

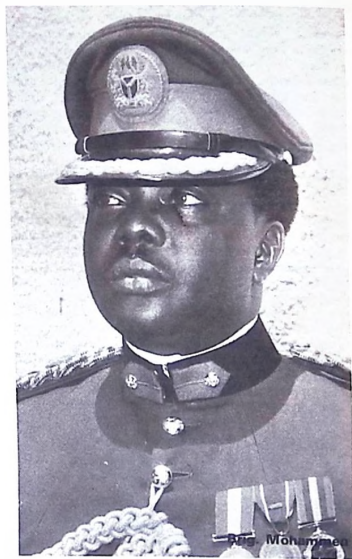
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How many states in Nigeria?



Gen. Mohammed



Gen. Lamizana

Upper Volta the unions think again

How many states in Nigeria ?

From Brigadier Mohammed's remarks when he received the report of the panel on the creation of new states, led by Mr. Justice Ayo Irikefe, it is clear that Nigeria's Head of State expects new states to be established. For he declared that the purpose of the enquiry was to establish "more manageable" areas to facilitate even development. And a group of people who have been bombarded with as many demands for new states as the panel have been as they toured the country cannot fail to come up with at least a couple of proposals.

One hopes that it is no more than a couple. It is true that the 12 states whose creation was decreed by General Gowon in 1967 still left great inequalities in area between the component units of the federation — the North East State, for example, is over 100,000 square miles while the Rivers State is under 8,000. But the range of inequality in populations is much smaller — from roughly 10m. in the West to 2m. in Lagos. And no state or even pair of states can in any way "dominate" the rest, as the Northern Region was thought to "dominate" the Federation.

When the states were established, the boundaries of existing provinces were used

as boundaries for them. Some adjustment of such boundaries, it seemed likely at the time, would later be demanded — a transfer, for example, of some people in southern Zaria to Benue Plateau State. But in the end it has not been boundary adjustments but the complete division of states which has been demanded. Proposals have ranged from a reversion to the former "24 Provinces" to the division of the Western State into three. With the exception of Kano (although some people elsewhere consider even this very homogeneous state to be too big) every state has produced one or more groups demanding its dismemberment into smaller states. Mr. Justice Irikefe has observed drily that if his commission agreed to all the demands for new states and for boundary revisions put to them, Nigeria would find herself with over 200 states.

The demand for new states springs from many sources. Ambitious politicians look forward to the prospect of civilian ministries; some people believe that the Federal Government's virtually limitless oil funds would subsidise the paraphernalia of a state government for almost any group or area. In Borno the Kanuri of the ancient emirate complain that they have lost their identity and are now but a single division in

the amorphous North East State. In the North West State the people of Bida complain that Sokoto, the capital of their new state, is further from them than was the capital of the former Northern Region, Kaduna.

Some people speak of unfair distribution of "amenities" or economic activities, favouring dominant majorities and neglecting minorities. There are suggestions that some groups monopolise state government employment, there is a belief that representation at the centre under civilian regime would be by states, so that a small group, if it can be made into a separate state, could be represented in Lagos. But no group can produce the kind of evidence (much of it unnecessary) produced before the Minorities Commission in 1957 alleging discrimination by majorities against minorities in the regions, and the monopolising of political power by tribally-based parties. The case for creating new states has none of the strength of the case for breaking up the three original regions.

The arguments against creation of more states, however, are cogent. The ethnic geography on which some claims are based is often confused or suspect. In any case Nigeria has never adopted the principle that every or any ethnic group is entitled to its own region or state. New states created as a result of a demand by a minority in an existing state are by implication a criticism of the majority in that state, and relations between the new and the old states may not be harmonious. As has been found in the present states, the creation of new states is likely to bring forward new, hitherto dormant, minority problems and enmities.

