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ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT
TO
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

LAGOS, SEPTEMBER 1988.

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

This Report is the last one I shall present to you before the expiration of my term of office as Executive Secretary of ECOWAS on 31st December, 1988.

In my four years of service to the Community, I have had the honour of heading the sub-regional Organisation with the constant support of the Heads of State and Government and of Ministers responsible for ECOWAS affairs.

In this Report, I would like to express my profound gratitude to His Excellency, Major-General Dr. Joseph S. MOMOH, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, for the confidence reposed in me by confirming my appointment to the post of ECOWAS Executive Secretary.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to their Excellencies, General Lansan CONTE, President of the National Recovery Committee, President of the Republic of Guinea, General Ibrahim B. BABANGIDA, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Sir Alhaji Dawda K. JAWARA, President of the Republic of The Gambia, who, as Chairmen of the Organisation during my term of office, extended to me the benefit of their wise counsel which facilitated my task in no small measure. My thanks also go to the other Heads of State of the sub-region who spared no effort to advance the ideals of the Community during my term of office. May I respectfully, request all of them to kindly accept my profound gratitude and sincere thanks.

I sincerely thank you, Honourable Members of the Council of Ministers, for the advice and support I received from you individually and collectively. Without this support, it would not have been possible for us to do so much in four years. I thank you and publicly, acknowledge your commitment to our sub-regional economic integration effort.

I also enjoyed the support of experts of Member States and that of Statutory Appointees of the two Institutions, as well as that of all the staff of the Community, both in the Fund and in the Executive Secretariat. I seize this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all of them. The cooperation I received from all these quarters enabled me to do my best in carrying out the mission entrusted to me by the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS. I hope my successor will enjoy even greater support as this will be indispensable in his efforts to accomplish his mission.

Honourable Ministers,

I wish to put on record my thanks and appreciation for the support that I have so far received from the current Chairman of Council, Hon. M.B. JATTA, the Gambia's Minister of Economic Planning and Industrial Development. Shortly after taking up office as Chairman of Council, he paid familiarisation visits to the ECOWAS Fund in Lome and the Executive Secretariat in Lagos. In both Lome and Lagos, the Chairman was received in audience by His Excellency, Gnassingbe EYADEMA, Founder-Chairman of the Togolese People's Rally, President of the Republic of Togo, and His Excellency, General Ibrahim B. BABANGIDA, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Federal Republic of Nigeria respectively. He had fruitful discussions on ECOWAS matters with these outstanding leaders. While in Nigeria, the Chairman paid an inspection visit to the Headquarters of the Executive Secretariat under construction in Abuja. He paid a similar visit to the Headquarters of the ECOWAS Fund under construction when he was in Lome. The Chairman was good enough to lead an ECOWAS team to the IMF/World Bank meetings in Berlin in September, with the aim of mobilising resources for the financing of our various projects.

I am confident that, if he continues as he has started, the Community will register a number of milestones in its development effort.

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Honourable Ministers,

When the decision is taken to integrate national economies, a long and complex process of relationships is embarked upon, requiring constant reinforcement and support. This is why it is indispensable to persevere to develop in all Member States a stronger political will to carry through the cooperation programmes already adopted. We have no other option if we are to succeed. We have embarked upon a good path, but it is one that is strewn with many problems. I believe it is necessary to stress once again that sub-regional economic integration depends first and foremost on the political will of all Member States. We must realise that any integration strategy which does not take this dimension into account is doomed to fail.

The task of the Community is to foster the awareness of this factor and to prepare the political and economic decisions likely to accelerate the process of sub-regional integration. To this end, actions should be translated into the effective development of the human and physical potential of all the peoples of the sub-region. That is our ardent desire. Incidentally, I am proud to observe the vigorous efforts undertaken by some of our Member States to ensure greater cooperation. This is encouraging and it is a sign of better prospects for the development of the Community. My successor will indeed be able to enjoy the benefit of these efforts. I seize this opportunity to wish him success in directing the affairs of the Community.

Honourable Ministers,

To come back to this Report, you will observe that the period under review (July - September) is too short to record any substantial new developments since the last report was presented to you in June. Every effort has

however been made by the various departments to execute their work programmes. This present session of Council is convened mainly for the provision of resources to enable the Institutions of the Community to operate effectively.

This Report consists of three Chapters:

- Chapter I deals with the latest developments in the economic situation of Member States that were mainly affected by the floods caused by the heavy rainfall which led to considerable human and material damage in some States.

- Chapter II is the actual report on activities of the Community. The Chapter contains a progress report on cooperation programmes of the Institutions from July to September, 1988.

- Chapter III presents the cooperation programmes envisaged for 1989 by the Community.

CHAPTER I: THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGION: LATEST DEVELOPMENT

The Report presented in May gave a comprehensive review of developments in the economy of West Africa in 1987. It also highlighted efforts being made by Member States to revitalise their economies. Since the last meeting of the Authority of Heads of State and Government held in Lome in June, 1988, the overall economic situation of Member States has become a major source of concern as a result of the heavy rains recorded in the sub-region. This has affected the lives of millions of people and caused considerable damage to the economies of West African States.

Indeed, the diluvial rains which have been falling over West Africa since July have accounted for the loss of dozens of lives in some States and caused material and financial damage in almost all States. Earliest official figures show several thousand victims, heavy agricultural losses and the risk of epidemics. The considerable loss in revenue arising from floods caused by the heavy rains have seriously jeopardised the sub-region's economic situation.

