

O A U

1996 — 98

OAU plans continental 'early warning system'

(230) CT 17/1/96

ADDIS ABABA: The head of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has called on African experts meeting in the Ethiopian capital to devise an early warning system on the continent's flashpoints.

Mr Salim Ahmed Salim, OAU secretary-general, said such a system would greatly help the cash-strapped organisation to detect and prevent conflicts across the world's poorest continent.

"If the full potential of the conflict prevention and management capacity of

the OAU is to be fully realised, it will no doubt need the backing of a continent-wide early warning network," Mr Salim said.

The network would enable the OAU to prevent or prepare itself to deal adequately with arising conflicts, he said.

It was not clear how the system would be funded. A previous plan to set up an OAU peacekeeping force failed owing to the organisation's near-bankruptcy, many members not paying their dues. — Reuter

Unita guerrillas

OAU conference finds the real issue is not identifying a crisis but acting on it

By **GIENN OOSTHUYSEN**
for Independent Foreign Service

The concept of the Organisation of African Unity's Early Warning System (EWS) arises out of recent international focus and research into the arena of peacekeeping operations.

But the foot-dragging and diversionary tactics employed at a four-day seminar in Addis Ababa this month on establishing an EWS was explained by a South African delegate.

"Some 95% of the states here don't want this system. It is a very dangerous game for them to be playing."

Another South African delegate said "We could easily draw up a list of potential conflicts, but to get any issue discussed and action taken is very difficult."

"We (South Africa) are quite open to the idea, but what about Libya, Tunisia, Cameroon, Ethiopia or Eritrea? What action would they allow the OAU to take?"

"As a concept that organisation could not be seen to reject it, but if it were to become effective it could get too close to home for many."

"Even the South African Government would have great difficulty in permitting the OAU to confront it on the issue of KwaZulu Natal, despite its somewhat 'holier-than-thou' attitude towards the concept of Early Warning."

The seminar in Ethiopia from January 15-18 on an EWS for conflict situations in Africa brought together representatives of member states, scholars and NGOs from throughout Africa, journalists, eminent personalities and various UN

agencies to discuss the viability of establishing such a mechanism.

Given the high costs involved in financing peacekeeping operations and the difficulty inherent in the moulding together of disparate military forces into one effective, militarily-compatible force, the concept of Early Warning seeks first to detect and second to take preventive political action to avoid the outbreak of conflict and therefore the need for costly peacekeeping operations.

According to UN under-secretary-general and executive sec-

Foot-dragging, diversionary tactics used to delay proposed peace plan

tary of the Economic Commission for Africa, K.Y. Annako, in the period 1991-1995 the UN spent \$5.2 billion (about R19-billion) on peacekeeping operations in Africa.

The costs of Operation Restore Hope in Somalia amounted to \$1.6 billion (about R6-billion) over two years (twice the annual amount of bilateral development aid from the USA to the rest of Africa).

Given the desperate need for development in Africa, it is obvious that any mechanism which seeks to avert conflict and make more constructive use of resources should be welcomed.

The real problem, however, lies not in gathering information for

such a mechanism but in the analysis of such information.

The OAU plans to complete the construction of a 24-hour crisis management room by March and, most importantly, to take the necessary political follow-up action.

Far too much time was spent at the conference deliberating on what information could be useful and how to channel it to the OAU.

Some may argue that this was necessary, but if the stated objective of the OAU and the tasks set for the seminar were to operationalise the mechanism, then the biggest obstacle to the effective operation of the Early Warning System - a failure to take timely political action - should have been explored.

The OAU secretariat should not be blamed for this failing, but rather the delegates representing the member states, who persisted in deflecting the discussion from the real issues.

A South African warned the seminar "Early Warning can become a meaningless concept unless we consider early action."

On the whole, the South African, Namibian, Algerian and Egyptian delegations were the most constructive.

Most of the other states misused the seminar to make political statements or bemoan the lack of French language papers submitted, an issue often raised by the Francophone states at OAU meetings.

The prospects for the Early Warning System appear to be limited by the ever-present issue of sovereignty versus the authority and mandate of the central organ of the OAU.

As in the case of the UN Security

Council, the central organ claims its authority from the member states.

The case of Nigeria illustrates the weakness of the OAU in taking decisive action against one of its more powerful members.

Smaller states, such as Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Comoros are targets for action as the OAU can create the political will to act against them, but the more powerful states like Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa and Libya are virtually immune.

In the end, the recommendations of the seminar (13 in total)

Many states seized opportunity for political statements

were accepted in rather a farcical fashion.

The reports were handed out, the chairman asked if they were accepted, light applause followed and he announced unanimous acceptance before any delegates had even read them over.

Interestingly, Point 7 of the recommendations focuses on the crucial issue of political will.

While recognising this factor as "the essential problem", the seminar could only recommend "that the aspect of political will in support of an Early Warning System should be pronounced".

In the final analysis, of course, the best Early Warning System for preventative action should lie within

each state through its democratic political systems and structures.

Arguably, if a state permits free political expression, the chances of devastating conflicts occurring are less likely.

At this point in history, it is not the OAU or the UN's responsibility to avoid or prevent conflicts.

Instead the onus lies with each state and its leaders to address problems and to allocate state resources more effectively to prevent the development of issues which could lead to conflict.

Much can be said in defence of Africa - colonial legacies, boundaries, vertical economic integration of Africa into the world economy, playground of the Cold War superpowers, and so on - but African states, individually and collectively, must take responsibility for the prevention and resolution of conflict on the continent.

The OAU's efforts to establish the Early Warning System does precisely that on a collective basis. But at the same time, it is an admission of the fact that the states of Africa, individually, have not done the same.

The OAU Early Warning System is an opportunity for African states to use the collective responsibility of the OAU to achieve their individual conflict prevention and resolution responsibilities. All that is required is the political will of the states involved to embrace the system.

■ Gienn Oosthuisen is the USIP Small Arms Proliferation researcher at the South African Institute of International Affairs, who recently attended the OAU Early Warning Seminar in Addis Ababa. He writes in his personal capacity.

OAU meeting seeks to solve Africa's problems with dialogue

ET (BR) 26/2/96

(230)

By TSEGAYE TADESSE

Addis Ababa — The Organisation of Africa Unity (OAU) foreign ministers meet in Addis Ababa today to consider the problems of the poorest continent and to seek to settle them with words rather than brute force

Sudan's alleged support for terrorism, and conflict in Burundi, Somalia, Liberia and Senegal are the most troublesome issues to be discussed at the three-day conference

More than 100 000 people have been killed in the past two years in Burundi, but diplomats and officials said the OAU secretary-general, Salim Ahmed Salim, will oppose military intervention at this stage and call for more talks to cool ethnic passions

The United Nations Security Council is expected to discuss soon a proposal by the UN secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to set up a rapid intervention force with a minimum strength of 8 000 troops

The council failed to support an earlier proposal for the force to be based in neighbouring Zaire, ready to intervene in Burundi. So Boutros-Ghali said each contingent should be based at home until it is called in

The OAU, however, holds that recent international pressure has helped thwart Burundi's descent into

total tribal warfare

Burundi has asked for the OAU team of 65 military observers that is stationed in there to be expanded

In a draft report, Salim suggested a conference to promote a regional initiative on Burundi and the Great Lakes region, which also includes Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire. The region has been destabilised by the 2 million Rwandan Hutu refugees that have been there since 1994

Salim is expected to call on the international community to accelerate moves to isolate hardline politicians who are stirring up trouble in Burundi and to encourage moderates to assert themselves

The OAU is concerned at what diplomats said was a stepped-up drive to recruit and train paramilitary forces and to arm militia in Burundi, where the Tutsi-dominated army is at war with Hutu rebels

Sudan will present its response to an OAU demand that Khartoum's government extradite three Egyptian gunmen suspected of involvement in an assassination attempt on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last June

Diplomats said Sudan faced condemnation by some countries for its alleged support of terrorism and failure to hand over the men. Khartoum has argued that it does not know

where the men are

Ministers will also review proposals from outside Africa to strengthen the OAU's role of managing and defusing conflicts before they erupt into full-scale war or ethnic bloodbaths

Some OAU member states fear external assistance could compromise the independence of OAU peace-making efforts

Sadako Ogata, the UN high commissioner for refugees, is expected to be co-chairman of a council of ministers' meeting with Salim and voice her concern at Zaire's plan to expel its 1 million Rwandan Hutu refugees, the diplomats said

Salim regrets a lack of resources has stalled vital steps in the peace process in Liberia. The steps include disarmament, demobilisation and the reintegration of soldiers into society

On Somalia, faction leaders would be urged to avoid steps that could plunge the country back into warfare and to promote urgent dialogue to establish a broad-based government

The ministers were expected to endorse an OAU trade ministers' position that developed nations cancel the continent's \$317 billion external debt

Cameroon will host another OAU council meeting in June. It will be followed by the organisation's annual African leaders' summit — Reuter

OAU gets tough with non-paying nations

ADDIS ABABA — Seventeen OAU states owed about \$35m in membership arrears and had no right to speak at OAU meetings, an official report said on Friday.

The report by the OAU committee on contribution was prepared for an OAU foreign ministers' meeting today. It said 25 of the OAU's 53 member states had paid their contributions.

Although arrears had declined from \$58.3m in June last year, the \$35m debt was "a grave and serious impediment" on the OAU's activities.

It listed the states in arrears as Chad, Comoros, Somalia, Guinea Bis-

sau, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, Gambia, Niger, Seychelles, Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire, Cape Verde and Djibouti.

Sudan, which had been behind, had paid up. The 17 listed countries had lost their right to speak and vote at OAU meetings and were suspended from OAU specialised organisations.

Their nationals were barred from OAU posts.

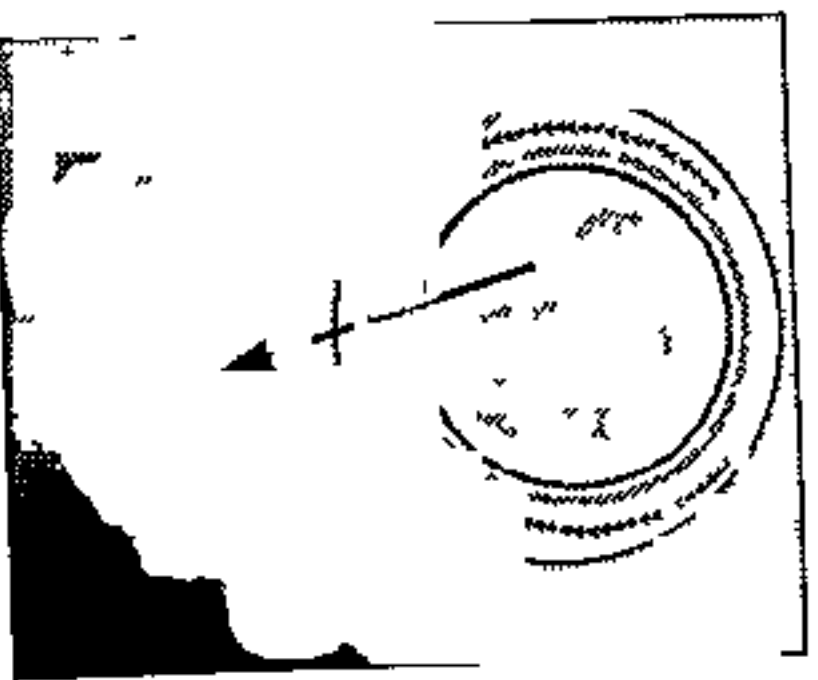
The committee recommended that Somalia, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Burundi should be exempt from sanctions for a year. — Reuter.

BD 26/2/96

OAU should put ideals, not mouth on the line

The organisation has ducked out of delivering for far too long, writes Olawale Fapohunda

230



President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, not a man to mince his words, addressed his fellow heads of state at the 1986 summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) with the following stinging review of the body's record

"Over a period of 20 years nearly three quarters of a million Ugandans perished at the hands of governments that should have protected their lives. I must state that Ugandans felt a deep sense of betrayal that most of Africa kept silent

"The reason for not condemning such massive crimes has supposedly been a desire not to interfere in the internal affairs of a member state in accordance with the charter of the OAU and the United Nations. We do not accept this reasoning because in the

same organs there are explicit laws that enunciate the sanctity and inviolability of human life."

The OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government will be meeting once again in Yaounde, Cameroon from July 8 to 10. The poor publicity in the days before this gathering is understandable as many will justifiably see it as a talkshop where African leaders meet to pat each other on the back for jobs not done. There will be the usual pomp and the pageantry of African leaders in flowing robes. And nothing will happen

The formation of the OAU in 1963 was greeted with an enthusiasm which all too soon gave way to despair when it became largely a club for the preservation of leaders and their regimes

Untold atrocities were committed in the name of national security resulting in a proliferation of one-party states and military dictatorships. As for economic development, it is a sad cliché to note that poverty continues to be the lot of the majority of the people while their leaders live in opulence.

In the 33 years since the formation of the OAU, little has changed. Victorines against colonialism and apartheid are hailed as achievements but in the case of South Africa, the role of several African countries was limited to verbal condemnation while they entered into all kinds of economic and political compromises with the old South African government.

In the field of human rights, perhaps the only significant development was the adoption of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. But it is widely held as little more than a delusion as the OAU continues,

unbroken, its tradition of silence on human rights violations on the continent.

There have been the silences over the atrocities committed in Idi Amin's Uganda, in Nguema's Equatorial Guinea and in Bokassa's Central African Empire.

And when Diallo Telli, a former secretary-general of the OAU was murdered, the incident provoked neither protest nor comment from the OAU or African governments. All are quick to point to Article III of the charter which forbids interference in the internal affairs of states by members.

Nigeria is now the focus of all civilised states but it will not be a surprise if the atrocities committed in the name of General Abacha go unnoticed by his colleagues at the Yaounde meeting.

The birth of South Africa under Presi-

■ Olawale Fapohunda, a Nigerian lawyer, co-ordinates international campaigns for the Lagos-based Civil Liberties Organisation

peoples of Africa - Star Foreign Service will spell tragedy for the vast majority of the rights in Africa. Silence from South Africa meeting to seize the initiative on human doubletalk of Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo for a consistent policy. Many of us find the democracy community would have wished

But the Nigerian human rights and pro-democracy community would have wished against the dictator the case of Nigeria, begun a global campaign leadership rose to the challenge and did, in the continent. Indeed the South African victims of human right violations themselves, would set the agenda for the rest of the continent. It was hoped that the new leadership, dent Mandela gave rise to new expectations.

SA must break OAU silence

230

4/7/96

SOUTH AFRICA must take the upcoming summit of the Organisation of African Unity beyond just another toothless talkshop, challenges **OLAWALE FAPOHUNDA**, a Nigerian lawyer who co-ordinates international campaigns for the Lagos-based Civil Liberties Organisation.

PRESIDENT Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, not a man to mince his words, addressed his fellow heads of state at the 1986 summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) with the following stinging review of the body's record.

"Over a period of 20 years nearly three quarters of a million Ugandans perished at the hands of governments that should have protected their lives. I must state that Ugandans felt a deep sense of betrayal that most of Africa kept silent. The reason for not condemning such massive crimes has supposedly been a desire not to interfere in the internal affairs of a member state, in accordance with the charters of the OAU and the United Nations. We do not accept this reasoning, because in the same organs there are explicit laws that enunciate the sanctity and inviolability of human life."

The OAU assembly of heads of state and government will be meeting once again in Yaounde, Cameroon from Monday to Wednesday.

The poor publicity in the days before this gathering is understandable, as many will justifiably see it as a talkshop where African leaders meet to pat each other on the back for jobs not done. There will be the usual pomp and the pageantry of African leaders in flowing robes. And nothing will happen.

The formation of the OAU in 1963 was greeted with an enthusiasm which, all too soon, gave way to despair when it emerged that the organisation was largely a club for the preservation of leaders and their regimes.

Untold atrocities were committed in the name of national security, resulting in a proliferation of one-party states and military dictatorships. As for economic development, it is a sad cliché to note that poverty continues to be the

lot of the majority of the people of Africa while their leaders live in opulence.

In the 33 years since the formation of the OAU, little has changed. Victories against colonialism and apartheid are hailed as achievements, but in the case of South Africa, the role of several African countries was limited to verbal condemnation, while they entered into all kinds of economic and political compromises with the old South African government.

In the field of human rights, perhaps the only significant development was the adoption of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. But it is widely held as little more than a delusion as the OAU continues, unbroken, its tradition of silence on human-rights violations on the continent.

There have been the silences over the atrocities committed in Idi Amin's Uganda, in Nguema's Equatorial Guinea and in Bokassa's Central African empire. When Diallo Telli, a former secretary-general of the OAU, was murdered, the incident provoked neither protest nor comment from the OAU or African governments. All are quick to point to Article III of the charter, which forbids interference in the internal affairs of states by OAU members.

Nigeria is now the focus of all civilised states but it will not be a surprise if the atrocities committed in the name of General Abacha go unnoticed by his colleagues at the meeting.

The international community, specifically the Western world, seems deliberately confused as to what to do about Nigeria. European leaders have been quick to say that the initiative has to come from African states, knowing that few African leaders are better than their Nigerian counterpart.

The birth of South Africa under President Mandela gave rise to new expectations. It was hoped that the new leadership, victims of human-rights violations themselves, would set

the agenda for the rest of the continent. Indeed the leadership rose to the challenge and did, in the case of Nigeria, begin a global campaign against the dictator.

But many of us find the double talk of Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo confusing. And some are still unable to decipher the mystery surrounding the sudden withdrawal of the support of the South Africa government for a meeting of Nigerian opposition groups, which was to have been held in Johannesburg early this year.

Many of us are also still trying to come to terms with South Africa's position at the recent session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, when it did not support the call for a special rapporteur on Nigeria.

But even in the face of these setbacks, South Africa remains our only hope.

The leadership of South Africa must use the OAU meeting to seize the initiative on human rights in Africa. They must tell the summit that the OAU's inviolate principle of non-interference has become an excuse for persistent human-rights violations.

The South African delegation should also arm itself with the programme of action proposed by Amnesty International at the 1993 OAU summit and which calls on the OAU to publicly and regularly address violations of human rights in its member states and to strengthen and implement the African charter on human rights.

Furthermore, human-rights issues should not be left to governments alone. The role of NGOs on the

continent should be properly acknowledged and given a place within the OAU. South Africa's voice could strengthen the lobby for a proposed NGO forum to the OAU Assembly.

Finally, South Africa cannot afford to inherit the OAU tradition of silence on human rights violations. Silence from South Africa will spell tragedy for the vast majority of the peoples of Africa. — Independent Foreign Service

Many of us find the talk of Alfred Nzo confusing ... But South Africa remains our only hope. They must tell the summit that the OAU's inviolate principle of non-interference has become an excuse for persistent human rights violations.

TUESDAY
JULY 9, 1996 ★

IN

JUL 9, 1996

SA TO ASSIST PEACE PROCESSES

OAU summit delayed by row over UN post

CT 9/7/96

(230)

YAOUNDE: President Nelson Mandela told the OAU summit here yesterday that South Africa would not shrink from its responsibility to help resolve conflict and advocate human rights on the continent

THE Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit, opened three hours late yesterday, apparently because of deliberations over a possible replacement for UN secretary-general Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali

The turmoil came after US Under-Secretary of State for African Affairs Mr George Moose said in a broadcast interview on Sunday that Washington would support another African candidate for the post of UN secretary-general

The United States has made it clear it does not favour renewal of Boutros-Ghali's five-year mandate at the end of the year

Boutros-Ghali, who cancelled his public schedule on Sunday in apparent reaction to the US stance, was lined up among the keynote speakers at yesterday's opening

The summit was inaugurated by the OAU chairman, Ethiopian leader Mr Meles Zenawi, who is to hand over the revolving annual presidency to President Paul Biya of Cameroon

Among other prominent figures expected to speak during the opening ceremony were President Yasser Arafat of the National Palestine Authority and OAU secretary-general Mr Salim Ahmed Salim

Onlookers clapped as President Nelson Mandela said South Africa would not shrink from its responsibility to help resolve conflict and advo-

cate human rights on the continent

He said the OAU would scrutinise mechanisms to guarantee human rights as well as preventing, managing and resolving conflict

The OAU had also contributed to the holding of elections in a number of African countries

"South Africa supports all these programmes and we are immensely proud and enriched to have been an integral part of their implementation," he said

"To the limit of our capacity, we pledge not to shirk our responsibility in contributing our fair share"

Mandela said South Africa would continue its assistance to the peace process in Angola and Burundi and the efforts to resolve conflicts in Liberia, Somalia and Sierra Leone

He also pledged solidarity with the Saharawi Democratic Republic's drive for self-determination

"Particularly in Angola and Burundi, our government has endeavoured to undertake such practical actions as requested by the OAU and (UN) agencies, and within the limit of resources at our disposal

"We are aware that it is our success or otherwise in resolving all these conflicts which will determine whether the African renewal we strive for will in fact succeed"

Mandela said African countries were justified in demanding economic and scientific benefits from their

former colonial bosses but had to break out of the cycle of dependence imposed by "those in command of immense market power".

South Africa, like other African countries, suffered under an unjust system of international relations. This made the country party to the struggle for better access to markets, improved handling of the debt burden, increased commitment to investments and improved trade conditions

"Most countries on our continent have taken deliberate measures to bring their economies and trade regimes in line with the market imperatives prevalent in the world today, in accordance with the advice of multilateral financial institutions

"But the question has been rightly posed. Has there been reciprocal action by those who control, particularly, the resources required for sustainable development, such as investments and markets?"

Mandela added that development was further dependent on sustainable use of the environment. "Modern environmental challenges extend far beyond the capacity of individual countries and we need, as a continent, to find ways of working together to preserve Africa's heritage"

Even without the delay, this latest summit was under a cloud after Nigeria accused host country Cameroon of planning a military offensive on the disputed Bakassi peninsula

The two countries, ironically both members of the OAU's 16-member panel on conflict resolution, contest ownership of the oil-rich peninsula in the Gulf of Guinea — Sapa-AFP

OAU calls for an 'African UN chief'

ET 10/7/96

(230)

YAOUNDE, Cameroon: African leaders yesterday urged the United States to re-think its opposition to UN Secretary-General Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali's bid for a second term, saying their continent deserved to have one of its own in the job.

The head of the Organisation of African Unity, Salm Ahmed Salm, acknowledged that an OAU declaration of support for Boutros-Ghali lacked the power to block a US veto of his second term.

The hope, he said, was that the declaration, approved on Monday,

would prompt "new reflection on the part of the United States"

"What's significant is that Africa has taken a position no different from many other non-African nations," he said, referring to Washington's virtual isolation on the issue

The US said Boutros-Ghali, an Egyptian, has been too slow to reform the world body and does not deserve a second term

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the US has the power to veto his election when a decision is made in a few

months

Despite the expression of support, hammered out in a four-hour private session on Monday, the declaration was far from a ringing endorsement

Four countries refused to support it — Rwanda, Ghana, Eritrea and Ethiopia

In addition, the final version appeared to stress more enthusiasm for an African UN chief rather than Boutros-Ghali himself

US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, George Moose, said he believed the wording left

open the possibility of another African candidate being embraced by the OAU, something the US would support

"We've said all along we're quite sensitive to the desire of African states to see an African continue as head of the organisation and we've made clear our willingness to consider a qualified African candidate for that job," he said on Monday

The question of Boutros-Ghali's level of support among African states has dominated the OAU summit — Sapa-AP

OAU challenged by child soldiers

Star 9/7/96 (230)

Africa's leaders are accused of abandoning youth to conflict and exploitation

REUTERS
Yaounde, Cameroon

A group of children from Africa's conflict zones accused heads of state attending a summit in Cameroon of abandoning them to the whims of the continent's warlords, some of whom have large armies of child soldiers.

"You are the leaders, you are the adults creating problems for us," said Christopher Okello (17), a former child soldier from Uganda, in his address to the heads of state on the opening day of the

Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit.

"You think only of yourselves. Why don't you have peace talks to end the wars?" he challenged, abandoning his prepared speech for the gathering.

None of the leaders seated in the plenary session betrayed any emotion as the young man addressed them from a dais on behalf of 120 children who had attended a two-day mock summit before the main event.

Unicef organised the mini-summit to focus attention on the plight of children caught up in

Africa's endless conflicts and the problems they spawn.

The tragedy of child soldiers was played out to television viewers around the world in news footage showing children as young as 10 years old firing away as ethnic warfare exploded in Liberia last April.

The OAU, accused in the past of doing little to halt bloodshed across the continent, appears determined to act and has put conflict on the top of its agenda.

Foreign ministers who prepared the summit have drafted a resolution calling for sanctions on

warlords in Liberia's six-year-old civil war, including the setting up of a UN war crimes tribunal to try them if regional peace efforts fail.

The summit is also discussing ethnic fighting in Burundi and Rwanda and anarchy in Somalia and the accompanying refugee crisis - most of the victims of which are women and children.