Office accommodation in some of the existing state capitals is now only beginning to be adequate: the administrations in some cases are still weak. To establish and man new state governments will be difficult and expensive. Unhappily that particularly concerns any possible division of the two states with the biggest areas, the North East and the North West. Nor is it yet known what functions are proposed for state governments in future. If the constitutional panel proposes, and the Federal Military Government agrees to, a run-down of state functions, it would be possible to create more states than if the present comprehensive functions are to remain. The only valid reason for creating a new state now is that it would facilitate the business of government. It is probably true that the only way of creating a state in Nigeria is by military decree, and that any new states created should be in working order before the proposed date for return of civilian rule in 1979. So time is short. Even so the most rigorous examination of any new state proposals made by Mr. Justice Irikefe's panel is essential before they are put into effect. "Pluralism", it becomes clearer daily, is now a disruptive element in many states, even old-established ones such as Spain, France and the UK. Nigeria's problem, if uniquely complex, is not unique, and does not require unique remedies.

In the last six years Nigerians have given the world an example of reconciliation among previously warring communities. The creation of new states for any but the most cogent administrative reasons would be a confession of failure.

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Where is Lamizana now ?

For the last ten years, Gen. Sangoué Lamizana has been the President of Upper Volta in economic and political circumstances which would have taxed the resources of any man. Yet his National Consultative Council of Renewal has gained a reputation, reaching far beyond Upper Volta's own borders, for efficiency, honesty and decency unusual even for a reforming military regime. Gen. Lamizana himself has won the respect of his fellow African rulers for his personal probity and gravity and, at least until recently, held a special place in the hearts of the vast majority of Upper Voltans. His present predicament is therefore all the more distressing.

The general strike which began in Ouagadougou on December 17 (a report from a correspondent, on page 37, gives the background) is the most serious challenge to President Lamizana's rule to emerge since he seized power from M. Maurice Yameogo on January 3, 1966. Trades Union membership in Upper Volta, despite a significant expansion in processing industry over the last decade, is still overwhelmingly made up of civil servants and their protest now, as in 1966, threatens the whole organisation of the state. The crowds which ten years ago were calling "Where is Colonel Lamizana?" are now demanding "a return to normal democratic life" which must mean the end of the military regime. Apparently, Gen. Lamizana's recent moves in this direction, including the creation of a *Mouvement National de la Révolution (MNR)* have not been enough to satisfy this demand, while his capitulation, in the face of the strike, to the pay rises, reduction of hours and other "industrial" demands of the unions have come too late to assuage his opponents.

Ironically, the mobilisation of opinion against the military regime arose from the purchase of a fleet of luxury limousines by the government, in the same way as ex-President Yameogo's Mercedes 600 signalled the eruption of public exasperation with his extravagance — ironic especially as President Lamizana and his colleagues are generally assumed to have been unusually parsimonious in their private and public lives. Indeed, while politics in Upper Volta since independence have been punctuated by a series of austerity budgets and pay cuts, the Lamizana government has distinguished itself from its predecessor in applying the severity of its measures even more rigorously to its own members than to the public at large.

So far, there has been little indication of Gen. Lamizana's reaction to the union's demands, although, by passing off the disruption of traffic at Ouagadougou airport as "technical problems" his government has shown determination to ignore it. The Information Minister, M. Charles Bambara, has said that the army will

return to barracks "as soon as stable political structures have been established" but no detailed timetable has so far been forthcoming. Sentiments such as "the army has no intention of taking over the political life of our dear country" offer little elucidation. But whether the President decides to reward his people for their ingratitude by resigning, or whether he determines to resist pressure to force the pace on a return to multi-party democracy, the problems of Upper Volta will remain daunting. Despite the resolution of the Mali-Upper Volta border dispute at Conakry in July, a renewal of the issue now threatens and, with continuing world recession and inflation, the country will be hard pressed to persuade France and other donors to pay for the pay rises the civil service has just secured.

Upper Volta's development problems are enormous and it seems unlikely if any other regime could improve on Gen. Lamizana's record. But even if the General stays in power, the censorship and repression that this strike has called forth will not make them any easier to bear.

Exit for France ?

After all, the French, as well as the Portuguese, the Spanish, and the Belgians, will have left Africa before the British, for the "Territory of the Afars and Issas", the former French Somaliland, is to become independent this year, and it is unlikely that Britain will have escaped from the Rhodesia imbroglio before that. Even the Seychelles, though scheduled for independence "before June 1976", may be beaten by Afars and Issas. So all the reluctant decolonisers will be ahead of Britain, which gave the lead.