As a result of these rains, a number of Member States have been forced to seek the aid of the international community to enable them tackle the problems posed by food supply to isolated communities and provision of help to affected areas. The international community responded favourably in some cases. Member States also showed great spirit of solidarity in the face of this catastrophe. This is concrete expression of the spirit of cooperation and the Community ideals cherished by West African Heads of State in the quest for more effective integration of the economies of the sub-region.

The most striking development in the economic crisis itself in the last four months has been the initiative shown at their June Toronto Summit by the seven (7)

Western most highly industrialised countries. At their Toronto Summit, they adopted measures to alleviate the debt burden of the poorest countries (GNP below 500 Dollars per capita). These proposals by the seven OECD countries mark a point in the attitude of creditor nations to the external debt of the poorest nations. Recognition of the peculiar nature of the African situation is, in many ways, therefore, an important and encouraging step. The Member States concerned by the decision of the 7 OECD countries should embark as quickly as possible on steps to implement the Toronto options.

CHAPTER II: REPORT ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME

This section is mainly a review of progress made in implementing Community programmes since the statutory meetings in Lome in June, 1988.

It will therefore touch on a number of activities mentioned in the May, 1988, report. It will also highlight cooperation efforts made between July and September, 1988, as regards Economic Recovery, Trade and Customs, Immigration, Money and Payments, Agriculture, Industry, Natural Resources, Transport, Communications, Energy, Social and Cultural Affairs, Administrative, Financial and Institutional matters.

THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME

The Economic Recovery Programme adopted by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, has entered its first year of implementation. A report is currently being prepared which will contain an assessment of measures undertaken to date both by the Community Institutions and by Member States. The report will initially be submitted to a meeting of Ministers of National Planning of Member States. This report should make it possible to evaluate the political actions being taken to ensure the effective implementation of the Recovery Plan as well as the mobilisation of financial resources allocated for the Investment Programme.

Such an assessment would therefore assist Member States and Community Institutions in identifying the key areas in which the implementation of the programme is falling behind expectations. It will also indicate the financial resources obtained as well as difficulties encountered in mobilising funds for the Programme. A detailed report on all these issues will be submitted to you at the May, 1989, session.

Conference on the external debt of Member States

The organisation of a sub-regional conference on the external debt of Member States is one of the support measures of the ECOWAS Economic Recovery Programme. Preparations have been concluded for the conference which is scheduled to be held in November, 1988. African institutions such as the ECA, ACMS, ADB and International Organisations such as the World Bank and the OECD have been of invaluable assistance in the organisation of this conference. We hope that the Conference will give Member States an insight into better ways of managing their external debt.

TRADE AND CUSTOMS COOPERATION

The ECOWAS Trade and Customs cooperation sector is one of the main springboards of the Community's integration process. Yet difficulties are often encountered in this area due, among other things, to problems relating to the implementation of the trade liberalisation scheme which is the pivot of all other aspects of Trade and Customs cooperation. It should however be noted that, at the last Council of Ministers' session held in Lome from 18 to 21 June, 1988, a number of measures were adopted which, if effectively applied, could facilitate implementation of the scheme in the very near future.

Customs administration

In a report by the Council of Ministers, the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, at its June, 1988 session, called on Member States to take all measures necessary for the effective take-off of the trade liberalisation scheme in the very near future.

As you may recall, a certain number of recommendations were also made in this regard by the last meeting of the Trade, Customs, Immigration, Money and Payments

Commission in Lome in June, 1988. These recommendations approved by Council, are aimed at ensuring the effective take-off of the liberalisation scheme by January, 1, 1990.

A certain number of such measures approved by Council have been taken in the following areas:

Unprocessed goods and traditional handicraft products

- Member States were requested to circulate without delay, declaration forms and certificates of origin in respect of these products.

- Member States should inform economic operators of measures taken to implement Community decisions as regards the circulation of unprocessed goods and traditional handicraft products. The Executive Secretariat should be notified of any cases of violation of such decisions.

Industrial products

In accordance with Decisions A/DEC.8/5/80 and C/DEC.4/5/82, Member States should embark on the immediate and simultaneous removal of non tariff barriers as from January, 1, 1990, the effective date of the scheme.

During the period under review, the Executive Secretariat sent reminders to all Member States to ensure that all necessary steps are taken at national level to comply with the above decisions and to notify the Secretariat. We hope these steps are already being taken in Member States. An assessment of the various activities advocated will be carried out by the Executive Secretariat in the first quarter of 1989.

As part of the activities towards the preparation of the provisional budget for the compensation of loss of revenue to be suffered as a result of the implementation

of the trade liberalisation scheme, the relevant Commission considered a draft budget prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee set up for this purpose in November, 1987. At its twenty-third session held in Lome in June, 1988, and on the recommendation of the Trade, Customs, Immigration, Money and Payments Commission, the Council of Ministers urged Member States which have not yet done so to forward new applications for approval to the Executive Secretariat by 31 August, 1988, at the latest. After that date, new applications received before the deadline were submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee to be considered with the final report of the two earlier meetings.

The draft provisional budget was thus completed by the Ad Hoc Committee and will be submitted to the statutory meetings of November, 1988, for consideration.

The Executive Secretariat recommends strongly that each Member State should thoroughly examine the whole document on the draft provisional budget for the compensation of loss of revenue to be suffered as a result of the implementation of the intra-Community trade liberalisation scheme. This will ensure that positive and rational recommendations and resolutions are made, first to the Administration and Finance Commission and the Council of Ministers so that a provisional compensation budget can be adopted for the year 1990, and then to the Authority of Heads of State and Government, so that a definite date may be selected for the effective take-off of the trade liberalisation scheme for industrial products.