Reading from the mini-summit's conclusions, Okello said the children noted with regret that African leaders spent vast sums of money on arms.

"No child soldiers. No child soldiers!" all 60 children chanted,

fists clenched in the air.

"Your message has been heard, I assure you," said Cameroon President Paul Biya, speaking as the new chairman of the OAU.

The summit is expected to adopt a resolution on the plight of children in armed conflicts.

The draft contains an appeal to the OAU's 53 member states to ban the use of anti-personnel landmines, refrain from recruiting children under the age of 18 in armed conflict and sign and ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

(230)
First SA official for OAU's secretariat

SA will second an official to the OAU's secretariat in Ethiopia for the first time since the body was founded in 1963, the Department of Foreign Ministry has announced

Deon van Schoor, at present a director in the Africa division of foreign affairs, will serve as a senior political officer at the OAU's head office in Addis Ababa from next month - AFP.

Star 19/9/96

OAU wants new African candidate for UN post

Star 3/12/96

(230)

Appeal for states to nominate 'other quality candidates' could help Security Council deal with US veto of Boutros-Ghali

REUTERS, AFP
New York

The chairman of the Organisation of African Unity has opened the way for another African to be elected UN secretary-general, urging African leaders to submit other names after the United States vetoed incumbent Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

This appeared to break a deadlock following the November 19 US veto when African states still seemed reluctant to put forward other candidates while Boutros-Ghali remained in play.

"In order to preserve Africa's chances for a second five-year term of office, it is time for African states to present other quality candidates together with that of Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali," OAU chairman and Cameroon President Paul Biya said in a letter to African heads of state or government.

Boutros-Ghali's term expires on December 31 and the US has

vowed to keep using its veto to deny him a second term on the grounds that the UN needs a more reform-minded leader to take it into the 21st century.

Biya said that, according to his information, "the council still seems favourable to the principle of a second term of office for Africa to the post of UN secretary-

**World body
needs more
reformist
chief, says US**

general"

Among Africans spoken of as potential candidates are UN Under-Secretary-General Kofi Annan of Ghana, who heads UN peacekeeping operations, Ivory Coast Foreign Minister Amara Essy, Hamid Algabid of Niger, secretary-general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference,

OAU secretary-general Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania, Foreign Minister Moustapha Niasse of Senegal, and Olara Otunnu, a former Ugandan UN envoy who heads the New York-based International Peace Academy.

US ambassador Madeleine Albright yesterday welcomed Biya's call for African leaders to put forward new candidates for the post. She said Biya's "very important letter" to other African leaders should "provide the Security Council with a way of dealing with this issue".

Asked for her reaction to Biya's suggestion that new names should be submitted along with that of Boutros-Ghali, Albright said "the verdict (was) the same" regarding the current incumbent. Albright has ruled out any compromise which might enable the 74-year old Egyptian to remain in office beyond December 31.

The UN General Assembly elects the UN chief on the Security Council's recommendation.

Desperately seeking human rights for OAU

ET 20/5/97

(230)

THE OAU'S MAJOR problem is that it has become the most important trade union in Africa — a trade union for dictators, despots and corrupt military rulers. Contributing Editor **VERNON SEYMOUR** writes that OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim will need all the support he can muster to push for human rights in African diplomacy.

THE recent statement by Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim of the Organisation of African Unity that the writing is on the wall for African military leaders, dictators and despots is to be welcomed as a refreshing new direction by the African group.

It is a far cry from his rebuke of South Africa when President Nelson Mandela called for the suspension of Nigeria from the Commonwealth not so long ago.

The fact that he made this statement in Nigeria makes it even more significant. He has now given the OAU a new focus in African diplomacy.

It seems Salim wants to help the OAU regain the upper hand in its battle to become more relevant in an era of democratisation.

Salim enjoys the confidence of the new African leadership which is involved in shaping the future of intra-African diplomacy.

This new leadership — which includes the forthright Entereans, the unapologetic Rwandans, the pragmatic Ugandans and the innovative South Africans — has broken out of yesterday's thinking.

The formation of the OAU in 1963 was greeted with enthusiasm, which soon gave way to despair when it emerged that the organisation was largely a club for the preservation of leaders and their repres-

sive regimes. Untold atrocities were committed in the name of national security, resulting in a proliferation of one-party states and military dictatorships.

In the 34 years since the formation of the OAU very little has changed in their approach to human rights issues and despotic rule.

Victories against colonialism and apartheid are hailed as achievements, but in the case of South Africa the role of several African countries was limited to verbal condemnation, while they entered into all kinds of economic and political compromises with the apartheid government.

The most notable fact of the OAU's position on apartheid South Africa is that the non-interference principle was not applied. There has been silence over the atrocities committed by governments on their own people all over Africa.

During the 1986 OAU summit President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda indicted the OAU by stating to a hushed audience of African heads of state that, for many years, Ugandans felt a deep sense of betrayal because most of Africa kept silent while Idi Amin's government committed the worst forms of atrocities imaginable.

Nigeria is at present the focus of all civilised states and the same silent policy approach is evident in statements made by OAU spokesmen.

At the UN Commission for Human Rights session held in Geneva recently, very few African governments supported South Africa's position in a resolution calling for the appointment for a special investigation into human rights abuses in Nigeria.

Nigeria tops all categories of human rights abuses on the continent. Since the execution of the author and human rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and his eight co-defendants on November 10, 1995, there have been no signs of improvement.

All opposition and criticism of the

military government is brutally suppressed.

Dissidents and journalists are persecuted, imprisoned, tortured or assassinated.

Nigeria, Sudan, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, former Zaïre and Kenya have taken over from apartheid South Africa in having jails full of political detainees.

Most of them are what Amnesty International calls "prisoners of conscience".

The advent of the new South Africa gave rise to new expectations.

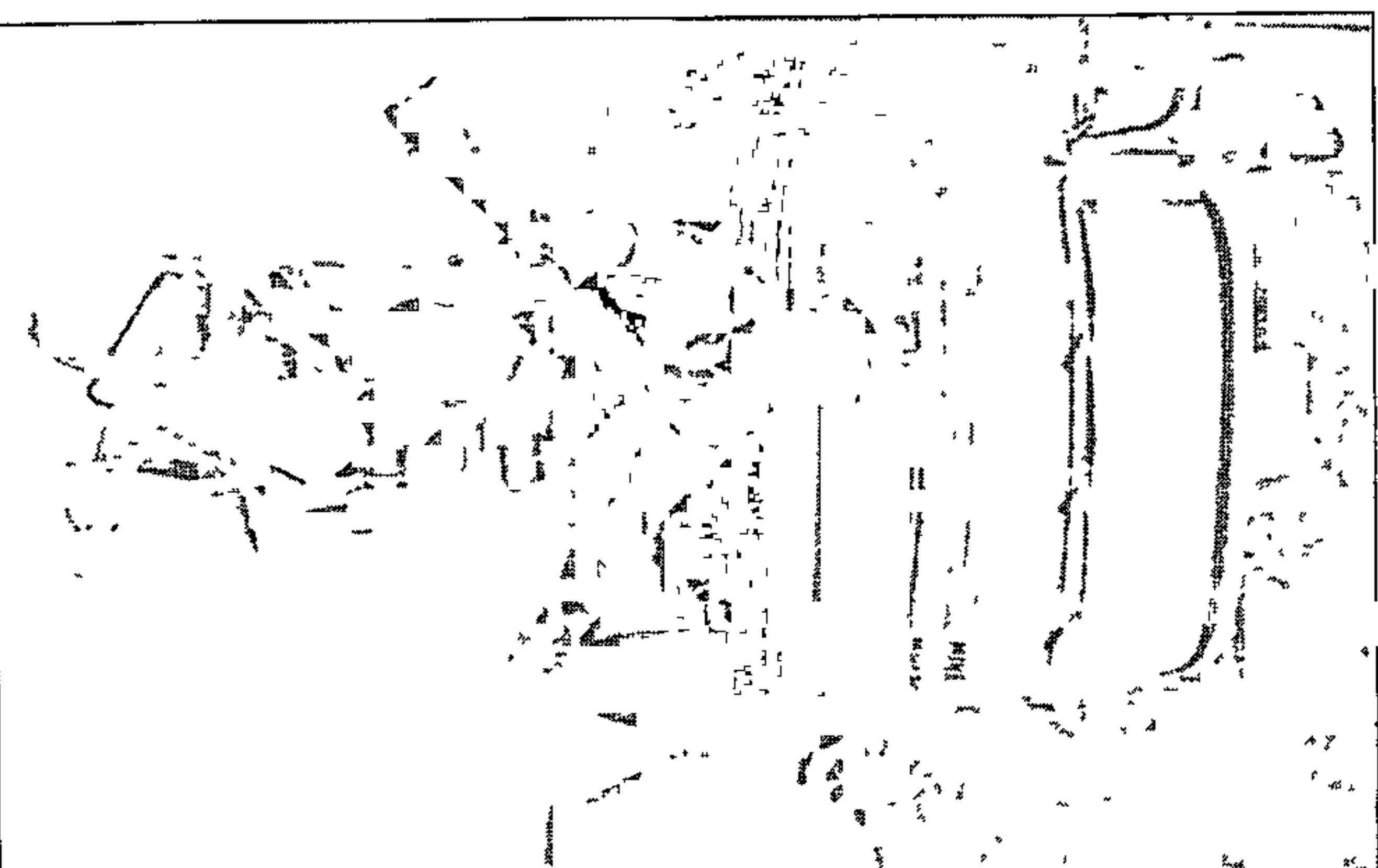
It was hoped that the new leadership, victims of human rights violations themselves, would set the agenda for the rest of a continent desperately seeking leadership to address the problem in an effective way.

When South Africa did take leadership on human rights abuses by African governments they often found it difficult to muster African support at international forums.

The question is often asked by civil society groups on the continent whether, apart from South Africa, there is any African government which has the political will to deal with these issues effectively through the OAU.

The secretary-general will need all the support he can muster to pursue this new direction in African diplomacy.

What can South Africa do? It is submitted that our new democracy and Mandela's stature offers an anvil to cast a foreign policy supportive of human rights which is without fear or favour on the continent.



RULE OF ROAD: In OAU countries where gun is law, assault rifles are seen everywhere on the streets. Even this 13-year-old boy in Liberia totes one on his bike.

South Africa cannot afford to inherit the OAU tradition of silence on human rights. Silence from South Africa would mean tragedy for most African people.

South Africa can make a difference, but only if it is prepared to make some hard policy choices on human rights questions.

To its credit, South Africa has begun to

show that it is prepared to make those hard choices.

But what about the rest of the African and international community? Salim's call for speeding up democratisation on the continent demands clear, firm and consistent responses from African governments.

It requires that OAU member states and the international community review their bilateral policies with Nigeria and the other offending countries, especially to prevent economic commitments in the country contributing to the maintenance of this intolerable situation of human rights abuses.

The OAU's major problem is that it has become the most important trade union in Africa — a trade union for dictators, despots and corrupt military rulers.

However, in the last seven years there has been a slow movement towards some forms of representative government on the continent. The challenge is to expand this democratic space.

Given this new direction, it will now be expected of the OAU secretary-general to contribute to this development by allowing civil society groups to influence the OAU.

This could be achieved, for example, by holding a parallel civil society forum during OAU summits. In this way the summits could become a little more than a place where Anglophone, Francophone, Lusophone, Arabophone and "jintaphones" come to have discussions which have no impact on the lives of African people.

It is to be hoped that Secretary-General Salim will receive the support of African governments so that the African renaissance can truly begin.

Vernon Seymour is a senior researcher in international relations at the Centre for Southern African Studies at UWC.

