewpoints.

(a) South Africa

Among the viewpoints the Executive Secretariat has consistently sought to explain is that South Africa is a big threat to international peace. That the military budget of South Africa has been doubled in the last two years. At the figure of 500 million pounds sterling it is now the largest single item in the South African budget.

The Executive Secretariat has maintained that the only plausible explanation for the purpose of such a huge military budget is that the Government of South Africa, notwithstanding Mr. Vorster's recent overtures, is bent on backing up its repressive policies with ever increasing force, aimed primarily at the control of the disenfranchised black African majority that makes up 82 per cent of the population of South Africa.

In the light of these facts, the Executive Secretariat has therefore continued to work for the isolation of the Government of South Africa in line with the decisions of the OAU Member States. The latest action in this direction culminated in the suspension of the Government of South Africa from the membership of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

With the assistance of the Executive Secretariat, the African delegations to the 7th Congress of WMO which was held in Geneva from April 28 - May 23, submitted a draft resolution operative paragraph 3 of which calls upon WMO to "immediately suspend the Government of South Africa from exercising its rights and enjoying privileges as a Member of WMO until it renounces its policy of racial discrimination, and abides by the United Nations resolutions concerning Namibia".

Despite the opposition of most of the delegations from the Western industrialized countries who cast negative votes, the resolution was adopted by the Congress after 66 roll-call votes had been cast in its favour - thanks to the solidarity of the African, Arab and Socialist countries' delegations,

(b) Liberation Movements

The General Assembly of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity have regularly adopted resolutions on moral and material assistance to Liberation Movements, on recognition of these Movements by the international community as the sole authentic representatives of their peoples, and on economic sanctions against the South African and illegal Smith regimes.

During the past twelve months the Executive Secretariat has spared no effort to ensure that the said resolutions of the General Assembly and the Organization of African Unity are implemented by the international community and particularly by the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations

Material Assistance to Liberation Movements

In regard to material assistance to Liberation Movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity, the Executive Secretariat wishes to report that there has been a discernible improvement in the attitudes of many of the Specialized Agencies who, not long ago, often resorted to all kinds of legalistic excuses or so-called constitutional constraints in order to delay the effective implementation of the General Assembly resolutions.

It is reassuring to note that some of the Specialized Agencies have already begun, with the approval of their Governing Bodies, to work out concrete programmes of assistance not only to Liberation Movements but also to the newly independent African States.

Recognition of Liberation Movements by the Specialized Agencies

At the time of writing this report, Liberation Movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity have been accorded observer status by practically all the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations. Having thus been recognized Liberation Movements do now get regularly invited to all important meetings organized by the Specialized Agencies.

Economic Sanctions

In regard to the economic sanctions promulgated by the United Nations General Assembly against the South African and illegal Smith regimes, the Executive Secretariat wishes to report that it has continued to appeal particularly to the Western industrialized nations to implement without reservations the General Assembly resolutions and in this way to contribute to the freedom struggle in Africa.

At the same time the Executive Secretariat has kept a close watch on sanctions violations, and has accordingly informed the Administrative Secretary-General.

CHAPTER IIIActivities in the economic and social field

Concomitantly with activities in the political and decolonization field, the Executive Secretariat has continued to play its role of co-ordinator of the activities of the African delegations to all major meetings of economic and social character.

During the period under review the Executive Secretariat serviced the African Group at the following major meetings, and fully reported to the Administrative Secretary-General in the usual manner:

- (a) ECOSCO: 57th (Summer) Session, Geneva, 3 July - 2 August 1974;
- (b) WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE: Bucharest, Rumania, August, 19 - 30, 1974;
- (c) WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: Rome, November 5 - 10, 1974;
- (d) UNCTAD:

Trade and Development Board, 14th Session (Part I), Geneva, August 20 - September 14, 1974;

Joint Advisory Group of UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre, Geneva, January 21 - 24, 1975;

8th Session of UNCTAD Committee on Commodities, Geneva, February 10 - 21, 1975;

Special Session and 14th Session (Part 2) of the Trade and Development Board, Geneva, April 21 - May 2, 1975.

The question of the prices and terms on which countries exchange raw materials has clearly emerged as the dominant theme of the world economics. UNCTAD's contribution to the search for a solution has centred on its proposal for an "over-all integrated programme for commodities", which has attracted considerable interest from the Group of 77.