France can scarcely have held on to the Afars and Issas this long for economic reasons or for comfort. As in Spanish Sahara, most of the 200,000 people outside the capital, Djibouti, are nomads. But there are no minerals, and the main economic activity is the port of Djibouti itself, which is the terminus of Ethiopia's railway, and which suffered badly from the closure of the Suez Canal. No doubt after giving up the Madagascar base, France saw some value in a Djibouti one; but French public opinion is now unenthusiastic about overseas bases, while for Ethiopia the railway has become vastly more important because of the effect of the Eritrean rebellion on communications with the Red Sea ports.

The probability is that independence for Afars and Issas would lead to an armed struggle between Ethiopia, whose government regards the port as initially part of Ethiopia (where the Sultan of the majority Afars is in exile), and the Somalis, who regard the Issas as part of their nation. But Ah Aref, the "Prime Minister" of the territory now seems ready to keep French forces there after independence in sufficient numbers to deter aggression, which gives France a let-out.

It is ironic that African states

themselves should quarrel over this last outpost of France's African empire, as they are doing over the last output of Spain's empire, the Sahara, and, probably, over Cabinda, in Portugal's last outpost. It may provide yet another headache for the OAU which, as an editorial in this magazine noted last month, was founded on the supposition that African states had nothing to fear from each other, thus handicapping it in dealing with internal rather than external threats. And the first problem will probably arise over the territory's membership of OAU — not because it would then, alphabetically head the list, but because Somalia would deny that it was really independent.

Africa and Angola

Whatever decisions about Angola the OAU Heads of State reach this weekend, it will not be the result of US diplomacy. Mr. Ford's almost peremptory letter to African heads of state, declaring that the US "cannot stand idly by" if Soviet and Cuban support for MPLA continued is likely to swing some African governments towards support for MPLA. For it implies that the US, and not the movement which many African governments, and many people in African states which have not yet recognised MPLA, regard as Angola's legitimate government, must decide where Africans may look for help outside their borders.

The ill-judged tour of five African states by the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. William Schaefele, is also likely to irritate African governments because the choice of states — Zaire, Gabon, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Senegal — seemed once more to suggest that the US regarded certain governments as "moderate" or "sensible", although Zaire is deeply committed to the FNLA. Gabon is regarded as a French-US client. President Houphouët-Boigny shows no interest in OAU affairs, President Senghor has indicated his "inclination" for UNITA, while President Ahidjo, although he has conducted his external affairs in a statesmanlike manner, cannot forget communist support for a rebellion in his own country.

No African country, and certainly not Nigeria or Ghana, wants Russian bases on African soil and nobody in Africa has any fears of Cuba. But they know that the apartheid regime is already established on African soil and fear its extension, while they cannot ignore the revelations in Washington about CIA activities in Zaire at a time when the situation in that country was not unlike that in Angola now. They are confident that when peace is restored in Angola, real independence can also be achieved, and resent the implication that black Africans, in whose states no communist party flourishes, are uniquely vulnerable to Soviet influence. If that influence does prevail in Angola, it will be largely the work of the Americans and the South Africans.



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Matchet's Diary



February meeting in Monrovia

In Liberia's history President William Tolbert has an assured place. He is and may remain the only President who not only succeeded, as Vice-President, on the death of the President, but who then served not only his predecessor's unexpired term of some five months, but Mr. Tubman's next term of four years without himself being elected. This was because President Tubman had already been elected for the next term when he died, and the law was changed to allow Mr. Tolbert, who had been elected Vice-President to Mr. Tubman, to serve the 1972-76 term as President, as he had been for the previous five months, instead of as "acting President". After being elected unopposed last year, he has been formally inaugurated for the eight-year term which is now prescribed for Liberia's Presidents.

He will be 70 in 1983, and now there is only one presidential term. Apparently there is nothing to stop a former President standing again at the end of a successor's eight-year term, but even a country which re-elected President Tubman at the age of 75 is unlikely to re-elect Mr. Tolbert at the age of 78. So during his "last term" he will not have to worry about re-election, which gives an office-holder considerable freedom of action.