OAU wants two seats on UN Council

(230) Sowetan 2/6/97
Lack of justice, fairness and openness
has kindled many uprisings in Africa

HARARE – African leaders are today set to stake the continent's claim to be a major player on the world stage, and to shake off its image as a wretched onlooker

The Organisation of African Unity, which holds its 33rd annual summit here on June 2-4, is expected to press its demand for two permanent seats with veto power on an expanded United Nations Security Council

And many of the 30 heads of state due at the summit – including the new leader in Kinshasa Laurent Kabila – will no doubt echo President Nelson Mandela's view that the time is ripe for a political and economic African renaissance

Zimbabwean Vice-President Simon Muzenda acknowledged at a preparatory meeting ahead of the summit that "most of Africa continues to be haunted by conflicts, hunger, economic decline and disease"

At the same time, he complained that this led to an "untrue" perception in the rest of the world that Africa is "an

insignificant partner in international, political and economic relations"

In past years the OAU has regularly used colonial legacies, apartheid and Cold War interference in African affairs, as whipping boys to divert attention from its own failures

Now, nearly 40 years after the winds of independence began to sweep through the continent, three years after the end of apartheid and with the Cold War long gone, those excuses are no longer available

Collective wisdom

"Lack of justice, fairness and openness in governing have kindled many uprisings. Nowadays the call for democracy, human rights and accountability can no longer be ignored," said Muzenda

Mandela said in an address to Zimbabwe's parliament during a recent state visit "The time has come for Africa to take full responsibility for her woes and use the immense collective wisdom it possesses to make a reality of the idea of the African renaissance" – Sapa-AFP

OAU's credibility on line as summit gets under way

Unresolved conflicts point to organisation's impotence

By PETER FABRICIUS
AND NEIL SHAW
Star Foreign Service

The Organisation of African Unity starts its 33rd annual heads of state and government summit in Harare today, still facing charges that it is powerless to do much about the continent's real problems – but at least now trying to address them.

SA officials hope that at least one concrete achievement will be to persuade a majority of African nations to commit themselves to a total ban on the manufacture, selling or stockpiling of landmines, as SA has.

Although democracy is blossoming, especially in the south, a coup in Sierra Leone, the expulsion of Zairian president Mobutu Sese Seko and unresolved conflicts in Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia, Angola and Somalia underscore the continent's continuing instability and the OAU's impotence, diplomats say.

All these are on the agenda, as is the row between Libya and

the West over the Lockerbie bombing.

The debut of self-proclaimed president Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo is likely to be the newsmiest event of the summit, overshadowing the OAU's ongoing frustrations.

Despite its recent creation of a Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, the OAU has had little or no impact on either the Sierra Leone or Congo crises and seems unlikely to. Its impact on SA-led efforts to resolve the Congo crisis was at very best marginal, diplomats say.

But one diplomat observed: "It's still a talk shop but at least they're talking about the right issues now," noting that the organisation spent its first quarter-century focusing almost exclusively on decolonisation but was now starting to debate the continent's underlying crises of political conflict, genocide, poverty and famine.

The main initiatives flowing from these new directions have been the conflict-resolution

mechanism and the African Economic Community (AEC) – an ambitious plan, conceived in 1991, to create an Africa-wide economic and political union, including within it an African court of justice.

Tomorrow the summit will constitute itself as the AEC to launch the body formally, but so far it exists in name only.

The conflict-resolution mechanism has also not lived up to its name so far.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, in a recent interview in which he branded the OAU as a "trade union of criminals", said he expected nothing of substance to come out of this week's summit.

Asked about the AEC launch, he said: "We signed the protocol in Abuja in 1991; now what we want to see is implementation."

OAU secretary-general Salim Ahmed Salim is expected to be re-elected to an unprecedented third term, despite grumblings from some member countries and OAU officials who believe he has achieved very little.

Star 2/6/97

(260)

OAU plan to lure foreign investment

CT 2/6/97

HARARE: African leaders gather here today to take another step towards establishing an economic community, hoping to influence the international economic environment in its favour

The heads of states and governments — here for three days to attend the annual Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit — are expected to hold the inaugural session of the African Economic Community (AEC).

The continent, which last year showed signs of economic recovery due to an increase in agricultural

output and a rise in petroleum prices, ironically saw more of its people being relegated to poverty

Thirty-three of the 41 poorest and most heavily indebted countries in the world are in Africa

The OAU hopes that the projected AEC will lure investment to member countries

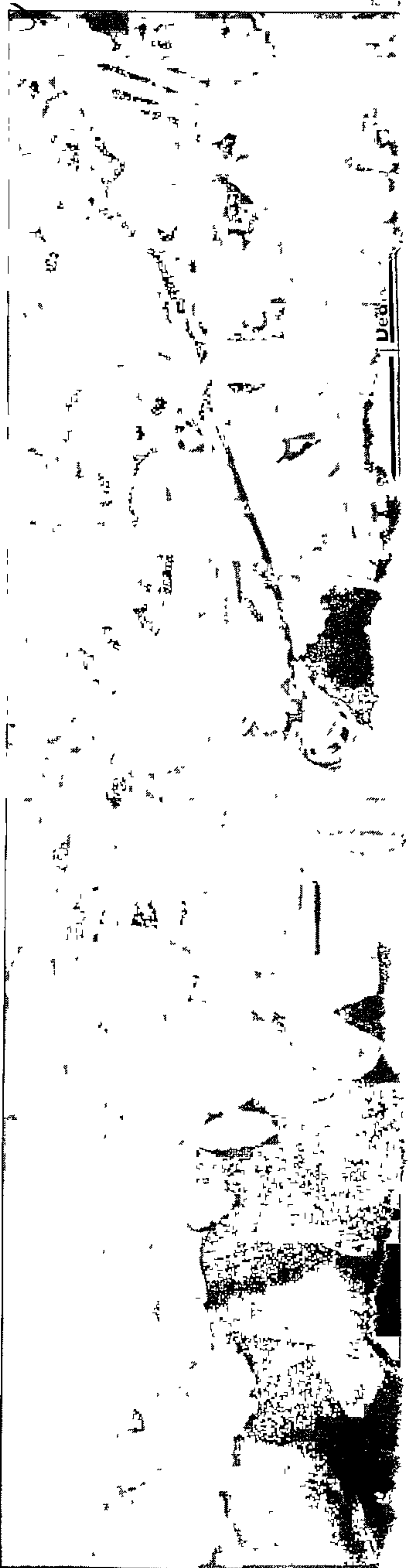
OAU secretary-general Mr Salim Ahmed Salim said "Africa will be able to articulate its collective position and strengthen its ability to defend its interests, in a world in which organised economic groupings stand a greater chance to

emerge competitive"

With corruption and economic mismanagement being seen by international investors as the norm in Africa, the OAU has realised it is time to urgently change its image.

"Foreign investors have continued to ignore investment opportunities in Africa," said Salim

There is .. an urgent need for our member states to launch an intensive campaign to change the image of our continent in the major capital markets." — Sapa-AFP



NEW BROOM: President of Zimbabwe and newly elected chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Robert Mugabe (right) and OAU secretary-general Salm Ahmed Salm address the media yesterday during the closing press conference of the 33rd Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU in Harare

PICTURE: AP

OAU will no longer accept coups?

C.T. 3/6/97

HARARE The Organisation of African Unity called yesterday for a return to democracy in Nigeria and Burundi, and the new OAU chairman said Africa would not tolerate military takeovers in future

"We are getting tougher and tougher each time I can assure that for future coups, it will be much tougher," Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, the OAU's new chairman, told a news conference

Mugabe said there was no contradiction between the outright condemnation at the OAU's three-day summit in Harare of a May 25 coup in Sierra Leone and the presence at the conference of the military governments of Nigeria and Burundi

"While on the face of it there appears to be a contradiction, the thrust is consistent - we do not accept coups," he said

OAU secretary-general Mr Salm Ahmed Salm said the organisation had made it clear to Burundi President Pierre Buyoya and Nigeria's General Sani Abacha that their military governments had to be seen to be making way for democracy

Salm, elected on Monday to an unprecedented third four-year term as sec-

retary-general, said the OAU had sent envoys to Nigeria to tell Abacha that his regime was unacceptable

"We are still very much committed to seeing that democracy comes to Nigeria - a democratic Nigeria will set a very important example in Africa," he said

On Burundi, he said "We have made it clear to President Buyoya that his situation is not different from Sierra Leone, that it has to be attended to and that we want to see a return to democracy"

OAU leaders came out more strongly than ever before at the summit in favour of democracy throughout the continent, linking transition to popular government to economic growth and development

They denounced the coup in Sierra Leone and endorsed armed action by the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), led by Nigeria, to expel the military government

Though Burundi and Nigeria were not named in open discussion and were not condemned in resolutions of the OAU's 33rd summit, Mugabe and Salm said they were under a spotlight

Mugabe said the OAU was putting structures in place to deal with emerging conflicts and crisis such as the Sierra Leone coup

"Ten or so years ago we did not address, as the OAU, issues that had to do with coups d'état as such. We merely regretted that they had occurred. But now we want to address them and address them as vigorously as we can," he said

"It may take us some time, but that is our position"

Salm said the OAU was leaving it to the 16-nation Ecowas group to resolve the crisis in Sierra Leone, but had offered strong moral support and had urged Africa and the world "not to do anything that would give comfort to that regime"

Responding to a journalist who accused the OAU of hypocrisy in its dealings with Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Mr Laurent Kabila's Democratic Republic of Congo, Salm said "I don't agree that the OAU is a toothless bulldog"

"The OAU increasingly is becoming involved in issues that were considered no-go areas" — Reuter

Burundi slams double standards

HARARE Burundi military ruler Major Pierre Buyoya yesterday accused the Organisation of African Unity of double standards in condemning undemocratic governments and military coups, but living with them among its powerful members

At a news conference here, Buyoya, who seized power in a military coup last July, said that nevertheless he supported the general thrust of the 53-member organisation towards democracy despite the apparent lack of consistency

He said this before new OAU chairman and Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe and OAU secretary-general Mr Salm Ahmed Salm called on Burundi and Nigeria to return to democracy

Nigeria's military government is leading military efforts by the Economic Community of West African States to restore Sierra Leone President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, who was overthrown by junior military officers on May 25

Buyoya said his government was moving towards democracy and called for the lifting of economic sanctions imposed on Burundi by neighbouring states to try to force him out of power after he ousted civilian Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya — Reuter

West and its economies are targets, not allies — Mugabe

CT 4/6/97

(230)

HARARE President Robert Mugabe has given notice that the West and its economies will be targets rather than allies during his stewardship of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) over the next 12 months.

Assuming the chairmanship of the OAU, which has achieved little of substance in 34 years, Mugabe repudiated both the dominant Western view of democracy and its market economics.

In his tone-setting inaugural address as chairman of the 53-nation body, Mugabe said on Monday that Africa should not be herded into inappropriate forms of democracy.

"For democracy to take root anywhere, it should be judiciously pursued with an eye on the polity for which it is intended.

"There is need to avoid the danger of being compelled by self-appointed mentors to go through the motions of democracy without enthroning its substance," he said.

Arguing that the ground needed to be prepared for democracy in those parts of the world not used to it, he added: "We have reason to



TAG: Robert Mugabe

question the motives of those who would stampede our governments willy nilly to adopt democracy without the necessary preparations."

Yesterday, opening the inaugural meeting of the African Economic Community, a fledgling common market which exists more as an aspiration than a fact, he said Africa faced resurgent Western influence exercised through economies rather than governments.

Warning that the privatisation urged by financial advisers to the developing world could see

Africa's resources surrendered to foreign control, he said.

"The establishment of market-driven economies is not a panacea to Africa's economic ills."

Instead, Africa should pursue its 50-year plan to achieve a continental common market by 2030.

"The entire developing world is facing hostile policies emanating from the World Trade Organisation and international financial institutions.

"It would appear there is a co-ordinated political agenda by the North aimed at suppressing the development of developing countries.

"Together, we must resist the recolonisation of our countries under a facade of programmes to safeguard the global environment or globalisation," he said.

Mugabe regularly cites the legacy of colonisation as a challenge to his own country's economy, which is currently engaged in a restructuring programme.

And yesterday he warned his peers: "We have to unshackle the chains of economic oppression imposed on us by history over the last five centuries" — *Reuter*

Western economies to be 'targets, not allies'

BD 4/6/97

(230)

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"It would appear that there is a co-ordinated political agenda by the north, which controls these institutions, aimed at suppressing the development of developing countries.

"Together, we must resist the recolonisation of our countries under a facade of programmes to safeguard the global environment or globalisation," he said.

Mugabe, 73, led his Zimbabwe African National Union in a seven-year bush war against white rule that led to his landslide victory in independence elections in 1980.

Since then, he has consolidated his support, partly through an alliance with his main opponent, and has become virtually immune to criticism even of rampant government spending.

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See Page 11
Comment: Page 13

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OAU urges move away from military coups to full democracy

(230) April 5/6/97

Nigerian and Burundian leaders told to start move towards elections as summit links transition to democracy to growth and development for entire continent

Harare

The Organisation of African Unity called yesterday for a return to democracy in Nigeria and Burundi, and the new chairman said Africa would not tolerate military takeovers in future.

"We are getting tougher and tougher each time. I can assure that for future coups, it will be much tougher," Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, the OAU's new chairman, told a news conference.

