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REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Economic and Social Council, noting that basic cartographic data and survey work are important in economic development, requested the Secretary-General "to consult with governments of States Members of the Economic Commission for Africa on the desirability of convening a United Nations regional cartographic conference for Africa and on the place and agenda for such a conference" and "to report to the Council at its thirty-first session on the results of his consultations" [ECOSOC resolution 761 B (XXIX)].
2. In pursuance of the above, a communication was sent, on 11 July 1960, to the governments of States Members of the Commission, inviting them to forward to the Executive Secretary their comments and views on the question before 15 November 1960, in order that the Economic Commission for Africa could examine this question at its third session. The comments and views of individual governments, as well as the collective discussions at the Commission's session, will be taken into account in preparing the Secretary-General's report to the Council on the subject.
3. Up to 15 November 1960, replies from fifteen countries reached the Secretariat, namely: Ethiopia, Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Nigeria, Ruanda-Urundi, Sierra Leone, Spain, Tanganyika, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom and Zanzibar. The views expressed therein are briefly analyzed in the next three paragraphs. Substantive excerpts from these replies are given in the Annex to the present note. Further replies will be reported in an addendum to this document in due course.
4. With regard to the principle of calling the contemplated conference shortly, twelve governments have replied in favour, while one government, Tunisia, believes that it would be more useful to envisage such a conference when the present technological development stage in most newly independent countries of Africa is over. For Ruanda-Urundi the question will be answered by the Department for African Affairs in Brussels, while Libya says that owing to unforeseen reasons, it will be unable to attend meetings.

5. With regard to place and date of the conference, Sierra Leone stresses that the venue should be decided upon only by practical considerations such as convenient air routes and Liberia emphasizes the possibility of setting up exhibitions. As specific places suitable for the conference, Tanganyika considers Nairobi or Accra, subject to agreement by the government concerned; Uganda indicates Addis Ababa and Ethiopia Khartoum; Liberia thinks her own country is the most ideal site and, in that case, a feasible time would be October 1961 or slightly later; Kenya considers it a privilege to be host to the conference. Spain suggests Cairo, Tunis, Rabat or Monrovia, while the United Kingdom indicates Addis Ababa.

6. With regard to the Agenda of the Conference, the following general views are expressed: it should be designed toward a better understanding on maps of other countries, and toward the production of maps containing specialized information; the conference should take into account the activities undertaken by the Inter-African Advisory Committee on Maps and Surveys of the Scientific Council of Africa South of the Sahara; it would be convenient to adopt the agenda of the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, held in Tokyo in 1958, with the addition of a technical item on Airborne Profile Recorder. The specific items suggested for the provisional agenda of the conference are listed below.

LIST^{1/} OF ITEMS SUGGESTED FOR THE
PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Items on the agenda of the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East 2/ 3/
2. Heighting by Airborne Profile Recorder 3/
3. Conventional terms and symbols in Cartography 4/
4. Extent of co-operation toward improvement of the one to one millionth scale international maps 4/

1/ Listed in the order they are received as a re-arrangement will be made to group similar subjects together, when all specific suggestions are available.

2/ See E/CONF.25/3, paragraph 7.

3/ Suggested by Tanganyika.

4/ Suggested by Liberia.

5. Convention on common map projections for international maps ^{4/}
6. Programming for co-operation in special purpose maps - climatic, natural resources and population density ^{4/}
7. Establishing an international co-ordinating machinery for execution of joint projects as well as to assist national projects ^{4/}
8. Establishing an international financing programme for exchange of personnel and purchase of equipment ^{4/}
9. Holding seminars on latest equipment in techniques, instrumentation, and education ^{4/}
10. Holding seminars on trends in urbanization, and rehabilitation and population migration ^{4/}
11. Holding discussions on international boundaries, criteria for delimitation and procedures for settlement ^{4/}
12. The contribution of recently developed surveying and mapping techniques to the evolution of cartography ^{5/}
13. The introduction of a uniform map series for territories in Central Africa ^{5/}
14. The compilation of a Central African atlas ^{5/}
15. A comparative review of the internal mapping programmes of African territories ^{5/}
16. Mapping capabilities of respective countries ^{6/}
 - (i) Present capabilities and recent progress and interesting cartographic developments;
 - (ii) Cartographic projects
17. Means of mutual assistance ^{6/}
 - (i) Technical assistance
 - (ii) Others in the field of cartography
18. Technical questions ^{6/}
19. Organization of international co-operation ^{6/} for:
 - (i) Intergovernmental cartographic organization to work out uniform international cartographic standards;
 - (ii) Central research organization or office to which problems can be referred and from which up-to-date information about various items may be obtained.

