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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
Eleventh Ordinary Session  
Algiers - September 1968

CM/236

RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT ON THE ELEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION

OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

From 4th - 12th September, 1968

Algiers, Algeria



CMO 236

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Opening of the 11th Session:

1. The Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers met in Algiers on the 4th September, 1968, under the outgoing Chairman of the 10th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers H.E. Mr. Osman Ba, the Foreign Minister of Mali. The Foreign Minister of Algeria, H.E. Mr. Abdel Aziz Bouteflika, accompanied by the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU, Mr. Diallo Telli, and the four Assistant Secretaries-General, left the Conference Hall and subsequently escorted in the President of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, H.E. Houari Boumedienne who formally opened the session.
2. Present were 39 Member States of the OAU - including the newly independent states of Mauritius and the Kingdom of Swaziland. Malawi was not represented.
3. In his opening address, H.E. President Boumedienne, welcomed the delegates to Algiers, and expressed the hope that they will endeavour to reach agreement on, and provide solutions to the problems that exist in Africa. He stressed the need to increase the assistance given to freedom fighters, so that they may liberate those parts of Africa that are still under colonialism. He called for the solidarity, brotherhood and unity amongst the OAU Members, for only by doing this could they safeguard their independence and promote co-operation in economic, social and political matters. In this way, the enemies of Africa would not be given a chance to create divisions or to retard the overall development of the OAU Member States. The full address of H.E. President Boumedienne is included in the records of the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

4. The Foreign Minister of Zambia, H.E. Mr. R.C. Kamanga, and the Foreign Minister of Senegal, H.E. Mr. A. Karim Gaye, and H.E. Dr. Ahmed Laraki, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, proposed votes of thanks to the President of Algeria, for his message and for the brotherly and generous hospitality extended to all Delegates in Algiers. After these speeches, the meeting adjourned.
5. At 10.30 a.m. on 5th September 1968, the Heads of Delegations met in a closed session. They agreed on the office-bearers. The private meeting also discussed the problem posed by rules of procedure in the election of Vice-Chairman of the three working committees of the Council, i.e. the Political Committee, the Committee on Administrative, Financial and Institutional Matters, and the Committee on Economic, Social, Educational and Scientific Co-operation. According to the existing Rules of Procedure, only two Vice-Chairmen were elected, which meant that the Chairman of the plenary session would have to Chair one of the Committee - thus making it difficult for him to co-ordinate the work of the Committees. To correct this the Delegation of Tunisia proposed an amendment to rule No. 11 of the Rules of Procedure, to permit the election of three Vice-Chairmen. The private meeting ended at 11.25 a.m.
6. The Council resumed in plenary session at 12.00 noon. It first approved unanimously the amendment of rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure, as proposed by Tunisia, allowing the election of three Vice-Chairmen. The second amendment by Tunisia, which sought to incorporate into the Rule of Procedure a statement that automatically gave the Chairmanship of a session to the Foreign Minister of the host state outside the OAU Headquarters was not formally accepted by the Council.
7. At the proposal of H.E. Mr. Bourgiba Jr., the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, H.E. Mr. Bouteflika, the Foreign Minister of Algeria was appointed Chairman of the Session. However, at the request of the out-going Chairman, a vote was taken, and the proposal was

supported by 35 votes for, none against and none abstaining - Algeria did not participate in the vote. The election of H.E. Mr. Bouteflika as Chairman was therefore unanimous. He did not however take the Chair immediately. The Foreign Minister of Senegal H.E. Mr. A.K. Gaye proposed the rest of the Office-Bearers, and the following were elected unanimously:

Chairman	H.E. Mr. Abdel Aziz Bouteflika Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria.
1st Vice-Chairman	H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Diallo Secretary of State of Guinea.
2nd Vice-Chairman	H.E. Mr. R.C. Kamanga, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zambia.
3rd Vice-Chairman	H.E. Mr. J.R. Ayoune Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Gabon.
Rapporteur	H.E. Mr. C.M.G. Argwings-Kodhek, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Kenya.