Mugabe said there was no contradiction between the outright condemnation at the OAU's three-day summit in Harare of a May 25 coup in Sierra Leone and the presence at the conference of the military governments of Nigeria and Burundi.

"While on the face of it there appears to be a contradiction, the thrust is consistent

we do not accept coups," he said.

OAU secretary-general Salm Ahmed Salm said the organisation had made it clear to Burundi's President Pierre Buyoya and Nigeria's Sani Abacha that their military governments had to be seen to be making way for democracy.

Salm, elected on Monday to an unprecedented third four-year term as secretary general, said the OAU had sent envoys to Nigeria to tell General Abacha that his regime was unacceptable.

"We are still committed to seeing that democracy comes to Nigeria. A democratic Nigeria will set a very important example in Africa," he said.

On Burundi, he said, "We have made it clear to President Buyoya that his situation is not different from Sierra Leone, that it has to be attended to and that we want to see a return to democracy."

CATHY PINNOCK / AP



Talking about progress .. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan with Rwandan President Pastor Bizimungu at the OAU's 33rd assembly of heads of state and government in Harare

OAU leaders came out more strongly than ever before at the Harare summit in favour of democracy throughout the African continent, linking the transition to popular government to economic growth and development.

They denounced the coup in Sierra Leone and endorsed armed action by the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), led by Nigeria, to expel the military government.

Although Burundi and Nigeria were not named in open discussion and were not condemned in resolutions of the OAU's 33rd summit, Mugabe and Salm said they were under a spotlight.

Mugabe said the OAU was putting structures in place to deal with emerging conflicts and crises such as the Sierra Leone coup.

"Ten or so years ago we did

not address, as the OAU, issues that had to do with coups d'etat as such. We merely regretted that they had occurred.

"But now we want to address them and address them as vigorously as we can," he said. "It may take us some time, but that is our position."

Salm said the OAU was leaving it to the 16 nation Ecowas group to resolve the crisis in Sierra Leone, but had offered strong moral support and had urged Africa and the world "not to do anything that would give comfort to that regime".

Responding to a journalist who accused the OAU of hypocrisy in its dealings with Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Laurent Kabila's Democratic Republic of Congo, Salm said, "I don't agree that the OAU is a toothless bulldog. The OAU is increasingly becoming involved in issues that were considered no-go areas."

AFRICA

OAU dithers on response force

bb 29/10/97 (230)

Michael Hartnack

HARARE — After a week of talks, military chiefs of staff from throughout the Organisation of African Unity have been unable to finalise a "response force" blueprint which "would render coups a thing of the past", says Zimbabwean Defence Minister Moyo Mahachi.

The chief of the Zimbabwe defence forces, Gen Vitalis Zvinavashe, said problems of fundraising for the proposed peacekeeping force remained a major hurdle.

OAU assistant political director Sam Ibok mooted the idea of a "peace week", including a special stamp issue and a continent-wide programme of friendly soccer matches to raise support for the concept.

Addressing the officers at the formal opening of their meeting on Friday, OAU secre-

tary-general Salim Ahmed Salim warned "We may be overwhelmed by proliferating crises and eternal initiatives." He said these could lead to "a dangerous dependency on external assistance, and we may have to pay a very high cost in terms of lives and resources".

The outgoing chairman of the OAU chiefs of defence staffs standing conference, Maj-Gen Abubakar Abdulsalam, told the open session the west was embroiled in a "new scramble for Africa" and urged African states to unite to preserve their independence.

His remarks were believed to reflect a Nigerian quest for solidarity within the continent in view of the military regime's international isolation over its human rights record, and Nigeria's exclusion from the Edinburgh Commonwealth summit.

The most recent OAU sum-

mit in June discussed a joint US-British-French proposal for an African "rapid response force" to deal with emergencies on the continent.

Mahachi said the summit "had resolved that while the idea appeared noble at its face value, it required further examination — whether Africa wanted the proposal or not must be something that must come from Africa".

Sources in Harare say western states prepared to give financial and logistic support to the "rapid response force", to absorb their troops from further loss of life in African brush-fire conflicts, may not have realised African governments' fears that such a force would become a political player in its own right.

No force could be trusted until there was an effective supranational court of human rights,

with a proven record of having its rulings honoured and enforced. So far, not even the Southern African Development Community states have made progress on such a court, with Botswana and Namibia coming to the brink of shooting over a disputed island at the Chobe-Zambezi confluence.

Mahachi said the blueprint for the proposed African peacekeeping force would place the OAU at the centre of all future mediation. He predicted it would have "profound and far reaching effects on the African political landscape".

Salim told the generals, who elected Zimbabwe's Zvinavashe (former guerrilla commander Sheba Gava) as their new chairman: "OAU member states can no longer stand aloof and expect the international community to care more for our problems than we do."

OAU to resist 'bullies'

HARARE – African states, complaining of being bullied at World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations, began a meeting in Harare yesterday aimed at forging a united front for talks in Geneva next month.

"The big trading nations have been dictating the pace," Zimbabwean industry and commerce minister Nathan Shamuyarira told the opening session of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) meeting (230).

"They have been taking decisions which they then ram down our throats," Shamuyarira said.

He said the interests of African countries and others in the developing world should dominate the WTO programme because they were in the majority, but agreements have favoured developed countries.

He was speaking to experts preparing for the first meeting of ministers of trade in the OAU's African Economic Community, starting tomorrow.

The agenda calls for the ministers to outline a "road map" for the period 1998 to 2000, that will enable African states to participate effectively in the future work programme of the WTO.

An essential part of the formulation of the "road map" would be the review of a proposal for technical assistance and support to facilitate such participation.

The meeting will also review proposals for a "positive agenda" of issues of concern to Africa – Sapa-AFP

Source: 7/4/98

Africa 'cannot escape blame'

HARARE African states lamenting their sidelined status in world trade were told by Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe yesterday to take advantage of a new US interest in the continent

Mugabe, chairperson of the Organisation of African Unity, made the remark in an unusually self-critical opening address to the first meeting of ministers of trade in the OAU's African Economic Community

Although he held that drought, debt and bullying by bigger states were partially responsible for the drop in Africa's share of

world trade from five percent to two percent over the past decade, Mugabe told the ministers, who are trying to forge a united front before World Trade Organisation talks in Geneva next month, that Africa cannot escape blame for its underperformance.

Referring among other developments to the new US initiative on Africa promoted by President Bill Clinton during his recent African tour, Mugabe said "Let us take full advantage of this goodwill and interest shown in Africa by tying our bootstraps and rising to the challenge

"Anchored on growing peace and solid stability on the continent, the adoption of the principles of good governance, popular participation and democracy, let us make this the dawn of the African renaissance"

The term "African renaissance" was coined by South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, and used repeatedly by Clinton during his African tour

However Mugabe's trade minister, Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, opened a preparatory meeting yesterday with the more usual complaint that developing coun-

tries were bullied at World Trade Organisation negotiations

"The big trading nations have been taking decisions which they then ram down our throats"

Mugabe said the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations had showed that "not only did (Africa) have a limited capacity to trade, but it also lacked the capacity to negotiate as a region"

Mugabe called on African states to put the continent on the path to growth by "forging a new partnership through planning and acting together, and speaking with one voice" — Sapa-AFP

(230)

④

CT 9/4/98

OAU to focus on drug trafficking, child labour

Bonile Ngqiyaza

INCREASED drug trafficking among the youth, women abuse and child labour were identified at a meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Pretoria yesterday as problems that needed specific attention

OAU director Couavi Johnson told delegates that Africa could not achieve sustainable development without the close involvement of women who constituted 51% of the continent's population

He said all cultural and traditional practices negatively affecting the welfare of women, such as violence against women, should be discarded

"The youth, who constitute the most dynamic, imaginative .. segment of our African society need to be at the centre of all endeavours in our socio-economic development", he said

Vremudia Diejumoah, an International Labour Organisation (ILO) representative for East Africa, said the globalisation of the world economy was an inescapable trend which should not be feared.

"After decades of economic stagnation and unprecedented decline, Africa's development prospects now appear bright with evidence that the African economic recovery is beginning to take root."

The main issues for Africa, he said, were to overcome rampant unemployment, poverty, social exclusion and the refusal to respect workers' rights

The OAU secretary-general's report from an earlier meeting called for the age of 18 years to be established as the minimum age at which children can be drafted into armed forces, militias and rebel forces

Mboweni selected to chair OAU labour body

Pearl Sebolao

(230)

LABOUR Minister Tito Mboweni has been elected as the chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) labour and social affairs commission for the coming year.

Mboweni, who takes over from Ugandan Labour and Social Welfare Minister Paul Etiang, was elected at a ministerial meeting of the commission's 21st session at the weekend.

The commission, which represents 54 countries, met in Pretoria to discuss labour and social issues, child labour, the increase in drug trafficking and consumption, the impact of globalisation of employment and socioeconomic development and poverty.

In his role as commission chairman, Mboweni would have the task of co-ordinating the activities of the African group to harmonise their views in preparation for the 86th session of the International Labour Conference which meets in Geneva in June.

He would also steer the commission on the adoption of a united position on child labour and follow up on issues of African representation at the International Labour Organisation.

Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo, who delivered the keynote address, said that to foster the regional cohesion and co-operation spearheaded by the commission, Africa needed to establish a common position questions like labour, employment and other social matters.

He urged African leaders to continue taking a strong stand against the use of children in armed conflict and in the campaign for a global ban on landmines by ratifying the landmine convention.

BD 20/4/98

Fall of Meiring sad — Nyanda

Bonile Ngqiyaza

SA NATIONAL Defence Force (SANDF) deputy chief Lt-Gen Siphwe Nyanda, has expressed sadness at Gen Georg Meiring's departure and said this should not detract from the "immense contribution" he made in transforming the army.

In a letter to the Sunday Times yesterday, Nyanda said some quarters would welcome Meiring's early exit, but the SANDF could only "look back with sadness at the circumstances" of his departure.

A decision on Meiring's replacement will be taken shortly, although Nyanda is widely tipped to assume the position.

A discredited military intelligence report alleging a plot by senior African National Congress members and military officers to overthrow President Nelson Mandela had implicated Nyanda, among others.

Judges

Continued from Page 1

natories to the petition against Tshabalala. Galgut, Squires, Hugo, Combrink, Levinsohn and Niles-Dunér.

The commission, scheduled to meet again in October, is expected to re-advertise for the post at the end of July.

However, it appears almost certain that Tshabalala's first-round opponent — former Afrikaner Broederbond executive member Judge Willem Booysen — will not be nominated again. Known supporters of Booysen concede

privately that he stands little chance even though 16 KwaZulu-Natal judges nominated him in the first round.

Tshabalala, a member of the Natal Bar for 29 years before he was appointed a judge of the Ciskei High Court, was nominated by the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (Nadel).

Tshabalala said it would be "very difficult" for him to refuse another nomination by Nadel. However, because of the controversy following the judges' petition, "I do not want to say anything at this stage. I want to wait until this whole thing cools down."

Comment: Page 11

Nail

THE HIV AIDS

CT (BE) 1/5/98

ILO urges even-handed policy on Aids (230)

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) told a tripartite conference on a Southern African Development Community code on HIV-Aids and employment yesterday that HIV infection should not be used as grounds for the termination of employment or to deprive workers of benefits. "Government employers and employee representatives should ensure that occupational benefits are non-discriminatory, sustainable and provide support to all workers," the ILO said. "In addition, each country should make efforts to protect the interests of the dependants of deceased and retired employees." — *Frank Nxumalo, Johannesburg*

AFRICA

Africa still bloody on OAU's 35th birthday

NAIROBI — On its 35th anniversary, the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) watches over a continent it has been unable to prevent from being soaked in blood, forced economically backwards, ethnically divided and dragged down by foreign debt

This is one perspective of the organisation founded as a Pan-Africanist panacea by such luminaries of African independence as Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Haile Selassie of Ethiopia

With its 53 member states, the OAU celebrates its 35th anniversary today, and shortly afterwards President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe will hand over the OAU presidency to Blaise Compaore, 47, president of Burkina Faso

Compaore lists the ability by African states to successfully intervene in each others' crises as paramount. An effective peacekeeping force would enable states to respond to

their own problems, preventing the need for foreign intervention, he says

In its 35-year history, the OAU has seen enough disaster in the form of a seemingly endless list of conflicts — among them Biafra, Mozambique, Angola, Sudan, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Burundi, Rwanda, Chad, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Algeria, Morocco, Central African Republic, Congo, Djibouti and Zaire

With more than 20-million people killed, and 50-million more displaced or made refugees, or victims of AIDS, illness or famine, the OAU has seemingly done nothing

Critics say in its favour is that it masterminded the Tanzanian intervention in Uganda in 1979 that ousted dictator Idi Amin and that its annual conference allows a pan-continental exchange of ideas

The interest of member states in its affairs is slim, sometimes only half of 53 countries attend the confer-

ence. An estimated \$45m is owed in unpaid subscription and other fees

Where its future lies is in intervention and peacekeeping in each others' countries to stop what President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania calls "the African leaders' ability to sully the continent's image with wars and economic mismanagement"

Kenyan Foreign Minister Kalonzo Musyoka said in 1995 Africa did not need separate peacekeeping structures from what the UN had elsewhere. In the light of the UN failures to prevent killings in Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia and Zaire, this has to be revised

The US backs what it calls the African Crisis Response Initiative, a scheme to train peacekeeping units. It has yet to be tried, but for it to succeed, it has 35 years of prejudice and dismal failure to overcome before anybody sees it as more than another waste of time — Sapa-DPA

(230)

BO 25/5/98

OAU still grapples with need for peace force

Sowetan 26/5/98 (p30)

By Christian Jennings

NAIROBI, Kenya — On its 35th anniversary, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) watches over a continent which it has been unable to keep from being soaked in blood, forced economically backwards, ethnically divided

and dragged down by foreign debt. This is one perspective of the organisation which was founded as a Pan-Africanist panacea by such luminaries of African independence as Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya.

