

# WEST AFRICA

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**Matchet's  
Diary  
from the  
Mano  
River**

## **GHANA - MAKING TRADERS TOE THE LINE**

**SPANISH SAHARA-UNCERTAIN FUTURE  
FOR NEW REPUBLIC**

## Ghana brings petty traders to book

Since Ghana is now 19 years old thousands of Ghanaians of voting age were born after their country became independent. So it is natural, although this would not happen in all countries similarly placed, that Ghanaians now place the blame for their economic troubles squarely on post-independence mismanagement and the practices of their own people. They seek no external scapegoats.

Only such an attitude could persuade even a military government to take the drastic action now announced against small traders who are accused of a major share of responsibility for the serious shortages of various necessities such as sugar, baby foods, soap and toothpaste. These traders are now banned in the Accra Tema area from handling a range of goods which, as well as those mentioned, include tinned milk, dry batteries, Omo washing powder, and tinned mackerel. Only a sense of outrage, occasioned by the belief that the small traders were hoarding these goods, or perhaps were profiting from control of them to smuggle them into Ghana's neighbours, could have persuaded the Government to introduce this ban and to restrict sales of these goods to licensed establishments, mostly supermarkets. For the traders, with the formidable Makola market

women in the forefront, have long been regarded as powerful interest in Ghana, to be conciliated and persuaded rather than confronted. The supermarkets, on the other hand, in spite of the greater participation of Ghanaians in these as in all other enter-



prises, have tended to be regarded as representing external commerce — even though Ghanaians, as discriminating and exacting buyers as can be found in Africa, have welcomed them.

Nobody supposes that the ban is anything but a stopgap. It will show traders that the Government is in earnest. But will it

prevent traders and their hirelings who (unlike those in wage or salary employment, including many women, who will find it difficult to go to supermarkets during opening hours, which correspond to their own working hours) can queue at these supermarkets, from buying these scarce goods for later resale — or smuggling?

Even in the metropolitan area — it is proposed to extend the ban to other urban areas — not everybody is within easy reach of the licensed establishments or is used to entering such places (and the Ghana National Trading Corporation has been ordered to open kiosks in the remoter areas). The stores, moreover, are unlikely to break goods down into the quantities customers can afford.

All this is perfectly well known to the government, which cannot suppose that it is dealing with anything except a symptom of Ghana's economic malaise. The disease is one of long standing, minutely and continuously diagnosed in the files of the Ministries in Accra — the similar British malaise is equally well documented in London. As Dr. Robert Gardiner, the Commissioner for Economic Planning, told the Ghana Manufacturers Association last month, Ghana consumes more than she produces. The result is domestic inflation and inability to pay for imports — or balance of payments problems. The remedy, as for Britain, is to produce more and to export more, and to restrain government expenditure, the most potent cause of inflation and a contributory cause of balance of payments troubles. But until greater production and improved exports have their effect there is no alternative to restricting imports. This does not just mean that Ghanaians have to do without champagne or Rolls Royces; or even that they must buy locally produced products in preference to imported ones. It can and does mean that factories producing the very goods which Ghanaians are supposed to buy in preference to the imported ones are short of raw materials and spare parts and so produce below capacity; or that even the exports on whose increase so much depends may be affected by shortages of imported supplies or the inadequacy of transport resulting from a shortage of imported spares.

To issue import licences in such a way as to balance the claims of individual consumers, producers of export crops or manufactured goods, and producers for the home market, within a restricted foreign exchange budget requires infinite finesse and judgement. Nobody pretends that these have been fully at work in Ghana since import licensing first became necessary in Dr. Nkrumah's day. Apart from inevitable malpractices licences can be issued to people unable to take advantage of them, or who sell them illegally to others. Nor can there be any guarantee that when all decisions have been made by officials and traders the amount of imports of consumer goods which finally land in Ghana corresponds at all closely with public demand.

Decisions with regard to supplies for industry are even more difficult. For there is a natural tendency to relate this year's import licence to last year's for any enterprise when, in Ghana's critical state, the question which must sometimes be asked is whether

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any licence should be issued at all. An article in the *Daily Graphic* notes that "Made in Ghana" milk may be made from imported powder and sold in imported containers. The operation could still help the balance of payments and it certainly provides employment — the Ghana Government shares with the British and other Governments the conviction that provision and maintenance of employment have social and political priority. But the stark question must be asked: is it not better to keep the most viable enterprises and those which most clearly save or earn foreign exchange in full production, allowing others to close, than to spread import licences in such a way that no enterprise is working to capacity?

The effect of "hoarding" on the economy is probably exaggerated. Those accused of this malpractice usually lack storage space and look for quick profits. Moreover those charged with sniffing out hoarded goods sometimes cannot differentiate between working stocks or seed reserves and hoarded goods. But of the impact of smuggling there can be no doubt.

From the beginning all the efforts of the present Government to right the economy — and they have been earnest, varied, bold and ingenious — have been weakened by smuggling. Consumer goods, whether subsidised or not, which have cost foreign exchange are smuggled out to earn foreign exchange to buy luxury goods to bring back into Ghana and sell at great cedi profit. Rice, successful development of which in the north has suffered a setback from a poor crop, is smuggled into Upper Volta. Above all the smuggling of cocoa, although there have been significant successes in limiting it, represents the most obvious loss of foreign exchange.

Indeed, when looking at Ghana's economic troubles one is still tempted to see cocoa as the most obvious salvation. It is dangerous to depend for over half export earnings on a single commodity as Ghana does on cocoa. And any significant increase in Ghana's production can reduce world prices. But if current exports could match the best figures of the past, Ghana might have at least another £20m. of foreign exchange to play with. In this field there can be no quick results. But the balance of payments problem will persist for years and the Ghana Government, in spite of all that it has done for cocoa, must still ask whether it has done enough — and is even the doubled price to producers recorded during this regime still enough, for example?

Other efforts to increase exports, both of agricultural and manufactured goods, are meeting varied success. Not many manufacturers try to emulate the success, for example, of Scanstyle in exporting wooden furniture components. The inducements to expatriate firms to invest in agriculture are having some success. The real benefits from tourism are problematical but some success has been achieved. State gold mine production is to increase, even in uneconomic mines. There are ideas in plenty and many signs of activity.

Ghana has, and has long had, all the ingredients of success. There is no general shortage of land and a great variety of crops

can be grown. There is the best educated population in black Africa. There are a variety of minerals and a home market big enough to support many industries, together with the opportunities for export opening up through ECOWAS and the Lome Convention. There are fish in the sea and in the lakes (even if in 1974 fish imports cost over 30m. cedis). The land can support more cat-

tle and livestock of all kinds. There is an adequate network of communications. There is the Volta power to cushion the still serious, effect on Ghana of oil prices.

Nor is there serious division about what needs to be done in the absence of information and diagnosis. Effective management of these ingredients can still make Ghana prosper.

## Matchet's Diary

from the Mano River

Just as a bridge it is not remarkable. It is 580 feet long, low and of solid construction, and has been finished three months ahead of schedule by the German firm, ABU, which has a reputation in Sierra Leone for sound work. But in size it is dwarfed by a dozen bridges in West Africa. Its opening at this elaborate but happy ceremony by President Stevens and President Tolbert cannot lead to any significant immediate increases in trade between Liberia and Sierra Leone. If it is decided to charge tolls it will be a very long time before these cover the cost of the bridge and the approach roads on both sides of the frontier — some quarter of a million dollars.

Yet symbolically this is one of the most significant recent events in West Africa. The Mano River, long the frontier, but in the colonial days disputed between Sierra Leone and Liberia for most of its length, has been a barrier to easy communication between the two countries. To go from Freetown to Monrovia it used to be necessary to cross the frontier almost at its most northerly point, which resulted in a journey of some 750 miles. Now, over this bridge some 30 miles from the sea, the journey is less than half as long and need take no more than seven hours, although the road from here to Keneba, some 80 miles, is not yet tarred and most of the two hour journey to Monrovia has to be made in the dust.

Perhaps the most fervent thanks for the bridge came in the speech of the

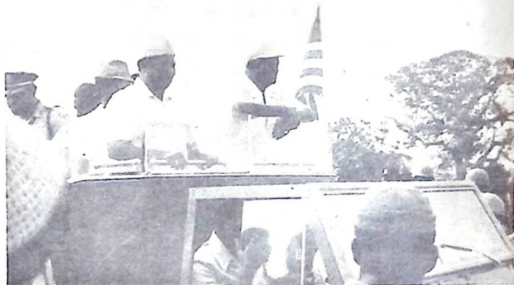
representatives of the Liberian community in Sierra Leone who, doubtless thinking of the new bus service linking the two capitals, thanked the Presidents for minimising both the molestation and the money which the journey had come to mean. Yet even this encomium was surpassed by that of Bishop J. H. Ganda of Sierra Leone, who with Imam Alhaji Sirleaf of Liberia dedicated the bridge.

The Bishop, referring to a hymn equally popular in both countries, reminded us that:

*Across the bridge there is no more sorrow*

*Across the bridge there is no more pain.*

That is, perhaps, putting it rather high: but I could see what the Bishop meant. ■ Indeed this was a very enthusiastic large crowd, a big contingent having come over the bridge from the Liberian side to join the ceremonies. Among them was Mr. Henry Fahbulleh, who fell from grace under the Tubman regime but has since been fully re-admitted to government service and is now the Superintendent, or Commissioner, of Cape Mount County across the river, and the MP for the county. Mr. Frank Gailor, a Liberian police contingent and a group of Liberian soldiers co-operated with the Sierra Leoneans in crowd control and it was good to hear a Sierra Leonean official requesting the forces of both nations to help in clearing a space in front of the presidential stand. The presidential guard of honour, however, was



The two Presidents inspect the guard of honour. Behind President Tolbert is Gen Okai, Ghana's Chief of Defence Staff, who represented Ghana at the ceremony

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Tolbert: symbolic structure

a purely Sierra Leonean affair — and remarkably smart it was considering the trials this army has undergone since 1967. The whole affair was well arranged and was in itself a symbol of the new relationship between the two countries. But what does it all really mean?

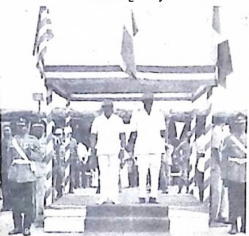
■ Certainly the official statements have not pretended that the millennium has come. The official Liberian press release, noting that the border area has been the hunting ground of organised criminals asks whether the opening of the bridge might not "promote criminal activities"? It answers that proper control at the bridge might, in fact, lead to the exposure of criminals. President Stevens said that this was only a "modest beginning" since he and President Tolbert had decided that a start must be made "somewhere, somehow, sometime". In an inspired section of his speech President Tolbert emphasised the symbolic importance of a structure which allowed them to cross the bridge "of recrimination and resentment", of "suspicion and subversion", of "selfishness, arrogance, and attrition", of "misunderstanding and misinterpretation".

■ It was Liberia's Dr. Cyril Bright, however, who puts the matter most plainly. He is Secretary General of the Mano River Union, which was established in 1973 between the two countries to further co-operation on the basis of studies carried out by UN bodies. Accepting the bridge on behalf of the Union he said that the public must realise that this did not mean that all restrictions had now been eliminated at this crossing and there was a "complete free for all". The normal regulations must still be observed. Such caution is prudent since, as everybody knows, this frontier has long been the scene of large-scale smuggling, of diamonds into Liberia, of consumer goods into Sierra Leone, and of coffee and cocoa into Liberia when Sierra Leone prices or procedures were unattractive to the farmers. The bridge is unlikely to affect these activities, for which the harmonisation of customs duties and official produce prices, for which the Mano River Union is striving, are a partial answer.

■ Yet Dr. Bright was far from pouring cold water on the enthusiasts who had erected the signs saying: "Presidents Stevens and Tolbert you have bridged our gap". For the Vai people in particular, who are found on both sides of the river and of whom Superintendent Fahnbulleh is one, the bridge is a miracle. And although it is true, as the

official programme puts it, that the new union has been born out of the failure of other attempts to achieve some kind of wider union among the states of this area, the dream of a union between Liberia and Sierra Leone, two states with so much in common, is an old story. Ironically for a brief time the late Sir Milton Margai, Sierra Leone's independence Prime Minister, had taken the view that the interior peoples of Liberia were oppressed by the Monrovia rulers, just as the provincial people of Sierra Leone, to whom the Liberians were closely related, would have been by those of Freetown had they not, under his leadership, asserted their rights as a majority. But any romantic ideas of liberating Liberia soon disappeared as relations between the two governments, and particularly between the two elderly leaders, developed and as it became clear that it was the similarities between the two countries and not the difference which mattered. Now the leaders of the two, both in informal white suits, can move, standing in an open Land Rover, through cheering crowds drawn from both countries and all communities.

■ Dr. Bright, however, went on to give an encouraging picture of the progress of the Union, whose secretariat is in Cathedral House, Freetown, but whose meetings take place in both countries. The African Development Bank was the main source of funds for the bridge. But a number of others institutions and countries — but not apparently the EEC Development Fund — are coming forward with offers. West Germany is financing studies on the entire route between Freetown and Monrovia — Dr. Bright and the two Presidents emphasised that the bridge was an essential link in an all-West Africa coastal route and in the trans Africa highway network.



The two Presidents stand together on a special day before inspecting the guard of honour

UNDP has provided some \$600,000 for hydrological studies being made on the Mano River by Czech experts, chiefly on the possibilities of hydroelectricity and irrigation. The best site for a dam, Dr. Bright observed, was symbolically — this is a great river for symbols — at the point not far up river from here where the Sierra

We are delighted to report that Michael Cardeu, the potter, is alive and well despite our reference in the article about Abuja (February 16) to "the late Michael Cardeu". When a friend telephoned about the article, Mr. Cardeu, borrowed Mark Twain's famous observation and replied that "the report was much exaggerated". We are sorry for any distress that we caused Mr. Cardeu's friends and admirers.



Brewah: why a frontier?

Leone River Morro joins the Mano, up to this point the Liberian river, to form the main Mano River, which from there to its mouth is the frontier. Dr. Bright made no reference to the market for hydroelectricity. But he said that the whole of the area was being surveyed for its agricultural potential and the United States was likely to collaborate with the Mano River Union in an integrated rural development study.

■ Collaboration, however, is not confined to the river and its banks. UNDP has provided funds for feasibility studies of "union industries", which would serve both states. The first phase of the proposed customs union should be completed before the target date of January 1 next year, harmonising rates to such an extent that a customs union can be said to be in existence.

Studies are being made of the commodities which could, if payment arrangements etc. were satisfactory, be exchanged between the two states — an exchange which must be developed if this bridge is to become much more than a symbol, but against which so many obstacles have been raised in the past.

Exchange of students is going ahead as well as joint training. Ways of storing rice, the staple food of both countries, are being studied and there is some joint animal husbandry research. It is even hoped that some institutions in each state will become UN institutions.

■ Unlike the official Liberian announcement, which referred to the possibility of The Gambia joining the Union, Dr. Bright and the two Presidents seemed content to see the Union as an example to others and a contribution to West African unity — any ceremony which can, as this did, attract a senior Minister from Guinea is that. But The Gambia will not, and I think should not, join.

"Our people cannot understand this frontier", said Mr. L. A. M. Brewah, Sierra Leone's Minister of Works, when formally handing over the bridge to Dr. Bright's keeping. But will they understand after all the bridge does not allow, as it did for these ceremonies, Liberian "Devils" in their raffia costumes and with their birdlike masks to pass freely over the bridge to join their kinsfolk on the other side?

That may be the next test for the Union. But it was in Monrovia that the ceremonies really ended, with the kind of ball in which the Liberians specialise and to which all Sierra Leoneans here would have loved to go but too few could make it.



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# A future for Senegambia?

Augustine Oyowe, a Nigerian journalist based in London and Paris, reviews the present state of the oft-mooted "unification" of Senegal and The Gambia.

The question of whether the once proposed union between The Gambia and Senegal will ever take place has again come to the forefront after the recent exchange of visits between President Dauda Jawara of The Gambia and President Senghor of Senegal.

Yet the communiques issued after those meetings emphasised economic co-operation, without reference to the union either as a long or short term eventuality, and most political observers wonder whether the much heralded concept has now been discarded. During the years following independence The Gambia's merger with Senegal was seen as inevitable in the end. Lending credibility to that probability was President Jawara's speech in Parliament in May 1973, referring to the unification as "inevitable" shortly after an official visit to Senegal. Certainly, this had been the hope of the Colonial Office which, before Gambian independence in 1965, had looked to exchange The Gambia for a more profitable territory in the French Empire.

Senegal's interest in the union stems from mere physical convenience (The Gambia almost divides Senegal in two), rather than for any substantial economic benefit. Senegal is some twenty times the size of The Gambia and the five ethnic groups in the latter are similar to those in Senegal.

Although President Senghor gave the impression during his visit to The Gambia that the obstacles to the union were on the Senegalese side, in fact there seems to have been a change of mind on the part of The Gambia. The Gambia, it is believed, now realises that her economic objectives could be achieved through increased economic co-operation with Senegal without necessarily integrating politically with her. Joint projects, which could not have been undertaken solely by The Gambia, now centre mainly around the Gambia basin, the enclave's only area of economic activity.

These involve the building of dams at Kekretri and Sambangolot at an estimated cost of \$200 million to provide cheap electricity and promote the irrigation of 150,000 ha. To this end an independent Gambia River Development Organisation is being set up to provide "opportunities for the peoples of the two countries to produce more rice and groundnuts" and make The Gambia self-sufficient in food.

