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CELEBRATION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF  
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 5 October 1970, addressed to the Secretary-General by the representatives of Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, People's Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia to the United Nations

On instructions from our respective Governments, we have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration on the contribution of the Organization of African Unity to the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and of the tenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government which was held at Addis Ababa from 1 to 3 September 1970. We would be grateful if this text could be issued as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly in connexion with agenda items 21 and 23.

(Signed) M'hammed YAZID (Algeria)  
Félix MAGENGE (Burundi)  
Michel N'JINE (Cameroon)  
Michel ADAMA-TAMBOUX (Central African Republic)  
Bruno BCHIADI (Chad)  
Theodore IDZUMBUIR (Congo, Democratic Republic of)  
Y. TADESSE (Ethiopia)  
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Richard Maximilian AKWEI (Ghana)  
El Hadj Abdoulaye TOURE (Guinea)  
Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast)  
Joseph ODERO-JOWI (Kenya)  
M.T. MASHOLOGU (Lesotho)  
Nathan BARNES (Liberia)  
Mansur R. KIKHIA (Libya)  
Blaise RABETAFIKA (Madagascar)  
Seydou TRAORE (Mali)  
Sid-Ahmed OULD TAYA (Mauritania)  
Radha Krishna RAMPHUL (Mauritius)  
Ahmed Taïbe BENHIMA (Morocco)  
Soumana OUSSEINI (Niger)  
Olu ADENIJI (Nigeria)  
Nicolas MONDJO (People's Republic of the Congo)  
Fidèle NKUNDABAGENZI (Rwanda)  
Ibrahima BOYE (Senegal)  
Charles E. WYSE (Sierra Leone)  
Abdulrahim Abby FARAH (Somalia)  
FAKHREDDINE Mohamed (Sudan)  
Alexandre J. OHIN (Togo)  
Rachid DRISS (Tunisia)  
E. OTEMA ALLIMADI (Uganda)  
Mohammed Hassan EL-ZAYYAT (United Arab Republic)  
Salim Ahmed SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania)  
Louis-Dominique OUEDRACGO (Upper Volta)  
Vernon Johnson MWAANGA (Zambia)

DECLARATION ON OAU CONTRIBUTION TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE  
25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND OF THE  
10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF  
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

A. The Council of Ministers recommends to the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government that the Organization of African Unity celebrate the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the birth of the United Nations Organization and the Tenth Anniversary of the Declaration on the granting of the Independence to Colonial countries and peoples by issuing a declaration and mandating the Chairman of the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government to represent the Organization at these celebrations.

B. The Declaration includes, inter alia, the following:

1. Despite the fact that twenty-five years have elapsed since the inception of the United Nations Organization and ten years since the Declaration on the granting of Independence to colonial countries and peoples, millions of Africans are still under the yoke of colonialism and racist domination and are deprived of freedom and independence. Racial discrimination and apartheid still prevail in South Africa and assumes the most obnoxious forms.

2. The negation by colonialist and racist regimes of the right to self-determination and independence of African peoples and its resort to force and violence to crush down liberation movements is no doubt the reason behind the present tension prevailing in Africa. This negation poses a threat to world peace and security, impedes international co-operation and hinders the economic development of African States, since an atmosphere of security and peace is a pre-requisite for such a development.

3. The escalation of military preparations by colonialist and racist regimes threatens the security and territorial integrity of African States and jeopardizes the right of African peoples, which are explicitly set down in the United Nations Charter.

4. The extension of economic assistance to the racist and colonialist regimes through foreign investments, and military assistance, through shipment of arms of establishment of armament industries on their territories is, in effect, an act designed to assist the oppressor and perpetuate aggression. It is therefore a failure on the part of Member States to fulfil their obligations under the U.N. Charter. The latter bind the signatory powers to suppress aggression and enable peoples under foreign rule to practise their right to self-determination and independence.

