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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAIN**
Secretariat
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أديس أبابا

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

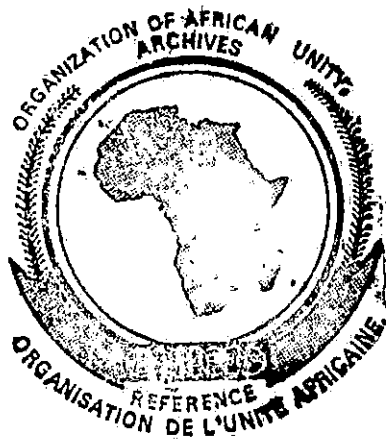
Twenty-Third Ordinary Session

Mogadiscio, Somalia - 6-11 June 1974

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Part I

PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION



CM 0571

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MICROFICHE

INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL
TO THE 23rd SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again on behalf of my colleagues, the Assistant Secretaries General, the entire staff of the Secretariat and on my own behalf, it gives me great pleasure to extend a hearty welcome to you to this 23rd session of the Council of Ministers.

Allow me first of all to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to the Chair. Your qualities as a Statesman have acquired international recognition and in throwing this mantle of responsibility over your shoulders, the Council is aware that you would steer the deliberations of this Session to a fruitful conclusion. It is said that coming events cast their shadows aforehand and I dare say that the hospitality that has so far been accorded to us by your Government, the gaiety of the environment, the pleasantries of your people, are all a foretaste of the excellent atmosphere that will characterize our stay in your lovely city for the next two weeks. We know that a lot of work has gone into getting the place ready for the Conference and for this, we would like to record our deep appreciation. The Council has been equally clear-sighted in seconding Your Excellency with a team of Ministers of high quality - who now form your bureau. We would like to extend our congratulations to them as well.

Mr. Chairman,

In welcoming you to the arduous tasks that lie ahead of you, I am not losing sight of the co-operation that we have received from the outgoing Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Artemon Simbananiye, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Burundi. He has presided over a most exacting Session

which started from Addis Ababa, through Kampala to Mogadiscio. The Council of Ministers has been fortunate over the years in having a long chain of devoted Ministers to fill its chair and he has proved himself to be a very worthy link in that honourable chain. To him and his out-going Bureau as a whole we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation.

Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellencies,

When you met in Kampala in April this year, you went through a massive agenda. This current Session is no exception. But before I touch upon that, allow me to give a brief summary of your important work in Kampala, the results of which are to be submitted along with those of this Session to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

First and foremost in an in-depth discussion of the Report of the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters, you approved a Budget of US \$ 6.2 million for the financial year 1974-75, 450,000 dollars of which was meant for assistance to the new independent Republic of Guinea Bissau.

You endorsed the action of the Advisory Committee in making an urgent grant of £200,000 sterling to the Special Fund on Guinea Bissau, set up at the recommendation of the 22nd Session of the Liberation Committee. You also took note of the decision of the Government of Libya to donate the sum of US \$ 500,000 as aid to Guinea Bissau and invited the Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa in co-operation with the Government of Guinea Bissau to assess the real needs of that Member State as regards the consolidation of her independence. The results of this study will be submitted to Your Excellencies at this Current Session. On the Middle East, Your Excellencies, among other things, requested the Administrative Secretary-General to follow closely the developments on the situation and reaffirmed that the item be maintained as an important one on the agenda of all OAU sessions. You requested a review on the report presented on the Bureau for Placement and Education of African Refugees. This has been done and the Report is being brought up anew for your consideration.

On Inter-African Co-operation, Your Excellencies decided to support the forthcoming Sixth Pan-African Congress in Dar-es-Salaam, to grant Observer Status to the Organization of African Trade Union Unity and the Association for Social Education in Africa. You requested the General Secretariat to exert all efforts to achieve a closer co-operation and co-ordination between Professional Organizations in Africa so as to help these organizations to avoid duplication of work and contradictions. You also granted subventions totalling US. \$ 600,000 to various African Organizations.

On the economic front you enjoined Member States to act in concert with the Non-Aligned and other developing countries to present a united front at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on raw Materials and international economic relations. You instructed the Committee of Seven on the effects of the Oil Embargo on OAU Member States to pursue its work and submit a more comprehensive report to the present Session.

Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellencies,

The Agenda before the Council at this 23rd session covers a broad spectrum of subjects which are of pressing importance to our Continent. They are placed under two distinct headings, namely: (i) Political and Decolonization Problems and (ii) Inter-African Co-operation.

With regard to Political and Decolonization Problems, Your Excellencies will be called upon to take decisions on territories under Portuguese colonial domination, territories under French Colonial domination, territories under British colonial domination, the problem of Namibia, Apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa as well as assess International support for the struggle for decolonization.

The most challenging and urgent of the decolonization problems is of course the situation in the so-called Portuguese territories. A wind of change appears to be blowing over Portugal but its direction is not yet clearly perceptible. It has therefore been urged by our Organi-

zation both at the level of the General Secretariat and at that of the Liberation Committee which met recently in Yaounde, that our Liberation Movements should not be lulled into inactivity. This is the time to intensify the struggle and bring it to its logical conclusion - namely, complete independence for each of the territories concerned. The implementation of the Kinshasa Agreement of December 1972 by the Angolan Nationalists is more pressing now than ever in order to forestall any move by the Portuguese to perpetrate its domination. It is my hope that the Council of Ministers working together with the Liberation Movements concerned which are all here represented would be able to draw up a concerted programme of action that would be a realistic but firm and concrete answer to Portugal.