^{4/} Suggested by Liberia.

^{5/} Suggested by Kenya.

^{6/} Suggested by Ethiopia.

20. Reports from governments on current cartographic activities in the respective countries in Africa. 7/ 8/
21. Creation of an inter-governmental cartographic commission for Africa 7/
22. Establishment of standard base lines for the calibration of radio-electric or light-wave measuring instruments, as well as to ensure accuracy of nets. 7/
23. International connexion of geodetic co-ordinates. 7/
24. Classification of accuracy of geodetic work. 7/
25. Use of the geodimeter and the tellurometer in surveys. 7/
26. Observation of national gravimetric nets and their international connexions. 7/
27. Establishment of standard magnetometers and their comparison. 7/
28. New methods of geodetic surveying. 7/
29. Present state of aerial photography programmes. 7/
30. Application of the photogrammetric method to map-making. 7/
31. Standard values for scales, formats, contents and accuracy of topographical map series. 7/
32. Methods and technique. 7/
33. Strengthening of international co-operation in carrying out aerial photographic surveys in adjacent zones. 7/
34. Cadastral survey. 7/
35. Geographical evaluation of aerial photographs. 7/
36. Utilization of aerial photographs for the study of social and economic plans.
37. Economic evaluation of aerial photographs in geophysical, geological and topographical mensuration. 7/
38. Various types of maps: economic maps, geological maps, national atlases etc. 7/
39. International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale. 7/
40. Aeronautical charts. Information they should give and requirements they should meet. 7/
41. Present state of hydrographic charts and diagrams of Africa, and study of needs. 7/
42. Reports by African countries on the progress of their operations in the subject covered by the agenda. 8/ 7/

7/ Suggested by Spain.

8/ Suggested by the United Kingdom.

43. The extent of national geodetic and gravimetric nets and the possibility of their extension to link up with adjoining net-works and so form complete frameworks covering the African continent. 8/
44. Reports on new techniques and developments in geodetic surveying with particular reference to their application in Africa. 8/
45. International geodetic studies in relation to earth movements and satellite observations and their impact on Africa. 8/
46. Extent of topographical work and arrangements for the exchange of information between adjoining countries. 8/
47. Reports on new techniques and developments in the field of: 8/
 - (i) Provision of second, third and fourth order control;
 - (ii) Air Survey;
 - (iii) Drawing, Scribing and Reproduction processes.
48. The particular problems met in surveying and mapping desert and jungle areas 8/
49. The co-ordination of International I/M mapping of Africa. Progress of other small scale mapping (1/250,000 to 1/5,000,000). 8/
50. Topical maps with special reference to standard base maps for topical mapping and the progress of existing projects in Africa. 8/
51. Recent developments in aeronautical charting methods and techniques. 8/
52. International standardization of aeronautical charts and publications. 8/
53. Statements of needs for aeronautical charts by the individual countries. 8/
54. Progress of hydrographic surveys of navigable waters. 8/
55. Chart production methods. 8/
56. Electronic aids for hydrographic surveys and navigational purpose. 8/
57. Tidal datums. 8/
58. Establishment of tide gauges connected to national geodetic control net-works. 8/
59. Standardization of charting datums. 8/
60. Magnetic surveys and preparation of world magnetic charts for marine and air navigation. 8/
61. The possibilities for the exchange of data and for co-operation in surveying throughout Africa in order to provide complete and uniform mapping and charting coverage of the continent. 8/

8/ Suggested by the United Kingdom.