The main elements of this integrated programme are, first, an attempt to move urgently from the field of consultation to that of negotiation; second, the setting of wider objectives for international commodity arrangements, in addition to the traditional objectives of stable and remunerative prices; third, the incorporation in commodity arrangements of new principles and techniques, such as the indexation of prices, co-operative action among producers, wider use of buffer stocks and compensatory payments.

It is now generally accepted that in the past ten years since UNCTAD was founded there has not been a break-through of any kind in the problems of commodities of direct export interest to the majority of developing countries. With this "New Approaches" to international commodity problems and policies, it is hoped that the much desired break-through may finally be achieved.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which is due to hold its summer session in Geneva in July, will review the UNCTAD proposal. It will do so again in December, so that hopefully the UNCTAD Conference (Fourth Session) which is scheduled to take place for the first time on the African soil (in Nairobi, Kenya), during May 1976, can launch the negotiations.

- (e) UNIDO: Second General Conference, Lima, Peru, March 12 - 26, 1975;

By its resolution 363 of the Twenty-third session the Council of Ministers "invites the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU and the Executive Secretary of the ECA to service

the African Group during all preparatory meetings as well as during the Second General Conference of UNIDO".

Consequent upon this resolution of the Council of Ministers, the Administrative Secretary-General directed the Executive Secretariat to represent the OAU at all the scheduled meetings preparatory to the Second General Conference of UNIDO. The meetings were held in Vienna, Austria during December 1974 and January 1975 and at Algiers during February 1975. The Executive Secretariat fully participated in all these preparatory meetings, and serviced the African Group. Furthermore, an officer from the Executive Secretariat was part of a two-man OAU delegation to the Second General Conference of UNIDO which was held in Lima from March 12 - 26, at the ind invitation of the Government of Peru.

The major achievement of the Group of 77 at Lima was undoubtedly the adoption, by a substantial majority, of the Lima Declaration and plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation in which is recommended, among other things, that by the year 2000 the share of developing countries of world industrial production should be 25 per cent.

Given their present share of only 7 per cent, this means that in order to close the gap, developing countries would have to ensure that during the next two decades their economies grow faster than those of the developed countries. With this end in mind, the Lima Declaration sets out "the main principles of industrialization" and defines "means by which the international community as a whole might take broad action" to establish a new international economic order. It envisages a process of "continuous consultations" in redeploing world industry and bringing about a new international division of labour. And it recommends that UNIDO be made a United Nations Specialized Agency with a new "industrial development fund" and undertake the central co-ordinating role in this.

The other recommendations in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action range from a call for the full implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States to the integration of women in the process of development and the preservation of the environment.

Since a detailed report on the conference will be submitted to the Council by the ECOSOC Department of the OAU Secretariat, the Executive Secretariat has found it appropriate, in the context of this report, to give only a brief summary.

CHAPTER IV

African Candidatures

The OAU Member States unanimously endorsed Mr. Amadou Mahtar M'BOW of Senegal and Dr. Abdelrahmane KHANE of Algeria as the sole African candidatures for the posts of Director General of UNESCO and Executive Director of UNIDO respectively.

As part of a united action by the African Group, the Executive Secretariat circulated texts of the relevant OAU resolutions to all European Governments, through their Permanent Representatives in Geneva, and solicited their support.

While the successful elections of the two candidates is a cause of legitimate pride to the Member States of the OAU, the election of Mr. M'BOW is also a matter of symbolic and historical importance. Because his election to the top post of Director General of UNESCO has marked the first time in history that an African has been elected as head of a United Nations Specialized Agency.

In addition to UNESCO and UNIDO, Africans now head the following organizations:

International Telecommunications Union (ITU) -
Mr. Mohamed Mili from Tunisia;

Universal Postal Union (UPU) - Mr. Mohammed Sobhi
from Egypt.

African has also shown interest in the post of Director General of FAO which is due to fall vacant. Nigeria and Ghana are fielding one candidate each.

The Executive Secretariat has had the opportunity of exchanging views on this subject with the African Group within FAO. The majority feeling is that if the OAU Member States are sincerely interested in the post of Director General of FAO, it is urgently necessary that they choose one strong candidate behind whom they should throw the full weight of their diplomatic support.