As far as the attainment of the noble objectives of economic integration of our States are concerned, as set out in the Treaty, the credibility of ECOWAS can only be achieved through successful customs cooperation.

During the period under review, the Executive Secretariat also worked on the revision of the ECOWAS

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the first meeting of the consultation and coordination committee for the scheduling of trade fairs and similar events in the ECOWAS sub-region. The aim of this first meeting of the Committee is to elect members of the Steering Committee which is the nucleus and the prime moving force of the Organisation.

Various activities have been undertaken with a view to completing the study on principal exportable agricultural and industrial products in the sub-region capable of being traded between Member States under the trade promotion programme. The study report will be submitted in the first half of 1989 for consideration and subsequent recommendations by the national officers of Member States responsible for trade promotion.

Certain measures are also underway at the Executive Secretariat to submit to National experts, various reports on studies already carried out on:

- packaging, marking, labelling and stamping;
- product standardisation and quality control;
- agricultural surpluses.

In the area of tourism, consultations were held during the period under review to convene the second meeting of experts and Ministers responsible for tourism, with a view to setting up an Association of Tourism Boards and Administrations in the West African sub-region.

Immigration

At the last ECOWAS Summit held in June, 1988, in Lomé, the Heads of State and Government paid serious attention to the problems encountered in the implementation of Acts and Decisions relating to the Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and of Establishment.

They therefore mandated the Executive Secretariat to convene a meeting of Ministers of Internal Affairs of Member States to evaluate and discuss, among other things, all the problems hampering the free movement of persons, and in particular, cases of flagrant violation in this area. This should be done with a view to finding appropriate solutions for the benefit of the peoples of the sub-region. Preparatory activities to this meeting of Ministers of Internal Affairs are underway at the Executive Secretariat. This meeting is of paramount importance for the Community, because it concerns a very sensitive area, that of Free Movement, the Right of Residence and of Establishment. Other cooperation activities of the Community are dependent upon this issue.

In the specific case of ratification of the Supplementary Protocol on the implementation of the second phase (Right of Residence) of the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and of Establishment, letters were sent by the Executive Secretariat to all Member States requesting them to forward the instruments of ratification of the Protocol by 1 January, 1989, at the latest. Member States have also been requested to take all the necessary steps on this subject at national level.

During this period, steps were also taken towards the printing of the ECOWAS Laissez-Passer for auxiliary staff in Category "M", i.e.: drivers, messengers and others, as decided by the Council of Ministers at its twenty-second session. The beneficiaries may begin to obtain their Laissez-Passer in accordance with the regulations in this second half of 1988.

Efforts made towards the consolidation of Peace in the sub-region.

During the period under review, a Seminar on a training programme relating to the settlement of disputes, the prevention of crisis and the establishment of relations

to generate trust among ECOWAS Member States was held in Lomé under the auspices of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. The Seminar made relevant recommendations to Member States and the Executive Secretariat on the peaceful settlement of conflicts and on the need to avoid the use of force in resolving conflicts between Member States of the sub-region. In this regard, the participants made special mention of the role of the Protocols on Non-Aggression and Mutual Assistance in Defence Matters adopted by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

A heartening development in the area of cooperation which goes to the credit of the Community is the resolution of the dispute between Sierra Leone and Liberia. On the initiative of the Heads of State of Togo and Nigeria, a meeting was held in Lomé to find a fair and lasting solution to the dispute.

Monetary Cooperation

In the area of monetary cooperation, contacts have been made by the Executive Secretariat with a view to seeking financial resources and technical assistance for the effective implementation of the monetary cooperation programme. This programme, which has already been adopted by the Authority, is aimed in the short term, at strengthening the operations of the West African Clearing House (WACH), and in the medium and long term, at achieving limited convertibility of national currencies and arriving at a single monetary zone after a five-year transitional period from 1988 to 1992.

During the period under review, the Executive Secretariat also took measures to prepare and convene, in the near future, the second meeting of experts of Member States and Central Banks making up the co-ordination Committee as provided for in the monetary co-operation

programme. The task of the Committee among other things, is to monitor adjustment policies to be implemented by Member States with a view to accelerating the achievement of the objectives of the monetary co-operation programme.

Co-operation programme in the area of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Community Seed Centres

On the recommendation of the competent Commission, the Council of Ministers, at its twenty-third session in Lome in June, 1988, adopted the feasibility studies on the centres in Group I: Zaria (Nigeria), Rokupr (Sierra Leone), Molodo (Mali), Bouaké (Côte d'Ivoire). The Council of Ministers also mandated the Executive Secretary and Managing Director of the ECOWAS Fund, to mobilize the financial resources necessary for the consolidation of the centres.

The feasibility studies on the centres in the 2nd Group, namely, Kaedi (Mauritania), Fanave (Senegal), Lossa (Niger), will be conducted in 1989. Still on the subject of the seed centres, it must be noted also that each Member State has been requested to set up a National Seed Committee to work closely with the sub-regional Seed Committee (Decision C/DEC.2/6/88). We hope that steps have been or are being taken in every Member State towards the implementation of the decision.

Agricultural Production Development Assistance Programme

The objective of the on-going programme is to work out a sub-regional plan of action to complement Member States' efforts towards increased food production by providing seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and farm implements. This activity entails the gathering of information from international and inter-governmental organisations and

from some ECOWAS Member States. To this end, a mission from the Executive Secretariat went to Rome in June, and held several discussions with the FAO technical departments. In addition, another mission also visited some IGOs (CEAO, CILSS, CEBV, ALG) in July with a view to collecting information on their experiences in the consolidation of the sectors to be assisted in the development of agricultural production. The gathering of information from Member States is in progress at the Executive Secretariat.