8. The outgoing Chairman then invited the new Chairman, H.E. Mr. Bouteflika to deliver his inaugural address.

In that address, the Chairman said, that the Delegates were welcome to be in Algeria for the purpose of discussing Pan-African and other relevant matters. He recalled that the struggle for independence and for the dignity of the African had been started a long time ago by persons such as Queen Rahavalo of Madagascar, who was exiled by the French and died in Algiers for her desire for the freedom and independence of her people. He deplored the actions of some of the imperialistic powers which often interfered in the internal affairs of African States. He called for increasing aid to freedom fighters in their fight to liberate territories under the foreign rule. He noted that the OAU will continue to play an important role in decolonization, in settlement of disputes, as an instrument of co-operation and development and as Africa's spokesman on the international scene.

Indeed OAU could achieve more if it were given every opportunity and every means to succeed.

At the request of Mauritania, the Council agreed to reproduce the whole speech as one of the official documents of this Session. The out-going Chairman thanked the new Chairman for his inspiring address, and then invited him to take the Chair..

#### Hours of Work.

The Council agreed to work daily as follows:

9.30 a.m. - 1.0 p.m.

4.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.

Night sessions would be held as when necessary.

#### Vote of thanks to out-going Chairman

10. Niger proposed and the Council adopted unanimously a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman H.E. Mr. Osman Ba, for the efficient way he handled the work of the 10th Ordinary Session. The meeting then adjourned.

#### Agenda:

1. The Provisional Agenda appearing in document CM/211/Rev.1 was adopted with an addition in item 13 (e) "OCAM", as one of the organizations seeking observer status. The parties in the Algero-Morocco dispute agreed to maintain the item on the agenda. While allowing for room to discuss some matters that may be raised, it was also agreed that no matter of substance would be raised under item "Any other Business". The agenda was then adopted and a copy is attached hereon as Appendix I. the items were divided as follows:-

Plenary items 1,2, 25, 26, 31, and 32

Political Committee items 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24,  
27, and 28.

Administrative and Financial Committee items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,  
9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 29.

Committee on Economic, Social, Education, Scientific,  
Cultural etc.

Co-operation : items 22, 23, and 30.

The Council then adjourned to the following day.

Independence of Swaziland

12. The Council resumed work at 9.50 a.m. on 6th September 1968. The Chairman informed the delegates that on that day, the Kingdom of Swaziland had become independent. He then proposed, and it was agreed that a message of congratulations should be sent by the Secretary-General on behalf of the Council of Ministers.

The report of the Administrative Secretary-General

13. The Administrative Secretary-General presented his report (in document CM/212 (Part 1) which introduced one five-year report in document CM/212 (Part 1) and another report covering February to September 1968. The Head of the Delegation of Rwanda raised objections to the contents in para. 133-140 which contained some unacceptable references to the President and the State of Rwanda. He asked that his objections be recorded. Thereafter, the Council took note of the report and broke into the three Committees at 10.55 a.m.

Admission of Swaziland into the OAU:

14. The Council resumed its work in plenary at 7.10 p.m. on the 11th September 1968. The Secretary-General informed the Council that he had received a formal application of the Kingdom of Swaziland to join the OAU. He requested that the application be considered by the Member States present in accordance with Article XXVIII of the Charter. Liberia made a formal proposal to support the admission of the Kingdom of Swaziland and was seconded by Libya, Kenya, Niger, Mauritius and Ghana. When the matter was put to vote the Council unanimously admitted the Kingdom of Swaziland as the 40th Member of the Organization. The Foreign Minister of Swaziland took his place in the Conference, and thanked the OAU for accepting his country. He also thanked the OAU for the support it gave to his country during the struggle for Independence.

