

reflected so much natural understanding. It is certainly not just a figure of speech when I say that if, formerly, the Sahara divided us, this is certainly not the case to-day. The former Imperialist Powers were fond of talking about 'Arab Africa' and 'Black Africa'; about 'Islamic Africa' and 'non-Islamic Africa'; about 'Mediterranean Africa' and 'Tropical Africa'. These were all artificial descriptions which tended to divide us. At this Accra conference, these tendentious and discriminating epithets are no longer valid. To-day, the Sahara is a bridge uniting us. We are one, an entity symbolized by our united African Personality. Indeed, we have an even wider association with the Asian and African nations, and that still wider one represented by the United Nations.'

The Accra conference will be repeated biennially in different African capitals. The next one will be in Ethiopia. Between conferences, the eight African States will maintain liaison through their permanent representatives at the United Nations.

The stage is set.

DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES

We, the African States assembled here in Accra, in this our first Conference, conscious of our responsibilities to humanity and especially to the peoples of Africa, and desiring to assert our African Personality on the side of peace, hereby proclaim and solemnly reaffirm our unswerving loyalty to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration of the Asian-African Conference held at Bandung.

We further assert and proclaim the unity among ourselves, and our solidarity with the dependent peoples of Africa, as well as our friendship with all nations. We resolve to preserve the unity of purpose and action in international affairs which we have forged among ourselves in this historic Conference, and to safeguard our hard-won independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to preserve among ourselves the fundamental unity of outlook on foreign policy so that a distinctive African Personality will play its part in co-operation with other peace-loving nations to further the cause of peace.

We pledge ourselves to apply all our endeavours to avoid being committed to any action which might entangle our countries to the detriment of our interests and freedom; to recognize the right of the African people to independence and self-determination and to take appropriate steps to hasten the realization of this right; and to

affirm the right of the Algerian people to independence and self-determination and to exert all possible effort to hasten the realization of their independence; to uproot forever the evil of racial discrimination in all its forms wherever it may be found; to persuade the Great Powers to discontinue the production and testing of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons, and to reduce conventional weapons.

Furthermore, mindful of the urgent need to raise the living standard of our peoples by developing to the fullest possible advantage the great and varied resources of our lands: we hereby pledge ourselves to co-ordinate our economic planning through a joint economic effort, and study the economic potentialities, the technical possibilities and related problems existing in our respective States; to promote co-ordinated industrial planning either through our own individual efforts and/or through co-operation with Specialized Agencies of the United Nations; to take measures to increase trade among our countries by improving communications between our respective countries, and to encourage the investment of foreign capital and skills provided they do not compromise the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our States.

Desirous of mobilizing the human resources of our respective countries in furtherance of our social and cultural aspirations, we will endeavour to promote and facilitate the exchange of teachers, professors, students, exhibitions, educational and cultural and scientific material which will improve cultural relations between the African States and inculcate greater knowledge amongst us through such efforts as joint youth festivals, sporting events, etc.; will encourage and strengthen studies of African culture, history and geography in the institutions of learning in the African States; will take all measures in our respective countries to ensure that such studies are correctly orientated.

We have charged our Permanent Representatives at the United Nations to be the permanent machinery for co-ordinating all matters of common concern to our States, for examining and making recommendations on concrete practical steps for implementing our decisions, and for preparing the ground for future Conferences.

Faithful to the obligations and responsibilities which history has thrown upon us as the vanguard of the complete emancipation of Africa, we do hereby affirm our dedication to the causes which we have proclaimed.