As regards the agricultural development assistance measures, it must be noted that the outcome of the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Sub-Committee meeting organised for the sub-regional inter-governmental organisations responsible for the study on the harmonisation of agricultural produce pricing policies, will be submitted for the consideration of the next meeting of Agricultural Directors of Member States scheduled to take place in the second half of 1988.

Selected Community Cattle Breeding Centres

The feasibility studies on the Selected Community Cattle Breeding Centres in the 1st Group - Madina Diassa (Mali) and the Gambian Animal Husbandry Development Project - were adopted by the Council of Ministers at its June, 1988, session on the recommendation of the competent Commission.

Measures are currently being adopted at the Executive Secretariat for the conduct in 1989 of feasibility studies on the centres in the 2nd Group, namely, Kédougou (Sénégal), Kaedi (Mauritania), Famoïla (Guinea) and Upper Ogun Ranch (Nigeria). It must be noted that during the missions undertaken by the Executive Secretariat to take stock of the state of the selected centres in the 2nd Group, it was observed that the exact sites for some centres, particularly Kaedi and Kédougou, had not yet been determined.

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As regards the site for Famoïla which is currently non-operational, the authorities of the Republic of Guinea are to define the centre's new orientations in relation to the envisaged privatisation measure. The Member States hosting the centres concerned are requested to select final sites before the take-off of feasibility studies.

Animal disease control assistance programme

The set objective is to prepare an ECOWAS Programme to complement the efforts of Member States and International Organisations in the control of animal diseases. For the preparation of the programme, the Executive Secretariat visited some Member States during the period under review to gather information. A summary report in this regard will be presented by the end of the second half of 1988 for submission to the relevant Commission for consideration.

Continuation of the Study on Wildlife and Plant Protection.

Measures are currently being taken at the Executive Secretariat for the finalisation of the study to be submitted to a meeting of forestry experts of Member States scheduled to take place in 1989. In fact, consultants for the purpose have just been recruited. The study aims at evaluating the policies adopted for the protection of wildlife and plants in the sub-region.

Regional Floating Weeds Control Programme

The Regional Programme covering four (4) States affected by the floating weeds, namely, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria, aims at:

- enhancing co-operation among the Member States affected by the scourge and those countries with considerable experience in their control;

- developing appropriate control programmes and methods (biological, chemical and mechanical);
- strengthening the intervention capabilities of the national units and setting up a regional unit for the co-ordination and implementation of programmes.

During the period under review, the Executive Secretariat undertook a mission for the evaluation of financial requirements for the implementation of the regional programme. The investment cost thus assessed is estimated at Seven Million Seven Hundred and Ninety-Two Thousand US Dollars (\$7,792,000). The Executive Secretariat has sent requests to various donor agencies for technical and financial assistance.

It must be noted also that during the period under review and under the floating weeds control programme, the Executive Secretariat granted a subvention to the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology of Nigeria for the organisation of the conference on water hyacinth. The objective of the conference was to enhance consultations amongst the States affected by the water hyacinth in the Community and among some countries and agencies specialized in the control of the scourge. The meeting took place in Lagos in August, 1988, with the participation of representatives from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria, as well as international researchers from Australia, India, Egypt and Great Britain.

Industrial Co-operation Programme

Inventory of Industrial Units in the sub-region

One of the major objectives of this action is the preparation of a co-operation programme for industrial firms in the sub-region. It, therefore, entails gathering as much information as possible on the industrial firms established in the sub-region and making proposals based

on this information for the enhancement of co-operation among firms. The data collection phase has just ended. The utilisation of the information gathered and the preparation of the co-operation programme are underway.

West African Industrial Forum

The meeting to be placed under the patronage of ECOWAS will take place in Dakar at the end of November, 1988. The Community's Institutions took an active part in all the preparatory meetings of the Forum. Joint ECOWAS/CICES enlightenment missions have therefore been undertaken to all the Member States of the sub-region to ensure their active participation in the Forum.

Meeting of Representatives of the Industrial Sector

Convinced of the need to involve more and more the economic operators in industrial activities, the Community encourages the establishment of sub-regional groups according to sectors of activity. The Community helped the formation of the Federation of West African Manufacturers' Association in September, 1988.

Other Industrial Activities

During the period under review, the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat undertook a working visit to UNIDO to finalize the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and to prepare a programme for the rehabilitation of some industrial firms in the sub-region. Meetings were also held during the period concerned between the Executive Secretariat and ARCEDEM for the preparation of a joint programme for the training of industrialists in the sub-region.

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Cooperation in Transport, Communications and
Energy matters

Road projects

During the period under review, a team from the Executive Secretariat visited Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Benin to assess progress made in the execution of some road projects which are part of the Trans-West African Highway network.

In Guinea-Bissau, the team noted that all studies have been completed on the 75 Km stretch of the Sao-Vicente-Sao-Domingo - Senegal border section. Funds have been obtained in the form of a grant from the Italian Government to cover construction costs estimated at 13 Million ECU. Construction work which began in April, 1988, is expected to be completed by the end of 1989.

With regard to the Bambadinga - Xitole - Quebo section, 75 Km, studies are still underway. Construction work is expected to commence in March, 1989, and end in December, 1990.

Still in Guinea-Bissau, the section of the Trans-West African Highway passes through Quebo-Manpata-Guinea border over a distance of 30 Km. A national road project through **Cacine**-Sangonha will link up with the Quebo-Boke section (i.e. Guinea-Bissau - Guinea). This national road is highly important since it passes through a rich agricultural zone and also because of its proximity to the agricultural port of Cacine.