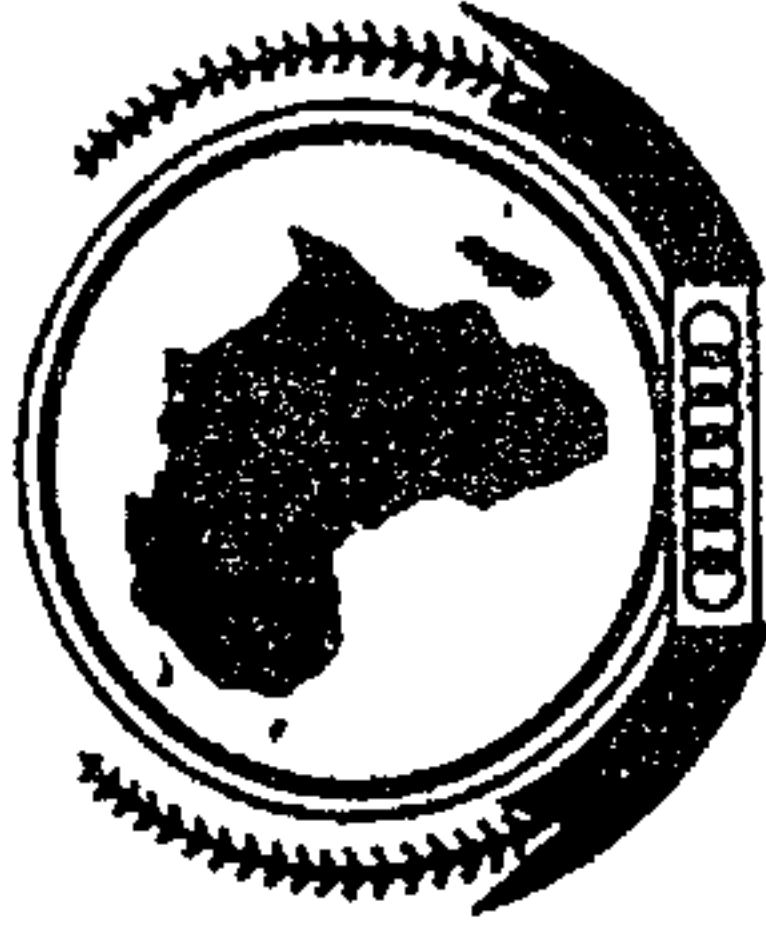
With its 53 member states, the

OAU celebrated its 35th anniversary yesterday. President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe will shortly hand over the OAU presidency to Blaise Compaore (47), president of Burkina Faso.

Like Mugabe, Compaore regards a successful ability by African states to intervene in each other's crises as

paramount. The creation of an effective peacekeeping force which will enable African states to respond to their own problems will prevent the need for foreign intervention.

In its 35-year history the OAU has seen enough disaster and a seemingly endless list of conflicts — among them Biafra, Mozambique, Angola, Sudan,



Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Burundi, Rwanda, Chad, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Algeria, Morocco, Spanish Sahara, Central African Republic, Congo and Zaïre.

With more than 20 million people killed, and 50 million more who have become displaced or refugees, or victims of AIDS, illness or famine, the OAU has seemingly done nothing.

Critics say in the OAU's favour that it masterminded the Tanzanian intervention in Uganda in 1979 that ousted dictator Idi Amin, and that its annual conference allows a pancontinental exchange of ideas.

Intervention

But the interest of member states in its affairs is slim sometimes only half of the 53 countries attend the conference, while about R225 million is owed in unpaid subscription and other fees.

Where its future lies is in intervention and peacekeeping in each others' countries to stop what president Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania calls "the African leaders' ability to sully the continent's image with wars and economic mismanagement".

Kenyan foreign minister Kalonzo Musyoka said in 1995 that Africa did not need separate peace-keeping structures from what the United Nations (UN) had elsewhere.

Capabilities

However in the light of UN failures to date to prevent mass killing in Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Zaïre and elsewhere, this needs to be revised.

The United States backs what it calls the African Crisis Response Initiative (ACRI), a scheme to train peace-keeping units in Uganda, Senegal and Ghana.

A US state department spokesman said the aim of the training would be "to enhance the capabilities of African militaries to respond collectively to humanitarian emergencies and peace-keeping operations in Africa".

The Initiative has yet to be tried, but for it to succeed, it has 35 years of prejudice and dismal failure to overcome before anybody sees it as anything other than another bureaucratic waste of time — Sapa-DPA.

Current Affairs

OAU

(230)

NKRUMAH REVIVED

But it took three decades

Like an alcoholic who, after the years of denial, finally admits to having a problem, Africa appears to be realising that for it to get out of its many crises it has to admit that there are problems

As the 53-member Organisation of African Unity (OAU) celebrated its 35th anniversary this week at the top of the agenda were a set of new priorities, some of them would have been unthinkable a few years back

The new priorities comprise a twin strategy conflict resolution, democratisation and human rights, on the one hand, and economic integration and development on the other

Both arms of the strategy recall and seem to vindicate

>> Our political independence will be meaningless unless we use it to obtain economic and financial independence <<

the goals articulated — ahead of their time — by Ghana's first president and one of the founders of the OAU Kwame Nkrumah

The proposed twin strategy is spelled out in a report by Canadian consultants who were last year commissioned to review the OAU secretariat

The report calls for two functional departments in a flatter, five departmental OAU structure. The idea is for the present political affairs department to contain the Centre for Conflict Management, plus two divisions — one dealing with political co-operation and democratisation, and one with refugees

A new Community Affairs department will bring together all units dealing with socio-economic issues addressed by the 1991 Abuja Treaty on building the African Economic Community

The recommendations are expected to be adopted at the OAU summit in Ougadougou, Burkina Faso, on June 8-10

It was Nkrumah who, a few months after Ghana's independence in 1957, observed "Our political independence will be meaningless unless we use it so as to obtain economic and financial independence"

He called the All-African Peoples Conference, the precursor of the OAU, in December 1958 to galvanise support for the liberation of parts of the continent which were still under colonial rule. Africa's liberation from colonialism probably ranks as one the OAU's few achievements

OPPOSITION PARTIES

SOUND BUT NO SUBSTANCE

Boogieing before the party

Markinor's latest opinion poll figures (see table) have been used by the opposition parties as a whip with which to beat the ANC. In one sense, this is what opposition parties are for. But in gauging the responses of the National Party (NP) and Democratic Party (DP), in particular, one is struck by a measure of self-delusion on their part

The NP is correct in citing the ANC's tumble to 54% of the vote as a signal for a "joint opposition approach and a commitment to coalition formation" in the Western Cape, Northern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. Since the Nats, at 10%, are the next most powerful party, this would seem to represent their best strategy for survival. They are, after all, lagging 44% behind the majority party

At the same time, the most frequently cited rationale for opposition coalitions — to avert the spectre of an ANC attaining a two-thirds majority — must be questioned. First and foremost, the ANC helped negotiate the Constitution and the assumption that it would willy-nilly rescript it is odd. President Nelson Mandela has never indicated that process as a means of delivering on the promises of 1994 — and neither has the mainstream ANC

It seems to be an electoral bogey, particularly since 54% — and possibly falling — is prohibitively remote from a 66.6% majority in 1999

What the NP's media director Daryl

A DIFFERENT PICTURE

Support levels of South African political parties in May 1998
(*have been rounded)

	Nov '97	May '98	Position
African National Congress	58	54	➔
National Party	12	10	➔
Inkatha Freedom Party	5	5	➔
United Democratic Movement	4	5	➔
Democratic Party	3	3	➔
Pan Africanist Congress	2	1	➔
Freedom Front	2	2	➔
Conservative Party	1	1	➔
Azanian People's Organisation	1	1	➔
Other parties	-	1	➔
Undecided voters	12	14	➔

ments

In 1959 Nkrumah helped establish the Ghana-Guinea Union. He later wrote "We were determined to unite in order to form a nucleus for a union of African states"

Despite high economic growth by a number of African states in recent years, much of the continent still languishes in poverty, disease, civil strife and tyranny

The new look OAU emphasises the need for countries to focus on forming and consolidating regional economic communities, such as the Southern African Development Community, as the basis of forming an African Economic Community, in terms of the Abuja Treaty, which SA signed last year. In terms of the treaty, Africa should have established an economic and political union by 2025

In 1960, during the Congo crisis, Nkrumah — angered by the UN's inability to prevent the arrest and death of elected Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba — proposed the establishment of an "African High Command" which could be called upon to repulse any threat to the independence of an African state. It is only now that African leaders are supporting the idea of intervening in each other's crises through an effective African peace-keeping force, suggesting willingness to shed sacrosanct notions of sovereignty and noninterference

Amarnath Singh

Mandela call at OAU to fight tyranny

Ouagadougou – President Mandela has taken his leave of the Organisation of African Unity, urging a younger generation of leaders to root out tyranny and put the continent on the information superhighway.

Mr Mandela, who bade the three-day summit a pre-retirement farewell and was due to leave today, told Africa's new generation of leaders they had to work together for the good of the continent and its people.

"None of us is a superstar and none can succeed without the success of the other," he told the opening session in Burkina Faso yesterday.

He said Africa had a right and a duty to intervene to root out tyranny – in spite of the OAU's founding principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of member states.

The 30 leaders at the annual summit were taken by surprise by the death of Nigerian ruler Sani Abacha.

The summit has also been overshadowed by Horn of Africa fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Mr Mandela said "I believe that we must all accept that we cannot abuse the concept of national sovereignty to deny the rest of the continent the right and duty to intervene when behind those sovereign boundaries people are being slaughtered to protect tyranny."

He also urged the leaders to embrace a programme to "move our continent on to the information superhighway" – Reuters



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sharp shooters: soldiers from Burkina Faso stand guard at Ougadougou airport as heads of state arrive for the OAU meeting



Presidents united: Nelson Mandela is assisted from a platform by fellow OAU heads of state

OAU tackles Eritrea border war

Ouagadougou – Organisation of African Unity heads of state reached agreement here on the "principle of a mediation" sponsored by African countries in the dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

After discussing the advisability of multiplying mediation initiatives in the conflict between the two Horn of Africa nations, the heads of state yesterday decided to set up a mediation committee, sources close to the summit said.

Up to now, only the United States and Rwanda have offered their services as "facilitators" between the

two belligerents. They have come up with a peace plan which so far has remained a dead letter.

The modalities of an OAU intervention – as well as the personalities who would handle the mediation – remain to be decided, the sources said.

■ Ethiopia delivered on its threat to attack Eritrea again unless it withdrew from disputed territory, launching a ground strike today against a border town.

With hostilities between the two Horn of Africa neighbours escalating, the US government prepared to evacuate at least another 120 of its citizens

– along with Germans, Egyptians and some Ethiopians.

At dawn today, the Ethiopian army launched a fresh attack with tanks and artillery on Eritrean positions in a bid to recapture the town of Zala Ambessa, 105km southeast of Asmara, the Eritrean government said.

Eritrea has called for talks with Ethiopia in the presence of high-level mediators. It said Ethiopia had effectively declared war and was using the threat of air strikes to blockade air and seaports – Reuters, Sapa-AFP

The day fire rained from the sky, page 8

AFRICA

OAU summit faces test of commitment

(230) 9/6/98

OUAGADOUGOU — African leaders arrived in Burkina Faso on Sunday for their annual summit, with fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea offering a fresh test of their commitment to conflict prevention on the continent.