5. Moreover, the failure of some Member States and in particular some members of the Security Council to fulfil their international obligations in accordance with the U.N. Charter and the obstinate refusal by the forces of aggression of racist and colonialist regimes to implement the U.N. resolutions has led to a deterioration of the situation and to mounting tension in North and South Africa, particularly in Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissao, South Africa, the occupied territory in the United Arab Republic, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Had those racist regimes implemented the resolutions of the United Nations and observed the provisions of its Charter, these problems would have been well on the way to being solved and world peace and security soundly established.

6. Africa's faith in the United Nations as an instrument designed to maintain world peace and security, enhance peaceful relations and positive co-operation between Members of the international community, and its faith in the principles of the United Nations Charter has been clearly expressed and confirmed by the Charter of the Organization of African Unity. Africa's desire for peace on the continent, her peoples' longing for a peaceful, secure and calm life, drive her to exert all efforts in order to strengthen the United Nations and enhance the prestige of this Organization.
7. The United Nations can never be effective in ensuring world peace and security unless its members are determined to enhance its prestige, honour their obligations in conformity with the Charter and devote their efforts to impose its authority.
8. Members of the United Nations should strive with all their might to save future generations from the scourge of war and evils of colonialism and racial discrimination that brought upon mankind misery beyond description.
9. At the 24th session of the U.N. General Assembly, Africa made an appeal to the racist and colonialist regimes to observe their international obligations in the interest of peace. However, these regimes turned a deaf ear to the appeals; indeed, they obstructed all efforts by the international community to bring about peace.
10. In view of this, Africa calls on all States backing the racist and colonialist regimes, particularly those extending them military and economic assistance to refrain from doing so. Africa also calls on all U.N. Members to take effective measures, both individually or collectively to compel those states defying U.N. authority to implement its resolutions. It finally invites the permanent members of the Security Council who have the main responsibility of safeguarding international peace and security not to oppose measures likely to help the colonial peoples and territories to achieve their independence, by making use of their prerogatives during debates on colonialism at the Security Council.
11. The failure of the U.N. as an instrument for the maintenance of peace and security, and the promotion of genuine co-operation among nations will lead to an inevitable catastrophe. It will encourage the world to resort to force and violence and will carry it to the brink of a war which U.N. Charter has been trying, through its provisions and institutions, to prevent and save from mankind its scourge and afflictions.
12. The African continent thus appeals to the international community to start a new era in the history of international relations that should be distinguished by the prevalence of peace and security and by co-operation and friendship between nations. Moreover, it affirms its firm determination to liberate its territories from the remnants of colonialism, that form of domination which, for centuries has existed amongst us. Africa also declares that it will spare no effort and will mobilize all her means to help those African peoples struggling for their freedom and independence. Africa which has experienced the bitterness of colonialism occupation and racial discrimination, will certainly not shirk its responsibilities and obligations towards its sons, still suffering under the yoke of colonialism, occupation and racial discrimination.

13. This century which has witnessed the most atrocious wars ever known to mankind, has also witnessed the peoples of the world rising in solidarity to repel the Nazi aggression perpetrated against Europe.

14. Taking into consideration the responsibilities of the big powers in the maintenance of international peace and security, Africa calls upon them to accelerate the advent of complete disarmament. It commends the efforts already declared during the twenty-five years which endit by the signing of the partial treaty on limitation of nuclear armament. It hopes that these efforts will continue and that the big powers which possess the means for massive destruction will reach an agreement with a view to putting an end to the armories in the interest of peace in the world.

15. Complete disarmament will release immense resources which will help to accelerate the efforts being made by under-developed countries in the field of economic development in putting at their disposal in the context of the U.N. Decade on Development, the necessary funds which they need so much, This U.N. would have contributed to safeguarding international peace in respect of the objectives and principles of the Charter.

16. On the occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations and the Tenth Anniversary of the celebration of the Declaration on granting independence to colonial peoples, we hope that the entire world will rise in a concerted effort to resist the aggression of the reactionary forces of racism, ignorance, economic exploitation and political and social oppression throughout the world.

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