During President Jawara's visit last December to Senegal it had been agreed to build a Trans Gambia bridge which will facilitate communications between the two parts of Senegal separated by The Gambia. Formal application for finance has been made to the European Development Fund. They have also agreed to co-operate in the field of television (an encumbrance The Gambia cannot afford). President Senghor has disclosed that Senegal would soon have a second channel used exclusively for Gambian services.

The Lomé Convention signed in February last year between 46 African,

Caribbean and Pacific states and the EEC also may have played a role in The Gambia's change of mind. Senegal, before the convention, was an associate member of the EEC and a union with her could have given The Gambia, as it has now, direct access to the European Development Fund and European Investment Bank.

The Senegal/Gambia co-operation has also taken on a new dimension in foreign policy. Both countries now have convergent policy towards Angola, The Middle East, South Africa and Rhodesia as both Heads of States noted in their speeches. These however seem to give the impression of a possible integration but there are a number of factors militating against federation.

The Gambians, who number less than 500,000, fear complete absorption by the 4 million Senegalese. President Senghor said during his visit that he is not prepared to "impose a federation on the people" and that if the Gambians want a union with Senegal, it would be welcome. While Senegal may be playing the waiting game, there is every indication that the majority of Gambians disapprove of such a union. It is estimated that in the event of a referendum over 80 per cent would vote against it. The Senegalese want may therefore be indefinite.

There are also fears of the tribal consequences. Some minority tribes in The Gambia could be thrown into majority while the major tribes become minorities. And English would cease to be an official language even though, strangely, there are more Senegalese who speak English than there are Gambians.

In Senegal itself pockets of opposition to union exist. Smugglers who are making a fortune through the Gambian market are displeased with the suggestion. Senegal has been losing lately foreign exchange to The Gambia as a result but the imbalance of trade existing between the two countries is in favour of Senegal. Talks have been going on since 1967 between the two countries on a customs union without concrete agreement, although the communiques issued after President Senghor's visit suggest that agreement is now in sight.

A good number of Senegalese think that such a union will rob Dakar, as well as St. Louis of cargoes in favour of the deep harbour of Banjul and the navigable River.

The awareness perhaps of these shortcomings may have been responsible for boundary delimitations, one of the most contentious issues between the two countries in recent months. This involves 28 villages in the Kantora and Baria areas. President Senghor disclosed in his speech that a final settlement has been reached. Twenty-six villages are to remain within The Gambia while two will remain within Senegal.

The possibility of economic union, in the light of the increased co-operation between the two countries cannot be ruled out but a political union now seems out of the question.



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## ADB reviews the year

Douglas Ngwube writes from Abidjan:

Loans of more than \$103m. were granted by the African Development Bank (ADB) for 28 development projects in African states, according to the Bank's Operations Department summary report just released in Abidjan. The 1975 loans represent an increase of more than 15 per cent over the figures for the previous year and the highest since the ADB was founded.

The cumulative loan commitments of the bank since it started its lending operations in 1964 now stand at about \$316m. excluding equity investments of approximately \$1m. spread over 99 projects in 34 African states.

The percentage breakdown of the 1975 loans shows that the highest percentage, 45 per cent (about \$47m.), went into public utilities projects, followed by 30 per cent of the loans (a little over \$30m.) spent for the development of transport infrastructure. Loans and investments to industries and development banks totalled about \$17m. or 16 per cent of the whole. Agricultural development got only an eight per cent slice of the loans which amount to about \$8.6m.

A senior ADB economist told me that the gap between the loans for the agricultural sector and other sectors is being bridged by the loans of the African Development Fund, an associated body of the ADB. In 1975, for instance, the Fund contributed about \$34m. or 33.46 per cent of loans, for agricultural development particularly in the Sahel.

The percentage breakdown of the cumulative loans paint a slightly different picture. Out of the ADB cumulative loans of about \$316m., 11.37 per cent or approximately \$35m. went into agricultural development projects. Of these four each are sited in North, West and East African States and one in Central Africa. About 20 per cent (about \$60m.) were committed in industries and development banks covering more than 24 development projects, including equity investments. Transport development projects — 30 in all — received a total of about \$108m. or some 34.13 per cent. Thirty-two public utilities projects had a slice of 35.41 per cent of the loans, about \$112m.

Regional distribution of the loans since the bank started its lending operations shows that seven North African states received a total of more than \$73m. for 17 development projects as against approximately \$98m. received during the same period by 14 West African states for 33 development projects. Eleven East African states received a total of about \$83m. for 25 projects. Nine Central African states got about \$49m. in loans for 14 projects.

At the ADB Board of Governors annual meeting, due to be held in the first week of May in Kinshasa, Zaire, a new President for the bank is to be elected to replace Mr. Abdul Wahab Labidi of Tunisia, who agreed to serve an extra year after last year's inconclusive election. At this meeting the annual report for 1975 will be presented to the Board of Governors.



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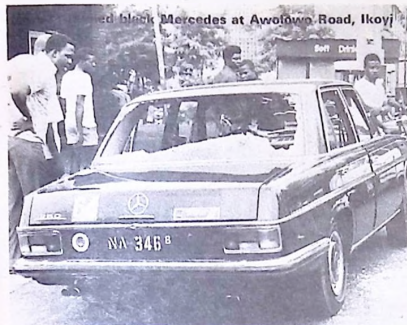
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# The Administrative Service in Africa: 1

In rural areas throughout Commonwealth West Africa governments are represented by administrative officials. Even when there are political or military representatives at regional or provincial level, the administrative officers, whether called Resident, Provincial or Divisional Secretaries, Government Agents, Local Government Advisers, or Commissioners, perform many of the functions which the "DOs" or "DCs" of colonial days performed. Yet before independence there was a widespread view that independent African states would have no need for such an administrative service. In this series of articles a correspondent examines this view and the way in which the all-African administrative services came into being.

It was once an influential view that the colonial administrative service was in some sense a scaffold, to be removed when the structure it was supporting was ready to stand on its own. So it had no need at all to recruit Africans. The clearest statement of this principle is found in Dame Margery Perham's *Native Administration in Nigeria*, published in 1937. "In the services performed by the central government" Dame Margery wrote "we should press forward the policy of employing more Africans in positions of trust... There is, however, one branch into which, I believe, Africans should not enter, and that is the Administrative Service. This should aim at be-

ing increasingly advisory in its functions. It should be regarded as the temporary scaffolding round the growing structure of native self-government. African energies should be incorporated into the structure: to build them into the scaffolding would be to create a vested interest which would make its demolition at the appropriate time very difficult.

"The ambitions of the educated should also be met by doing everything possible to find or create opportunities for them within the Native Administrations."

Today it seems extraordinary that such an ill-defined concept as "native self-government" should have been allowed to

influence policy, or that it could be believed that the educated would satisfy their aspirations for self-government through "Native Administrations". Yet, whatever the reason, it was the policy that Africans should not enter the administrative service, although, fortunately, policy was sufficiently muddled in practice to lessen the now obvious weaknesses of such a theory. And while the theory was quite seriously thought to apply to Nigeria and Ghana it seems to have had no influence in Sierra Leone or The Gambia.

Long before Dame Margery Perham, Sir Gordon Guggisberg in the Gold Coast, in spite of his far-reaching plans for Africanising the public services announced in 1926, had accepted the idea that the Political Service, as it was then called, should be reserved for the British. Yet this was a country which had had an African District Commissioner, J. A. Williams, as long ago as 1907, and where George Ekem Ferguson had been the main, and highly competent, agent of the spread of British rule into the north.

Sir Gordon gave no explanation of his "reservation", nor did he put forward the scaffolding theory. He may have been concerned simply with security. And many theories other than the "scaffolding" one have been put forward to explain the failure to push Africanisation in the Administrative Services. But one of the greatest of African administrators, Mr. A. L. Adu, who himself joined the Gold Coast administrative service in 1942, has said that since the administrative service was the principal instrument of colonial rule, it was decided not to

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appoint local officers to it. Until 1948, he writes in *The Civil Service in New African States*, the Colonial Office view was that it would be a mistake to appoint Africans since, with the attainment of independence, "the administrative service would have to be dismantled. Indeed it was thought that the few Africans who were in the service were likely to prove unacceptable to the new nationalist Governments because of their past associations with imperial rule". Later it became gradually agreed, Mr. Adu adds, that an indigenous Administrative Class would be needed for policy formulation and advice to the new Ministries.

## "Unwanted" African Dos

Another theory was that chiefs wouldn't accept African DOs or Residents. Sir Adekunle Ademola, the first Nigerian "direct-entry graduate administrative officer", who joined the administrative service during the 1939-45 war, returned to the Bar because — or so it is said — it was felt that chiefs didn't like African DOs. But later Nigerian graduate entrants to the service — Chief Udoji among them — experienced no such difficulty.

One should remember, perhaps, the occasion, not long before independence, when Ghanaian officials attempted to persuade Dr. Nkrumah that the talented Miss Gloria Addae, as she then was, should be allowed to join the administrative service. He, too, was convinced that the chiefs wouldn't like it, so the idea was dropped. Years later Dr. Nkrumah himself appointed two women District Commissioners — but by now these had become purely political jobs.

Perhaps Lord Hailey, in his *Native Administration in the British African Territories*, published in 1951, in his dry way, offered the best comment on the theory that chiefs would not accept African DOs. "It is not unreasonable to remark that if Africans are not prepared to accept the exercise of administrative authority by other Africans, this materially reduces the prospect of the extension of self-government in Africa".

## Tenuous argument

It was also argued, and this was very important at the Colonial Office, that since the colonial services were now unified, any administrative officer must be prepared for, and could seek promotion by, transfer to another territory. In other words nobody had thought of rules suitable for the non-British who might be attracted to the "unified" colonial services. But this argument against recruiting Africans to serve in their own countries, particularly during and after the war when there was serious understaffing in the administrations, was tenuous.

Whatever the basis for the theory that while all encouragement should be given to the training of African engineers etc, Africans should not be encouraged to enter the administrative service, it must have inhibited recruitment of Africans to it. For example the Foot Commission on Nigerianisation in 1948 noted that it had been told that "in view of the importance of building up an

improved system of Native Authority and local government, Nigerians should not be encouraged to enter the administrative service". The Commission recognised that eventually "the need for an administrative service as we know it today will disappear"; but thought that Nigerians should still be recruited to gain valuable experience.

Two years later, in the then Gold Coast, the report of a Select Committee of the Legislative Council on Africanisation ignored the administrative service. This report appeared soon after the report of the Coussey Committee, which recommended Ministerial Government and other moves towards self-government. The Legislative Council already had an elected majority. But its committee assumed that the administrative service — still known as the "political service" — was "self-liquidating". The need for it would disappear as local government assumed the form recommended by the Coussey Committee. The administrative service should be brought up to strength and Africans recruited to it as a temporary measure; but in its estimates of new senior staff which the country would require for 1949-1959 — over 1,000 in all — the committee gave no figure for the "Political administration", which it described as a "wasting asset".

## Need for administrators ignored

Several members of this committee had also been members of the Coussey Committee. Yet they seem to have ignored the need to provide administrative staff for the new ministries and regional administrative organisations proposed by that Committee. Curiously the chairman of the Select Committee was the late Sir Reginald Salway, who had left India in 1947 after 20 years in the Indian Civil Service. Why did he forget that independent India did not propose to abandon the idea of an administrative service?

The Coussey Committee offered no guidance about the future of the "political administration". Its African members were impressed by the thinking among British District Commissioners on the problems of local government. "We are convinced that the experience and enthusiasm of the best of them will be required by those who are willing to shoulder the administrative responsibility of the councils of the future".

Yet this tribute is the only reference to District Commissioners in the Report. No guidance is given on the part they would play under the new constitution. The British Government statement on the Report makes no reference to the matter.

The Select Committee and the Coussey Committee, however, were only following the line taken by the Watson Commission which in 1948 had enquired into the disturbances of that year. This recommended development of democratic local government to take over many central government functions and, in effect, to make irrelevant the issue of the replacement of British by Africans in the administration. African administrators would, in some unexplained way, emerge from local government and take over the central government.

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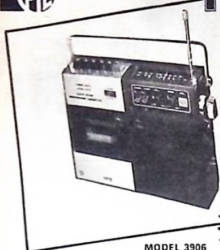
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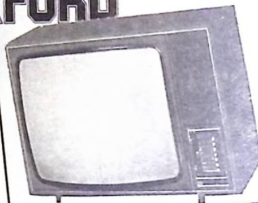


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# IFE BOOK FAIR, MARCH 15-18 1976

The IFE Book Fair which opens next week is not yet Africa's equivalent of the Frankfurt Book Fair in Europe — which has become an event of significance to bookmen the world over, not just to European publishers and authors and indeed not only to book men but to journalists and readers as well — but Frankfurt, quite rightly, is the target at which IFE is aiming. Obviously it will take a few years to build up to the eminence of Frankfurt and it is up to African publishers themselves to help to make IFE into a significant event.

The IFE Book Fair owes its origins to the 1973 conference, on publishing in Africa, which was held at the University of Ife and jointly organised by the University Press and the University of Ife Bookshop. Both the National Library of Nigeria and the Nigerian Publishers' Association are acting as co-sponsors for the Fair; the Director is Mr. Wunmi Adegbonmire, managing director of the University of Ife Bookshop.

The organisers have invited, and involved, as many publishers, booksellers and librarians as possible. The early intention of the Fair is to give a better picture of book production in Africa and display the enormous potential of the market — the Universal Primary Education policy could, in a few years, lead to the sort of publishing explosion that Britain and Europe experienced earlier this century. Not surprisingly publishers have been encouraged to show the sort of materials they have to offer that are suitable for the youth of Africa. Inevitably, of course, there will be a lot of the learned academic works which the university presses of Africa are producing.

However, to start with the Fair is making something of a feature of children's books and there is to be a special exhibit and competition on the production of children's books suitable for use in an African context.

The competition committee consists of Mrs. Mabel Segun, secretary of the Nigerian Book Development Council; Mrs. E. Oluwasanmi, former Executive Editor of the University of Ife Press; Mrs. E. N. Osisanya, Librarian, British Council, Ibadan; Mr. M. Oduyoye, current President of the Nigerian Publishers Association; and Mr. Wunmi Adegbonmire.

In future, no doubt, the membership of the committee will be more widely spread and include members from outside Nigeria to give a wider African context.

One of the major objectives of the Fair is to provide a meeting ground, for everybody connected with the book trade to meet and discuss common problems — and benefit from each other's solutions — and of course to expand the book trade. As well as discussing promotion and sales to ordinary readers there should be opportunities for small and middle range publishers and booksellers to discuss their problems with larger organisations. Of course there will be announcements and discussions too on the sale of rights and co-publishing deals — and just as at Frankfurt there are sure to be splendid ventures announced which quietly fade away unheard of, or perhaps to be as optimistically revived at next year's Fair.

## BOOKS and Publications

### The Dakar Debacle

*Operation Menace* by Arthur Marder (Oxford University Press; £7.50).

When the great allied convoy which was to mount an assault on Vichy-French Dakar in September, 1940, assembled in Freetown harbour, the local boatmen greeted the British and French troops and sailors with: "You going Dakar?" So much for the "secrecy" of the operation, whose code name gives this book its title. But the lack of secrecy, for which General de Gaulle himself, on whose behalf the operation was planned and who played a leading role in it, was partly to blame, probably didn't matter very much. What did matter was incompetence and inadequacy in other departments and the overriding, largely by Churchill, of military by political considerations.

In the end the operation was a fiasco and the ships limped back to Freetown, among them the great, but elderly, battleship *Resolution*, with a gaping hole in her side,

the work of a torpedo from a Vichy submarine, a hole which was to give food for thought to many who later passed on their way to war through Freetown harbour, where the great ship could be seen undergoing temporary repairs.

Freetown, indeed, played a greater part in the affair than even its inhabitants realised. When Sir Milton Margai, as Prime Minister of independent Sierra Leone, paid an official visit to France when General de Gaulle was President, there was much speculation about what the two leaders, neither a great conversationalist, would find to talk about. The answer was simple: Freetown in wartime.

The real failure was political, the belief that Pierre Boisson, Vichy's High Commissioner for the then French West and Equatorial Africa, and as Governor-General of AOF responsible for the defence of Dakar, could not resist the allied assault

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both the French and the Africans welcome the Free French with open arms. There was, too, the belief that Dakar was short of food, that its people would be fighting with resentment that the Germans had initially taken over control there and were not planned to do so.

In fact there were no Germans and, in a strategic sense though Dakar was and had shown little interest in it. Boisson was the type of conservative Frenchman who detested the Germans and approved of the Vichy regime, but had taken over unoccupied France after the German victories in 1940, because of its conservatism. For him and, it is, for many other Frenchmen, the best way of keeping the Germans out of Africa was to be to keep out the crusading Free French, who would only attract them there. The despised "colonial" troops at Dakar (not all "Senegalese", as Professor Marder supposes, since the term was used indiscriminately to all African soldiers) gave a good account of themselves, and the French air force pilots, the sailors, and the naval crews.