C O N C L U S I O N

In spite of almost chronic financial difficulties which have continued to greatly hamper its normal operation, the Executive Secretariat has during the period under review endeavoured to discharge conscientiously and efficiently the duties assigned to it.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Twenty-Fifth Ordinary Session

Kampala - 18-25 July, 1975

CM/656 (XXV)

Annex 11

ANNEX TO DOCUMENT CM/656
AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR POSTS IN
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ANNEX to Document CM/656
AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR POSTS IN
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

During its meetings, the African Group agreed upon the candidatures of the following Member States to fill the vacant posts at the 30th Session of the General Assembly and submits them to the OAU Council of Ministers for approval.

A. CANDIDATURES FOR THE 30TH SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1. Vice-president of the General Assembly
 Kenya, Senegal, Tunisia, Zaire.

2. Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Rapporteur of
the Main Committees

Negotiations are still going on at the level of regional groups of the United Nations.

3. Security Council: Libya, Dahomey.

4. Economic and Social Council:
 Algeria, Nigeria, Uganda, Togo, Tunisia.

5. United Nations Industrial Development
Organization (UNIDO)
 Cameroon, Upper Volta, Nigeria.

6. United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)
 Liberia, Uganda, Central African Republic,
 Rwanda, Somalia, Togo.

7. World Food Council
 Western Region: Negotiations are underway
 between Togo and Mauritania.

Eastern Region: Negotiations are underway
between Somalia and Lesotho.

Central Region: Rwanda

B. 58th Session of the Economic and Social Council

The following Member States were elected to the bodies below during the 58th Session of the Economic and Social Council.

8. Statistics Committee: Ghana, Kenya.
9. Population Committee: Ghana, Uganda, Sierra Leone.
10. Social Development Committee: Lesotho, Sierra Leone.
11. Human Rights Committee: Lesotho, Libya, Rwanda.
12. Committee on the Condition of Women: Ethiopia, Togo.
13. Committee on Narcotics: Kenya, Madagascar.
14. Programme and Co-ordination Committee: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda.
15. Housing, Building and Planning Committee: Burundi, Tanzania.
16. Committee on Scientific and Technical Development: Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Mauritania, Central African Republic.
17. Examination and Evaluation Committee: Uganda, Senegal, Tunisia.
18. UNICEF Governing Council: Dahomey, Guinea.

19. United Nations Development Programme: (UNDP)
Mali, Sierra Leone, Tunisia.

20. Committee on Multinational Companies:
Algeria, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Nigeria.



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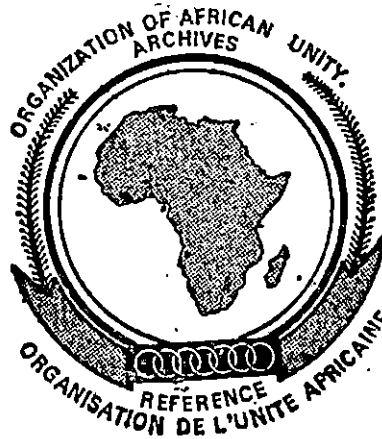
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Annex I

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Twenty-Fifth Ordinary Session
Kampala -- 18-25 July, 1975

ANNEX TO DOCUMENT CM/656
AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR POSTS IN
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

During its meetings, the African Group agreed upon the candidatures of the following Member States to fill the vacant posts at the 30th Session of the General Assembly and submits them to the OAU Council of Ministers for approval.

A. CANDIDATURES FOR THE 1/3)TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1. Vice-President of the General Assembly
Kenya, Senegal, Tunisia, Zaire.
2. Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Rapporteur of the Main Committees
3. Security Council: Libya, Dahomey.
4. Economic and Social Council:
Algeria, Nigeria, Uganda, Togo, Tunisia.
5. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
6. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME (UNEP)
Liberia, Uganda, Central African Republic, Rwanda, Somalia, Togo.
7. World Food Council
Western Region: Negotiations are underway
between Togo and Mauritania.

Eastern Region: Negotiations are underway
between Somalia and Lesotho

Central Region: Rwanda

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14. Programme and Co-ordination Committee: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda.
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16. Committee on Scientific and Technical Development: Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Mauritania, Central African Republic.
17. Examination and Evaluation Committee: Uganda, Senegal, Tunisia.
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19. United Nations Development Programme: (UNDP) Mali, Sierra Leone, Tunisia.
20. Committee on Multinational Companies: Algeria, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Nigeria.

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