Existing studies on the 200 Km length of the Bubreka-Boke route in Guinea have been updated with a view to the execution of the project. The cost of the project is estimated at 77.1 Million US Dollars. This amount has

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been obtained from the Caisse Centrale de Coopération Economique, the World Bank and the USAID.

Regarding the 84 Km stretch from the Sierra Leone border to Covah (Guinea), the relevant studies have been completed and construction work which is already in progress is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The section of the Trans-West African Highway network through Guinea may now be routed through the Guinea-Bissau border - Kandiafara - Boke (50km). Since the Kandiafara - Sansale - Guinea-Bissau border section is considered a national road project having sub-regional scope, Sansale being an important agricultural zone, this road should be classified as a high priority project.

Guinea and Guinea-Bissau have made a joint request to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for funds to finance the studies relating to the Boke - Quebo road.

It should also be noted that the Islamic Development Bank has consented to finance studies on the Tambacounda - Labe (Senegal-Guinea) road. Representatives of both countries met at the end of June, 1988, to select the Consultancy firm.

In Benin, studies on the road from Godomev - Cotonou - Nigeria border will commence in December, 1988, and are expected to be completed 15 months later.

A coordination meeting is scheduled for the end of the year, to determine the intersection point in respect of the road linking the Ghana border - Noepe - Benin border.

Communications Programme

During the period under review, the following activities were undertaken by the Executive Secretariat in the communications sector:

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Coordination of Inter-State Telecommunications Links

The first meeting on the coordination of inter-State Telecommunications links took place from 19 to 23 July, 1988. Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Togo participated at the meeting which discussed problems pertaining to the coordination of maintenance of inter-State links and operation of the Sub-Regional Telecommunications network.

A second meeting to discuss the same issues is being planned for Dakar in October, 1988, and will involve: Cape Verde, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

At the end of these meetings, recommendations will be made with a view to obtaining assistance to ensure effective inter-connection of national networks.

Mission to assess the Intelcom Programme in Member States

A team from the Executive Secretariat visited Member States in May, 1988, to assess progress made in the execution of the programme relating to the interconnection of telecommunications networks in Member States. The report prepared at the end of the mission recommended that steps be taken (missions to Governments, financing additional equipment) to ensure the effective operation of all inter-State links.

Regional meeting on the coordination of professional training in Telecommunications in francophone African countries

This meeting, the third of its kind, was organised by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in conjunction with the TMTS (Telecommunications Maintenance Training School), Dakar. The Executive Secretariat partici-

pated as parties in the training programme being prepared for telecommunications technicians and engineers, in collaboration with the ECA and ITU. The meeting focused attention mainly on all aspects of human resources development and management in the Telecommunications Administrations.

Meeting of the Management Committee of the Special Fund for Telecommunications

The Managing Director of the Fund has invited the Executive Secretariat to take part in the meeting of the Management Committee of the Special Fund for Telecommunications. This meeting, which is scheduled to take place in Lome, in October, will examine the 1989 draft budget of the Special Fund and consider individual States' requests for funding their telecommunications projects.

Seminar on technical and commercial management of Telecommunications

The Executive Secretariat is planning to organise a meeting in Ouagadougou before the end of the year to discuss Telecommunications Management. The seminar is for Senior Officials of Telecommunications Administrations and will focus on the following main themes

- production statistics/tariff
- marketing and commercial management
- telephone accounting.

Postal routing in West Africa

The Executive Secretariat organised a meeting in Lome in September, 1988, for Directors of Postal Services in Member States. The meeting discussed problems facing postal Administrations in postal exchanges between Member States. It also reviewed progress made on the planning, sorting and postal transit centres. ECOWAS and other financial institutions in the sub-region were requested to provide funds for the realisation of these projects.

Energy Co-operation Programme

During the period under review, the following co-operation activities were undertaken in various areas:

Co-operation in the area of oil and natural gas

The Executive Secretariat is updating the activities included in the co-operation programme in the area of oil and gas. It must be noted that the implementation of the programme requires vast financial resources. It is therefore necessary to examine the modalities for the allocation of resources to the ECOWAS Energy Development Fund in accordance with Decision A/DEC.I/5/82.

Energy Data Banks

In the first half of the year, the Community held discussions with UNESCO, the National Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre (CNSAT) and the Regional Solar Energy Centre (CRES) for the re-organisation and improvement of the programme. The Centre for Energy and Environmental Development (CEED) based in Accra, was selected for the envisaged restructuring exercise. It must be noted also that an intervention by the Community is necessary to ensure the success of the project.

Inter-connection of electrical networks

With the co-operation of the Union of Producers, Conveyors and Distributors of Electrical Energy in Africa (UPDEA), the Executive Secretariat monitored the implementation of the following activities relating to the inter-connection of electrical networks in the sub-region:

- preparation of tender documents for the inter-connection of Region A networks (Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria);
- conduct of feasibility studies on the inter-connection of Region B networks (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone) by UPDEA;

- preparation by ADB and UPDEA of the terms of reference of the pre-feasibility and feasibility studies on the inter-connection of region C networks (Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania).

The Executive Secretariat held discussions with the Union of Producers, Conveyors and Distributors of Electrical Energy in Africa so that ECOWAS can participate more actively in the West African Electrical Network Inter-connection Project. To this end, ECOWAS could apply to UPDEA for observer status and participate technically and financially in the implementation of the feasibility studies on the inter-connection of the electrical networks of regions B and C.