Organisation of African Unity (OAU) foreign ministers, who spent three days drafting the agenda for yesterday's summit, have sketched out recommendations to defuse crises ranging from Angola to Sierra Leone.

But their response to the border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea has been limited to a call for a cessation of hostilities and backing for a mediation initiative.

"If the situation (between Ethiopia and Eritrea) keeps on deteriorating we will see perhaps, in co-operation with the (US and Rwandan) facilitators, what we can do," OAU Assistant Secretary-General Pascal Gayama told a pre-summit news conference.

The presidents of Algeria, Botswana, Chad, Congo Republic, Central African Republic, Gabon, Gambia, Niger, Sierra Leone, San Tome, Tanzania and Zambia arrived for the summit, which runs until tomorrow.

Outgoing OAU chairman, Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, and the presidents of Cape Verde and the Comores were also in town, as was President Nelson Mandela.

Diplomats predicted a shift in the focus of the peace efforts in the Horn of Africa to the United Nations (UN).

OAU sources say the task of the body, which has made conflict prevention its top policy priority with economic integration, was made more difficult by the fact that Ethiopia preferred to deal directly with the facilitators.

The 54-member OAU, which celebrated its 35th birthday this year, is

the cherished symbol of a generation of African independence leaders.

Keen to affirm their sovereignty, they made nonintervention in the affairs of member states the guiding principle of their club.

The OAU set out in 1992 to change the image of the continent from that of war and disaster to one of business opportunity with a manageable risk. It set up a mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution in 1994 to help promote stability, but thus far it has attracted only limited support from member states.

Burkina Faso has dubbed this year's gathering "a summit for change" but, as always, that will depend on the leaders themselves.

On Sierra Leone, the ministers expressed full support for the Nigerian-led West African force that restored President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to power and called for international help in transporting troops to mop up rebel resistance in remote areas.

On Angola, they want the UN Security Council to do whatever is necessary to force the former rebel movement Unita to demobilise its forces unconditionally. On the Comores and separatist Anjouan, the ministers preached attachment to the unity and the territorial integrity of the islands.

The ministers expressed concern about a lack of progress in Somalia, an enduring hot spot riven by clan rivalry and whose summit seat will remain empty again because of lack of any central authority.

Libya has widespread OAU support for its campaign to end sanctions, imposed to force it to hand over two suspects for trial for the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing that killed 270 people over Scotland — Reuter

OAU funding crisis 'could be a blessing'

Pule Molebeledi

BD 30/7/98

THE serious financial problems which are being experienced by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) could be a blessing in disguise for peace on the continent, a former SA military adviser to Unita leader Jonas Savimbi told the African Defence summit meeting in Midrand yesterday.

Maj-Gen Daan Hamman said the OAU was faced with the daunting task of raising finances for its peace operations. This meant the organisation would focus on diplomatic initiatives intended to prevent conflict. While the organisation had achieved a degree of success with regard to its willingness to assume responsibility for conflict management, it was clear that individual countries were extremely cautious when it came to funding peace operations.

Peace missions, especially when extended to include preventative diplomacy, peace operations or peacemaking, could become extremely expensive, even when they were relatively small and not logistically intensive.

He cited as an example the 1994-1996 military observer mission to Burundi which cost the OAU about \$7,2m.

"The underlying reality is that Africa's lack of financial resources will continue to force the OAU to concentrate on preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention rather than on the more ambitious peace operation aspect of conflict management."

Hamman, who is based at the SA defence ministry's foreign relations directorate, said this situation denied the organisation the freedom to unilaterally decide on the strategic, tactical and operational aspects of the peace operations that it wished to initiate.

"If it is unable to fund such an operation itself, then it follows that whoever does fund the organisation will have a large influence on the objectives of the mission."

OAU
1999

OAU leader to launch renaissance

ORGANISATION of African Unity (OAU) secretary-general Salim Ahmed Salim is expected to officially launch the SA chapter of the African Renaissance at a three-day conference in Johannesburg in October

Conference convenor Wally Serote said in Johannesburg yesterday that President Thabo Mbeki would deliver a keynote address at the gathering. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere and former SA president Nelson Mandela are also expected to speak at the conference, to be attended by more than 1 000 delegates from all over Africa

The African Renaissance urges Africa to forge its own destiny and to recover African pride — Sapa

BID

25/6/99

(230)

African peace deals 'inspire' OAU summit

Foreign ministers get to work

(230) ARG 9/7/99
PETER FABRICIUS
FOREIGN EDITOR

Algiers - The 35th annual conference of the Organisation of African Unity began with a boost from peace developments in the host country Algeria itself, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and in Sierra Leone.

The only early setback to the conference came with the boycott by Morocco, which froze its membership in 1983 after the OAU admitted the self-styled Democratic Arab Sahraoui Republic, headed by the Algerian-backed Polisario Front which seeks independence from Morocco.

Algeria returned to the fold of OAU leadership recently after opening dialogue with Islamic militants and this week released several of them from prison to mark its hosting of the OAU summit.

As OAU foreign ministers kicked off the conference yesterday to prepare for the heads of government summit on Monday, the South African Government ironically underscored the importance of peace to the continent, by withholding new Foreign Minister Nkosazana Zuma from the meeting to try to help complete the Congo

peace agreement in Lusaka.

OAU secretary-general Salim Ahmed Salim paid tribute to the African leaders co-ordinated by Zambian President Frederick Chiluba in the Congo talks, to Algeria's peace efforts and to those who had contributed to Wednesday's signing of a peace agreement between the Sierra Leone government and the rebels fighting it.

South Africa's deputy director-general of foreign affairs for Africa, Welile Nhlápo, said peace progress in Algeria, the DRC and in Sierra Leone would be "an inspiration to the summit. The fact that these agreements have been "reached by Africans themselves, with very little help from outsiders, will also be inspiring".

Other issues which the conference will address

- Creating a way to enforce a convention combating proliferation of small arms in Africa

- The signing of a convention against terrorism, sponsored by Algeria which had experienced an epidemic of terrorism.

- A decision whether or not to adopt the recommendations of a consultant's recommendations that the bloated OAU democracy of 900 staff be reduced by 250

PUSHING AFRICAN RENAISSANCE

Mbeki to urge OAU to become effective

CT 9/7/99

(230)

JOHANNESBURG: President Thabo Mbeki is expected to urge structural reform of the OAU to make it a more effective organisation at its annual meeting next week.

PRESIDENT Thabo Mbeki takes a major step on to the international stage at next week's Organisation of African Unity summit, emerging from the towering shadow of Nelson Mandela.

The summit in Algiers is Mbeki's first foray into pan-African diplomacy since his inauguration last month.

Mandela, who was invited as a guest of honour, will stay away from the three-day summit starting on Monday to allow the 57-year-old, London-trained economist his due.

Mbeki is expected to carry on his predecessor's call for a revamped OAU prepared to intervene directly to stem the continent's wars and lead the way for economic integration in the next millennium.

Mandela, never the OAU's most vocal supporter, pressed the organisation to stop being a talking shop and boldly root out tyranny on the continent, ditching its traditional reluctance to interfere in the affairs of member states.

Democracy and economic improvement are central to Mbeki's self-styled "African Renaissance", aimed at paving the way for the con-



NEW STAGE: Thabo Mbeki

tinent to shed its image as the global poor house — marginalised, racked by poverty, war and corruption.

In his first weeks of power, Mbeki has shown signs that his philosophy of regional renewal is not merely a political slogan.

South African troops have been committed to an OAU and UN-led peace monitoring force to oversee a ceasefire ending the bloody 11-month war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The expected deployment of around 2 000 South African peacekeepers to the DRC would be the biggest long-term military commitment made by the new government. Implementation of the Congo ceasefire will be critical to Mbeki's future position with the OAU, analysts say.

"His African Renaissance policy means nothing if there is no conflict resolution," Sagaren Naidoo, researcher at South Africa's Institute of International Affairs, said.

Mbeki has spoken of a moral duty for African states to act in the face of repression and to work together to improve the lives of their people.

His speech to the OAU heads of state will centre on globalisation and economic integration, a spokesperson for the South African foreign affairs department said.

Mbeki will bring a more businesslike approach to the OAU, observers believe. "Mbeki will want the organisation to become more effective. Expect him to be direct without necessarily projecting South Africa as the policeman of the region," Naidoo said.

The South African delegation will urge structural reform of the OAU and a possible review of its charter, which espouses non-intervention, the foreign affairs spokesperson said. — Reuter

Instability on OAU agenda for final summit of century

Sowetan 9/7/99 (230)

NAIROBI - The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was formed more than three decades ago to bring together a continent emerging from years of European colonisation.

But as the group prepares for its final summit of the century, Africa seems to be as unstable as ever.

When African leaders gather in the Algerian capital of Algiers on Monday, they will confront fighting in Angola, civil war in central Africa and ongoing strife on the Horn of Africa.

The fate of the disputed Western Sahara, claimed by Morocco and Berber rebels, remains undecided and more than four million people live in squalid refugee camps, homes to some for more than two decades.

Attempts to resolve African conflicts have run up against numerous obstacles over the years: mistrust, national pride, rampant greed and memories of genocide and other atrocities against civilians.

Still, it is hard to imagine where the

continent would be without the organisation that declared in a May 1963 charter "that all African states should henceforth unite so that the welfare and wellbeing of their peoples can be assured".

"If you're talking about (former Ghanaian president Kwame) Nkrumah's vision of a United States of Africa, the OAU has obviously fallen way short," said John Harbeson, professor of political science at the City University of New York.

"But the OAU is a continuing symbol of an African collective sense, of being in charge of their affairs and providing a context and a framework."

As foreign ministers from the 52 member nations gathered yesterday ahead of next week's three-day summit of leaders, the organisation was able to point to two new successes.

Under OAU auspices and a smaller group of West African countries, Sierra Leone's government signed an agreement with rebels on Wednesday to end

one of Africa's bloodiest wars. The ceremony took place in Lomé, Togo.

Meanwhile, representatives of warring parties in Congo agreed on a draft plan to end the 11-month-old civil war in the central African country. The fighting has drawn in soldiers from five countries and three rebel groups.

Wednesday's agreement, signed in Zambia under OAU auspices, must still be signed by regional leaders, possibly as soon as next week in Algiers.

While peace could be near for some countries, unresolved conflicts will be high on the Algiers agenda.

Efforts to end the 13-month border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea are expected to be discussed. The two Horn of Africa neighbours have both accepted an OAU framework agreement but disagree on how it should be carried out.