The President, who has brought on younger men and appointed Liberia's first woman Cabinet Minister, suffered a serious blow when his younger brother Steve, whom he had appointed Minister of Finance, was killed in an aircraft accident. The appointment was criticised in some quarters as "dynastic", particularly as the President's elder brother, Frank, was President of the Senate. But the late Minister's drive and enthusiasm, which had built up his wide-ranging group of companies, were admired and were of great help to the President.

Perhaps, however, it will be President Tolbert's great initiative in external affairs which will be most remembered in the history of the last four years. For in February last year came the visit to Monrovia of Mr. Johannes Balthazar

Vorster, arranged by Mr. Steve Tolbert in whose house the South African Prime Minister was entertained. Less than a year later even the modest hopes raised by the visit seem to have disappeared. But Mr. Tolbert can say that, in spite of the criticism, often bitter, of other African leaders, he was making — following the example of his neighbour, President Houphouët-Boigny — what may prove to be one of the last efforts to avoid bloodshed in Southern Africa. Perhaps the South Africans' refusal to allow Mr. Robert Sobukwe, former President of the Pan-Africanist Congress, to accept Liberia's invitation to President Tolbert's inauguration offers an appropriate comment.

Internally Liberia is now a more relaxed state than it was in the last years of Mr. Tubman, and Mr. Tolbert has completely changed the rigorous protocol and rules about dress enforced by that great disciplinarian. Mr. Tolbert rightly boasted last week that Liberia has not, and will not have, any political prisoners and in a continent of military rule and dictatorships its ancient one-party system looks benign.

Academic Ambassador

After a public "defence" of his thesis Mr. Eric Christopher Djamson, Ghana's Ambassador at the Hague, has been awarded a Doctorate of Law at Nijmegen University. The Ambassador, who was born in Peki and is 49, chose as the subject for his thesis "the Dynamics of Euro-African Co-operation", an analysis and exposition of "Institutional, Legal and Socio-Economic Aspects of Association — co-operation with the European Economic Community". This is in fact a study of the Yaounde and the Lome Conventions — not a surprising choice since Mr. Djamson, accredited to Belgium, Luxembourg and the EEC in 1972, was leader of Ghana's delegation to the Brussels negotiations for the Lome Convention. He is, moreover, a distinguished lawyer, with a

London LL.M. and was formerly legal adviser to Ghana's Commercial Bank. His experience of negotiating the establishment of a branch of the bank in Lome must have been one reason — he had then returned to private practise — why he was chosen for the Brussels negotiations.

The thesis will be published in a few months as a book by Martinus Nijhoff of the Hague. The book will be some 500 pages long and will include a brief description with statistics, of each of the ACP states. As a lawyer Mr. Djamson naturally is deeply interested in the legal aspects of Yaounde and Lome. He sees, for example, the development of a body of legal precedent under the *ad hoc* arbitration procedure of Lome no less than under the Court of Arbitration under Yaounde. But the layman, and particularly anybody concerned with making the Lome Convention work, will find the study of great value.

A Christmas Story

No more agreeable Christmas story could be imagined than that of the Cabinet Ministers' carol singing in Freetown. Christian and Muslim Cabinet members, led by Mr. Solomon Pratt, the Attorney-General who is choir-master of his own church, and accompanied by Mr. N. A. Buck, Minister of Development and Economic Planning, or his alto-saxophone, sang carols and spirituals to the President at his Kingharman Road house. Mr. Stevens himself rendered a solo verse of "Silent Night" and the other soloists were the Vice-President Mr. S. I. Koroma, the Prime Minister, Mr. Christian Kamara-Taylor, the Social Welfare Minister, Mr. S. A. Fofanah, the Health Minister, Mr. Hasdon Taylor, and the Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. L. P. Allen.

Fool's gold

There is, happily, little chance of Mr. Jeremy Thorpe becoming Prime Minister, or even a Minister. But the idea of a politician with so little judgment holding office is still disturbing. How can he broadcast to the world his news that the Soviet Union has paid £25m. in gold to the head of an Africa state to recognise MPLA — and the decline to name the state? Unless he does name the state he is slandering an alienating the heads of all the other state which have recognised MPLA. He is, no doubt, giving ideas to some others who have made no decision so far, but that is a minor point. Has he considered the mechanism for the bribe? The physical movement of tons of gold — for that is what Mr. Thorpe's allegation means — in Switzerland could scarcely fail to attract attention. Has the Soviet Union now got money to throw about like that? Is not the price, in any case, ridiculously high? Above all why should the Russians waste the money in this way when the Americans, and the South Africans, have been doing the job for them? And now Mr. Thorpe himself finishing the job, since his charges must surely drive more African states into the MPLA camp. He showed the same kind of ignorant exuberance during the Nigeria war.