There was, it seems, some move on the part of the Africans to rally to de Gaulle. A significant demonstration, led by the Grand Imam, El Hadj Seydou Nourou Tall, took place — but it was quickly and completely dispersed as the attempted allied invasion began; and that, it seems, was the end of that. Yet in French Equatorial Africa, Gabon and in Cameroon, both administrators and the peoples rallied to de Gaulle. Professor Marder, one of the most distinguished of naval historians,

shows little interest in such political questions and does not even mention the name of Felix Eboué, the West Indian Governor-General of Equatorial Africa. Yet skilfully and vividly though the book describes the military and naval operations, for many readers much interest might also lie in the politics of the whole area at the time.

Among the vast mass of material, including an astonishing number of personal communications on which Professor Marder draws, is the "Dakar Diary" of the late General Sir Edward Spears, who was to become well-known in West Africa in a quite different field, who was de Gaulle's liaison officer, was close to the planning of the operation and was present with de Gaulle during it. His vivid style found an excellent subject here.

In fact the operation was nearly a success, because Dakar was running out, not of food, as was supposed, but of ammunition. And it might have achieved much more if, contrary to all forecasts, a thick fog had not descended. Communications, too, were disastrously inadequate. But in general the failure was so notable that the name of Dakar has entered military history.

Dakar's defences had been strengthened just before the invasion by the arrival of a French naval squadron. For allowing this to pass Gibraltar without opposition Admiral Sir Dudley North was relieved of his command. Professor Marder devotes the last part of his book to a detailed examination of this issue and an effort to do justice to the Admiral.

D.W.

## Name dropping

**A Bibliography of Literary Contributions to Nigerian Periodicals 1946-1972. Compiled by Bernth Lindfors (Ibadan University Press; six naira).**

Nigeria, says the American compiler of this very detailed bibliography, has produced a remarkable literature in English in a relatively short period. 30 years ago there were no internationally-known Nigerian writers, but today there are many, several having won literary awards and academic honours. Nigerian novels, plays and poems are studied at universities and secondary schools throughout the English-speaking world.

Many outside, and not a few inside, Nigeria assume that Nigerian fiction in English began with the publication of Amos Tutuola's *The Palm-Wine Drinkard* in 1952 and that Nigerian writing has proliferated as a result of the interest and encouragement of British and American publishers. But few have examined what Nigerians wrote in their own languages both before and during the literary flowering that followed independence. Even fewer have attempted to trace the earliest writings of the most prominent authors in an effort to describe the full course of their literary development. "It is in the hope of providing new information to researchers interested in probing unexplored dimensions of Nigerian literary history that this bibliography has been prepared", says the introduction.

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The bibliography lists poetry, fiction, drama and criticism published in English in Nigerian periodicals between 1946 and 1972 (the list of periodicals is itself fascinating, ranging from *Unibadan Voice to Lagos This Week*). Folk literature, modern literature composed in Nigerian vernaculars, and European literature reprinted from school annuals have not been included. Since nearly all the primary research for this compilation was carried out at Ibadan University Library the bibliography reflects what can be found there. Other items were found in the University of Ife Library, Ibadan University's English Department Library, the University of Texas Library, or in the Library of Congress's *Africa South of the Sahara: Index to Periodical Literature 1900-1970*.

Writers include not only the famous — Ekwensi, Achebe, Okigbo, Soyinka, J. P. Clark — but many who are known mostly inside Nigeria, like J. V. Clinton or Banjo Solanru. Non-Nigerian authors, whether other Africans like Frank Parkes or Awonoor-Williams, or non-Africans like Ulli Beier, are listed for their contributions to Nigerian periodicals, but they are not included.

The bibliography is divided into seven parts. Part I lists poems, Part II short stories and excerpts from novels, Part III plays, reviews of stage performances (including Yoruba operas), articles on various aspects of theatre, and items dealing with radio, television and film. Part IV contains literary criticism, reviews of books listed in Janheinz Jahn and Claus Peter Dressler's *Bibliography of Creative African Writing* (a

cross-reference follows each title), and other types of commentary on African literature; discussions of non-African literary works have been omitted. Part V carries reports on conferences and festivals as well as miscellaneous essays considered to be of possible interest or value to scholars (for instance, nonliterary articles by some of Nigeria's best known authors). The work concludes with an author index and a subject index.

M.D.

## Menilek before Adowa

Shewa, Menilek and the Ethiopian Empire by R. H. Kofi Darkwah (*Heinemann Educational Books; £1.90*).

Dr. Darkwah, Lecturer in History in the University of Ghana, became interested in the fact that while general histories of the Empire of Ethiopia devote considerable space to the reign of Menilek II, the victor of Adowa, and emphasise his contribution to the building of present-day Ethiopia, they say very little about Menilek and his activities before he became Emperor, in 1889. "Invariably he is mentioned as having aspired to the imperial throne, as having been thwarted for some time by the superior strength of Emperor Yohannes IV, and as having been a friend of the Italians from who he obtained firearms".

Menilek was King of Shewa, the central kingdom where Addis Ababa now stands, before becoming Emperor. But only a few articles in periodicals give some idea of the

kingdom, and those only incidentally. General histories of Ethiopia say little about the kingdom over which Menilek ruled before he became Emperor. Yet, says Dr. Darkwah, "these are things one would like to know in order to appreciate more fully the role played by Menilek, not only as Emperor but even more so as King of Shewa, since the few references to him as King of Shewa tend to suggest that even then Menilek was an important figure in the politics of the empire".

This study, therefore, attempts to give a clear and detailed history of Shewa and its Amharic dynasty up to 1889, providing the background which Dr. Darkwah thinks indispensable to a proper understanding of the succession of Menilek to the imperial throne in that year, and of the generally recognised role which he played as Emperor.

Dr. Darkwah shows that the development of Shewa reached its climax in 1889 when Menilek became Emperor and Shewa became the centre of the empire, and the new city of Addis Ababa its capital. His policies as Emperor and the methods by which he executed them are well known. But Dr. Darkwah emphasises that neither the policy nor the method originated in or after 1889, but had their origins in the years when Menilek was king of Shewa. "Thus when in 1889 Menilek became Emperor of the whole of Ethiopia he had behind him over 20 years' experience not only in the art of governing but also in dealing with European powers. It was the experience which Menilek gained as king of Shewa which made his imperial reign the success that it was".

W.B.

## The Red Colobus Monkey

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Field studies of primates living in open country are numerous, but most species live in rain forests where thick foliage makes observations very difficult. Little was known about the behaviour and ecology of red colobus monkeys. Now the author presents data collected over a period of more than 2 years in the Kabale Forest of Western Uganda. Comparative data was also collected of social groups and sub-species living in Senegal, Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Kenya. *Wildlife Behaviour & Ecology Series £15.00*

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## Who's Who of guides

**Dark Companions** by Donald Simpson (Eick, £7.50)

Taking his title from H. M. Stanley's *My Dark Companions and their Strange Stories*, the Librarian of the Royal Commonwealth Society has produced a compilation of what he calls "the African contribution to the European exploration of East Africa". In the literature of early African travel far too little weight is given to the essential contribution made to most successful journeys by Africans, who often, certainly in East Africa, accompanied more than one traveller and contributed to the success of more than one journey.

Richard Burton tells us how, on his search for the source of the Nile, he welcomed the sight of his most important assistant, Seedy Bombay (an African in spite of his name). Burton's caravan leader and interpreter — "who was returning to me in hot haste, leading an ass and carrying a few scones and hard boiled eggs". This was the man who was to become to the European explorers the most famous of all Africans. Bombay accompanied Speke as well as Burton and Stanley, and crossed Africa with Cameron. But Burton, as Mr. Simpson shows, was not always so grateful to Bombay, and Stanley was often severe in criticisms of him. Yet without the support of a few resourceful men and local porters, the Europeans could not have travelled so easily or so deeply into the heart of the continent.

The book covers travels in east and central Africa between the 1840s and 1890s. As porters, interpreters, guides and, in some

cases, courageous leaders undertaking independent commands, Africans managed the carrying and protection of equipment and food, searched out the road, and endured dangers by land and water. Chuma and Susi became famous as followers of Livingstone on his last journey; they led the small, heroic party with his body and papers to the coast. Later they were caravan leaders in missionary service, and with Thomson and Stanley. Manua Sera first served with Speke and was a caravan leader and guide for nearly thirty years.

Such men, although often feeling as far from home as the Europeans themselves, could not feel the same sense of urgency. But their great virtue was usually loyalty. Happily the travellers' books and diaries, and some unpublished sources, give detailed portraits of many of them, with all their characteristics, and Mr Simpson has no shortage of material for his novel approach to the subject.

The most important sources include Livingstone's journals and correspondence; Waller's notebook recording Chuma and Susi's first-hand account of Livingstone's last journey; letters and journals of Cameron, Speke and Grant; letters from the Stanley family archives; the recently discovered diary of Frank Pocock, the boatman who accompanied Stanley in 1874-77; and explorers' pay lists and nominal rolls. The author has compiled a Who's Who of more than 110 Africans who played a significant part in the travels he describes — a notable band. There are a number of plates taken from old illustrations, and adequate maps.

A.M.

## Lessons for ECOWAS

**Economic Integration: The East African experience** by Arthur Hazlewood (Heinemann Educational Books; £2.80, paper)

After establishment of ECOWAS and the limited experiences of other West African groupings, those responsible for economic policy in West African states are looking for guidance on the working of the new association. Clearly the East African Community offers examples of what to do, and of what not to do.

The East African Community — Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda — Dr. Hazlewood reminds us, constitutes the longest-established and most far-reaching example in the economic integration of developing countries. His book outlines its development and analyses its operation, explaining the division of the benefits of integration and the devices adopted to achieve equitable distribution between the three countries — a problem far more complex in ECOWAS. The book contains a full analysis of the 1967 Treaty for East African Co-operation and is the first to discuss in detail the experience of its first seven years.

Dr. Hazlewood, who has had much experience in West Africa, was Director of the Common Market Secretariat in the Kenya Government and consultant to the East African Community. He was closely concerned with the negotiations for neighbouring countries to join the Community, and devotes a chapter of the book to this problem — which President Senghor has raised for ECOWAS. Dr. Hazlewood has had experience also of regional integration



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schemes in other parts of Africa, South-East Asia and South America.

Writing a "postscript" in 1975 Dr. Hazlewood notes the renewed strains on the Community, which was already almost a dead letter. Tanzania's restrictions on lorry traffic between Zambia and Kenya, and the disruption of the East African Railways Corporation services between Kenya and Uganda, were only the most dramatic examples of the crisis. Renewed life could be breathed into the Community, Dr. Hazlewood says, only by a decision at the highest political level. "The Authority, despite rumours circulating in the middle of 1974 that a meeting was imminent, still had not convened by March 1975, and there was no talk of its doing so. The idea that a new look at the integration arrangements was necessary was being increasingly canvassed". But that was not to admit the failure of the Treaty. "It was not to be expected that, in a changing situation, provisions for all time could have been laid down in 1967". The foreign exchange difficulties of the partner states, for example, were far more severe than they had been when the Treaty was drawn up. "One obvious matter for examination was the possibility of devising measures which would make restrictions on the use of foreign exchange compatible with the development of interstate trade". Equally obvious was the need for a new look at the arrangements for the Community's corporations.

Unless decisions were soon taken to re-examine the issues in a spirit of partnership, and with the political will to agree, says Dr. Hazlewood, the outlook for the Community

looked bleak (and the decisions were not taken). "It might formally survive — the strength of self-interest in a preservation of the administrative structure should not be underestimated — but survive in a state of inaction in which it was unable to provide the benefits of integration and co-operation its founders sought".

There could be no clearer warning for ECOWAS; but its founders have approached its development with such caution that, it seems, the warning has already had its full effect.

D.W.

## Early protests

**The New Negro on Campus by Raymond Walters (Princeton University Press; £7.90).**

Professor Walters' "New Negro" is not the man of the sixties, but of the six years between 1923 and 1929. In this turbulent period the Presidents of several prominent black colleges were forced to resign, and their campuses saw picket lines, mass expulsions, and police intervention. Professor Walters narrates the story of the black student unrest of this era, and explains the issues which caused such widespread protest.

There are case studies of the major types of black institutions; of Fisk, for example, the leading liberal arts college of whose administration Du Bois was a leading critic. Howard, which appointed its first black President after the disturbances, was the only black multiversity, with 2,000 students, almost a sixth of all black American students at the time. Tuskegee and Hampton, the prominent industrial institutes,

Florida Agriculture and Mechanical College and Lincoln, Missouri, the state-supported land-grant institutions, (over both of which Nathan B. Young presided), shared the troubles of other institutions where students sought "self-determination" and control, as did Wilberforce and Lincoln, in Pennsylvania, church-controlled colleges. The less dramatic protest of black students and alumni at white universities in the North are also discussed.

The book deals with the politics of academic appointments and control and the aspirations of black intellectuals as well as with student rebellions.

Professor Walters' central theme is the growing conviction that blacks should have more control over the institutions that shaped their lives.

N.D.

## Ending poverty

**The Assault on World Poverty: Problems of Rural Development, Education and Health. A World Bank publication. (John Hopkins University Press; £9.60, Paper £3.25).**

Intended as a sort of textbook for development problems, this World Bank publication, which first outlines the Bank's own strategy and the reasons for its adoption, deals with each of these seminal problems in turn, reiterating the arguments, and warning of the pitfalls in wait for the unwary. While more a sort of planner's reference work than a polemic or a thesis, this study is encouraging in that it concentrates on the implementation of solutions for world poverty, and is not merely a repetition of the by now all too familiar problem.

W.A.

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# LETTERS to the Editor

## Keep the Cubans

SIR: I did enjoy your leader comment "Prophecy fulfilled" (February 23). However, you made one point regarding the Cubans' presence in Angola which I believe most readers would disagree with.

Support for one African nation in political trouble at home by others on the continent is very often by words, resolutions which are never effected, and what the Western World calls the empty threat of war, though radical nations like Guinea, and Ghana under the late Kwame Nkrumah, often display a degree of willingness to support materially. But for the first time in our history we witnessed one socialist cousin coming to the aid of another both materially and physically. I am sure the late Patrice Lumumba would have been alive today if he had received such assistance from Dr. Castro in the early sixties. The majority of the Cuban population owe their origins to the slave trade from West Africa. They are our cousins who are morally justified in remaining in Angola after the war and to teach the indigenous Angolans their military expertise. This is not to suggest that the Cubans should take Angolan citizenship unduly. But until the Angolan army is well enough trained and equipped to defend her hard won independence against any kind of invasion from hostile neighbours, and guerrilla activity from UNITA and FNLA, their immediate departure will no doubt be the beginning of the old style Congo. Dr. Neto alone can decide when the security in Angola will favour the departure of the Cubans. Any attempt to bring pressure upon him for their immediate departure will no doubt be disastrous for Angola, and therefore for Africa.

London

K. MBOYA

## National Security

SIR: With deep regret, the nation mourned the death of General Muhammed — the greatest leader of Nigeria — who was assassinated in the recent abortive coup.

We cannot afford to lose any soul in this regard any longer. Therefore I strongly recommend the Federal Government to restore forthwith the security measures accorded their predecessors. What else do people want? General Muhammed reduced himself to the level of an ordinary citizen by going places without the usual armoured cars, sirens etc, and his assassin caught up with him at a traffic jam. It is therefore reasonable to ask that these measures be restored for the nation's security. The nation suffers by his death.

Even in Britain Premier Wilson cannot go from Downing Street to Westminster without security measures. In the United States President Ford is said to have been provided with a bullet proof garment. Life is not safe anywhere in the world. It is hoped that the Lagos Government will consider this as a matter of urgency.

TUNDE BANGBOYE

Nottingham University

## Enemies of progress

SIR: All right-thinking Nigerians all over the world have learnt with sorrow about the recent "goings-on" in Nigeria which claimed the precious life of General Murtala Muhammed. In a country as complex as ours that there are enemies of progress is not doubted, but that the life of a progressive son could be cut short in such a dramatic manner beats me hollow. We demand that the balance of justice be restored and the feelings of society compensated.

The British press have made us believe that certain groups in Nigeria have all along suspected General Muhammed's regime. This to me is a peculiar mess. It must be made clear that General Muhammed died a man of the people.

General Gowon has denied any involvement in the abortive putsch. But if there is one thing the General should do it is to remain for life in the background and continue in his proverbial prayer for stability and peace in Nigeria.

OLUSOLA ABANIKANDA

London

## Changing Nigeria

SIR: I am sure that every Nigerian and African shares my view that the late General Murtala Muhammed was a great statesman. What he had achieved in seven months in office before he met his sudden death was not done by the former government which ruled for nine years. A great tribute should be paid to this humble and innocent man, who planned to change Nigeria into a society where every citizen would share the wealth of our fatherland. Though General Muhammed has gone, his spirit will still be working within his comrades. We are happy that General Obasanjo will continue to follow in the steps of his predecessor.

I wish those involved in the attempted coup be brought to trial, and those found guilty executed in public to teach others lessons. Violence should be stopped in Nigeria. Nigeria has produced good statesmen, but over-ambitious people would not let them make use of their brains to develop the country to our desires.

AYO SELU

London

## Crossing Ghana Cattle

SIR: It is interesting to note that various government organisations in Ghana are undertaking or planning livestock development projects of one kind or another (*West Africa*, Feb. 2). Previous experiences are that such projects have never

better to take off, much more pay off. Management is largely responsible for this state of affairs, though inflation and other economic factors seem to accept the blame with mute contentment! Too few people happen to be too familiar with whatever happened to sheep and other livestock imported from Australia by the Animal Husbandry Department for breeding. Why the Department is importing livestock from "Guinea, Senegal, Sudan, Brazil, Australia and Holland", and the Capital Investment Board cattle from Australia is difficult to see. To test livestock from all the continents in Ghana would be an unrealistic expense, besides the possibilities of introducing new diseases into the environment. The synthesis of better breeds is not a task for the Development Boards; the Government should go all the way to staff and equip them with the proper expertise and material. To clog our ports with foreign stocks is wholly undesirable, much more to start crossing without prior evaluation of the indigenous livestock.