The war has spilled over into neighbouring Somalia, an OAU member that will not be represented in Algiers because it has had no central govern-

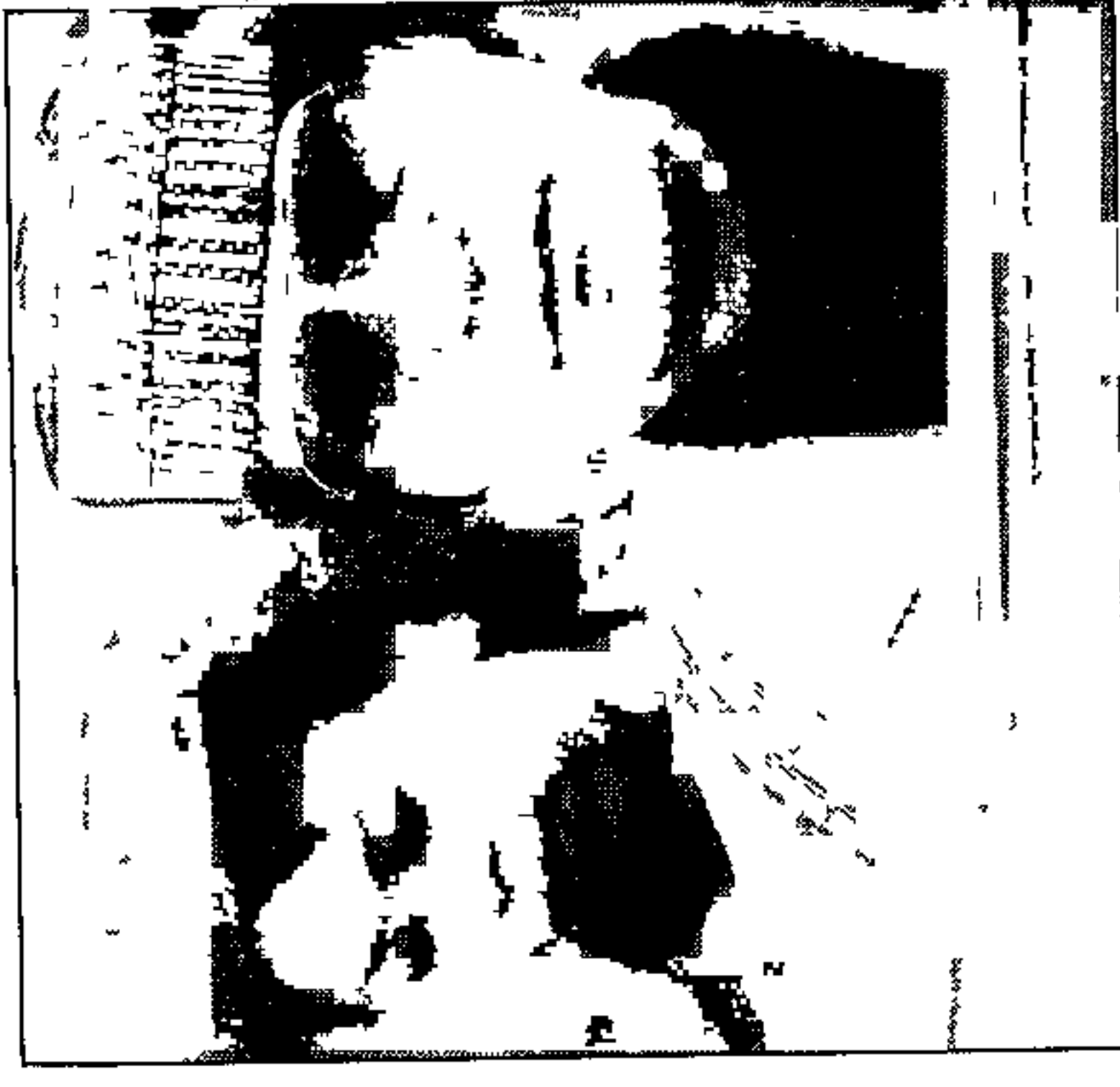
ment since 1991. OAU influence has also been limited in dealing with renewed fighting in Angola's 24-year civil war.

And despite the Sierra Leonean peace deal, the OAU was unable to prevent widespread atrocities by rebels against civilians during their eight-year civil war.

The OAU's spotty record of success stems in part from its members' limited economic means. William Zartman, a leading academic expert on the OAU, said the large membership has also prevented a unified stand.

The OAU summits "provide a forum and corridors" for informal negotiations, said Zartman, director of African studies and conflict management programmes at John Hopkins University in Washington.

"Because of its own political divi-



Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi will attend next week's OAU summit in Algeria.

sions and fear of offending other heads of state, the OAU has been unable to take forthright positions of reconciliation in African disputes," he said.

United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan (of Ghana) plans to attend the summit, and President Thabo Mbeki will make his maiden international voyage as South African president to the gathering.

After years of international ostracism, Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi is also expected. - *Sapa-AP*

Perils for last OAU summit this century

CT 12/7/99 (230)

ALGIERS: African leaders gathered in Algeria yesterday for the last Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit of the century, amid a flurry of peace-making attempts on the war-torn continent

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika played host to heads of state, including outgoing OAU chairman Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso and Sudan's Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

"I am optimistic for the year ahead," Compaore told Algerian state television, praising Bouteflika's commitment to the continent

Here are some of the issues facing the summit and the OAU as the world's poorest continent prepares to enter the 21st century.

● **The Democratic Republic of the Congo:**

Africa's third largest nation has been at war since August 2 1998 when Rwandan and Uganda-backed rebels took up arms against President Laurent Kabila. Kabila accuses Rwanda and Uganda, who propelled him to power in 1997, of invading. Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola and Chad sent troops to fight for Kabila. Chad has since withdrawn. Kabila and fellow presidents signed a ceasefire deal in Zambia yesterday. The rebels did not, as rival factions squabbled over who should sign.

● **Ethiopia and Eritrea:** The "Horn of Africa" neighbours went to war on May 6 1998, each accusing the other of invading. The OAU has tried repeatedly to rally the two sides around a framework agreement calling for a truce and an Eritrean withdrawal from land occupied since the start of the conflict. Differences over the interpretation of the deal have blocked progress.

● **Sierra Leone:** The country's president, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, and rebel leader Foday Sankoh signed a peace deal in Togo on July 7, giving the rebels a role in government and an amnesty to Sankoh who faced a death sentence for treason. OAU foreign ministers welcomed the deal and urged all parties to make it work.

● **Angola:** The country's civil war has dragged on for more than two decades. President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and Unita rebel leader Jonas Savimbi signed a peace deal in Zambia in 1994. The OAU accuses Savimbi of dragging his feet. OAU

foreign ministers called for strict implementation of sanctions against Unita, which funds its war effort with diamond sales.

● **Somalia:** Divided up among rival clans, Somalia has no central government and has not been represented at an OAU summit since 1991. An upsurge in fighting prevented the OAU sending a fact-finding mission as agreed at the 1998 summit. African foreign ministers urged peace.

● **Sudan:** As many as 1.5 million people have died in Sudan in 16 years of fighting or war-aggravated famine and disease in the mainly Christian south. The government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) resume peace talks later in July in Kenya. A regional grouping brokered the talks.

● **Libya:** Libya's leader Muammar Gaddafi wants African leaders to back his campaign for a full lifting of sanctions imposed after the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing over Scotland. The Security Council suspended the sanctions in April after Libya handed over two suspects for trial for the bombing.

● **Economic integration:** The OAU agreed in 1991 to set up an African Economic Community by 2025. The heads of state and government, who later agreed to focus on strengthening existing regional groupings across the continent, will assess progress towards this goal.

● **Terrorism:** Host Algeria, which has been racked by a seven-year Islamist revolt, and Egypt are among countries sponsoring a draft OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak, will attend his first OAU summit since 1995, when Islamist gunmen tried to kill him at a summit in Addis Ababa.

● **Human rights and refugees:** Sierra Leone's civil war has put the spotlight back on human rights abuses across Africa. That and other conflicts have spawned the world's biggest refugee problem — with seven million people seeking refuge in neighbouring countries and up to 13 million driven from their homes. The UN High Commissioners for Human Rights and for Refugees, Mary Robinson and Sadako Ogata, will both be in Algiers for the summit — Reuters

Mbeki issues wake-up call to OAU heads

'Time to join global economy'

ARG 14/7/99

(230) (1)

PETER FABRICIUS
FOREIGN EDITOR

Algiers - President Mbeki urged Africa's leaders to meet the challenge of globalisation with strong action to implement democracy, good governance and a common market, rather than by making moral appeals to the rich countries.

He was delivering the keynote address at the 35th Organisation of African Unity summit here.

Mr Mbeki criticised a draft resolution of the summit which complained about the negative effects of globalisation on developing countries and called for it to be conducted more democratically.

"Mere moral appeals from the have-nots to the haves are not likely to take us very far," he said.

Instead Africa should develop its own "sovereign continental capacity" to take part in the process of

establishing the ground rules, institutions and practices to govern the global economy.

The way for Africa to start tackling globalisation was to put its own economic theory into practice, by creating a functioning mechanism to begin implementing the continent-wide African Economic Community (AEC), which the OAU envisaged eight years ago but which has remained a blueprint.

The OAU had to start taking the Abuja treaty establishing the AEC for what it was - "a legal document which, within our countries, has the force of municipal law".

"Accordingly, we cannot avoid putting in place and activating oversight structures to ensure that the law is in fact observed," Mr Mbeki said.

This might raise questions of national sovereignty, but by voluntarily acceding to the treaty, African governments had agreed to qualify



Talking heads: OAU chief Abdelaziz Bouteflika, middle, Tanzania's Salim Ahmed Salim, left, and Libya's Muammar Gaddafi in Algiers

their national sovereignty, because they believed that joining forces with others would better serve their national interests.

The OAU would need to put in place mechanisms and procedures to enable it to determine whether what it was doing at national, bilateral, regional, continental and global levels was consistent with the objectives of the Abuja treaty.

It would need to look at the efficacy of such existing institutions as the OAU secretariat, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank.

The body established to implement the economic community should report directly to the OAU heads of state, "as political economists who seek to build people-centred societies," Mr Mbeki said.

And in a move designed to foster democracy on the continent, Mr Mbeki said the OAU would ban governments that took power by force from attending future gatherings until they reform and open up to civilian rule.

He mentioned Niger, Guinea-Bissau and the Comoros, whose leaders had staged coups in the last year.

"We have decided that governments coming to power by military force will not be allowed into the next summit," Mr Mbeki said.

"In the meantime, we will be working with them to return them to a democratic society."

He said a special OAU summit will convene from September 6-9 in Libya to look at how to deal with renegade governments.

The meeting also will address the restructuring of the 53-member organisation to make it more efficient and how to prevent and resolve conflicts when they happen.



'Meet challenge of globalisation'

ALGIERS: African leaders should speed up the economic integration of their continent to meet the challenge of globalisation, President Thabo Mbeki said at the OAU meeting here yesterday.

"This calls for our conscious and deliberate intervention in the process of globalisation, as Africans, to produce these results — ethics, equity, inclusion, human security, sustainability and development," he said.

He quoted a UN Development Programme report stating that while the advantages of global markets and competition should be preserved, it was also necessary to ensure globalisation worked for people and not just profits.

The 1999 Human Development report says "When the market goes too far in dominating social and political outcomes, the opportunities and rewards of globalisation are spread unequally and inequitably."

He was critical of the fact that most states had done little towards establishing the African economic community agreed to in the 1991 Abuja Treaty.

Its goals included higher economic growth and investment, better living standards and the modernisation and integration of African economies. — Sapa

STABILITY, GROWTH KEY AIMS

OAU prepares to oust coup leaders

ET 14/7/99

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ALGIERS: Coup leaders might soon be "red-carded" by the OAU as African leaders work for a stable, politically respectable continent. **PETER FABRICIUS** reports.

THE Organisation of African Unity is moving to suspend from its ranks leaders who come to power through coups.

The twin themes of the summit are conflict resolution and economic development.

Several leaders at the summit here have condemned leaders who have taken power by force. At least six leaders at the summit did so, three of them in the past year.

Zambian President Frederick Chiluba urged the summit leaders to "red-card" coup leaders, suspending them immediately from the OAU, but South African President Thabo Mbeki suggested a more realistic policy as he described it, of showing them a "yellow card" — giving them a year to move towards constitutional government or be suspended.

ed from the next year's summit.

In an acclaimed speech here, Nigerian leader Olusegun Obasanjo demanded that coup leaders be suspended, saying "We must be emphatic about upholding codes of good conduct. We must condemn coups and let the violators know there's no room for them in our company."

"We must not have any excuse, diplomatic or expedient, for sitting with those whose actions have clearly shown that they don't deserve our respect."

OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim echoed his sentiments, saying it was essential to ensure that the OAU put into operation its own declarations and commitments which it had not always done in the past.

"For instance, in Harare in

1997, African leaders made it clear that unconstitutional changes of government were to be a thing of the past. Yet coups still haunt our continent. This problem needs to be addressed to assure that democracy and the rule of law are nurtured and consolidated in Africa."

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that in the past year Africa had witnessed, in the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau and Niger, "new examples of a problem we hoped we had put behind us — and new deviations from the principle, agreed to in Harare two years ago, that the will of the people must be the basis of authority in Africa and that governments, duly elected, should not be overthrown by force."

The growing intolerance of coups comes as the organisation takes responsibility for Africa's destiny, with a corresponding impatience among the continent's democracies for a past OAU tendency to blame ills on others

OAU urges 'one voice' for Africa

Sirte, Libya – Over 40 heads of states attending the Organisation of African Unity summit in Libya have drafted a declaration emphasising unity and revitalisation in order to meet the needs of the continent in the next century.

The 12-page declaration is to be adopted at today's closing session in Sirte, about 450km southeast of the capital, Tripoli.

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi addressed 43 African heads of state who arrived for the summit to discuss ways of restructuring the charter of the OAU to strengthen unity among 53 member states.

"When we speak with one voice we are able to defend and safeguard our collective interests," reads the draft declaration.

Colonel Gaddafi demanded yesterday that Africa have veto rights in the United Nations Security Council and that Western countries return to the continent all the treasures that they "had stolen".

"Tourists, scientists and researchers look at these African treasures at museums and pay to see them. This money belongs to Africa," he said – Sapa-AP

(230)
ARG 9/9/99