Report of the Committee on Political matters:

15. The above report was read by Nigeria - the Rapporteur for the Committee on Political matters. The delegation of Senegal stated that the wording for paragraph 18 on the Canary Islands, did not reflect the decision of the Committee. He proposed the following: "The Committee dealt with the problem of the Canary Islands. It was decided to collect all information on the situation in that area before presenting appropriate recommendations to the Council of Ministers". The Council accepted this new re-wording of paragraph 18.

16. With regard to paragraph 31 which referred to Botswana vis-a-vis the activities of the Liberation Committee, the Delegation of Botswana pointed out that they had "objected" and not entered a "reservation" on paragraph 4 of the report on the Liberation Committee. The objection was based on the actual situation in Botswana as reported by the report of the Secretariat, and confirmed by the Rapporteur of the Liberation Committee during the Session. He said that paragraph 4 of the Liberation Committee's report should be re-written to reflect

the new situation. Paragraph 31 should therefore refer to the "objection". The Council accepted this.

17. The Rapporteur and several Delegations had referred to the decision reached on item 27 of the agenda concerning the "Election of the President of the twenty-fourth General Assembly of the United Nations". The following candidates had been proposed by their countries: Miss Angie E. Brooks, by Liberia, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Taibi Benhima, by Morocco, and H.E. Mr. Sam Odaka by Uganda. The Council requested the delegates of the three countries to hold informal consultations with the help of the chairman and the Secretariat, and agree on one candidate who would receive endorsement of the Organization of African Unity, so as to avoid open disagreement over the issue. It was recommended that in the event of inability to agree on one candidate from Africa, the matter would be referred to this session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The report of the Committee should reflect this decision.

18. The Delegation of Zambia said, and it was agreed, that the last sentence of paragraph 7 on GRAE should state that withdrawal of the status of "a government in exile" is recommended, but GRAE should be allowed to continue as a political party—either as UPA or FLMA as previously.

19. The Tunisian Delegation raised a point over what appeared in paragraph 8, where it was said that the "OAU should hold Spain to her promise" on Spanish Guinea, that normal rules of courtesy had been neglected, as Spain had allowed an OAU observer during the referendum on independence of Equatorial Guinea.

20. The Secretary of State of Tunisia then expressed dissatisfaction over the security of the work of the Council. The Tunisian delegate informed the Council that a telegram had been sent to the Tunisian Head of State, signed by a Mr. Kubio, which was attacking the stand taken by Tunisia at this session over the Canary Islands. The text of the telegram had been distributed by someone to all Delegations, and copies had been sent to other Heads of State. He expressed surprise at this action, which appeared to contravene normal courtesies and hospitality.



The chairman deplored such act and expressed the hope that normal rules of courtesy will be respected by all. At the end of the debate, the Council took note of the report of the Committee on Political matters, and adjourned at 9.10 p.m.

21. The Plenary was resumed at 11.30 p.m. on the same day, and discussed resolutions of the Committee on political matters. The following draft resolutions were approved with the voting shown:

- Draft Resolution on Refugees: 33 for, none against and none abstaining.

- Draft Resolution on Namibia: 36 for, none against and none abstaining.

Draft Resolution on Apartheid: first by a role call vote requested by Tunisia, operative paragraph 2 which condemned West Germany, Italy and France as countries assisting South Africa, did not obtain the required majority. The voting was 18 for that paragraph, 7 against and 12 abstaining. The whole resolution was then adopted by 28 for, 1 against and 8 abstentions after the deletion of operative paragraph 2. There was a heated debate after the voting. Several delegations took the floor to deplore strongly the weak resolution that had just been approved. Some expressed the fear that such a weak resolution would be of service to South Africa and her friends rather than to the OAU and to the Africans being oppressed in South Africa and that it was departure from past practices of the Council.

- Resolution on Territories under Portugal: 37 for, none against, and none abstaining.