S. ASIUED OKANTAH

University of London

## University or Poly?

SIR: With reference to your news item (February 23) on the issue of scholarships to unqualified River State students sent overseas, it is rather misleading to state that those without university entrance qualifications are trying for polytechnics.

In the UK, the polytechnics maintain a uniform academic standard and those who secure admissions to degree courses must have obtained a minimum of two 'A' levels, and basic GCE ordinary level subjects as in Nigerian universities.

It should be emphasised that the academic standards attained by those who qualify from polytechnics and universities are the same throughout the UK. The status of polytechnics in the UK is different from their status in Nigeria. It is true that UK polytechnics have more and

better facilities for degree courses than some Nigerian universities. Some polytechnics offer postgraduate courses to PH.D degree level.

Some of the students who were awarded scholarships by the Diete-Spiff Administration were fully qualified and are either studying in universities or polytechnics in the UK.

The problem of admission into Nigerian universities of all qualified candidates is the crux of the matter. This does not mean that those who were fortunate to secure admission to UK polytechnics are less qualified than those in the universities.

RICHARD TAMUNOBERE

London

*It should have made it plain that the news item was based on remarks attributed to the Secretary to the State Scholarship Board — but because of lack of space this paragraph was omitted — Editor.*

## Real problems

SIR: I must reply to Mr. Miachi (Feb. 16). I am surprised that he is so short-sighted as not to see a single way through Nigeria's problems. His thoughts surround a fragile type of Nigeria instead of the long-term well-being of the inhabitants and their offspring.

It is very unfortunate for him not to have seen my contributions to Nigeria other than my suggestion; I wish he knew of my past and present contributions to Nigeria.

My contention is (and I still believe it) that as things stand at the moment no present Nigerian language would appear to any rational person to be more viable to be adopted as a sole lingua franca for the country now or in any foreseeable future.

I personally would like the country to remain as big as it is! But lo! These are the real problems, which no one seems to be tackling in the right direction so far.

L. G. KOKO

London

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# Angola: Swords into Ploughshares

As the war ends in Angola, the MPLA turns from the arts of war to the practices of peace. Here, Michael Wolfers, writing from Luanda, describes the MPLA's programme for education and gives the background to the Ruacana Falls dam complex in the south.

The "New School" in the People's Republic of Angola is due to begin in April, after the period of heavy rains. This timing marks a restructuring of the national educational programme, which is planned with an educational year from April to December (in contrast with the pre-independence pattern which faithfully copied the Portuguese and European model). The broad lines of the new education policy were mapped out in a national conference held in Luanda from October 20 to November 4, even before the proclamation of the new state on November 11 last year. Since the initial conference, which drew heavily on experience gained in the bush schools of MPLA during the years of guerrilla warfare, discussion and consultation has continued at all levels of education — from the demand for adult literacy instruction, through the primary sector, to the plans for higher technological training (most of which in the past was carried out by sending MPLA cadres on courses in friendly countries).

The educational programme is led by Camarada Antonio Jacinto, the Minister of Education and Culture, who is a distinguished nationalist and poet in the colonial era he was imprisoned for eleven years and says that he used the time for reflection on the needs of Angola. Jacinto is a prime mover of the new educational programme but is in nearly constant consultation with teachers, workers and students, as it is MPLA policy that direction within the educational sector should follow the pattern of *power popular*, now being established for public administration and already fairly well entrenched in most places of work. The guideline for school administration calls for democratic direction. When necessary, the entire membership of a school (students and workers) can meet in a decision-making assembly.

These ideas, which may sound like truisms, are regarded here as crucial to counterbalance the authoritarian structure of colonial education. Similarly it is clear that much traditional teaching material must be discarded. Some alternative materials were prepared by and for MPLA during the first liberation struggle.

At the juridical level, the government of Angola has already decided that education should be state controlled (though some temporary dispensation is to be allowed for church schools, which had an important task in rural education even in the colonial period, provided that their timetables

and syllabus are adjusted in line with the state system). The guidelines for future education require that schooling should be extended in the countryside (for military, political and economic reasons, cities had an exaggerated preponderance of schools in the colonial period), and Angola hopes to avoid the drift to the cities that had created social problems in many African countries. The "New School" has openly avowed political aims. Teaching will be linked to the aims of MPLA for "people's power" and solidarity and will be "directed" by workers, who will be in contact with the various institutions of people's power at local, regional and national level. More than ninety per cent of the Angolan people are illiterate and the projected fight against illiteracy is one of the most crucial tasks. Decisions whether to work through traditional languages or through the *lingua franca* of Portuguese have still to be taken, though it is already being closely studied. For adult literacy, there are obvious advantages in using traditional African languages, but Portuguese is likely to be the main instrument for formal teaching.

## The Cunene Dam

The Cunene electricity and water supply projects were initiated in 1969 — and were a cornerstone of the attempts of the dying colonial power to retain a hold on Angola by encouraging new white settlements in the southern part of the country and by linking the Portuguese plans with South African plans to retain control of Namibia, despite international legal discussions and world opinion against the occupation of Namibia. When Portugal and South Africa made agreements to develop the power and water installations in the arid region of southern Angola, there was no consultation with the people of Angola and Dr. Agostinho Neto, President of MPLA has already made clear that his government does not in any way feel bound by the negotiations between colonial Portugal and racist South Africa, and by agreements, which, he says, took no account of the wishes of the ordinary people. The project uses one of Angola's main rivers, the River Cunene, which has its source in the central plateau of Angola, near Huambo (ex Nova Lisboa), and crosses the provinces of Huambo and Huila to form eventually part of the frontier between Angola and Namibia. For political and geographical reasons, it is impossible for the South African authorities to use the installations without the complete co-operation of the Angolan government. The Angolan government has made a plan that it will not accept a unilateral South African decision to keep forces inside Angola even within the border area, and MPLA is prepared to use its military strength to force a South African withdrawal.

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# ECONOMIC and Business NEWS

## Another 'recovery' forecast

A report from GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade says that world trade should increase this year after the biggest drop since World War Two in 1975, however, total volume still might not reach 1974 levels this year.

The volume of world trade fell by six per cent last year compared to 1974, the report said. The only previous decline in volume since the war was a one per cent drop in 1958. Commodity output dropped by two per cent last year, also for the first time since the Second World War.

A rise in economic activity already under way in several industrial countries will continue and spread to more nations, the report predicted. But it said demand for goods in industrial countries would rise faster than exports, causing balance of payments problems.

Developing countries will have to make further efforts to cut imports because of difficulties in borrowing foreign currencies to finance purchases, the report says, and imports by oil-producing developing countries can be ex-

pected to grow more slowly than during the past two years.

The value of world trade reached \$880,000m. last year, a four per cent increase over 1974, the report added.

Economic recovery began in the U.S. and Japan last year and spread to Europe, but unemployment remained at unprecedented levels around the world. Inflation also remained high. Industrial countries succeeded in cutting back the yearly rate to an average nine per cent compared to the double digits of 1974, but poor nations still struggled under rates as high as 25 per cent, the report said. (Inflation in Britain was over 25 per cent.)

Western Europe, North America and Japan reduced their total trade deficit to \$11,000m. last year, from \$43,000m. in 1974. But oil-importing developing countries had a combined trade surplus of \$65,000m., one third less than in 1974.

The overall trade deficit of Eastern European nations almost doubled to about \$10,000m. China's trade with industrialised countries increased by about five per cent last year.

countries just will not agree to that," he said. The Americans had also not indicated the size of concessions they were willing to offer, he added.

## FAO plea to help Sahel

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation has urged member countries to send food supplies to West African countries suffering from rat plagues and other pests. An official statement said the FAO endorsed an appeal by the Sahel countries for a minimum of five million dollars to help combat the infestations.

FAO Director General Edouard Saouana has requested donor countries to respond quickly and generously and said the FAO's office of Special Relief Operations would help co-ordinate food imports.

Niger and Mauritania are said to have the most serious food problems. In Niger, where cereal rationing now affects one million people, the Government has asked for 200,000 tons of food supplies. Mauritania reported a poor harvest and said it needed an initial 70,000 tons of cereals according to FAO.

## Unilever bounces back

Unilever's figures for the last quarter of 1975 were much better than had been expected, in fact they showed a record pre-tax profit of £98.6m. — even though the final three months of the year are not normally the most important — and the full year's profits were £326.2m (£332m. in 1974), after having been almost 50 per cent off halfway through the year. The Board regards the figures as "very encouraging" and thinks that 1976 could well see profits going over the £450m. mark, before tax.

The recovery owed much to increased sales of edible oils and a steady performance by detergents while UAC International did "particularly well", profits from UAC probably doubling to provide well over a fifth of the group's profits and about half of the UAC profit being generated by Nigeria's expansion.

The declared dividend is 8.43p per share, making a total for the year of 13.67p, but only 6.38p per share will actually be paid; this will bring 1975 dividend payouts to 10 1/8p a share which is all that is permissible under the Treasury's rules on dividend restraint. The balance will be held over for payment at a later date: this makes the total of Treasury delayed dividends 9.48p per share.

## ICI profits grow again

ICI's sales increased by 5 per cent in 1975, compared with 1974, even though many of its markets were affected by the general industrial recession but profits fell about 28 per cent to £35m.

However the fourth quarter showed a marked improvement and the trend has continued into 1976 with most of the assistance coming from the agricultural division — fertilisers and plant protection products — general chemicals and industrial explosives.

## Lonrho waits till June

Talking informally after the annual general meeting of Lonrho, the chief executive Mr. Roland (Tiny) Rowland said that a decision on whether to change the company's domicile from Britain — a move much rumoured recently — would be made before the end of June. To make such a move needs not only the consent of the company but also of the Bank of England and the Treasury.

It has been suggested that the Kuwaiti interests, who now hold 21.5 per cent of the shares, and Mr. Rowland, who holds some 16 per cent, might mount a joint bid. The Kuwaitis are still pondering the idea.

Mr. Rowland also said that he would be surprised if turnover this year did not reach £1,000m. Last year it was £606m.



## New Chairman of UAC International

• The new chairman of UAC International is Mr. C. F. Sedcole (*above*) a director of Unilever Limited and Unilever NV since May 1974 and, until his appointment to UAC International, a member of the Unilever Overseas Committee.

Mr. Sedcole, who is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, joined Unilever in 1952. Much of his career has been spent on the food side of the business. He joined Birds Eye Foods in 1955, and became a Director of that Company in 1961. In 1966 Mr. Sedcole went to Germany as vice-chairman of Langnese Iglo GmbH, the Unilever ice cream and frozen food company. He joined Unilever Food Co-ordination in Rotterdam in 1967, serving until he joined the Overseas Committee in 1971.

## UAC share offer

UAC Ghana is going to make a public offer of shares in the company to Ghanaian citizens to help the company to comply with the Government's Investment Policy decree on Ghanaian ownership of businesses operating in the country. The news was given by the chairman, Mr. David Andoh, at a reunion of UAC Group pensioners.

## Less congestion

A Nigerian Government spokesman claimed last week that the backlog of ships awaiting berths at Lagos is now down to 130 compared with 400 odd some weeks ago. He said that prolonged congestion should be cleared by the end of May.

He also said that in addition to substantial expansion of facilities at the Lagos and Apapa quays a new 30 berth port complex is to be built near Lagos.

• Nigeria has signed an agreement, worth 8m. naira, with the Italian firm Fiat for 220 tractors and semi-trailers. The agreement also covers both training some Nigerians in Italy and sending instructors to Nigeria for maintenance, repair and servicing.

## GATT tropical concessions

America and Japan have replied to demands by developing countries for trade concessions for their tropical product exports under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The US indicated it was willing to negotiate trade privileges for about 150 commodities. An American spokesman said, A Japanese spokesman refused to give any details about his country's offers. A European Common Market spokesman said the nine-nation community would give its reply later this week.

The American mission spokesman said the replies were given to the GATT secretariat here for distribution to the countries concerned. The total number of products originally included in the developing countries' demands under the GATT talks to improve the world's trading system ran into thousands, he said.

Commenting on the replies, a senior diplomat from a developing country said they were incomplete and the American reply included a clear demand for reciprocity for concessions. "Reciprocity is impossible. The developing

## "Aid with dignity"

The President of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, Mr. Chedly Ayan, said in Addis Ababa that aid to African countries should be based in mutual respect and dignity.

He was addressing a news conference after a debate at the Organisation of African Unity's ministerial council meeting during which African speakers had stressed that recipients of aid must be treated with respect.

Mr. Ayan said his organisation was not imposing a model of African Development on recipients of Arab aid. "We ask, would you like us to help you... and what are your priorities?"

The Bank President, in Addis for talks with OAU and Ethiopian officials, said projects begun since the Bank was formed a year ago had been welcomed by Africans themselves.

"I don't think the problem of dignity is at stake, with us it is one of development," he said. "African Arab co-operation should secure the development of both areas (Arab and non-Arab). It should not be 'A mere transfer of capital from one area to the other'."

## IDA credit for Niger highway

The International Development Association is extending a credit of \$18.6m. for a highway project in Niger. The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (ABEDA), and the African Development Fund (ADF) are providing another \$10.6m. for the project.

## Stressing loans to developing world

The European Investment Bank will put more emphasis on lending activities to developing countries in future. M. Yves le Portz, president of the management board, said in Luxembourg when presenting the bank's 1975 annual report. M. le Portz noted that in 1975 its total lending amounted to 1,006 million units of account (UA) (about £430m.) up only slightly from 996 million UA in 1974.

By far the biggest portion of the bank's 1975 lending went to Community states.

## Standard Chartered rights issue

Standard Chartered Bank is making a three-for-20 rights issue at 755p each, which should raise about £31m. It is not a question of needing money but of expanding the capital base to prepare for increased business when the world economic recovery gets under way. It will also allow for growth by acquisition as well as organically.

The bank hopes for an impressive net profits for the year finishing at the end of this month.

group trading profits last year were £82.9m. The final dividend will probably be 9p a share making a total for the year of 15.75p. The bank says that some of the proceeds may well be used to increase local capital in some overseas companies of the group.

Mr. Sam Asaba, Deputy Chairman of the Standard Bank of Nigeria and a former deputy Governor of the Bank of Nigeria, said in London in the autumn (*West Africa*, October 13) that most commercial banks in Nigeria now have too small a capital base for the amount of business they can do.

## New oil finds in Kuwait

Huge new oil and gas deposits have been discovered, perhaps extending Kuwait's "oil age" to 200 years or more hence. Oil Minister Abdel Moutteleb Al Kazimi said the new discoveries could triple the proven reserves of oil in Kuwait. The Minister said that Kuwait was not rushing into building petrochemical plants, but preferred to wait for a co-ordinated industrialisation programme covering the Gulf countries.

● Japan has decided to join a long-term programme of the International Energy Agency (IEA) for co-operation among advanced industrial countries to reduce dependence upon imported oil.

The programme provides for setting targets for oil conservation, joint development of alternative energy, and formulation of a minimum guaranteed price of \$7 a barrel.

## Next OPEC meeting

The next ordinary conference of the Organisation of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) will be in Jakarta on May 27.

Arab Press Services say Saudi Arabia is prepared to take unilateral action to prevent oil price rise this year. Such action could be increased production and dumping of oil on the market.

● Recent increases in cotton prices have encouraged American farmers to plant more this year, an intended acreage of 11.2m., which is 1.6m. up on last year.

● There were sharp falls in coffee and cocoa prices in both London and New York, though there appeared to be no good underlying reason; it was thought that the two commodities might be reacting to each other.

## Ghana crop so far

By the end of February purchases of main crop cocoa in Ghana totalled 380,805 tons compared with 359,805 tons at the same (22 week) stage last year. There have been reports of some difficulty in transporting the crop locally and the Army has been called in to assist.

## Still differing

The meeting of the world's leading cocoa producers in Brazil

does not seem to have settled the differences between them about the new International Cocoa Pact. Ivory Coast was believed to have continued its opposition to the level of support prices agreed, while Ghana, Nigeria and Brazil have accepted the new levels, a range from 39 to 55 cents. Togo may join Ivory Coast in opposition while the position of Cameroon and Gabon is still unclear.

## Two more sign coffee pact

France and America have signed the 1976 International Coffee Agreement and France the 1975 International Tin Agreement, the UN legal office reports.

The coffee accord, like the 1968 International Coffee Agreement which it continues, is designed to achieve a reasonable balance between supply and demand at fair prices to consumers and producers.

It has so far been signed by America, Brazil, Costa Rica, France, Mexico and Ivory Coast and is to come into force next October 1 if by that time it has been approved by the required number of member states.

The Tin Agreement, so far signed by France, Thailand and Britain, is to come into force on July 1 following the expiry of the present agreement. It is designed to prevent excessive fluctuations in the price of tin, help increase export earnings from tin, and help secure an adequate supply at prices fair to consumers and remunerative to producers.

● Tin prices have moved up on the London Metal Exchange with standard grades for cash at the highest since January 1975 and three month tin at its highest since September 1974.

Although tin prices have now reached a region where the Buffer Stock manager should be a net seller little tin is expected to come to the market from him until after this week's meeting of the International Tin Council, which may in any case increase the price ranges as well as consider relaxing export controls.

## End to copper cutbacks?

Rising world copper prices may persuade the world's major exporters to abolish production cutbacks in force since 1974, according to Chilean Mines Minister Enrique Velazuela.

He said the Inter-Governmental Committee of Copper Exporting Countries (CIPEC) — comprising Chile, Peru, Zambia and Zaire — would study the possibility at a meeting in mid 1976.

The four countries, which produce a total of 2.2 million tonnes annually, provide 70 per cent of copper sold on world market. Towards the end of 1974, each reduced production by 10 per cent and then by another 15 per cent at the start of 1975 so that the total cut back is now 15 per cent of production in mid-1974.

## Palm oil threat to US soya

America's National Soybean Processors Association has called on the US Government to stop supporting international loans which the Association claims are subsidising foreign palm oil production.

In a plan for curbing future imports of palm oil, the NSPA also asked the Government to negotiate a mandatory import quota on palm oil and to impose duties when imports exceeded 572m. lbs. to take effect in 1978.

Mr. Lowell Rasmussen, NSPA president, said the increase in US imports of palm oil, which more than doubled last year to 960.4m. lbs., was largely spurred by subsidised palm oil production funded through loans from international agencies such as the World Bank.

He said palm oil imports had reduced consumption of American vegetable oils and precipitated substantial losses in US farm sales of soybeans.

The impact of the lower price of subsidised palm oil on demand for soybean oil would increase the price of soybean meal. That will mean US consumers will face increased prices for meat, poultry and dairy products, he said.

As a direct result of imported palm oil, increased prices of high protein animal feeds by 1980 will mean an extra \$8,000m. in the cost of domestic food products, he predicted.

## 85m. ton grain shortage

The head of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said grain shortages in the Third World could be 85 million tons a year within a decade.

Director General Edouard Saouma said this would involve purchases costing 17,000 million dollars, a burden which the developing countries were incapable of bearing.

Mr. Saouma, who was advising technical committee in session here, said the "truly remarkable" rise in world agricultural production was no more than enough to keep pace with population growth, and not even that in Africa.

Poor distribution also allowed a minimal part of the population to improve its condition while most remained underfed, Mr. Saouma said. "The available cultivated area is contracting steadily because of soil degradation through erosion, salinisation, impoverishment and structural deterioration," he said.

The combination of population explosion, soaring demand and the diminishing possibility of meeting it, gives rise to a critical situation, which is the most momentous challenge mankind has ever faced.

● The executive board of the African Regional Organisation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions met in Mauritius last month.

## "Aid is not ideological"

West German's development aid minister, Egon Bahr rejected opposition criticism of West German plans to help communist-backed "Third World" countries.

He said in a newspaper interview that "Whoever leaves countries with Communist tendencies to their own devices must face the charge of leaving the people there to Communism".

Herr Bahr was answering criticism by the Christian Democrats following reports that the Government had made budgetary provisions for aid to such countries as Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Laos and South Yemen.

Development aid, like suffering, knows "No ideological boundaries". Herr Bahr said. "Hunger in communist countries hurts as much as it does in capitalist countries."

France is holding a trade fair at Johannesburg, South Africa, this week.

## Another RoRo ferry

The RoRo ferry business seems to be one of the growing sectors of the shipping industry. Inglesham Shipping of Swindon have introduced a new service from Avonmouth to Warri with two sailings a month, carrying an average of twenty 20-ton trailers each time. They are looking for more Nigerian exporters to take up some of the at present unused space on the Warri-Avonmouth run of the service.

## From Scotland to Nigeria

The Nigerian National Shipping Line is doing its little bit to support Scottish Nationalism. The ship *Cross River* has just arrived at Apapa with 4,600 tons of cargo, loaded at Grangemouth in Scotland. This was a trial run to investigate the possibility of a regular service between Scotland and Nigeria. Scottish exporters like the idea because hitherto they have had to send their goods by road and rail to English ports for onward shipment.

## Stern words from COWAC

The members of COWAC are very concerned that receiving of cargo at Apapa and Port Harcourt is still very much below the standards needed to avoid adding to the congestion and have issued a stern warning to shippers (southbound). It points out that it is essential for receivers to take delivery during the night and at weekends. Iron, steel, fertilisers, mail, flour, salt, chemicals and cargo in drums and all other parcels over 25 tons must be taken directly from the ship and so transport must be immediately available. For parcels of less than

25 tons a maximum of eight days is allowed for delivery. The Lines have now decided that henceforth bookings for shipments to Nigeria will only be accepted with the proviso that if the receiver of the cargo has not in the past taken delivery precisely as requested the booking is liable to immediate cancellation.

The Norwegian port of Moss has been added to Scandinavian base ports of COWAC.

## Shipping Conference to be permanent

Delegates from 22 countries and 11 international organisations at the second West and Central African States' Ministerial Conference on Shipping decided to put the Conference on a permanent footing. At the end of their three-day meeting at Douala, Cameroon, they set up an ad hoc committee, comprising Cameroun, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Zaïre, to work out details. They also voted to set up a permanent Secretariat. Until this is operational, Cameroun will undertake administration. The Conference, in a communiqué, said it had also decided to incorporate the West and Central African Ports' Management Association.

The Conference authorised its Negotiating Committee to support national shipping companies, particularly to back up retaliatory measures authorised against shipping conferences which ignored the interests of member countries, and strengthened the Committee by adding Cameroun, Senegal, Gabon and Chad additional members, and also widened its mandate in negotiations with major shipping lines. The Conference rejected the reasons given by several big shipping lines as justification for a hike in freight rates.

The Conference also called on countries with an ocean outlet to grant preferential tariffs and transit facilities to landlocked countries, and approved the setting-up of Navigational Training Centres in Accra and Abidjan, and appointed a seven-nation Committee, consisting of Cameroun, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Zaïre, to undertake a study.

The Conference elected Cameroun Transport Minister John Nkengong Monre as chairman. The next meeting will be next February, in Ghana.

## Next stop for railway union

The material committee of the Union of African Railways ended its meeting at Takoradi with a decision to meet again in Swaziland in July to solve problems on how to connect railway networks in Africa.

The Committee is expected to put standardisation proposals on equipment, wagons and rail tracks to the union's general assembly in Ghana next October.

# SHIPPING News

**ELDER DEMPESTER LINES**  
SOUTHBOUND — From Liverpool: LBOE sig Mar 10; PALABA sig Mar 13; ANNO due Freetown Mar. 13. From London: EBANI sig Mar. 30; D/GEMA due Port Harcourt Mar 8; SILHRO due Apapa Mar. 12. From N. Continent: IDOMENEUS sig Rotterdam Apr. 4; MENESTHEUS sig Rotterdam Apr. 4. From Middleburgh: DEIDDO sig Mar. 12. FOURAH BAY sig Mar. 8. NORTHBOUND — To Liverpool: IGGORI due Mar. 12; ILRI due Mar. 15. To London: BIHAMO sig Abidjan Mar. 8; DIXCOVE sig Sapele Mar. 12; IRLLOWN sig Apapa Mar. 18; SHONGA Mar 14. To N. Continent, DARU due Hamburg Mar. 13. DUNKWA due Monrovia Mar. 8. EASTBOUND — SWEDRU sig Apapa Mar. 17; DUNURRA sig Tema Mar. 10. WESTBOUND — W/A to N/York DUNBAIA due Apapa Mar. 10. EASTERN SERVICE — NAIRNBANK due Douala Mar. 13. to Paoli: CLEARWAY due Mar. 9.

**BARBER LINES**  
OUTWARDS — TUGELA sailing New York Mar. 10 for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa and Douala. TIJUCA sailing Baltimore Mar. 26, Philadelphia Mar. 29 and New York Apr. 2 for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Lagos/Apapa, Tema and Douala. HOMEWARDS — TIJUCA due Jacksonville Mar. 16, thence New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia.

**K LINE**  
WESTBOUND — From Japan via Hong Kong Singapore to Lagos, Abidjan, Tema, LAMBROS ISAGLIOTIS left Japan February 4 due Lagos Mar. 13. EASTBOUND — BOLIVIA MARU sig Lagos Apr. 4, Abidjan Apr. 8, Douala Apr. 11, Pointe Noire Apr. 15, due Japan May 9.

**BLACK STAR LINE**  
WEST AFRICA/USHN  
WESTBOUND — BIA RIVER Tema Apr. 2, Ikoradi Feb. 9; Philadelphia Feb. 25; New York Feb. 25; Thence Gulf.  
U.K. CONTINENT/WEST AFRICA  
SOUTHBOUND — OTI RIVER Bremen Mar. 5; Hamburg Mar. 3; Antwerp Mar. 8; Rotterdam Mar. 9; BIRIM RIVER London Mar. 19; PRA RIVER London Apr. 1. NORTHBOUND — NAKWA RIVER Bremen Mar. 5; Hamburg Mar. 9; Rotterdam Feb. 26; BIRIM RIVER Hull Mar. 3; PRA RIVER London Mar. 12.

**PALM LINE**  
NORTHBOUND — IBADAN PALM due Liverpool Mar. 13; FLORIN PALM sig Ikoradi Mar. 8; EFA AYINMOUTH Mar. 20; LAGOS PALM sig Apapa Mar. 11. SOUTHBOUND — ENUGU PALM due Apapa Mar. 16; ILESIA PALM due Port Harcourt Mar. 18.

**MAERSK LINE**  
INWARDS — SUSAN MAERSK sig Kobe Mar. 5; ar. Luanda Apr. 3.

**THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE** — ORANYAN SOUTHBOUND — ORANYAN London Mar. 4; Dakar Mar. 13; Banjul Mar. 14; Takoradi Mar. 20; Lome Mar. 23; Cotonou Mar. 25; Sapele Mar. 28.

**SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE**  
SOUTHBOUND — STRAAT TAURANGA Dakar Mar. 9; Freetown Mar. 11; Monrovia Mar. 14; Buchan Mar. 13; Abidjan Mar. 16; Tema Mar. 18/21. NORTHBOUND — Apapa Mar. 3; Takoradi Mar. 7/9; Abidjan Mar. 10/12; L. Buchanan Mar. 14/15; Freetown Mar. 16.

**ROYAL INTEROCEANIC LINES**  
INWARDS — STRAAT LENAIRE sig Tema Feb. 25; Freetown Mar. 12, Banjul Mar. 14; Dakar Mar. 17. STRAAT FUKOUDA sig Monrovia Feb. 25; Abidjan Feb. 29; Cotonou Mar. 9; Douala Mar. 21; Pointe Noire Mar. 23; Capetown Apr. 6.

**FARELL LINES**  
HOMEWARDS — AFRICAN MERCURY sig Tema Mar. 5; for Matadi, Abidjan, Monrovia, US Ports Mar. 14; AFRICAN COMET sig Lagos/Apapa Mar. 22; for Tema Mar. 25; Abidjan Monrovia, US Ports. OUTWARDS — AFRICAN COMET due Dakar Feb. 7; for Conakry, Monrovia, Mar. 7; Buchanan, Abidjan, Lagos/Apapa, Tema, Mar. 15; AFRICAN METRO due Mar. 16; for Abidjan Tema, Matadi, Mar. 22.

**WESTWIND AFRICA LINE**  
WESTWIND — Tema Mar. 4/6; Lagos Mar. 7/13; Freetown Mar. 16; New Orleans Apr. 12; Houston Apr. 4/5. EASTWIND — Tema Mar. 4/6; Lagos Mar. 5/9; Freetown Mar. 12; New Orleans Mar. 28/29; Houston Mar. 31/Apr. 1.

**THE F.A.C. LINES**  
SOUTHBOUND — ARANYA Aarhus Mar. 13; Hamburg Mar. 13; Bremen Mar. 15; Antwerp Mar. 20; Rotterdam Mar. 26; Rouen Mar. 23; Lagos/Apapa Apr. 5. NORTHBOUND — ALAMEDA Lagos/Apapa Feb. 28; Abidjan Feb. 28; Hamburg Mar. 7; Aarhus Mar. 7; Rotterdam Mar. 9; Antwerp Mar. 10.

**N.Y.K. LINES**  
SOUTHBOUND — SETSU MARU Tema Mar. 2; Lagos/Apapa Mar. 2/7; Cotonou Mar. 8/16.

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## SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

GOVERNMENT OF THE RIVERS STATE OF NIGERIA  
**VACANCY IN THE MINISTRY OF  
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 PORT HARCOURT**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for appointment to the following post in the Rivers State Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Port Harcourt.

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5. **CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:**  
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6. **LENGTH OF TOUR:**  
The normal length of tour is twelve months.

7. **METHOD OF APPLICATION:**  
(a) In Nigeria: Applications from candidates not in Government Service should be completed in duplicate on Form RSPSC 1, obtainable from the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Port Harcourt, and from the Federal and any of the State Public Service Commissions of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, accompanied by copies of certificates and testimonials. Applications from candidates in the Public Service other than that of the Rivers State of Nigeria should be submitted in letter form through the appropriate Public Service Commission accompanied by copies of Confidential Reports for the last three years. Applications from candidates in the Rivers State Public Service should be submitted in letter form through their Heads of Department accompanied by copies of Confidential Reports for the last three years.

- (b) **OVERSEAS:** Applications should be completed and submitted on Form RSPSC 1, obtainable from the Recruitment Attache, Nigerian High Commission, 9 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2 if the candidates are in Europe or to the Head of University Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1333 Sixteenth Street, Northwest Washington D.C. 20036 if they are in the United States of America or Canada.

8. **CLOSING DATE:**  
Completed application forms should be submitted through the appropriate channels to reach the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Port Harcourt, Rivers State of Nigeria, not later than 31st March, 1976.

Secretary,  
Public Service Commission,  
Rivers State

Based at Port Harcourt  
This 27th day of February 1976.

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# Dateline AFRICA

## GHANA

### New decree hits traders

From March 15th petty traders will be banned from selling certain household commodities — sugar, milk, baby foods, dry cell batteries, washing powder, soaps, toothpaste and mackerel — in the Accra-Tema metropolitan area. A dual decree states that essential commodities shall not be sold except in a commercial house or a supermarket designated by the Commissioner for Trade, and in respect of which a licence has been granted by the Commissioner or any public officer acting on his behalf.

An SMC statement said the move was aimed at checking smuggling and hoarding and was to ensure equitable distribution of the goods.

Anyone contravening the decree will be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding 2,000 cedis or imprisonment not exceeding three

years or both, the goods concerned being forfeit to the state.

All those who are not licensed to sell the goods and who have quantities for sale are ordered to sell them before March 15. Those with valid reasons for not selling them before that date have been told to report to the Inspector-General of Police who will give instructions regarding disposal of the goods.

The Government intends to extend the decree to all urban areas as soon as possible. It has published a list of approved shops and retailers.

Ministry of Trade officials have begun spot checks of the designated outlets to ascertain their suitability and suggest improvements. Where a proposed outlet does not meet the time set for operation of the decree GNTC has been instructed to set up temporary kiosks. GNTC is also to set up permanent kiosks near markets to sell

the goods direct to the public.

The Ghana Trades Union Congress has welcomed the decree. The secretary general, Mr. Abdulai Issah, also called on the Government to strengthen border security because of the high rate of smuggling in the commodities.

Also welcoming the move the *Daily Graphic* recalled "the goods affected . . . constitute the bulk of foreign commodities whose sale over the past few months had been subject to all forms of vices, notably profiteering, hoarding and smuggling, and had been the subject for public discussion." It told traders that their attitude had caused the decree to be formulated, and asked the Government to encourage the creation of more Consumer Co-operative shops. The *Graphic* noted that the distribution and sale of meat and fish were also receiving government attention.

Ghana has for some time been experiencing widespread shortages of essential commodities, which, when available, have been for sale at prohibitive prices. Recently the Government tried to check hoarding by the imposition of short prison terms rather than fines for those found guilty of the offence. ■ Swearing in members of the reconstituted Military Advisory Council, Col. Acheampong urged them to help find a solution to the land tenure system. He told the 26 member Council that land tenure had become a big problem for the government, adding that the

problems facing the country had been found to be more economical than political and urged them to advise the government on the establishment of sub-committees to help the armed forces get more involved in national reconstruction.

The Council is headed by Commodore C. K. Dzang, Navy Commander and member of the Supreme Military Council.

On the ban on market women from trading in essential commodities, Col. Acheampong said this was to ensure the commodities bypassed middlemen. The Government would deal severely with any trader caught flouting the ban.

### "Operation Haul Out"

The army has begun "Operation Haul Out", an exercise to assist the Cocoa Marketing Board and the Produce Buying Agency cart 200,000 tonnes of cocoa from producing areas to the ports. The operation, begun on February 18 by the First and Secondary Infantry Brigades, is co-ordinated by a National Secretariat. Lt. Col. Emmanuel, Director of the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate, appealed to private road transport owners to hire their vehicles to the Secretariat to augment the army fleet. He asked people in cocoa producing areas to organise porters to carry cocoa from the farms to depots.

#### SITUATIONS VACANT (Cont.)

## VACANCIES IN NIGERIA FOR MOTOR VEHICLE ENGINEERS

Applications are invited from Nigerians currently employed in the automotive industry in the United Kingdom, but who intend to return to their home country in the near future, to be considered for positions with Niger Motors as Service Engineers in branch workshops with the opportunity for development into more senior positions. Vacancies also exist for automobile diesel fuel injection and electrical equipment experts.

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**M. J. Sinnock, Personnel Department,  
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## Acheampong praises VRA

Col. Acheampong commended the Volta River Authority (VRA) for the great strides it has made within a comparatively short time of 10 years in a message to the board, management and workers on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the commencement of the operations of VRA.

The message was read on behalf of Col. Acheampong by Dr E. L. Quartey, chief executive of VRA, at a Thanksgiving Service organised at Santa Barbara Church as part of activities marking the 10th anniversary celebrations.

The Authority, Col. Acheampong observed, "is also on the threshold of further advances: that of the implementation of the Kpong and Bui hydroelectric schemes. The adroitness with which the Authority executed the Volta River resettlement project is a feather in the cap of the workers. It is therefore, hoped that the same skill and savour fare would be used in future assignments".

## Cotton complaints

Cotton farmers in Lawra district have accused officers of the Cotton Development Board of collecting monetary and other gifts before purchasing cotton from farmers.

The farmers alleged that they were often forced by the officers to lead them during the period they stayed in the area on official assignments and that farmers who refused to abide by the requests hardly had any cotton purchased.

These allegations were made during a meeting of the Lawra district committee for the implementation of the charter of redemption.

The committee condemned the alleged behaviour of the purchasing officers, "since this not only undermines the morale of cotton farmers but also the tenets of the charter of redemption". It "called on the authorities of the Cotton Development Board to take positive steps to stamp out such un-patriotic acts and bring those officers to book".

Two officers of the Board in the district presented a petition to Major Ofori Akuamoah, Upper Regional Commissioner, alleging difficulties in the purchasing of cotton.

## Tono project

The 17.5m. cedi Tono irrigation project just started in the Upper Region will be completed far ahead of the scheduled three year period. Mr. Alfred Angel, site resident director of Taylor Woodrow International, the contractors, told Mr. E. Cook, First Secretary of the British High Commission, when he visited the site.

Mr. Angel attributed his preference to the early delivery of most of the needed equipment.

The dam when completed will irrigate 6,000 acres of land, 3,300 acres of which would be used to cultivate rice and 2,700 for vegetables and other crops.

• A 2m. cedi factory to process cassava into gari, starch and animal feed, will go into production in April at Assin Foso in the Central Region. Mr. J. Amisah Aidoo, managing director of Universal Cassava Products, said the factory is capable of producing 12 tons of gari and 4,000 kilos of starch per day, and that the products would be of high quality and free from contamination.

The factory will initially employ about 60 people but this should be increased to about 200 when it goes into full production. The company has established 809,380 hectares of cassava farms to feed the factory and plans to increase the acreage to 1,118,760 hectares.

## Army aid for ATP

Trained army mechanics will soon be seconded to the African Timber and Plywood Company to help man the factory. Lieut. Col. T. E. Kutin, Commissioner for Lands and Mineral Resources, told workers and management during an inspection tour. He said the Ministry of Trade had given an assurance that it would grant the required import licence to enable the company to import new machinery and advised the company to expand its knock-down furniture shop and to increase its plus production for local consumption.

The Government acquired a 55 per cent share in the company in 1972 and appointed Mr. Quaynor as its managing director in January this year, thus bringing the company under Ghanaian management.

The company, with a foreign exchange earning capacity of 12m. cedis, employs 2,000 workers excluding its 79 management personnel. It has logging operations covering 175 square kilometres and extracts 184 cubic metres of logs yearly.

• Ghana was selected to host the finals of the 11th Africa Cup of Nations football tournament in 1978 by a conference of the African Football Confederation in Addis Ababa.

• Ghana's exports totalled nearly 788.8m. cedis for the first 10 months of 1975, an increase of 127.1m. cedis, of 19.3 per cent over the comparable period in 1974. According to the Ghana Commercial Bank *Economic Bulletin*, the rise reflected price increases for cocoa, which accounts for over 60 per cent of export earnings.

Imports totalled 776.4m. cedis, a decrease of 1.8 per cent on the same period in 1974. The net result of Ghana's visible foreign trade operations during the period therefore showed a modest surplus of 12,400 cedis against a deficit of 130.4m. in 1974.

• Mr. Justice J. N. K. Taylor, the Accra High Court Judge, ordered the immediate release of Barfor Anagyei H. Mankrado of Akwata, alleged to have been unlawfully detained by Koforidua Police on the instructions of the Eastern Regional Commissioner. He and three stool elders had been arrested on February 6 on the orders of the Regional Commissioner for allegedly misappropriating stool funds. Barfor Anagyei had filed a writ of habeas corpus against the Inspector General of Police.

Counsel argued that he had been unlawfully kept in a police cell instead of in military custody as required by NRC Decree 236.

## UK to pay pensions

The British Government is now to be responsible for the payment of pensions due to British expatriate officers in respect of their pre-independence services in Ghana under an agreement signed in Accra. Britain will refund to Ghana an estimated 11,000,000 paid to the expatriate officers from April 1, 1971. The British High Commissioner, Mr. Frank Mills, signed for his country and the Controller and Accountant General, Mr. J. Dawson, signed for Ghana. Negotiations for the agreement started in February last year, and by an Act of Parliament, the British Government decided to release Ghana of the payment with effect from April 1971.

## Co-operatives committee

The committee which will define the role of co-operatives in Ghana's economy has been inaugurated by Cdr. Joy Amedume, Commissioner for Labour, Social Welfare and Co-operatives. He announced that the government had recognised co-operatives as the fourth sector of the economy: "this is the only sector that can effectively embrace over 80 per cent of the population in the informal, non-wage-earning sectors, resident mainly in rural areas."

• Farmers and co-operative officials are to be sent to the Netherlands to study the techniques of the co-operative movement. Cdr. J. K. Amedume, Commissioner for Labour, Social Welfare and co-operatives said when Madam Janne Ferringa, the Netherlands Ambassador, paid a courtesy call on him.

## Health hazards

The Commissioner for Health, Brig. Odartey Wellington, said that his Ministry seemed the number one sector of Government service where everybody was determined to "chop Ghana small". What he had seen in his three months of office was "frightening". For example Korle Bu hospital alone loses 5,000 cedis a day of tax-payers' money through malpractices, and it had taken him almost a month to smash a gas oil supply racket that had been going on for ten years, he claimed.

Brig. Odartey Wellington was speaking to junior doctors at Korle Bu who had decided to treat only emergency cases and ward patients until the minimum drug and equipment requirements for decent and hygienic medical practice were in their hand.

## Rice seized

More than 1,000 bags of paddy rice were seized by the Army at Tamale on the first day of an anti-boarding campaign aimed at forcing farmers to sell their rice to the Government Rice Mill, Tamale.

The chairman of the Rice Growers Association claimed that most of the seized rice had been reserved for planting next season. • The Central Regional Commissioner, Maj. Dawuni, has asked Cape Coast District Council to appeal to chiefs in the area to educate their people to pay their rates regularly. He gave officials a fortnight to collect rate arrears totalling over 120,000 cedis.

Maj. Dawuni also expressed dissatisfaction over the insanitary condition of Cape Coast and warned that if the situation did not improve within a month he would order District Council staff to clean up the town themselves.

• Bofagatanga, the Upper Regional capital, was hit by electricity failure for three days running. An official of the electricity corporation explained the machines at the electricity corporation had outlived their usefulness adding "we are doing our best to keep them running".



Sir Edward on his appointment in London in 1957

Sir Edward Okyere Asafu-Adjuik, Ghana's first High Commissioner to the UK, has died at his home in Adabraka, Accra, aged 73. He studied Law in London and was called to the English Bar in 1927. He served on the CVC delegation to London in 1934 and

with the late Dr. F. V. Nanka Bince, represented the Gold Coast at the coronation of King George VI. Sir Edward was nominated to the Gold Coast Legislative Council in 1946, nominated to the Legislative Assembly in 1951 and given the Local Government portfolio. He was also one of the Gold Coast representatives at the coronation of Elizabeth II. Sir Edward returned to the Legislative Assembly in 1954 and became Minister of Trade and Labour the following year. He did not seek re-election in 1956 and resumed his legal practice. After serving as High Commissioner in London from 1957 to 1961 Sir Edward returned to Ghana and again resumed his legal practice, also becoming a director of Barclays Bank, Ghana.

• Thunder Lartuquaye, former Gold Coast boxing champion, has died at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. He was 50. Lartuquaye started boxing with the Accra Sports Boxing Club under the tutelage of "Ageless" Surpriser Sowah in 1939 and at club level he won his first fight against Scorpion Gally, a club mate, in the ban-rwaght division.

"Thunder" later became the undefeated featherweight and welterweight champion of the Gold Coast. According to available records he won the featherweight title from Marvellous Tetteh, the then West African champion, at the Roger Club in 1943, while still at school.

Thunder's later victims included Popular Kad Hesse, now a coach of the Ghana boxing promotion syndicate.

Billy Wells, the only man to out-point the legendary Roy Ankrab was beaten by Thunder in his first fight in July 1949 as welterweight.

Before retiring as undefeated welterweight champion, Thunder met Vincent Okine at the old technical school grounds on February 2, 1952 and drew with him over six rounds.

## Soyinka on Awoonor

The Union of Writers of the African Peoples has made representations to the Government over the detention of Dr. Kofi Awoonor (see last week's issue). It issued a statement saying that the secretary general, Nigerian playwright Wole Soyinka, in an interview with the Inspector General of Police enquired into the reasons for Awoonor's detention, his condition and requested to visit him. It said that the Inspector General had told Mr. Soyinka that the authorities were convinced that Kofi Awoonor was in some way involved in activities of a subversive nature against the government. Enquiries, he had said, were still going on and others were being sought. The union was told that Kofi Awoonor was being treated humanely and was allowed reading material.

• An official statement has denied rumours that Ghana's contingent with the UNEF force in the Middle East had suffered casualties. The Ghana contingent has now moved to the Sinai passes area and the officials near Suez which were recently returned to the Egyptians.

• The board appointed by the Volta Regional Administration to enquire into the distribution of cement has presented its 52-page report to the Regional Commissioner, Maj. Ameyor.

• The Government has released 2m. cedis to the Ghana Sugar Estates Ltd (GHASEL) for expansion of the Asutsuare sugar factories.

• Brig. Utuka, Border Guard Commander, has appealed to chiefs and people in the Northern Region to be extra vigilant and help arrest anyone smuggling petroleum products to neighbouring countries.

## NIGERIA

### Tribunal to try treason cases

The Federal Government has promulgated a decree empowering the Supreme Military Council to constitute a special military tribunal for the trial of persons, whether civilians or members of the armed forces, charged with offence of treason, murder or any other offence in Nigeria, including offences under service laws. The tribunal will consist of a president and not less than four other members all of whom should be officers in the armed forces or the police. The decree stipulates that sentences passed by the tribunal will be subject to confirmation by the Supreme Military Council. The decisions of the tribunal are not subject to appeal. Any person sentenced to death by the tribunal will be executed by a firing squad. An explanatory note to the decree says the tribunal will try persons involved in the recent rebellion against the Federal Government.

• Maj. J. Adedipe, acting Governor of Kwara State, has said in Offa that only four officers and three men of the "coup station" at Offa were involved in the events of February 13, and that they had been arrested and taken to Lagos. He appealed to the people to forget the misdeed of the few officers and men, urging them not to hold this against the troops in Offa. "The troops here are completely loyal to the Federal Government. They deserve your co-operation," he added.

### Constitution on schedule

The draft of the new constitution will be ready on schedule in September, the chairman of the drafting committee, Chief Rotimi Williams, told its fourth plenary session.

Paying tribute to the late Gen. Muhammad Chief Rotimi said it was a national tragedy which must inevitably have its effect on his committee. He went on "For me it has stimulated and inspired me into greater determination to put in all the efforts I can muster to see that the work is completed on schedule."

• According to a report in the *Daily Times*, Mr. H. G. Dimka, father of Lt. Col. B. S. Dimka, who is sought by police in connection with the assassination of Gen. Muhammad, has advocated severe penalties for those involved in the abortive putsch. Mr. Dimka was extending the condolences of the Pankshin Local Administration, of which he is chairman, to the new Head of State, Gen. Obasanjo. He urged the Federal Government to ensure that justice took its course against those who planned the abortive coup.

The two other persons sought by the police in the connection with the assassination of Gen. Muhammad are Captain Dauda Usman and Sergeant Clement Yildar (see last week's issue).

• In an interview with the *Lagos Sunday Times* the former Federal Commissioner, Alhaji Aminu Kano, called on the Government to make public the proceedings of the military board of enquiry set up to investigate the events of February 13.

• The Kaduna Race Course complex has been renamed Murtala Muhammad Square in memory of the late Head of State.

• The Deputy High Commissioner in London, Mr. J. G. O. Olanitan, called on Mr. David Ennals, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, for a 45 minute discussion on bilateral affairs.

### Ambassador Harriman speaks out

Nigeria's UN Representative, Ambassador Leslie O. Harriman, has said that if a liberation war broke out in southern Africa, Nigeria would answer the call of the liberation movements. He was speaking in the special committee against apartheid after it had paid particular tribute to the late Gen. Muhammad.

Expressing his thanks after the Committee observed a minute's silence, Ambassador Harriman said "We would like to warn, and place on record, that in the event of a liberation war breaking out in southern Africa, Nigeria will answer the call on the side of the liberation movements", he declared.

General Muhammad, he said, had been struck down by "naive" soldiers who had really believed the propaganda that Nigeria's policies were pro-communist.

Mr. Harriman quoted the late head of state as having said that the situation in Angola was "merely the excuse being used by those who cannot reconcile themselves to the momentous victories of the forces of African nationalism."

General Muhammad had never seen the problem as merely an Angolan issue but as the northward thrust of apartheid. The Soviet Union and Cuba had helped save Angola from imperialism.

Although the "racist troops" of South Africa were still massed in side Angola, purportedly in defence of a hydro-electric project, the world should know that they were massed along the whole Angolan-Nambian border and not at the point of the project, said Mr. Harriman.

• Ten emirs and chiefs, led by the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sir Abubakar, called on the Head of State, Gen. Obasanjo, in Lagos to offer their condolences on the death of Gen. Muhammad. The Sultan said that they were solidly behind the Federal Government, and pledged to pray and work hard for the unity and stability of the nation to ensure progress and development. The traditional rulers included the Emirs of Gwandu, Katsina, Yauri, Zaria, Argungu, Daura, Joma'a and the chiefs of Kagara and Birnin Gwari.

### No change in foreign policy

There will be no change in Nigeria's external and internal policies following the assassination of Gen. Muhammad, the External Affairs Commissioner, Col. Garba, told the 26th ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers in Addis Ababa.

Col. Garba said that fifteen years after a search for an inspiring leadership and purposeful direction in national and international affairs "Murtala Muhammad came along and within a short space of 200 days galvanised the great mass of the Nigerian people into one dynamic whole and restored self-confidence and a sense of dignity to the nation". The late Head of State had laid the foundation of an edifice that "the rest of us are determined to complete and make into an honourable abode for ourselves, our children and for generations to come".

Nigeria, said the Commissioner, was grateful to all African leaders who had expressed sympathy "with us in our moment of grief", stressing that Nigeria would continue to take part fully in OAU affairs.

He congratulated the people of Angola for their victory over "the forces of darkness, reaction and exploitation" and hoped that the presence of an Angolan delegation at the meeting would further the cause of freedom and justice.

• Mr. David Ennals, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, in a lecture in Oxford said that the recent "savagely assassination" of Gen. Muhammad had saddened Nigerians and Nigeria's friends.

"He was a brave and decisive leader who had in the few months he was able to hold office revitalised the administration of his country and set it on a path of political development which must have been widely welcomed there."

"We have been glad to see that his successor, Gen. Obasanjo, has followed his government with defuncting the same policies. We have every reason to hope that relations with the new Government will continue to be substantive and friendly for they are based on close mutual interest, not merely on external links."

### External reserves

Nigeria's external reserves have slumped by 125.5m. naira, says a Central Bank report.

The reserves stood at 3,471m. at the end of November last year.

The reserves showed a boom the previous month when it stood at 3,523.6m naira, the report added.

The bulk of the decline was in the holdings of convertible currencies which fell by 124.9m. naira to 3,379.3m. naira.

Transactions in foreign exchange during the period resulted in a net outflow of 123.4m. naira as against a net inflow of 140.8m. naira and 145.3m. naira recorded for October last year and November 1974.

Aggregate inflow fell by 208m. naira and 17.1m. naira compared with its respective levels in October last year and a year earlier.

The declines of 137.4m. naira and 71.5m. naira respectively in earnings were from other transactions and payments by the oil companies to the government.

The report said the marginal rise of 900,000 naira in export receipts was too small to effect a noticeable increase in total receipts.

Coupled with the large decline in receipts, total external expenditure during the month rose by 55.8m. naira and 2.12m. naira compared with their respective levels a month and a year earlier.

Nigeria now has sufficient foreign reserves to finance her total imports for the next ten months, the governor of the Central Bank has said in Kaduna. Malim Adamu Cirama said that it was universally accepted that any state whose foreign reserves could finance imports three months in advance was economically stable. But Nigeria was not so rich as people thought "because any country in which the standard of living of its people is comparatively low cannot be acclaimed a rich nation".

## Trade disputes decree

A National Industrial Court for the settlement of trade disputes and the interpretation of collective agreements between unions and management has been set up by decree. The decree also contains provisions for restrictions on publication of the court's proceedings. It also empowers the Commissioner for Labour to appoint a commission of enquiry to examine the causes and circumstances of any trade union dispute and "any other matters connected with industrial conditions in Nigeria".

According to the Government Gazette the decree, Decree 7, repeals many labour regulations, including Trade Disputes (Emergency Provisions) Decree 21 of 1968 and Trade Disputes (Emergency Provisions Amendment) 21, Decree 53 of 1969.

Decree 7 also stipulates that workers in "essential services" cannot go on strike without giving 15 days notice to employers.

A breach of the decree is punishable by a fine of 100 naira or six months imprisonment.

Distribution deficiencies were part of the cause of scarcity and high food prices the Federal Government said as it announced plans to combat the problem. The Ministry of Cooperatives and Supplies will buy 2,100 tonnes of palm oil from the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company and about 11,550 tonnes of groundnut oil from various sources, and to facilitate distribution of the oil has ordered 200,000 15 litre size tins and 3,000 drums to get the products to consumers. The Government has also placed orders abroad for some essential foods.

Nigerians will wake up one day to find that they can neither post nor receive letters, a spokesman for the Union of Posts and Telecommunications Technologists told a news conference. He said that P & T services were in such a deplorable state that unless the government stepped in services might grind to a halt.

The general attitude of Nigerian workers to their jobs and to the public they come in contact with leaves a lot to be desired the Federal Finance Commissioner, Mr. A. A. Ekukimam, told a conference of the National Union of Nigerian Bank Employees.

## Shuwa's warning

Maj Gen Shuwa, Commissioner for Trade, has again warned vehicle distributors against intransigence over vehicle prices. He said that distributors originally got 39 per cent of the profits of vehicle sales, and after a series of negotiations had settled for 30 per cent. But this did not satisfy the government he said, warning: "It will be disastrous for such distributors if they allow me to take the matter to the SMC where prices would be fixed once and for all without room for further negotiations".

Maj Gen Shuwa has announced that the Government has signed partnership agreements with seven insurance companies, in accordance with the Government's policy to control vital sectors of the economy. The companies concerned include Royal Exchange, British American Insurance and West African Provincial Insurance.

The Government is investigating allegations that a fee of about \$3.6m was paid in bribes to some Nigerians on the purchase of Lockheed C-130 military aircraft for the Nigerian Air Force, Lagos (see Economic News, Feb 23).

The Ogun State Public Service Commission is headed by Chief T. O. Ejumunjo. Other members are Mr. M. A. Ademola, at present head of the Public Service Review Implementation Secretariat, Ibadan, and Chief G. A. Sobayo, an Ibadan legal practitioner.



Whilst on a three week visit to the UK, sponsored by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, three Nigerian Editors met two former Chairmen of UAC of Nigeria Limited, Messrs. Gordon Henry Wilson and Frederick Spencer Pardoe, at lunch in UAC House. Left to right: Mr. Joseph Bel, Mokuwa, Daily Star, Mr. F. S. Pardoe, retired Chairman, UAC of Nigeria, Mr. G. H. Wilson, Director, UAC International, Mike Pearce, New Nigerian, Emmanuel Olofin, Daily Sketch.

The secretaries to the governments and heads of service in Oyo, Ogun and Ondo States have been sworn in. They are Mr. C. S. O. Akande (Oyo), Mr. A. A. K. Degun (Ogun) and Mr. T. A. Iwajumo (Ondo).

No member of the Public Service Commission will be called on to serve for more than two terms of five years each, states a new decree which amends section 46 of the Constitution.

The Adesunju Tribunal probing the assets of some former and serving public officers in Kwara State has been given an extra month, until the end of March, to complete its investigations.

A four man Public Service Commission has been appointed for Ondo State. Headed by Mr. N. A. Adamolekun, its other members are Chief M. O. Oyedele, Rev. J. A. Omosajowo and Mr. N. A. Akangbabin.

Nigerians still resident in Equatorial Guinea have been told by the Federal Government to make themselves ready for immediate evacuation. They were directed to report to the Embassy in Malabo, where arrangements had been made for their evacuation by sea or air.

The newly established Funtua cottonseed crushing company began production in November at 14 tonnes of oil and 60 tonnes of cake per day. The oil produced is sold locally but 90 per cent of cake is for export.

## New Olubadan installed

Oba Gbadamosi Akanbi Adejumo has been installed as the 25th Olubadan of Ibadan. The 68 year old Oba was installed at the Okebadan shrine by the Olowo of the city, who placed the traditional leaves on his head.

Col. Jembesun, Western State Governor, later praised the method of succession to the Olubadan throne, and charged other communities in Yorubaland to emulate it. He said that the appointment of a new Olubadan, unlike many chieftaincy appointments, provoked no controversy because the throne was filled on rotation by men from the Balogun and Otun Olubadan chieftaincy titles.

Mrs. Rudo Itemwa Muhammed, Nigeria's first woman ambassador, has been appointed High Commissioner to Botswana and Lesotho. She previously served with the permanent mission to the UN. Mr. M. O. Adefope, High Commissioner to Uganda, becomes Ambassador to Ireland, while Mr. B. O. Tunse, secretary to the Chad Basin Commission, becomes Ambassador to Ivory Coast in succession to Mr. J. Edremoda. Mr. D. Omotosho becomes Ambassador to Turkey and Mr. M. Sami Ambassador to Cameroon in succession to Mr. Y. W. Saba. The Nigerian Agip oil company, which now operates as a joint venture with the Federal Government, now produces 190,000 barrels of crude oil daily.

All laws and edicts of the former North Eastern State (now Bauchi, Gongola and Borno States) are still binding on residents of Bauchi State. The Governor, Lt. Col. Bello Kalle, has reminded the people.

## Benue Commissioners sworn in

Governor Shellen of Benue State has sworn in his eight Commissioners. They are: Mr. E. I. Odoma (Attorney General and Justice), Mr. L. L. Nwaghange (Finance and Economic Planning), Mr. A. F. Anyebe (Agriculture and Natural Resources), Mr. M. Ogun (Health), Mr. Tesemehi Makar (Education), Mr. B. Omaye (Trade, Industry and Co-operatives), Dr. M. P. Adah (Works), and Mr. Sveno Cha (Local Government, Social Development and Sports).

Mr. Alex Omolabi, 31, has been jailed for five years at Middlesex Crown Court for trying to smuggle 35lb of herbal cannabis, worth about £17,000, through Heathrow when arriving from Nigeria.

Professor S. A. Tsoy, dean of the Faculty of Science, at Ibadan University, has been appointed Chairman of the Council of Kwara State College of Technology.

The Boundary Adjustments Commission, headed by Mr. Justice Muhammadu Nasir, has held its inaugural meeting in Lagos.

All agricultural research institutes run by the federal and state ministries of agriculture will henceforth come under the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria.

The Federal Government has acquired 7.09 ha. of land at Apapa for construction of a container depot.

Mr. N. J. Udoyop has been appointed acting director of the University Press, Ibadan.

Kano State Government awarded 642 scholarships during the 1974-75 year.

Professor Olatunde Oloko is the new dean of the Department of Social Sciences, Lagos University.

## SPANISH SAHARA

## Saharan Arab Democratic Republic declared

Eighty years of Spanish rule in the Sahara came to an end on February 26, two days earlier than the time specified in the Madrid Pact adding to the chaotic legal situation complicating the disputed ownership of the territory. Two days later, on the night of February 28 and 29, POLISARIO representatives at Bir Lahou, some 150 kms west of the Algerian border, declared the creation of a Saharan Arab and Democratic Republic (RASD). M. Ould Ziou, interim President of the Provisional National Council, declared that "in the name of the Almighty and with his help, to meet the will of the Arab people, to be faithful to our glorious martyrs and to crown our immense sacrifices, the flag of the Saharan Arab and Democratic Republic today floats over the ground of Sagua-el Hamia and Ouadi Dhabad." The POLISARIO leadership, which includes M. Mahfoud Laroussi, the military second-in-command; M. Hakim Adel, the organisation's representative at the OAU; M. El Ouaili, the POLISARIO Secretary-General and expected to be the new Prime Minister, and M. Ahmed Baba Miske, the former Mauritanian ambassador to the UN, declared that the new state would not be invested with any formal institutions at present as it was "on a war footing". POLISARIO supporters declared that they would be "prepared to fight for generations", and saluted the black, white and green flag, with its red triangle, star and crescent (a development of the original), with volleys from their weapons.



The new flag of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic flies over the disputed territory.

In El Aaiun, the departure of the Spanish was marked by a special session of the rump of the *Yemaa*, which was supposed to bid farewell to the departing governor, Sr. Rafael Valdes de Iglesias. However, fears that the body might pass an embarrassing resolution resulted in its speedy dissolution and even the Spanish ambassador to the UN, Sr. Jaime de Pines, had to admit that its behaviour was such that the Madrid Pact's clauses on the consultation of the *Yemaa* could not be said to have been honoured. This opinion was echoed by Kurt Waldheim, the UN Secretary-General, who reminded Rabat of the UN Resolution (3858B) on self-determination. The UN representative in El Aaiun was sufficiently convinced of the untrustworthiness of the proceedings that he refused to go to "take note" of the *Yemaa*'s ratification of the Madrid Pact.

King Hassan has reacted predictably enough to the declaration of the new republic, declaring it to be "another absurdity that in no way surprises us." Celebrations in Morocco for the departure of the Spanish were reported to have rivalled those of independence itself and Rabat was equally pleased at the decision of the OAU to leave recognition of the RASD to individual states. The King has invited Col. Gaddafi of Libya to visit him in order that he might "distinguish truth for what it is", thus aiming a blow at the Algerian-Libyan alliance, just as POLISARIO have declared their intention to be the splitting of Mauritania from Morocco.

The latest reports from the Sahara indicate that repairs to the Krupp-hull conveyor which carries the phosphate from the Bu Craa mines to the port will be repaired by the end of this month. The belt is at present damaged in five places but is now guarded by 2,000 Moroccan troops.

## CHAD

## French Prime Minister visits

M. Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, is to visit Chad on March 5 and 6 in order to "normalise" Franco-Chadian relations. M. Chirac is accompanied by M. Jean de Lipkowski, the Minister for Co-operation, and M. Guy

Georgy, the Director of African Affairs at the Quai d'Orsay.

Talks on aid agreements, broken off on January 30, were resumed on February 26 at the request of France. M. Chirac is expected to finalise new agreements.

• The Chad authorities have confirmed that some 200 "outlaws" (believed to be Toubou tribesmen) attacked the town of Faya in

northern Chad on February 18 but were beaten off by the security forces. As many as 30 people are reported killed in the attack but, while some families have been evacuated from the town, the situation is now normal. The attack, at first reported to have taken place in January, was later confirmed by the Chad authorities to have occurred in mid February.

## NIGER

## New Drive against Corruption

Some fifty one civil servants and other state employees have been arrested as part of a new drive against corruption in Niger. The newspaper *Le Sahel*, referring to recent administrative broadcasts on the subject by President Kountche, has further warned that a new drive against corruption is imminent.

• M. Annou Mamane, the Minister of Planning, has said that over 80 per cent of the recent loan acquired by Niger from the EDF will be spent on efforts to increase the agricultural production of the country. Among projects totalling some 15,000,000 frs. CFA, are the drilling of 80 wells in Zinder province and the improvement of the road system.

## First Food Aid from China

The first countries to respond to Niger's appeal for food aid are China and Switzerland, which have contributed \$80,000 and \$120,000 respectively. France is also to send some 7,000 tons of grain, and 20,000 tons of food from Upper Volta and Mali have already been bought as a stop-gap measure. Commander Ali Sebou, the Chief of Staff, who is in charge of Famine Relief, has toured the most affected regions and promised effective government aid.

• Agreements of more than \$4m. have been signed between France and Niger for phosphate research, the establishment of a radio link between Niamey and Dosso and an irrigation project. The radio link will be meshed with existing Algerian promises of aid by telephone equipment and other communications facilities.

• SONARA, the state groundnut buying company, has begun negotiations with Senegal for the purchase of groundnuts for next year's seed, after a disastrous failure of the harvest caused by insect pests. So far, SONARA has only been able to buy 3,500 tons of groundnuts on the home market and does not expect to get more than 12,500 tons in all. The harvest was forecast at over 150,000 tons and by this time last year, SONARA had already purchased some 50,000 tons. The need to buy such large quantities of seed (see *West Africa*, January 26) will place strain on the economy just when there had been hopes that less food would have to be imported.

## IVORY COAST

## Conseil De l'Entente meets at Yamoussoukro

The member states of the *Conseil de l'Entente* have met at Yamoussoukro in the Ivory Coast under the Chairmanship of President Houphouët Boigny. Presidents Eyadema of Togo and Kountche of Niger were joined by M. Barthélemy Houens, the Benin Minister for Industry, and Capt. Leonard Kalmog, the Upper Volta Planning Minister. After a preparatory meeting chaired by M. Mounkaila Arouna, the Niger Minister of Mines, the Heads of State meeting drafted several agreements on co-operation in telecommunications, tourism and joint research in mineral and water prospecting and surveying.

• After a five-year prospecting venture, China has reported the discovery of large iron ore deposits at Bangolo to the north-west of Abidjan in the Ivory Coast. The deposits, said to be 66 per cent pure, are in the regions of Mount Klahoyu and Mount Tia, with from two to three hundred million tons at each site.

• Yugoslavia hopes to extend its trade with the Ivory Coast in the near future selling agricultural machinery, refrigerators, television sets and machinery in exchange for the cocoa and bananas which it purchases. At the moment, Yugoslavia sells very little in the Ivory Coast but the Yugoslav trade mission, which held talks in Abidjan after other visits to Gabon and the Congo, is confident that the adverse trade balance would be corrected.

## CONGO

## Nguabi denounces Govt. quarrels

Speaking on the anniversary of the crushing of the coup attempt of 22 February 1972, President Nguabi has reviewed the state of the nation, contrasting successes and favourable developments in foreign affairs with what he termed "the stagnation of the revolution" at home. Regretting that quarrels within the leadership had distracted from efforts to improve the lot of the "hard-working masses", the President lamented that "everybody agreed on the decisions adopted collectively but in practice each leader is behaving as if these decisions do not concern him." The President then went on to say that the problem of state authority had not been solved and that the "putschist tendency" responsible for the events of 22 February 1972 was still abroad. After the government reorganisation of December 12 last year (in which the government and ruling PCT were purged), "we are again witnessing agitations and petty quarrels between the leaders..."

## CAMEROON

## Missionary wins Mountain Race

David Nufang reports:

The fourth Mount Cameroon Race, sponsored by Guinness Cameroon, has been won by an Italian missionary from northern Cameroon. Fr Walter Stifter, in a record time of 4 hours and 32 minutes. Fr. Stifter, who made the ascent in another record time (3 hours and one minute), is the first expatriate to win the race, which has previously been won by Bakwerians from Buea, where Mount Cameroon is situated. While participants from Italy, France, Britain and Belgium have run in previous races, the form of the Buea runners had been such that it was supposed that only Bakwerians, who were able to get realistic practice, could win it.

Mount Cameroon, known locally as Fako Mountain, is 4,070 metres (12,550 feet) high and the previous best time was set by M. Amos Dumbo Evambe, who completed the course in five hours and seven minutes in 1975. Earlier winners, M.M. John Ekema and David Ngon, won the distinction of an entry in the *Guinness Book of Records*. The first race, in 1973, was held during the first national agricultural show at Buea, capital of South-West province, at which President Ahidjo launched the "Green Revolution" campaign, designed to revitalise Cameroon's agriculture.

Guinness Cameroon, a subsidiary of the famous brewing company, and the first British brewing firm to establish itself in a Francophone country, paid out a total of 475,000 frs. CFA in prizes this year. Guinness have also rebuilt "Hut 3", near the summit of Mount Cameroon, which was originally erected by the Germans at the time of the Kamerun colony. The military signals corps provided live radio coverage of the event, and of the progress of the 150 or so runners, fully one hundred of whom are assured of a prize if they can complete the grueling course.

## Prize for Sculptor

President Ahidjo has awarded the cultural prize named after himself to the Cameroon sculptor Gedcon Mpano, for his mahogany panel depicting the struggle against the tropical forest. The prize, which goes in rotation to a cultural or scientific creation like

ly to affect Cameroon's development, was first awarded in 1973.

France and Cameroon have agreed to new arrangements for immigration and the exchange of visits by their citizens.

● M. Jean de Lipkowski, the French Minister for Co-operation, has held talks with President Ahidjo in the course of what was described as a "friendly working visit."

Threatened by the plague had also been exaggerated and was "prejudicial" to Senegal's image. The Minister did not on the other hand seek to disguise the severity of the problem caused by the "several million rats" but insisted that the ICRC claims were based on inaccurate statistics.

## GUINEA-BISSAU

## New Currency issued

President Luis Cabral of Guinea Bissau has announced that his country is to have its own currency, the peso, unsupported by the Portuguese escudo. The announcement, which is to take immediate effect, came after the failure of the mediation by Commander-José Gomes Mota, the Portuguese Deputy Minister for Co-operation with former colonies. Talks with Guinea-Bissau have broken down five times and the present impasse, which hinges principally on the allocation of Guinea-Bissau's inherited National Debt, is the logical conclusion of this disagreement. In Lisbon, Cdr. Mota declared that it had been "impossible to reach understanding" with the Guinea Bissau authorities, who, for their part, have declared themselves permanently indifferent to the presence of Portuguese technicians, including the air traffic controllers whose deportation precipitated the present crisis. In Bissau, no less than five Lisbon newspapers have been banned for being "too reactionary".

Portugal, which feared the nationalisation without compensation of its investments in Guinea-Bissau, has now frozen all the former colony's assets in response to similar action with regard to the *Banco Nacional Ultramarino* in Bissau.

## CAPE VERDE

● The OAU Ministerial Council has exempted Cape Verde from paying an OAU contribution this year in recognition of the country's economic plight. The Council, referring to "the economic difficulties facing that young republic", called upon all its members to offer assistance to the Cape Verdes.

## TOGO

## Govt. bans Food Exports

The Government has banned the sale of a number of food items, including yams, maize, guinea corn, soya beans and gar, outside the country. Anyone wishing to send food to relatives outside Togo should seek permission, and the weight of any parcel should not be above 50kg.

## ANGOLA

## Peace with Zaire at Brazzaville summit

Zaire has finally recognised the People's Republic of Angola after a summit meeting between Presidents Mobutu and Neto held in Brazzaville on February 28 and 29 under the auspices of President Nguabi of the Republic of the Congo. According to President Mobutu, the two countries had "gone beyond simple recognition" and agreed to a whole host of co-operation arrangements. Zaire dropped all her earlier conditions for recognition and in exchange agreements for the voluntary repatriation of refugees, the guarantee of Zaire's communications and for the expulsion of FNLA and UNITA from Zaire's territory were signed. Speaking afterwards to the Congolese Labour Party (PCT), President Neto turned his wrath upon the South Africans whom, he declared, were still on Angolan territory. Angola, continued the President, considered herself to be "still at war" with all foreign troops on her territory and would not tolerate the South African presence much longer. Speaking later in his territory with the South Africans, though he pointed out that South Africa's fears were unjustified and that the MPLA had no intention of harming the Ruacana Falls dams.

New initiatives were also taken in domestic policy, with the announcement that the state would take control of all those industries whose owners abandoned them for over 45 days. Nevertheless, the that management, so long as it is producing, will not be unduly hindered either by the authorities or workers' committees.

Senior civil servants, however, are to have their salaries cut. "An austerity measure" demanded by the needs of social justice." Ministers have already made similar sacrifices. Dr. Neto has also called for the "necessary collaboration" of UN specialised agencies in developing Angola's industry. After the lifting of the United States embargo on US companies trading with Angola, Gulf Oil expects to resume production soon in Cabinda. The US, however, has announced that this relaxation does not mean that it is ready to recognise the MPLA regime.

Zambia, too, has made overtures to the MPLA, with her Foreign Minister, Mr. Rupiah Banda, while not recognising the PRA, declaring that Zambia had never been hostile to MPLA and would willingly co-operate with any government in the territory. In the south of Angola, MPLA forces continue to mop up resistance to the Luanda regime though they have found that their welcome, after the chaos and mayhem of the interim, has belied reports of strong grass-roots support for Savimbi in the area. Portugal, who has only just taken steps to close UNITA offices in Lisbon, has been censured by MPLA for embarrassing European powers basically sympathetic to their cause, and preventing earlier recognition of the Luanda regime, at a time that might have had an effect on the course of the war.

Rumours that Angolan troops would invade Namibia, given credence by certain references in Dr. Neto's Brazzaville speech to MPLA's duty to liberate southern Africa, have since been denied in Luanda. The Prime Minister, Sr. Lopo do Nascimento, explained that MPLA's internationalist obligations would be fulfilled by aiding the indigenous guerrilla groups in the occupied territories, and not by any direct invasion.

● A team of eleven doctors from the People's Republic of China has arrived in Togo, on their way to set up a hospital unit in the country.

## 1976 budget

Togo's budget for 1976, set at 50,020m. frs. CFA, represents a 64 per cent increase on the previous year. Phosphates are to provide 16 per cent of the public purse for the coming year, which will see increases in every sector of expenditure, with Education (at 3,300m. frs. CFA) and Defence (3,200m. frs. CFA) leading the spending table. Some 6,470m. CFA are to be allocated to debt repayments, over one third of this being for military equipment. The costs of administration do not show such a prominent rise, being set at 11,840m. frs. CFA for salaries, though the new *Hotel du Palais* is estimated to cost some 2,250m. frs. CFA. Income tax ranges from 24 per cent to 54 per cent, and a new tax for housing development, raised at one per cent of companies wage bills, is to be imposed. Customs charges are estimated to yield 20,000m. frs. CFA.

## SENEGAL

## Empress Farah's visit

After a stopover in Rabat, the Empress Farah of Iran had paid a four-day official visit to Senegal, where she laid the foundation stone for the oil refinery to be built jointly by the two countries. President Senghor welcomed the Empress, whom he described as "the Empress with the golden smile" and expressed the hope that her visit would strengthen relations between Iran and Senegal.

● Speaking to a gathering of Senegalese ambassadors, President Senghor has declared that African Unity will be at best served by slow stages, with the grouping of geographical regions and sub-regions rather than "ideologically-inspired constructions of unity for unity's sake." Such attempts, if made without methodical preparations, would allow the centrifugal forces so beloved of imperialist and other malevolent forces to have full rein.

● Three French missionaries were killed in the crash of their light aircraft near the Keur Galaye monastery north of Dakar. A French businessman accompanying the monks was also killed.

● M. Adrien Senghor, the Minister for Rural Development, has dismissed alarmist press reports that Senegal has been invaded by 25 to 30,000 million rats. The Minister, speaking in Dakar, said that the health hazards

## IN BRIEF

## Commissioner sees way forward for Namibia

Mr. Sean McBride, the UN Commissioner for Namibia, has criticised the West for its "double-talk" over Namibia and its co-operation with the apartheid regime. The Commissioner added that he saw independence for Namibia "within two years", since events in the south of the continent had proceeded at such a pace he felt obliged to revise his earlier, more pessimistic, estimates.

Mr. MacBride added that the South African government had "made overtures" to SWAPO and that, if talks did begin, the transition of Namibia to independence would be substantially eased.

• The South-West African Constitutional Conference, at present in session in Windhoek, capital of Namibia, has revealed fresh areas of disagreement between white and other groups in

the country. After discussing the report of the sub-committee on pay, pensions and identity documents, the Assembly called for the abolition of the pass system and the swift equalisation of all racially defined wage and salary structures. SWAPO is not represented at the conference, which has been characterised by its spokesmen as a blind to cover South African plans to retain territory in defiance of UN Resolutions.

• The resources of the African Development Fund will be exhausted by next June, according to M. Abdelwahab Labidi, the Fund's President. However, the Bank, which has expended its funds in counteracting the effects of the Sahelian drought, does expect further funds from industrialised countries. Negotiations for \$430m. for the period 1976-78 had also been concluded, continued M. Labidi, but the drought was far from over and international funds, despite the generosity of the developed world, had been insufficient to negate totally its harmful effects. (See article, p. 300.)

## New French director for EDF

M. Michel Hauswirth, from France, has been appointed the new Director of the European Development Fund (EDF), in place of M. Jacques Ferrandi, who resigned last month. M. Hauswirth, who is a career civil servant, has until this new post been economic adviser to the French Foreign Office. The EDF has been extensively remodelled since M. Ferrandi's departure and M. Hauswirth's duties are not expected to be comparable with those of his predecessor.

• Mr. Shridath S. Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, has said that the liberation of southern Africa by armed struggle must now be seen as "a credible and immediate option" if negotiations for majority rule were not begun immediately. The outcome of the war in Angola had changed the situation in the south of the continent and majority rule, always inevitable in the long term, was now irresistible in the short. The question of foreign or communist intervention was not central, the Secretary-General continued, though it was encouraged by the inertia of the West, which condemned but failed to deter the domination of the majority of minorities.

• The CEAO has released details of the projects so far approved under its Community Development

Fund, which is based at Ouagadougou. The first project, a study of the recovery of agriculture after drought, has been budgeted for 9m. frs. CFA and plans for the centralisation of fertiliser and pesticide production has been allocated 7.5m. frs. CFA. A "quarantine station" for new crop varieties, to be established at maradi in Niger is to receive 1.55m. frs. CFA, while 35m. frs. CFA is to go to a survey of water supplies in the region. Some 25.5m. frs. CFA is allotted to the creation of a joint company for the purchase and distribution of fuels, and 18m. frs. CFA for the improvement of river navigation.

Sixteen separate studies of trading patterns in the CEAO are to receive altogether some 68.5m. frs. CFA, while the largest portion of the funds allotted, some 405m. frs. CFA, is to be dedicated to the setting up of livestock marketing centres throughout the Sahel region. This last sum is to be entrusted to the *Office Communautaire pour le Betail et la Viande* (OCBV), which is also to harmonise health and quarantine regulations within CEAO.

• Indigenous capital now makes up 37 per cent of all that involved in the 180 largest enterprises in the Ivory Coast, although its participation is far less (only five per cent) in the 44 largest firms. State capital makes up the balance, although almost two thirds of this is involved in state enterprises.

## Sahara causes marathon OAU session

The OAU Ministerial Conference in Addis Ababa ended on the morning of March 1, having run over its original schedule by two days and with the issue of the Western Sahara, the principal bone of contention at the end, decided finally by a procedural majority. The split in the OAU, writes a correspondent, came after Binin had proposed the recognition of the POLISARIO Front, the Algerian based guerrilla group fighting in the Western Sahara. The OAU Liberation Committee had already recommended such a course at its meeting last month at Maputo, in Mozambique, but, while over 20 states were supposed to have spoken in favour of POLISARIO at the closed sessions in Addis, other states, principally Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Tunisia and Gabon, remained vehemently opposed. Instead, with Morocco and Mauritania threatening to leave the organisation if POLISARIO were recognised, the split in the OAU over the Sahara seemed destined to mirror the deadlocked position over Angola which bedevilled the last meeting.

In the end, however, a compromise was discovered with Mr. Cecil Denmy, the Liberian Foreign Minister, gauging the forms of words in a way which proved acceptable to both opinions. Taking advantage of the declaration, on February 28, 29, of the Saharan Arab and Democratic State by POLISARIO, the OAU was able to dispense with the necessity of recognising it as a liberation movement. Instead, recognition of the state was left to each individual member.

Nevertheless, this finely balanced solution can only be a temporary reprieve for OAU from the necessity of facing up to the problem of Spanish Sahara. If the Angolan incident has set a precedent for events settling themselves in time, the Saharan issue seems likely to be long-lived, if not so serious, as the Angolan crisis. Reports that the OAU was split 21 to 12 in favour of POLISARIO indicate that the argument over recognition of the RASD (the Sahara) could provide a repetition of the acrimonious debate over whether recognition is a substantive or a procedural issue (requiring a two-thirds or a simple majority respectively) which was not settled by the rather unusual circumstances of Angola's admission.

Despite the distractions of the Sahara, the OAU was able to complete other business, which included the expansion of the Djibouti *ad hoc* fact-finding committee to 8 by the inclusion of Mozambique and Liberia. The Liberation Committee was also increased in size, from 18 to 21, and now includes Mozambique, Angola and Liberia. On the question of Djibouti, the OAU called upon France to abandon the territory as soon as possible and announced that its fact-finding commission would visit the TFAI again to ascertain the situation. For her part, Egypt offered facilities for a meeting between France and Somalia so that "misunderstandings" of her policy for the territory might be cleared up.

France's position on the Comoros was further criticised, especially as the Comoro Republic's Foreign Minister, M. Ali Tahir, was elected to act as the third vice chairman for the 26th session.

More seriously, the OAU meeting declared that South Africa's new law, allowing her to send troops to any part of Africa south of the Equator, was "equivalent to a declaration of war" and called for Africa to "counterattack to protect her dignity". Certainly, the OAU Summit, fixed now for July 2 in Mauritius, will have more to say on this last theme.

## SIERRA LEONE Lassa fever appeal

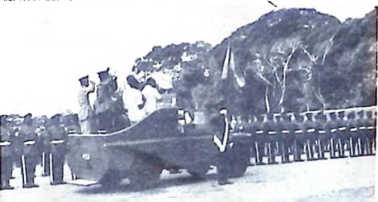
Passengers on British Caledonian flight No. 352 from Freetown on Saturday, February 28, are being traced urgently by Health authorities after an American doctor on the flight, Margaret Coe, was isolated in New York with suspected Lassa fever. Dr. Coe spent four and one half hours at London, Heathrow, before taking Pan American flight No. 407 to Washington. Anyone who was on the flight, or near Dr. Coe at Heathrow is asked to contact their doctor.

• Cuba and Sierra Leone have signed an agreement setting up airline passenger, cargo and mail services between the two countries.

The agreement, which will establish direct flights between the Caribbean and West Africa, is the sixth air agreement Cuba has signed with an African country, and Sierra Leone's first with a Latin American country.

• A three man trade delegation from Pakistan visited Sierra Leone to discuss possible joint ventures.

• Mr. John Conteh, the World light heavyweight boxing champion, has now received the first payment from Uganda for his forthcoming fight against Sr. Alvaro Lopes of Mexico, to be held in Kampala, Uganda, on March 28. The money will be used to pay part of the £25,000 compensation payable to Mickey Duff, the promoter, who had an option on Conteh's next defence. The fight will be televised live to an audience of 35,000.



The two Presidents inspect a guard of honour. With them is Gen. Okai, Chief of Defence Staff, who represented Ghana at the ceremony.

• The annual report of the produce branch of the Ministry of Agriculture says that 46,000 tons of agricultural produce, worth 20.4m. leone, were shipped to Britain, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Greece, Spain and America last year.

• The first consignment of timber, 1,200 tonnes, from the Gola Forest, has been shipped to Europe by the Sierra Leone Timber and Plantation Company. The company has a monthly target of 3,000 tonnes of timber.

• Dr. Charles Harding, a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist who is attached to the Connaught Hospital in Freetown, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in London. For many years a member of the College, Dr. Harding is the first Sierra Leonean to be elected a Fellow.

## Eleven to study in Britain

Eleven Sierra Leoneans — 9 men and two women — were among the 5,462 overseas students admitted to British Universities in the last academic year. This was an increase of about 3,000 in the total of overseas admissions to the universities last year.

• Martin Bonham and Trevor Faulkner, from Leeds University, will conduct a drama workshop for actors, producers and stage designers at Fourah Bay College beginning at the end of the month.

• The British High Commissioner, Mr. Ian Watts, presented more than 2,000 leone-worth of medical books and periodicals to the Department of Clinical Studies at the Connaught Hospital.

## LIBERIA

### Swiss sign Rice Agreement

Switzerland has signed agreements with the West African Rice Development Association in Monrovia, providing for a strengthening of WARDA's team of foreign experts and trainee fellowships. Under the agreements, Switzerland will provide salary and expenses for two years for a financial expert to join the WARDA team, especially to help feasibility studies for member-states. It also provided fellowships for two trainees to study rice cultivation at WARDA's training centre in Liberia.

• Canon Burgess Carr, Secretary General of the All Africa Conference of Churches, and two A.A.C.C. vice presidents — Bishop Amba Samuel of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt and Pastor Harry Henry of the Methodist Church of Binn — visited Addis Ababa to seek clarification about the detention last month of Abuna (Archbishop) Tewoflos, the Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and several bishops. Their findings are expected to be reported to the World Council of Churches, whose

executive committee meets in Geneva this month.

The A.A.C.C. delegation is also likely to raise with the Ethiopian authorities the case of other detainees, including women members of the late Emperor Haile Selassie's family.

• The Foreign Minister, Mr. Cecil Dennis Jr., has officially opened the \$704m. Omega navigational station in Libena. The station, one of eight round the world, built by the US government, stands over 1,400 ft high (over 420 metres) and is capable of operating effectively in any weather conditions. The other stations are in Norway, Argentina, Japan, France, Australia and two in America.

• The Foreign Minister, Mr. Cecil Dennis Jr., was elected chairman of the 26th meeting of the OAU's Council of Ministers in Addis Ababa which was attended by delegations from all 47 member states, including for the first time Angola.

• President Tolbert paid a one-day visit to President Sekou Toure.

## THE GAMBIA

### New Chief Economist

Dr. Ivan Encsic, a Yugoslav member of the UN Secretariat, has taken up his post as temporary Chief Economist of The Gambia.

The Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and National Resources, urged farmers to join the Government's scheme to

improve the quality of the country's livestock. He said that the government was planning to provide drinking places for animals and to introduce a fattening scheme.

• Communications experts from The Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta, Chad and Niger met this month in Ouagadougou to draw up a programme of assistance in radio broadcasting and telecommunication for the whole Sahelian region.

• A delegation from the Islamic Solidarity Fund paid a two day visit to The Gambia and made gifts worth about 500,000 dalasi to 150 educational projects. The new college being built at Brikama was given \$200,000 and \$50,000 was given for the multi-purpose building to be put up at the Sukuta Primary School site.

• Nine young Canadians in The Gambia with the Gambian — Canadian Youth Exchange Programme, joined eight young Gambians to help the Public Works Department with construction work at the Cultural Festival at Mama-Konko.

• Mr. Gabriel Lowe has gone to Germany for two and a half years to study letterpress printing techniques. Seven other Gambian printers are in Britain studying various printing processes and techniques.

• Government expenditure for development projects in Upper River Division, mentioned in last week's issue, will be in the region of 15m. dalasi.

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