Energy Conservation

During the period under review, the Executive Secretariat undertook missions to monitor the training programme on Energy Conservation in Guinea and Niger.

Monitoring of the Implementation of the Energy Programme in Member States

The Executive Secretariat visited Mauritania and Cape Verde to monitor the exploitation of new and renewable forms of energy, especially solar, wind and biomass.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION

During the period under review, the Social and Cultural activities undertaken by the Community were aimed at consolidating the activities undertaken in the first half of 1988, especially those relating to the implementation of the recommendations of the Seminar on Cultural Industries and of the Conference of African Ministers of Culture, and also at ensuring the preparation of the following activities:

- meeting of the West African Women's Association scheduled to take place at the end of October, 1988, in Dakar, to discuss, among other things, the rules of procedure and the headquarters of the Association;
- preparation of a cultural development plan in collaboration with UNESCO, with a view to strengthening and widening cultural co-operation among Member States;
- preparation of a single document on the ECOWAS Social Security Scheme, with a view to the eventual harmonisation of the various Social Security systems in force in the sub-region.

INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Meeting of Officers of ECOWAS Units

The first meeting of Officers of ECOWAS Units in Member States was held in Cotonou, Republic of Benin, from 2 - 3 June, 1988. Pertinent recommendations were made at the end of the meeting regarding, inter alia the establishment of national structures for the Organisation, co-ordination and monitoring of ECOWAS Affairs in Member States and the consolidation of such bodies in Member States where they exist. The meeting also considered problems encountered in the operation of the units and requested the Secretariat to conduct a survey with a view to defining the material and financial requirements of the National Units. A draft budget for this purpose has been prepared by the Executive Secretariat to enhance the material and financial resources of ECOWAS Units. This will be submitted for consideration by the meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission scheduled to take place in Banjul in November, 1988.

Status of Ratification of Protocols and Conventions

Very little progress has been recorded in the ratification of ECOWAS Protocols and Conventions since the last meeting in June. An up-to date status report on the matter is attached to this Report.

I wish to reiterate my appeal to Member States to ratify and implement with dispatch, all Protocols and Conventions of the Community.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Construction of the Headquarters of Community Institutions

Construction works on the Headquarters of the Community Institutions in Abuja (for the Executive Secretariat) and in Lome (for the Fund) are proceeding satisfactorily and may be completed on schedule. However, to speed up the completion of the construction works, Member States are requested to pay up fully their arrears for this purpose.

Staff Matters

The Memoranda on Staff matters submitted to the meeting of Finance Experts in June, 1988, were considered inadequate. Since July, 1988, therefore, the Executive Secretariat and the Fund have been busy improving upon the documents so that they can be presented to the next meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission for consideration in November, 1988. However, we wish to appeal to the decision-making bodies of the Community to take effective measures to encourage and motivate further the staff of our Institutions.

Financial Contributions to the Budget of the Executive Secretariat

As at August, 1988, the total amount of arrears of contributions to the budget of the Executive Secretariat stood at UA 11,879,092.80. The attention of the decision-making bodies of the Community must be drawn to the very high amount of these arrears. Only three Member States have

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paid up all their contributions, including those for 1988. The general situation as regards the other years is not at all cheerful despite the efforts of some States to the last two fiscal years. At every session of the Council of Ministers and the Authority, appeals are made to the Member States in arrears of contributions. At its twenty-third session in June, 1988, Council instituted important coercive measures against these States, especially in staff recruitment and project financing matters.

The Institutions of the Community will implement fully these important recommendations, in view of the fact that the non-payment of contributions continues to be a serious cause for concern.

With regard to the issue relating to the updating of the assessment formula for contributions to the budget of the Community, the Executive Secretariat made recommendations to the Administration and Finance Commission in accordance with the Council of Ministers' decision on the issue.

Activities of the ECOWAS Fund

The Managing Director of the Fund will present a detailed report to the Board of Directors on all issues relating to the functioning of the Fund.

With regard to the study on the consolidation of the financial structure of the Fund, the Report prepared for the purpose, though it explores avenues for increasing the resources of the Fund, raises a number of very pertinent issues relating to, among other things, the political orientation of the new structure which is likely to contradict the basic objectives assigned to the Fund by the Founding Fathers, namely to ensure co-operation, compensation and development.

CHAPTER III: COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1988/1989

This Chapter deals with activities to be undertaken by the Executive Secretariat in the 1989 financial year. The Chapter essentially takes into account the programmes of the technical departments as submitted to the Administration and Finance Commission for consideration.

The West African sub-region is going through a period of restructuring and adjustment as a necessary step towards the resumption of growth and development. It is important that activities at the Community level reflect and support the efforts at the national level. In line with this reasoning, the coming year will be devoted to the implementation of the ECOWAS Economic Recovery Programme and the execution of the programmes in selected priority areas, essentially as support measures to the economic recovery drive. The emphasis will be on the consolidation of the achievements of the Community and the improvement of the effectiveness of economic co-operation in the sub-region. In this connection, particular attention will be paid to the programmes adopted by the Community in the rural sector, transport, communications and monetary cooperation and trade liberalisation.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME

In the course of 1989, the Economic Recovery Programme will continue to be implemented at both national and Community levels. Efforts will be undertaken, with particular emphasis on the implementation of the schemes in Phase I on general policy measures and on the smooth execution of the investment programme linked to Phase II.

i) General Policy Measures (Phase I)

- Monitoring of national economic policy reforms.
Evaluation of activities contained in Phase I of the Recovery Programme at national and Community levels.