ANNEX I

EXCERPTS FROM THE REPLIES RECEIVED
FROM GOVERNMENTS UP TO 15 NOVEMBER 1960

ON THE QUESTION OF CONVENING A
UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC
CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

1. ETHIOPIA

Regarding the fact that Ethiopia and, to a large extent, the Continent of Africa, are far behind in their mapping programmes, and that most of the mapping institutions are in their infant stage, we feel that the convening as soon as possible of such a conference would be a great help. It will foster good relations between states concerned for the exchange of technical information and mutual assistance in very many ways related to this field. It would be appropriate to convene this conference at the Survey Department of Sudan, Khartoum, Sudan.

It would be beneficial if the following items were put on the agenda:

- (1) Mapping capabilities of respective countries
 - (a) Present capabilities and recent progress and interesting cartographic developments;
 - (b) Cartographic projects.
- (2) Means of mutual assistance:
 - (a) Technical assistance;
 - (b) Others in the field of cartography.
- (3) Technical questions
- (4) Organization of international co-operation for:
 - (a) Intergovernmental cartographic organization to work out uniform international cartographic standards;
 - (b) Central research organization or office to which problems can be referred and from which up-to-date information about various items may be obtained.

2. FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND

The Federal Government of Rhodesia and Nyasaland would welcome the convening of an African Regional Cartographic Conference since it is felt that much could be gained from dealing with Africa as a whole in the geographic sciences. Although it has no comments to make at this stage on the date and venue of such a conference, the Federal Government would wish to attend.

3. GAMBIA

We support the idea of the proposed conference but would be unlikely to seek to be represented. No immediate suggestions for the agenda.

4. KENYA

The Government of Kenya considers that the convening of a regional cartographic conference would be of value to officers working in this field, and it would welcome the opportunity to participate in such a conference. Further, ... in Nairobi, there are ample facilities for the conduct of such a conference, for the accommodation of delegates and in view of its convenient geographical location and accessibility by air. The Government of Kenya would consider it a privilege to be host to the conference.

On the question of an agenda for the conference, the following topics are submitted as of particular interest to Kenya and which our Survey Department would be glad to share its experience:

- (a) The contribution of recently developed surveying and mapping techniques to the evolution of cartography;
- (b) The introduction of a uniform map series for territories in Central Africa;
- (c) The compilation of a Central African atlas;
- (d) A comparative review of the internal mapping programmes of African territories.

5. LIBERIA

".... A United Nations regional cartographic conference for Africa requires considerable planning as well as extensive preliminary arrangements to secure the fullest participation of all African States. Subjects of prime consideration would cover site of conference, agenda, time for

preparation of national and technical papers, and for transportation of exhibits; participation of non-national mapping and manufacturing firms through exhibits, local transportation, housing, local excursions and the setting up of a secretariat for simultaneous translation and documentation. The site ought to be selected having in view the host country's ability to provide ample exhibits of a modernized cartographic establishment. Liberia can boast of having personnel trained in the most modern techniques in cartography, in the most modern institute of the kind - the International Training Center for Aerial Survey. We can also give ample exhibits of a vast amount of work done in cartography by the most modern methods. We have available many modern instruments and could easily procure additional ones. The only embarrassing hindrance to Liberia serving as host, is the lack of a building in which our Cartographic Service could install its equipment and demonstrate its production power.

Regarding the formation of an agenda it would be feasible for a representative committee of African States to draw up details of deliberations under the following main sub-headings:

- (1) Conventional terms and symbols in cartography;
- (2) Extent of co-operation toward improvement of the one to one millionth scale international maps;
- (3) Convention on common map projections for international maps;
- (4) Programming for co-operation in special purpose maps - climatic, natural resources and population density;
- (5) Establishing an international co-ordinating machinery for execution of joint projects as well as to assist national projects;
- (6) Establishing an international financing programme for exchange of personnel and purchase of equipment;
- (7) Holding seminars on latest development in techniques, instrumentation and education;
- (8) Holding seminars on trends in urbanization, and rehabilitation and population migration;
- (9) Holding discussions on international boundaries, criteria for delimitations and procedures for settlement.

Papers on all titles decided upon should be requested from each African State within ample time to allow for printing of as many copies as the expected number of participants.

Services of personnel of the secretariat must be sought in proper time and all equipment held in readiness.

Notices to all establishments for local demonstrations as well as for exhibits of foreign manufacturers should be circulated in ample time.

Liberia, in our view, is the most ideal site if the provisions mentioned above are carefully considered. A feasible time for such a conference then would be October 1961 or slightly later."

6. LIBYA

Owing to unforeseen reasons the Libyan Government regrets not being able to attend meetings.

7. NIGERIA

This Government welcomes the proposal to convene a United Nations regional cartographic conference for Africa.

8. RUANDA-URUNDI

The mapping of Ruanda-Urundi was hitherto carried out - most efficiently too - by the Institut Géographique du Congo Belge which had its headquarters at Leopoldville. That institute would send, on our request and according to our instructions, its photogrammetric equipment to survey our territory and, thereafter, undertake the processing and plotting of the air-photographs at Leopoldville. We intend to continue to use the services of the institute, which has become a public establishment of the Republic of the Congo

I received, yesterday, a visit of Mr. Bonaventure Kalonga, the Congolese Commissary of the Institut Géographique in Leopoldville. It seems that this institute will be able to resume its work towards the end of this year in Ruanda-Urundi. The photographic coverage was completed and the exploitation and plotting of the photographs will be decided by common agreement, during the course of the forthcoming weeks.

I believe that the Department of African Affairs in Brussels will have supplied you with the information you desired.

9. SIERRA LEONE

This Government welcomes the idea of a cartographic conference for Africa and suggests that the venue of the conference should be decided upon only by such practical considerations as convenient air-routes to and from the countries willing to take part.

As regards items for the agenda it is considered that this should be designed towards a better understanding of the maps of other countries with particular emphasis on more direct and more convenient comparisons e.g., in representative signs and projections. Another aim should be the production of maps containing specialized information such as sectors of disease, soil, land use etc., which would not likely be obtainable from any source other than the United Nations.

10. SPAIN

The Spanish Government agrees with the idea of convening an African Regional Cartographic Conference under the United Nations auspices. As possible meeting places, we suggest Cairo, Tunis, Rabat or Monrovia.

The Spanish Government has prepared the following basic draft agenda containing the items it thinks would most merit consideration at a Cartographic Conference for Africa:

- (1) Reports from governments on current cartographic activities in the respective countries in Africa.
- (2) Creation of an inter-governmental cartographic commission for Africa.
- (3) Geodesy
 - (a) Establishment of standard base lines for the calibration of radio-electric or light-wave measuring instruments, as well as to ensure accuracy of nets.
 - (b) International connexion of geodetic co-ordinates.
 - (c) Classification of accuracy of geodetic work.
 - (d) Use of the geodimeter and the tellurometer in surveys.
 - (e) Observation of national gravimetric nets and their international connexions.
 - (f) Establishment of standard magnetometers and their comparison.
 - (g) New methods of geodetic surveying.

- (4) Aerial photography. Present state of aerial photography programmes.
- (5) Topographical maps
 - (a) Application of the photogrammetric method to map-making.
 - (b) Standard values for scales, formats, contents and accuracy of topographical map series.
 - (c) Methods and technique.
 - (d) Strengthening of international co-operation in carrying out aerial photographic surveys in adjacent zones.
 - (e) Cadastral survey.
- (6) Interpretation of photographs
 - (a) Geographical evaluation of aerial photographs.
 - (b) Utilization of aerial photographs for the study of social and economic plans.
 - (c) Economic evaluation of aerial photographs in geophysical, geological and topographical mensuration.
- (7) Various types of maps: economic maps, geological maps, national atlases etc.
- (8) International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale.
- (9) Aeronautical charts. Information they should give and requirements they should meet.
- (10) Hydrography. Present state of charts and diagrams of Africa and study of needs.

11. TANGANYIKA

The Government of Tanganyika welcomes the proposal to convene such a conference and considers that, subject to the agreement of the Governments concerned, either Nairobi or Accra would be suitable venue.

As this would be the first such conference to be convened in Africa, the Government is of the view that it would be convenient to adopt the agenda of the 1958 Conference for Asia and the Far East, to which might be added an item on the technique of "Heighting by Airborne Profile Recorder."

12. TUNISIA

Before the accession to independence, the cartographic work of Tunisia depended on the French Institut Géographique National which carried out all the tasks, in accordance with the Conventions signed in this respect.

Since, great efforts have been made by the Government of Tunisia with a view to achieving complete autonomy in this technical field. The Tunisian Topographic Service, which was completely reorganized, was provided with modern instruments and equipment, and in the near future will be able to produce its own maps without calling foreign assistance.

This would also appear to be the position in most of the newly independent African countries, which have now reached the technological adjustment stage, but are not yet ready for general studies covering vast areas.

The Government of Tunisia believes that at the present stage the convening of a United Nations regional cartographic conference for Africa would be untimely, and it would perhaps be more useful to envisage such a conference once the present stage of development, as described above, is over.

13. UGANDA

The Government of Uganda is in favour of holding a conference on the lines envisaged by the Commission and considers that Addis Ababa would be a suitable venue.

While this Government does not at present wish to propose any item for inclusion on the Agenda, it does hope that the conference will take account of the activities already undertaken in this sphere by the CCTA/CSA Inter-African Advisory Committee on Maps and Surveys.

14. UNITED KINGDOM

Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are in favour of holding a Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa and suggest that a suitable place for the Conference would be Addis Ababa in view of the facilities which could no doubt be made available there by the Economic Commission for Africa. The suggestions for the agenda are as hereunder:

- (1) Reports by African countries on the progress of their operations in the subjects covered by the agenda.
- (2) Geodesy
 - (a) The extent of national geodetic and gravimetric nets and the possibility of their extension to link up with adjoining net-works and so form complete frameworks covering the African continent.
 - (b) Reports on new techniques and developments in geodetic surveying with particular reference to their application in Africa.
 - (c) International geodetic studies in relation to earth movements and satellite observations and their impact on Africa.
- (3) Topographical Surveying and Mapping
 - (a) Extent of topographical work and arrangements for the exchange of information between adjoining countries.
 - (b) Reports on new techniques and developments in the field of:
 - (i) Provision of second, third and fourth order control;
 - (ii) Air Survey;
 - (iii) Drawing, Scribing and Reproduction processes.
 - (c) The particular problems met in surveying and mapping desert and jungle areas.
- (4) Small Scale Maps

The co-ordination of International I/M mapping of Africa.

Progress of other small scale mapping (1/250,000 to 1/5,000,000).
- (5) Topical Maps: with special reference to standard base maps for topical mapping and the progress of existing projects in Africa.
- (6) Aeronautical Charts
 - (a) Recent developments in aeronautical charting methods and techniques.
 - (b) International standardization of aeronautical charts and publications.
 - (c) Statements of needs for aeronautical charts by the individual countries.

(7) Hydrography

- (a) Progress of hydrographic surveys of navigable waters.
- (b) Chart production methods.
- (c) Electronic aids for hydrographic surveys and navigational purposes.

(8) Tides

- (a) Tidal Datums.
- (b) Establishment of tide gauges connected to national geodetic control networks.
- (c) Standardization of charting datums.

(9) Magnetic surveys and preparation of world magnetic charts for marine and air navigation.

(10) The possibilities for the exchange of data and for co-operation in surveying throughout Africa in order to provide complete and uniform mapping and charting coverage of the continent.

15. ZANZIBAR

Although it is considered desirable to convene such a Conference, it would not be possible for Zanzibar to nominate a delegate.

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