- Draft Resolution on Comoro Islands: 21 for, 12 against and none abstaining.

- Draft Resolution on Rhodesia: 36 for, none against and none abstaining. Tunisia reserved her position on operative paragraph 5.

- Draft Resolution on the Co-ordinating Committee on the Liberation of Africa: 37 for, none against, 1 abstention. Ivory Coast reserved her position on paragraph 3, b.
- Draft Resolution on Decolonization: 37 for, none against and none abstaining.
- Draft Resolution to establish an ad hoc Committee to review the structure and functions of the Liberation Committee: 15 for, 14 against, and 7 abstentions. This resolution was not adopted as it did not have the required majority. However, in the explanations on the vote, which were made before the voting, some delegates objected strongly to the proposed establishment of a committee to look into the structure and functioning of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa. Some Delegates felt that such a review was justified as it was five years since the Committee was established, and other delegates felt that there was no need. The draft resolution was rejected.

This brought to an end the discussions on the report of Committee A, and the Council adjourned at 4.15 a.m. - the morning of 12,9.68.

Report of the Committee on Administrative, Financial and Institutional Matters:

22. The Council resumed work at 12.15 p.m. on the 12th September 1968, and took up the above report of Committee B. The report was presented by Dahomey who was the Rapporteur.

23. The Council adopted all the recommendations of Committee B unanimously. One recommendation i.e. the selection of the OAU emblem, was deferred to the next Council of Ministers for further considerations. The UAR delegation objected to the adoption of the selected emblem, because of the presence of an article in the album that the designer had sent to the OAU. The article carried an attack on a Member State of the OAU. The designer was accused of disrespect and discourtesy to a Member State. The Council felt that the emblem required a consensus of the Member States. Since the debate did not reflect a consensus, then the selected emblem was rejected by 35 for, none against and 2 abstentions. The Council directed that another competition for an OAU emblem should be held, and only African artists should be allowed to participate. It also directed that names of artists should not appear on the designs submitted. The Report as a whole was adopted by 36 for, none against and none abstaining. The amended draft resolutions are hereby attached as Appendix III.

Committee on Economic, Social, Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Co-operation in Africa:

24. The report of Committee C, dealing with the above subject was presented by Uganda who was Rapporteur. After it was presented, the Delegation of Congo (Kinshasa) requested that the Council should put on record the fact that they had informed Committee C that an International Fair was to be held soon in Kinshasa and all Member States of OAU will be invited to participate. The Delegation of Cameroon and Mali reserved their position on the report as some amendments had not been approved at the Committee stage. Libya put forward a draft

resolution on the points it submitted on the proposed regional stocks of food grains, and this was adopted later. The Council then took note of the report which is attached hereon as Appendix IV by 29 votes for none against, and 5 abstentions. The draft resolution is attached, herewith as appendix IV. The Council then adopted the relevant draft resolutions as follows:-

- Draft Resolution on Africa and UNCTAD (institutional reforms); 36 for, 0 against and 0 abstaining.
- Draft Resolution on Africa and UNCTAD II: 26 for, 1 against and 5 abstaining.
- Draft Resolution on Africa and UNCTAD III: 35 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.
- Draft Resolution on Regional Groups: 31 for, 0 against, and 1 abstaining.
- Draft Resolution on Monetary Co-operation: 30 for, 0 against, and 4 abstaining.
- Draft Resolution on All-African Trade Fair: 34 for, 0 against and 0 abstaining.
- Draft Resolution on Social Welfare and Community Development: 33 for, 0 against and 0 abstaining.
- Draft Resolution on Inter-African Technical Assistance: 33 for, 0 against and 0 abstaining.
- Draft Resolution on Inter-African Co-operation in Road, Rail and Maritime Transport: 33 for, 0 against and 0 abstaining.
- Draft Resolution on African Civil Aviation Group: 32 for, 0 against and 1 abstention: By 2 for, 24 against and 3 abstentions, efforts to delete the last operative paragraph failed to obtain the required majority.
- Draft Resolution on the First-All-African Cultural Festival was adopted with minor amendments by: 33 for, 0 against and 0 abstaining.
- Draft Resolution on the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources: 33 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

Draft Resolution on the Recommendations of the Nairobi Conference on Education and Training:

33 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Draft Resolution on the Establishment of Centres of Excellence: 32 for, 1 against and 0 abstaining.

Draft Resolution on the Libyan Regional Stocks of Food:

36 for, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Draft Resolution on Pan-African Trade Unionism:

31 for, 0 against and 3 abstentions.

African Candidates for the Presidency of the U.N. General Assembly:

25. In accordance with the mission entrusted to him, the Chairman reported to the Council that he had held discussions with the three Delegations concerned (Liberia, Morocco and Uganda) and that none of them agreed to withdraw in favour of the other. One complication in the case was that the Heads of State of Liberia and Morocco had written directly to other Heads of State for support. Therefore Delegations were unable to discuss the case. After some discussions, the Council agreed by 0 for 25 against and 3 abstentions not to discuss the matter, and to inscribe it on the provisional agenda of the present session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

Provisional Agenda of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government:

26. The Council then discussed the provisional agenda of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government as appearing in document CM/211/Rev.1. The item covered in the preceding paragraph was inserted in the draft agenda. The Council rejected by 2 for, 0 against and 24 abstentions, the request of Ghana that the working of item 8, on the election of the Administrative Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretaries-General should be worded as in the Charter.

27. Tunisia requested that item 5 "Report of the Consultative Committee on Nigeria" should be amended to include a sub-item on the hearing of the parties concerned, and another one on discussions. The Nigerian Delegation objected to this proposal stating that it was ultra-vires to the Council; it was an infringement on the rights of the Assembly and that it went against the resolution passed by the Assembly in September 1967 which established a Consultative Mission to assist the Federal Government. The case could however be open for discussion when the report of that Mission was presented. At this the Tunisian Delegation expressed satisfaction that provided it was accepted that discussions on the case could be held after the report of the Consultative Mission was presented, it would withdraw its amendments. The Council then voted and approved the draft agenda for the Assembly, as amended, by 34 for, 0 against 0 abstaining.

#### GENERAL

28. Madagascar proposed, and the Council accepted, a motion of thanks to the President, Government and Peoples of Algeria for their very generous hospitality extended to the Delegates. The resolution was adopted by acclamation. The Council then adjourned at 7.00 p.m.

#### Date and Place of Next Meeting:

29. The Council resumed in plenary at 12.15 p.m. on 13th September 1968. It agreed that the next Ordinary Session of the Council will be held on Monday 17 February 1969 in Addis Ababa.

#### Formal closing of the Eleventh Ordinary Session:

30. The Chairman, H.E. Mr. Abdel Aziz Bouteflika made a formal closing speech to the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers. He said, among other things, that as the OAU was entering in its 6th year, it would require the co-operation of all Member States to enable it to achieve its objectives in the

liberation of dependent territories in Africa, and in economic, social, educational, scientific, health, cultural as well as in political fields. Member States could attain self-sufficiency in these matters through such co-operation and through self-reliance. He again welcomed Mauritius and Swaziland into the OAU, and thanked the Delegates and Secretariat for their work. The Delegations of Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gabon, Sudan, Swaziland, Mauretania, Libya, Niger, Nigeria, Dahomey, Zambia, U.A.R., Liberia and Kenya, thanked the Chairman for his effective control over the work of the Session, and also thanked the President, the Government and the Peoples of Algeria for the hospitality bestowed on Delegates. The Session was then officially closed at 1.45 p.m. on 13th September, 1968.



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# Rapporteur's Report of the eleventh ordinary session of the Council of Ministers From 4th -12th September, 1968 Algiers, Algeria

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