- Organisation of a Seminar on Management of the national economy. The Seminar will deal with support activities relating to taxation, credit, rate of exchange, prices, balance of payments, administrative organisation and institutional problems, analysis and evaluation of projects, etc.....

ii) Investment Programme (Phase II)

- Continued search for project financing
- Follow-up financing negotiations
- Monitoring of execution of projects
- Assistance to Member States in the formulation of projects.

SECTORAL PROGRAMMES

Rural Development Programme

The activities proposed in this sector focus on increased agricultural production, total integration of agricultural, forestry, livestock breeding and fishery issues in rural development, and involvement of the rural areas in order to mobilise the people.

The following activities are envisaged:

i) Community Production Centres:

- search for financing for development of selected seed production centres and cattle breeding centres;
- completion of feasibility studies on remaining centres in the second group;
- monitoring of the establishment of national seed centres and creation of sub-regional seed committees.

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ii) Harnessing and development of water and agricultural resources

- evaluation of regional programmes undertaken by international, national and sub-regional organisations;
- identification of areas of intervention by ECOWAS;
- preparation of an ECOWAS Water Development Programme.

iii) Support services for the development of food crops

- intensify control of insects, diseases and other pests, in collaboration with CILSS, OICMA, etc.....
- promote co-operation in supply of agricultural inputs (improved cattle breeding stock, seeds, fertilizers);
- organise meeting of Agricultural Price Sub-Committee and draw-up a sub-regional programme on agricultural raw materials.

iv) Development of livestock

- assess and promote programmes for construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure for water supply and grazing schemes: wells, boreholes, drinking troughs, livestock pens;
- promote improvement of animal feed production and distribution; and
- cooperate with other IGOs in sub-regional animal disease control programmes.

v) Harnessing of fish resources

- promote cottage fishing industry

- vi) Control of floating water weeds, erosion and pollution
- encourage implementation of sub-regional programme for the control of floating weeds, erosion and pollution;
 - assist in search for external financial assistance;
 - follow-up action taken by Member States for the control of toxic waste dumping.
- vii) Evaluation of re-forestation activities
- evaluation of progress made by Member States in re-forestation programmes for 1986-1990;
 - identification of major constraints in the execution of programmes;
 - development of sub-regional activities to support Member States' efforts.

Industrial Programme

The main activities in this area will aim at the implementation of recommendations on the rehabilitation of existing industrial units and promotion of small and medium-scale industries as part of the Economic Recovery Programme.

The following activities are envisaged:

- i) completion and follow-up of Industrial Inventory of the sub-region;
- ii) finalisation of Master Plan for West African Industrialisation;
- iii) promotion of industrial enterprise rehabilitation;
- iv) formulation of Industrial Training Programme
 - study on possibilities for co-operation in industrial training;

- v) follow-up to recommendations emanating from the Dakar Forum;
- vi) follow-up of activities of Federation of West African Manufacturers.

Customs Programme

The activities to be undertaken will concentrate mainly on the implementation of the trade liberalisation scheme. They include:

- i) follow-up activities to the implementation of Acts and Decisions relating to the implementation of intra-Community trade liberalisation programme;
formulation of proposals for effective take-off of scheme
- ii) revision of ECOWAS Nomenclature on the basis of the CCC Harmonised System in collaboration with CEAO and MRU;
- iii) pursuance of activities on the creation of a computerised customs system in Member States at Community level;
- iv) study on legislations, rules and regulations in force in Member States with a view to the establishment of a Community guarantee system to cover inter-State Road Transit of goods (ISRT Guarantee);
- v) continuation of activities underway for the harmonisation of indirect internal taxation in Member States;
- vi) establishment of compensation system for loss of customs revenue;
- vii) continuation of activities underway for the establishment of a common external tariff.

Trade Promotion Programme

Activities for trade promotion in 1989 will cover the following areas:

- i) establishment of an ECOWAS Trade Promotion Policy, and creation of the structures required to implement the decision contained in the Final Report of the 19th session of the Trade, Customs, Money and Payments Commission held in Lagos from 18 to 21 November, 1987 - Workshop of Directors of National Trade Promotion Institutions;
- ii) preparation of four market studies followed by buyer/seller meets in four ECOWAS Member States after identification of at least 10 to 20 exportable products;
- iii) organisation of a workshop/seminar to consider the report on surplus agricultural products for export, prepared by ITC, UNCTAD/GATT and the study on quality control, standardisation and methodology;
- iv) preparation of the third ECOWAS Forum on Trade Promotion (search for external financing);
- v) follow-up activities to consultation/co-ordination meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee of ECOWAS/BOAD/MULPOC/CEAO/MRU/AGC for the promotion of trade in agricultural and industrial products and services with the exception of tourism;
- vi) organisation of four enlightenment seminar/workshops in four ECOWAS Member States on the Community trade liberalisation programme;
- vii) monitoring and identification of projects selected at the joint ECOWAS/African Cultural Institute meeting held in Dakar in December, 1987, with a view to setting up an ECOWAS handicraft centre;

- viii) follow-up to the meeting of the Steering Committee for Consultation and Coordination of Trade Fairs and similar events in the ECOWAS sub-region;
- ix) participation at trade meetings organised by sub-regional, regional and international organisations (PTA, MRU, CEAO, CARICOM, ACP, EEC, GATT, UNCTAD, ITC and Commonwealth Secretariat).

Immigration Programme

Activities to be undertaken include:

- i) continuation of information and public enlightenment schemes in Member States, with a view to improved dissemination and correct implementation of the various provisions of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and of Establishment;
- ii) harmonisation of Residence Permits and Cards;
- iii) monitoring implementation of Second Phase of the Protocol and the Code of Conduct;
- iv) organisation of meeting of experts and Ministers of Internal Affairs of Member States.

Money and Payments

Follow-up and supervision of the various tasks identified under the adopted programme for the transition period towards the establishment of the single monetary zone. The main features of the activities for 1989 will be:

- i) servicing the Interim Co-ordination Committee;
- ii) monitoring implementation of country adjustment programmes;

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- iii) cooperation with West African Clearing House in the improvement of the operations of the Clearing House;
- iv) preparation of meetings with Directors of Research of Central Banks as well as those of Central Banks and Ministers of Finance;
- v) study on the establishment of a credit mechanism within ECOWAS in collaboration with ACMS and WACH.

Transport and Communications Programme

Actions during the coming year in the Transport and Communications sector will continue to be focused on the development of the Community Telecommunications and Trans-West African Highway Networks.

Road Transport

The main activities here will be as follows:

- i) monitoring of the implementation of road projects relating to the Trans-West African Highway and inter-connection roads with a view to opening up landlocked countries;
- ii) monitoring of the programme of the Higher Committee on Land Transport;
- iii) monitoring of the implementation of the railway network in the sub-region;
- iv) monitoring of the development of air transport in the sub-region;
- v) monitoring of the development of sea transport;
- vi) rationalisation and consolidation of existing training centres in the sub-region;
- vii) implementation of the insurance programme in the sub-region;
- viii) monitoring of the implementation of the Protocols and Decisions on transport matters.

Communications

The work of the Community Telecommunications Programme will consist of the:

- i) continuation of the study on the implementation of the Project aimed at improving the telecommunications network; preparation of technical documents for presentation to donors for project financing;
- ii) co-ordination of inter-State telecommunications links;
- iii) continuation of the basic and continuing training programme for technicians and engineers of the sub-region in collaboration with Directors of Training Institutes and National Telecommunications authorities;
- iv) co-ordination of postal routing in the sub-region;
- v) monitoring of the application of telephone tariffs in the sub-region.

Energy Programme

The energy programme will continue to place emphasis on optimising the use of existing resources and installed capacity as well as developing new sources of energy, especially renewable forms of energy. Some of the activities under the programme will be to:

- i) continue with the promotion of co-operation in the development and distribution of petroleum and petroleum products;

- ii) continue with the energy data bank project and formulate measures aimed at improving its operation with the possible assistance of ECOWAS;
- iii) implement pre-feasibility studies on the inter-connection of the electric energy networks in region C in collaboration with ADB, UPDEA, OMVS and OMVG;
- iv) monitor the construction of the 330 KW power grid: Ghana - Togo - Benin - Nigeria (Region A);
- v) undertake a joint survey with CEAO and CRES on the possibilities of establishing CEAO solar panel firms in other Member States of ECOWAS;
- vi) prepare an efficient audit programme on energy conservation.

Social and Cultural Programme

Activities envisaged for the coming year will aim at strengthening cooperation among Member States in the areas programmes have already been started. Action will also continue on those programmes that are still at the formulation stage. Some of the activities will be:

- i) monitoring the merger of OCCGE and WAHC;
- ii) formulation of a Community Social Co-operation Programme (covering labour, health and other areas);
- iii) finalisation of the cultural development plan;
- iv) monitoring the implementation of ECOWAS Cultural Agreement;
- v) creation of Association of West African Universities and Research Institutes; and monitoring the functioning of the three other Associations;
- vi) promotion of establishment of cultural industries.

Administrative and Institutional Issues

Action in the Administrative and Institutional areas will focus on the following main themes:

- i) Rationalisation of co-operation efforts in West Africa:
 - participate in further studies on existing West African IGOs;
 - undertake measures to modify and render the functioning of ECOWAS Institutions more effective;
 - cooperate with other West African IGOs in the coordination and harmonisation of sub-regional cooperation programme.

- ii) Construction of Headquarters of Institutions of the Community:
 - construction work will be continued. There will be close monitoring of payment of Member States' contribution to the Executive Secretariat and the building of the Headquarters.

- iii) Monitoring Ratification and Implementation of Community Acts and Decisions through Directors of ECOWAS National Units.

C O N C L U S I O N

It is unanimously recognized that ECOWAS has become a tangible reality despite the obstacles it encounters in its bid to affirm itself further in the area of economic co-operation. Member States have taken decisions which are clearly expressive of their attachment to the sub-regional Organisation. They have also unanimously recognized the role of integration in our economic development process. All decisions adopted in this regard are a clear demonstration of the degree of mutual understanding existing among Member States.

Unfortunately, the slow pace at which Community policies and programmes are being implemented, creates the impression that integration is not viewed seriously.

It is obvious that one of the major principles of the development strategy in the sub-region is the clear recognition of the role of economic integration in the development process. Without integration, Member States can hardly achieve sustained and lasting growth. For this reason, despite the progress made since the inception of ECOWAS, cooperation activities need to be consolidated and pursued.

We, for our part, do not have any illusion about the enormity of the task to be accomplished. It is our belief that we can and should persevere in our effort. The efforts required of each one of us are necessary if we wish to turn into reality the hopes born with the establishment of ECOWAS.

To do this, the guiding principles of the Community's plan of action would, inter alia, be based on the following activities:

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- i) integration of Community policies and programmes into national development policies;
- ii) rationalisation of the IGOs; and
- iii) consolidation of the Community achievements.

Most of the obstacles impeding the economic development of Member States can be overcome through economic integration. Member States have no other option than to be inward-looking and strengthening economic co-operation among themselves. This should be the ultimate goal of ECOWAS.