In connection with the events in Portugal, the General Secretariat is able to report that the Government of Brazil sent an envoy to clarify its position to the Organization. The envoy stated that Brazil stood for full sovereignty for each of the territories concerned and was opposed to the Rhodesian style solution. The Secretariat called on Brazil not only to assert these principles but also to work for their realisation so that the new Portuguese Government may end that country's colonial wars in Africa, recognize the independence of Guinea Bissau and grant immediate independence to Angola, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe.

The other most preoccupying situation on the continental political scene is, as you know, the Middle East. An important development since Kampala is the success of the disengagement talks between Israel and Syria. The calm that has been registered as a result of the disengagement agreements first on the Suez front and now on the Golan Heights could be the lull before a storm. We should not lure ourselves to complacency. Peace has not been achieved in the Middle East. The Palestinian problem has not been resolved. Knowing as we do from hard and bitter experience how the state of war in the Middle East can affect the African people, entertain no doubt that the Council of Ministers would intensify its efforts in studying ways and means of bringing about a final and satisfactory settlement of the Middle East situation.

Other items of special interest under political and decolonization problems are a report on the activities of the OAU Bureau in Geneva, a report of the activities of the African Group at the UN and a report on the question of Sanctions with special reference to Southern Rhodesia, Investment in South Africa and the Oil Embargo as a weapon against the regimes of Southern Africa.

On Inter-African Co-operation, you will consider:

- a report of Committee 'B' of the 22nd Session of the Council of Ministers in which we have subjects dealing with the establishment of the Ad Hoc Secretariat to assist African States in negotiations with the EEC. You will also have a report on the development of the negotiations in Brussels up to this point. The question of relations between the OAU and UNDP will feature in the examination of the Agreement of Co-operation between the two Organizations, following your reservations at the last Session. In this connection the General Secretariat would like to record its misgivings at the proposed plan of the UNDP to split the African Region into two for the UNDP purposes and to Staff same in a manner that ignores completely the present realities of our role in the international community.

Your Excellencies will also have before you - the report of the proceedings of the Third Ordinary Session of the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission held in Mauritius, and consequent upon this report, a report on the establishment of an Executive Secretariat for education, culture, and human science for which you are called upon to decide both on the principle of creating the institution and on the siting of the Secretariat.

A comprehensive report of the Committee of Seven on the effects of the Oil Embargo on OAU Member States is presented to the Council as promised at the 22nd Session. It traces the historical background of the Committee and gives details of meetings and discussions held as well as actions taken. It also makes an appraisal of developments since the meeting of the Council of Ministers in Kampala.

- Also coming up for your consideration is a report on the implementation of the African Declaration on co-operation, Development and Economic Independence. You will notice that a plan of action has been proposed by the General Secretariat. Although the plan would be hampered by a bottle-neck due to personnel and budgetary constraints, the General Secretariat is nevertheless determined to leave no stone unturned to implement some of its aspects during the current financial year.

In considering the Report on the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the problem of raw materials and development, Your Excellencies will take special notice of the support given to our cause by the Scandinavian countries, Canada, Australia and the Socialist countries. You will also note the categorical denial of the United States that the Assembly arrived at a consensus. The Council will be requested to authorise the General Secretariat to follow up the implementation of the emergency programme and the work of the Committee of 36 and to report to the 24th Session of the Council of Ministers.

From the report on the conditions of life and work of African workers, the Council will note with concern, the problem of clandestine trafficking in African manpower and the inadequate performance of the International Labour Organization in fulfilling its moral and administrative obligations on this very sensitive issue.

In the domain of transport and telecommunications, two major projects - the development of combined transport and the establishment of a Pan-African Telecommunications Fund would merit the Council's attention. Very special and urgent attention would also need to be given to the Report on the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea in view of the proximity of its session due to be held in Caracas, Venezuela.

Finally the Council will be pleased to know from the report on the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law held in Geneva from 20 February to 29 March 1974 that the Conference registered two significant gains for the OAU. First, the recognition and admission of Guinea Bissau as a State; and secondly, the invitation to the National Liberation Movements to attend the Conference in their own rights and participate fully in the deliberations of the Conference. The Council is, however called upon to intensify its diplomatic efforts to ensure that the Conference accepts guerrilla warfare fought for decolonization purposes as falling within the definition of international conflicts, so as to accommodate the guerrilla combatants of the National Liberation Movements in the provisions of the prisoner of war status.

Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellencies,

All of you must certainly have heard through the news media of my declared intention to relinquish my present post of Administrative Secretary-General after the 11th Summit. I would like to say how thoroughly I have enjoyed working with the Council at its various Sessions for the last two years and how I have appreciated the opportunity of knowing all of you and of establishing with you kinds of friendship that for me will endure throughout life. I can assure you that I shall continue to cherish and work for our noble ideals of African Unity and Prosperity outside the General Secretariat with the same zeal and sense of commitment with which I have endeavoured to work within the General Secretariat.

In conformity with established experience, it is my hope and that of the entire Secretariat that your discussions at this 23rd Session will be crowned with deserved and resounding success.

Long Live the OAU!



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