

ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY
SECRETARIAT
P. O. Box 3243



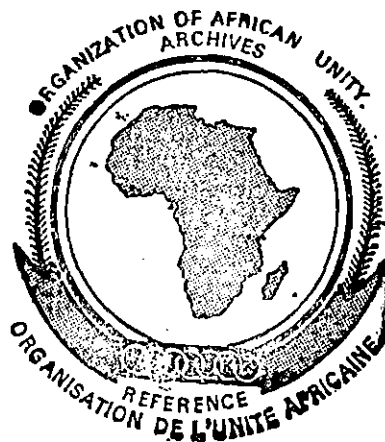
ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAINNE
SECRETARIAT
B. P. 3243

ADDIS ABABA

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Fifteenth Ordinary Session
Addis Ababa - August 1970

CM/337

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN



PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN

At its Twelfth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa in February 1969, the Council of Ministers adopted Resolution CM/Res.175(XII) on the Liberation Committee. This Resolution recommended, inter alia, that the Administrative Secretary-General, in conjunction with the Sub-Committee of Experts appointed by the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters, should:

- (a) Investigate the root cause of non-contribution by Member States to the Special Fund and the reasons accounting for the loss of enthusiasm in the Liberation Committee;
- (b) Examine the problems confronting the Liberation Committee and present such recommendation as would help the Committee in the execution of its assignment;
- (c) Invite the attention of the Executive Secretariat of the Liberation Committee to the need for adoption of an improved accounting system;
- (d) Investigate the problems which beset the functioning of the Executive Secretariat.

This indicates that, for some time past, the activities of the Liberation Committee have occasioned somewhat sharp criticisms, which found expression in particular, at the Twelfth Session of the Council of Ministers and at the Sixth Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

Furthermore, the situation of the Liberation Committee, subjected as it is to criticism, borders on the dramatic, since more than two-thirds of the Member States refuse to pay their contributions to the Special Fund designed to provide material and financial assistance to the Liberation Movements.

If this situation should continue to prevail, it would threaten to paralyse completely the activities of this select instrument for the liberation of those regions of our continent that are still in subjection.

It is against this background that the Council of Ministers, meeting in its Thirteenth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, decided once again to discover the causes of this crisis of confidence that has arisen between certain Member States and the Liberation Committee, so as to do everything possible to achieve greater effectiveness in the liberation struggle. The Council of Ministers then recommended, as you are aware, Resolution CM/Res.205(XIII) to the Sixth Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, which, in its turn, approved the setting up of a committee of seven member countries of the Organization, to be entrusted with the task of conducting a study on the mandate, structure and composition of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa, after consultations with the Liberation Movements and with all Member States of OAU. The following countries were appointed to serve in this connexion: Algeria, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Morocco, Kenya, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

The first session of the Committee of Seven, convened in Addis Ababa in February, 1970, on the eve of the Fourteenth Session of the Council of Ministers elected the following officers: Chairman: Senegal and Rapporteur: Sierra Leone. This Session also applied itself to considering the working methods and approach necessary to ensure that this study on the mandate, structure and composition of the Liberation Committee could be carried out in the best possible conditions and with the fullest objectivity. Thus the necessity was established of drawing up and dispatching questionnaires to Member States of the Organization and to the Liberation Movements.

The last session of the Committee of Seven, which was held in Dar-es-Salaam, (Tanzania) provided an opportunity to interview all the leaders of the Liberation Movements recognized

by OAU, and to hear the Chairman of the Liberation Committee as well as the Executive Secretary of that Committee and his Assistants. A considerable amount of working material was collected.

The third session of the Committee of Seven, which was scheduled to be the last before this Fifteenth Session, concentrated on summing up the data collected, in order to draw the necessary conclusions. It was, however, realized that the replies of Member States, amounting to only thirteen, could not serve as an adequate basis for determining the predominant feelings within the Organization regarding the problem facing us; nevertheless the replies received were considered and the members of the Committee are convinced that, with a minimum of twenty-two replies, they would be in a position to draw acceptable conclusions and thus conclude the delicate assignment entrusted to them.

It is therefore very clearly apparent here, that the only obstacle encountered by the Committee of Seven in its work has been the inadequate reaction by Member States to the questionnaires already circulated to them. That is why, once again, we address an appeal to those members of the Council who have not yet answered the questionnaires to do so as promptly as possible, for the existence of the Liberation Committee will remain paralysed until such time as the Committee of Seven is able to prevail upon all Member States to contribute enthusiastically to the Special Fund for the Liberation of Africa. I am convinced that the Council will appreciate this heavy responsibility.

In the light of these observations, the Committee of Seven proposes to meet after the Sixteenth Session of the Council of Ministers, in order to present its final report to the Seventeenth Session of the Council. Pending that eventuality, however, the Committee of Seven recommends:

- (1) That the Council of Ministers should exercise a tighter political control over the activities of the Liberation Committee;
- (2) That the Secretary-General of OAU should exercise more frequent administrative and financial checks on the Executive Secretariat of the Liberation Committee.

The Chairman of the Committee of
Seven

H.E. Mr. Youssouf Sylla

Ambassador of Senegal to Ethiopia



AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

1970-08

Progress report of the committee of seven

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/7471>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository