



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAINNE**

Secretariat  
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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Nineteenth Ordinary Session

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REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE REFUGEE  
PROBLEM - ACTIVITIES OF THE OAU BUREAU FOR THE PLACEMENT AND  
EDUCATION OF AFRICAN REFUGEES



REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE REFUGEE  
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EDUCATION OF AFRICAN REFUGEES

1. The present report on the activities of the OAU Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees (BPEAR) covers the period from June 1971 to June 1972. During this period the relentless fights for national liberation were intensified here and there on the continent and, as in the past, there has been a fresh wave of forced migration. This is why the present number of African refugees has largely exceeded the one-million mark.
2. The fact that this situation continues to exist has constituted additional source of concern to countries of asylum and other Member States of the Organization of African Unity. Indeed, the spirit of solidarity and a sense of duty have led many Governments and their peoples to make a greater number of sacrifices in order to assist the masses of men seeking to safeguard their dignity and social justice.
3. Aware of the extent and acuteness of the problems faced by the African refugees, the General Secretariat has been, as in the past, very anxious about their lot. In accordance with the Bureau's terms of reference, it has been more particularly concerned about the problems of employment and education without disregarding, however, the ticklish problems of legal protection.
4. These efforts have, in fact, been made at several levels with a view to:
  - a) adjusting the structures of the Bureau and its bodies in order to increase their efficiency to cope with the development of these burning issues;
  - b) increasing and improving assistance services for refugees;

- c) maintaining, strengthening and developing closer relations with International Organizations, Voluntary Agencies and OAU Member States.

5. It would be appropriate to review the Bureau's main activities namely:

- a) the internal organization of the Bureau and its organs (Chapter I)
- b) the external relations of the Bureau (Chapter II);
- c) the activities in the assistance of refugees (Chapter III) and
- d) general remarks (Chapter IV).

## CHAPTER I

### INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF THE BUREAU AND ITS BODIES

6. At the time of the Fifteenth Session of the Council of Ministers, the BPEAR was hardly 30 months old. Its original structures required modification in order to take into account the rapid growth of the African refugee population and their problems. Report CM/388, then submitted to the Council for consideration, had more or less described the structural changes envisaged with regard to the BPEAR and its bodies.

7. Since then, the new structures and their functional relations have been established and tested during the last two years. The Bureau retained some of its various bodies while acquiring others. The new structures set up since the Fifteenth Session of the Council and improved since then, comprise:

- The Co-ordinating Committee;
- The Working Group of the Co-ordinating Committee;
- The National Correspondents;
- The Local Committees.

8. There is no need to give a detailed description of these structures and their functions. Merely a brief outline suffices.

A. THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

9. It was formed by merging two former bodies, namely, the Consultative Board and the Standing Committee both of which had been set up by virtue of Recommendation no. 11 of the historic Conference on the Legal, Economic and Social Aspects of African Refugee Problems held from 9 to 18 October 1967 under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation.

10. As stated in the report submitted to the Fifteenth Session (Document CM/338), the merging of the two Committees was prompted by the fact that very often the same persons represented the same organizations at the meetings of both committees. Furthermore, owing to the force of circumstances, practically the same matters were discussed at meetings of the two Committees thus resulting in a duplication of work.

11. Since its establishment, which was approved at the Fifteenth Session of the OAU Council of Ministers, the Co-ordinating Committee (composed of representatives of Inter-governmental Organizations and Voluntary Agencies interested in African refugee problems) has been actively assisting the Bureau in accordance with its Rules of Procedure. In this connexion, it held its 3rd Session in April 1972 and adopted a number of proposals which are contained herein (Annex I to the present report) for consideration by the Council of Ministers.

12. It should be noted, in passing, that the members of the Co-ordinating Committee are constantly increasing as the Bureau becomes known.

B. WORKING GROUP OF THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

13. This is a sub-committee of the Co-ordinating Committee. In conformity with Article 3 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, it is composed of members resident in Addis Ababa. It is entrusted with

the task of assisting the Bureau whenever necessary; it held its last session from 25 - 26 February 1971 when many important financial decisions were taken; they include budgetary provisions for a translator (P.3), two highly qualified bilingual secretaries (GS.5) and a messenger (GS.1) whose services are required because of the constantly increasing activities of the BPEAR.

C. NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS

14. At present, the national correspondent is the local representative of the Bureau and, as such, he helps it to pursue its objectives.

15. His mission is therefore to:

- (a) try to find either paying jobs or educational or vocational institutions for the refugees whose files have been forwarded to him by the BPEAR and for those who are already in his country;
- (b) send to the Bureau, detailed dossiers of resident refugees whose problems cannot be solved satisfactorily in his own country.
- (c) collect for the Bureau all information concerning employment opportunities, educational or vocational facilities in his country of residence and, in this respect, draw up a list of educational institutions.
- (d) communicate to the Bureau, information on refugees pursuing their studies or vocational training in his country of residence.
- (e) give guidance to the refugees living in his country in their studies or in the choice of careers.
- (f) keep in touch with his Government, the BPEAR and the local representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure protection for refugees living there.

- (g) work in close collaboration with the local committee (in his country) responsible for assisting him in his tasks.

#### D. LOCAL COMMITTEES

16. A Local Committee for Refugees now exists in a great number of OAU Member States. The role it plays with regard to the correspondent is similar to that of the Co-ordinating Committee in respect of the BPEAR. The structures of each Committee vary, of course, according to the conditions in each country. In any case, International Organizations and Voluntary Agencies interested in refugee matters may become members of the Local Committee.

17. For the last two years the BPEAR officials have been setting up local committees in a number of countries including Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, Liberia, Mauritania and Ethiopia.

### CHAPTER II

#### EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE BUREAU

18. As in the past, relations between the Bureau and OAU Member States were constantly consolidated during the period under review. At the same time, the Bureau has established or strengthened ties with International Organizations and Voluntary Agencies.

#### RELATIONS WITH OAU MEMBER STATES

19. As borne out by the volume, the contents and the importance of the exchange of correspondence between the Bureau and Member States of the Organization and as evidenced by the satisfactory results of the missions undertaken by the Bureau's officers, relations between the BPEAR and the States have been, as in the past, very constructive. Indeed, a good number of States have reposed additional confidence in the Bureau, giving it positive assistance by furnishing it with information on educational, vocational training or employment opportunities for refugees, or on legal protection for the latter, amnesty laws and various guarantees and facilities offered to refugees who desire voluntary repatriation.

20. It should be mentioned that the Bureau has been closely associated with the resettlement of refugees who have changed their country of asylum or opted for voluntary repatriation.

21. In response to the request of the General Secretariat, some States promptly forwarded a precise and detailed list of their manpower requirements. The BPEAR was then able to propose the services of highly qualified refugees.

22. Of course, a good number of other countries are still evaluating their needs in manpower. There are good reasons to hope that they will not fail to forward to the Secretariat the quantified data obtained from their surveys.

23. Many countries have generously offered refugees several places in their educational or vocational institutions; others have also offered a good number of scholarships. The Secretariat is fully aware of the fact that the countries of asylum offer similar facilities direct to refugees. It is to be hoped that other States will do their best to forward offers within their means to the General Secretariat.

24. It should be noted here that some scholarship offers could not be used to full advantage because of language considerations. It would, therefore, be desirable that, in future, States accept, in certain cases, to transfer to the BPEAR, the sum of the scholarships granted. The Bureau will make it its duty to let refugees use them in other African countries and will not fail to submit a report to the donor countries on the disbursement of such sums. The report will include:

- (a) name and qualifications of recipients,
- (b) country of origin,
- (c) the country where studies are pursued,
- (d) the nature and result of the studies pursued.

25. A mission to East Africa was jointly undertaken in July and August 1971 by the BPEAR, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International University Exchange Fund. The countries visited are Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Madagascar. On that occasion, one was forced to note the genuine interest shown in the activities of the Bureau by all these and other countries. Indeed, the political authorities and the top civil servants met during the mission spared no effort to make the discussions fruitful. As a result, a number of concrete and positive proposals emerged from these discussions.

26. The authorities of the Bureau hope to tour other regions of the Continent either by themselves or jointly with the HCR and the IUEF in the next few months. During their tour, they hope to make every endeavour to set up local committees wherever they do not exist. There is every reason to believe that the political authorities and senior officials will welcome them as usual.

27. In all its contacts with Governments and National Correspondents alike, the Bureau has consistently raised the question of the "OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of African Refugee Problems". This Convention had been endorsed with enthusiasm and in a spirit of solidarity by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its Sixth Summit Meeting held in September 1969.

28. However, since three years, only six Member States have deposited their instruments of ratification with the OAU General Secretariat. In some Member States, steps for ratification have reached an advanced stage. Once again, the good-will of all concerned is necessary if, as it is hoped, ratification procedures are to be expedited before the end of the current year in order that the Convention may come into force in all Member States of OAU.

#### RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

29. Relations between the Bureau and these bodies have been satisfactorily maintained. On the whole, they have participated actively and effectively in the deliberations of both the Co-ordinating Committee and its Working Group.



30. In pursuance of Resolution 202 (XIII) of the OAU Council of Ministers and Recommendation No. 4 adopted during the Second Session of the Co-ordinating Committee, the Bureau appealed to those bodies for the necessary staff to enable it to cope with its steadily increasing activities.

31. The General Secretariat is pleased to announce that since December 1971 the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees put an administrator at the disposal of the BPEAR for the period of one year.

32. Since March 1971 the World Lutheran Federation assigned an administrator to the Bureau for a period of two years.

33. The secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, seconded to the Bureau, a highly qualified administrator economist - sociologist for approximately nine months. He resumed his post at the ECA recently.

34. The ILO has, on several occasions, shown its support for the BPEAR. In particular, it has accepted in principle to train or improve the standards of refugees provided that they can be gainfully employed upon completion of their courses. The ICAO, WMO and the WHO have also offered scholarships to African refugees.

35. On its part, the World Council of Churches has continued to explore the employment market in Africa on behalf of the Bureau. Note should also be taken of the fact that through the Council, the BPEAR succeeded in establishing contact with the Algerian Christian Service Committee which would be in a position to notify the Bureau regularly of a good number of vacant posts.

36. The International University Exchange Fund has increased considerably its already substantial assistance to the Bureau by granting many scholarships, offering its good offices, advice and co-operation to enable the BPEAR to assume its responsibilities as regards secretariat and the reproduction documents.

37. Of late, co-operation with UNESCO has taken a new and very promising turn. Actually, since 1 July 1970, the Director-General of UNESCO appointed, to the OAU and ECA, a permanent representative who has a great deal of experience in educational matters because of his long service at the Headquarters of the Organization. On behalf of the Director-General, he has already, on numerous occasions, shown great interest in the activities of the Bureau. The OAU General Secretariat has every reason to hope that in the very near future, UNESCO's assistance to the BPEAR will assume quite a new dimension both in education and placement.

38. There is need to state that in the course of the year, FAO dispatched an important mission to the OAU General Secretariat: this mission discussed the problems of assistance to the liberation movements and refugees.

39. During the missions undertaken to various African countries, the officers of the Bureau were able to hold talks with the local offices of many Voluntary Agencies. All these bodies were very helpful and they showed genuine desire to co-operate with the Bureau.

### CHAPTER III

#### ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

40. As usual, activities in the field of assistance were varied. Generally, they concerned placement in remunerative employment, educational and vocational training institutions. Very often, these activities consisted in ensuring the legal protecting or social advancement of the refugees or even in obtaining clemency for them from their country of asylum. It should be mentioned that all this could not have been achieved without the constant assistances of OAU Member States, Voluntary Agencies and International Institutions.

41. Applications for scholarships to pursue secondary, higher education, vocational training as well as applications for employment reach the Bureau through diverse channels. Depending upon the case, they are submitted either direct to the Bureau by the refugee, to the National Correspondents of the Bureau or to the appropriate departments of countries of asylum that are members of OAU. Sometimes they are

brought to the notice of International Organizations and Voluntary Agencies. It is pertinent to mention the various procedures followed in forwarding applications, in view of the structural changes that the Bureau and its organs have undergone since the First Seminar of National Correspondents held in April 1970.

42. Any African refugee residing in the Continent or abroad may send his application for placement or scholarship direct to the Bureau. The Bureau in turn, studies his papers and informs employers, heads of institutions or organs awarding scholarships according to the case. Their replies, often favourable, are then forwarded to the applicant.

43. Some refugees contact the National Correspondents of the Bureau who explore the local possibilities and often succeed in solving their problems with the help of members of the Local Committees. Cases that cannot be solved locally are then referred to the BPEAR which in turn communicates them to other Member States.

44. Very often too, applications for placement or scholarship are sent direct to Voluntary Agencies and International Organizations. Where possible, they are followed up or sent to the BPEAR for consideration. Whatever the case, the Bureau is kept informed.

45. Other refugees forward their applications for employment or scholarship directly to the appropriate departments of their countries of asylum. These departments forward such applications to the Bureau only in cases where they cannot meet the requests.

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE BUREAU SINCE THE  
SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

46. During the period 1970 - 1971, the number of applications for scholarship or placement sent to the Bureau was greater than in the past. This is due to the fact that the Governments, International Organizations, Voluntary Agencies and the refugees themselves in the activities of the Bureau have come to trust the Bureau more and more.

47. Indeed, since the Seventeenth Session of the Council of Ministers, the BPEAR has received more than 150 applications for employment from duly qualified refugees. It is worthwhile mentioning that with the assistance of the Bureau and its Correspondents, more than a thousand refugees have been placed, during the last four years, either in gainful employment or in educational institutions in Africa.

48. Applications for scholarships or admission into educational institutions have more than doubled as compared with last year. In fact, the Bureau received more than 170 new applications from refugees. About 70 have been met and the refugees concerned are now pursuing their studies in various institutions on the continent.

49. It is worth noting that the applications for placement mentioned above are those which had already been considered, processed and in many cases favourably replied to by Governments. The others which number several dozens are now being sorted and studied.

50. It is therefore, imperative that OAU Member States supply the Bureau with a sufficient number of scholarships and employment offers to meet this flow of applications in the next few months. Indeed, if it is true that the BPEAR receives substantial assistance from the UNHCR, Voluntary Agencies and International Organizations, it is none the less true that we consider this as supplementary aid since our own States should provide the bulk of the assistance. We suggest, therefore, that Member States should agree, even only as a token, to put every year at the Bureau's disposal a certain number of scholarships and seats in their educational institutions and a certain number of jobs for highly qualified refugees.

51. It would be relevant to point out once again that nothing short of the constant co-operation of Member States, can help the Bureau to accomplish its humanitarian task. Moreover, it is this spirit of co-operation and understanding that led several countries to offer employment and scholarships to our refugee brothers in the course of the year.

LEGAL PROTECTION

52. Regarding actual placement activities of the Bureau, because OAU Members are prepared to listen to the Bureau, it has often had to plead with Governments either to give legal protection to refugees or appeal for clemency, if not leniency to the authorities of the countries of asylum.

53. It should be said that in this aspect of its activities, co-operation between the Bureau and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been fruitful. In fact, because of the prompt action by the UNHCR, the Bureau was, on several occasions, informed of threats to deport or turn away refugees in certain countries. Very often, such information made it possible for the OAU General Secretariat to intervene effectively with the authorities to defer or stay the expulsion order until another country of asylum was found for the refugees concerned.

54. It is also in the desire to ensure more adequate protection for the refugees that the General Secretariat has never failed to raise the question of the ratification of the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of African Refugee Problems at every opportunity.

CHAPTER IV

GENERAL REMARKS

55. After this brief review of the activities of the Bureau for the year 1971 - 1972, a few general remarks should, no doubt be made.

56. Through the devotion, understanding and concern of OAU Member States, the BPEAR was successfully set up in 1968. Since then, Member States have continued to take interest in its activities.

57. The International Organizations and Voluntary Agencies have constantly given proof of their confidence in the Bureau and hence in the Member States of OAU by aiding these unfortunate refugees. In this respect, it is highly significant that at the Third Session of the Co-ordinating Committee, all the members believed it was their duty to

reaffirm their desire that the Bureau should, be entrusted, from then on, with the task of co-ordinating all activities relating to the placement and education of African refugees. In addition they did not fail to assure the BPEAR once more of all the financial and material assistance needed for the accomplishment of its complex and steadily growing tasks.

58. Finally, there is need to mention that in the last six months a solution was found to the distressing conflict which had lasted much too long and had caused the exodus of tens of thousands of refugees; we have reference to the Democratic Republic of Sudan. The laudable efforts of the central Government to whom we pay tribute here, made it possible to conclude an agreement which will help it establish the requisite conditions for the refugees to return to their native land. The Bureau has decided to assist the central Government in this repatriation operations.

59. Note should also be taken of the fact that at the Third Session of the Co-ordinating Committee (April 1972), the members of the Committee welcomed, with appreciation and satisfaction, resolution CM/Res. 244 (XVII) establishing the BPEAR as a special organ of the OAU General Secretariat.

Council of Ministers  
Nineteenth Ordinary Session  
RABAT, June 1972

CM/443  
Annex 1

RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS  
OF THE  
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE BPEAR

MEETING OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE BPEAR  
Addis Ababa, 12 - 13 April 1972

### RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

1. The minutes from the previous meeting (18 - 19 January 1971) were adopted.

### RULES OF PROCEDURE

2. It was decided to delete Article VIII in its entirety.
3. The following sentence was added to Article I, Section 1:  
".... refugee problem. Membership will be subject to such changes in programmes and fields of interest as may occur in the relevant agencies".

### MEMBERSHIP

4. The Association of African Universities and the Tropical Africa Refugees Service were accepted as members of the Co-ordinating Committee. Amnesty International was granted the status of observer at meetings of the Committee.
5. It was decided that as a general rule all membership applications will be presented to the Co-ordinating Committee together with a recommendation from the Working Group.

### VOTES OF THANKS

6. The Committee expressed its gratitude to the Association of African Universities for its generous scholarship assistance to African refugee students and its efforts to aid the Bureau in its work.
7. The Committee also expressed its gratitude to the UNHCR and the Lutheran World Federation for its support to the Bureau, in particular in the provision of personnel, and expressed the hope that they would continue such support.



8. The Committee took note with appreciation of the answers received by the Bureau from UNESCO and UNCTAD on the question of employment of African refugees in these agencies.

#### LEGAL PROTECTION

9. The Committee commended the Bureau for its efforts to avoid deportation of refugees and their being declared prohibited immigrants. The vital importance of this work was stressed, as was also the important part the Bureau and the OAU may play in this field.
10. The Committee encouraged the work of the Bureau and the OAU to seek further ratification of the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, to make the Convention enter into force.

#### SCHOLARSHIP ACTIVITIES

11. It is recommended that all scholarship and educational placement offers be circulated to members of the Committee, including all pertinent details, such as admission criteria. It was agreed that the Bureau would prepare a detailed circular addressed to all members of the Committee covering all un-utilized scholarship and admission offers from various governments as well as the Association of African Universities, with a view to the members proposing suitable candidates.
12. It is recommended that efforts be undertaken to prepare background information on future needs for scholarships at various levels, in particular in co-operation with the UNHCR and scholarship giving agencies, when appropriate through national correspondents and committees. This would seem to be particularly necessary in view of the large numbers of refugees who are presently being supported by agencies in primary and secondary educational institutions, since at least part of this group will, in all probability, continue to need support for various types of continued education and training.

EMPLOYMENT

13. It is recommended that although some refugees have obtained employment in inter-governmental agencies, these agencies continue their efforts to make available an increasing number of job offers for African refugees. This would seem particularly appropriate for units such as, for example, the UN Council for Namibia, but would naturally also apply to voluntary agencies and, in particular, to the OAU and the Bureau. The Committee, therefore, requests the Bureau, in its recruitment, to give priority to qualified refugees.
14. The Committee recommended that the Bureau should seek the co-operation of the ECA in order to provide, on a continuous basis, up-to-date information about the manpower needs of African countries, as well as data on the specific needs of individual countries.
15. It is recommended that the Bureau should primarily concentrate its efforts on employment offers for qualified refugees, since the settlement of unskilled refugees should probably be seen more as local settlement, such as under UNHCR programmes, rather than job placement. The problems of unskilled refugees will be a primary concern of the national committees and, as appropriate, the counselling services. In this connection, reference was made to group settlement and loan assisted settlement schemes (establishment grants) which are being implemented by several agencies.
16. It was decided to present to the Government of Equatorial Guinea for employment the names of Mr. and Mrs. Vanda, and Mr. and Mrs. Kubheka, at the same time as ascertaining the refugees' continued interest in accepting the offers in question. At the same time, a detailed financial request for this project should be presented to member agencies. It was finally noted that the refugees should be offered contracts, taking into account their situation as refugees, under the OAU - Equatorial Guinea Agreement on technical assistance, and that the Bureau should be assisted in the implementation of this project by the special Working Party mentioned in paragraph 17.

17. It was decided to set up a Working Party to discuss the general implementation of a system under which agencies pay the salary of employed refugees for a certain period of time, and to present to members of the Committee possible alternative arrangements, in particular as concerns the legal position of the employees and the central administration of such a scheme. The working Party will be composed of representatives of the UNHCR, ECA, ILO, the Bureau and the Lutheran World Federation, subject to their acceptance. The same Working Party will also assist the Bureau in regard to the previous recommendation, and follow closely the development of the Equatorial Guinea pilot project.

#### NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS

18. It was decided to request the Bureau to review the work of the National Correspondents, and the Committee referred to its Recommendation No. 8 from its last meeting. The Bureau will present the requested information to the Working Group which will then present concrete proposals to the Committee on a.i. in which further countries there is a need for National Correspondents, criteria for payment of remuneration, and a general report form to be used by correspondents to ensure conformity in reporting. In such a report form, information should be included on the development of national committees.
19. The Committee in its discussion of the reports received from the National Correspondents, requested that the Bureau submit a synthesis of the reports submitted by the National Correspondents, including the Bureau's findings, conclusions and recommendations.
20. It was decided to set up a Working Party to assist the Bureau in working out the detailed programme for a one week Seminar for National Correspondents to be held in Addis Ababa in November 1972, if possible in co-operation with the AACC. The Working Party will consist of representatives of the UNHCR, ECA, the Bureau, and the Chairman of the Committee. The Seminar should be concentrated on the practical aspects of the implementation of the recommendations from the IUEF Seminar on Counselling, the establishment of national committees and other practical problems arising in the field. National

Correspondents, field refugee workers, Counsellors, representatives of agencies and individual experts should be invited to participate in the Seminar.

#### FINANCE

21. The accounts for the period January 1971 to March 1972 were examined and accepted by the Committee.
22. The proposed budget for 1972/73, as recommended by the Working Group, was adopted in principle, and the working Group was authorized to adjust the budget following its discussion of the various aspects of the work of the Bureau referred to it by the Committee, and in accordance with existing possibilities for financial assistance. The Committee also felt that Item V, "Remuneration of Staff" should be further studied by the Working Group. Several points of detail were taken up by the Committee and referred for implementation to the working Group and the Bureau.
23. The Committee concluded that as resources for financing the budget were only envisaged to be around US \$ 70,000, it was necessary to stress the importance of broadening the basis of the future financing of the operations of the Bureau, by appealing to all member agencies, and other interested organizations, to contribute to the financing of the Bureau's activities.

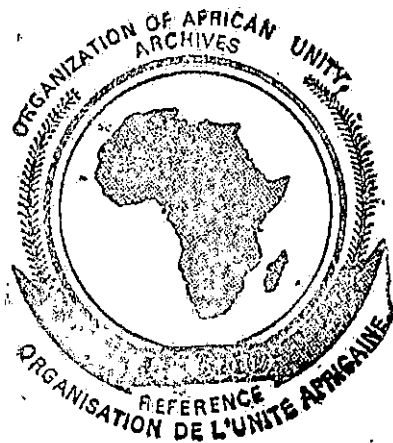
#### SUDAN

24. The Committee heard a statement by the Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Sudan to Ethiopia on the Agreement reached between his Government and the Southern Sudan Liberation Movement, on the situation in the southern region of the country. He particularly stressed the need for assistance from the international community in that connection, both for the development of the southern region, relief and resettlement of displaced persons within the Sudan and Sudanese refugees. He further emphasized the necessity of a planned return of refugees and in this context he appealed, on behalf of

his Government, to agencies assisting refugees to continue such assistance, particularly in the field of education as also expressed in the Addis Ababa Agreement. The Committee appeals to members and other agencies to act on this request. .

The Committee further recommends, particularly on the background of the recommendations of the Khartoum Conference, that all agencies concerned make all efforts to co-ordinate their activities to maximise the effects of the assistance given.

Finally, the Committee requests the Bureau to continue to follow this question attentively and to keep Committee members informed on developments.



1972-06

# Report of the Administrative Secretary-General on the refugee problem – activities of the OAU Bureau for the placement and education of African Refugees

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