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SAHARA-NOT QUITE A WAR

With the Spanish governor departed, the post-colonial era has already arrived in the Sahara. Algeria has called up her reserves but the expected war has so far failed to break out. Here, a correspondent discusses the growing tension.

The relatively slow build-up of the Spanish Sahara crisis has masked both the seriousness of the military preparations which have been going on in the Maghreb and the scope and bitterness of the quarrel between Algeria and Morocco which lies at the heart of the problem. So far, the struggle has been confined to threats, but their increasing vehemence, and their translation into deeds which now include the recall of ambassadors and the expulsion of each other's nationals, bode ill for the future. With the departure of the last Spanish troops from Villa Cisneros scheduled for January 15, and the Madrid Pact technically ratified by the rump of the *Yemaa* (tribal assembly) and the joint Constitutional Committee in El Aaun, the decks in the Sahara have been cleared for action. The Spanish Governor, General Gomez de Salazar, has already left for the Canaries and, as fighting goes on throughout the territory, the post-colonial era has already arrived.

The situation in fact seems only contained by the reticence of the chief protagonists. Neither the UN nor the OAU have taken the remotest interest in the problem, neither body even recognising it as such. While it is certain that there will be at least some behind-the-scenes activity on the issue at the present OAU conference in Addis Ababa, there is little likelihood that the African body after coping (or failing to cope) with Angola, will have time or energy left to adjudicate in this dispute. Meanwhile, both sides are busily preparing for hostilities. Algeria seems the more determined to bring the issue to a head, having called up her reserves, expelled all Moroccans from her territory (even those who have been residents for years) and marshalled her troops on Morocco's border. Col. Boumedienne makes no secret of his determination to support the POLISARIO Front and, while making no actual threat to attack Morocco, has significantly warned that "there are two states that still have no confirmed frontiers: Morocco and Israel". Algeria in fact ratified the 1971 border demarcation agreement, while Morocco has not, but in present circumstances such former certainties seem likely to change.

Algeria's new aggressive spirit has also manifested itself in the agreement between Col. Boumedienne and Gaddafi made at the Hassi-Messaoud oasis in southern Algeria on December 29, 1975. Col. Boumedienne had visited Syria in Libya on December 11, reportedly to ask for Libyan aid against the tacit threat represented by the mobilisation of the Tunisian army on her eastern border. He now seems to have been granted such aid and, according to *Le Figaro* has also been promised some \$200m. for arms from Col. Gaddafi.

Support for this allegation, whatever Libya's present ability actually to pay such a sum, has since come in the announcement that Algeria is to increase her defence spending by 20 per cent in 1976. Libya may also

provide aircraft and other aid in the event of hostilities with Morocco, against which country Col. Gaddafi holds a variety of grudges. The Hassi-Messaoud agreement in fact provides for "a process of union" between Libya and Algeria, on the lines of the ill-fated Egypto-Libyan union, and fits in perfectly with Col. Boumedienne's cherished ideal of "Le Maghrib des Peuples" (The Peoples Maghreb). Official thinking in Algeria, indeed, is that a war with Algeria, far from uniting all Moroccans behind the Alaouite monarchy, would instead precipitate a revolution against the King, led by a discontented army, still smarting from the purges of 1971 and 1972.

The Saharan issue is thus in great danger of being lost behind the dust-storm of deeper-seated Maghreb differences which threaten to overwhelm it and already, there is talk of Algerian annexation of the north-eastern section of the Sahara.

On the ground, POLISARIO has apparently given such a drubbing to the Mauritanian armed forces that Moroccan "advisers", tanks and aircraft have already been sent to Nouakchott and Nouadhibou to stiffen their resistance. These forces could prove a fatal Trojan horse. Moreover, POLISARIO further claim that many Mauritians, civilians and soldiers, have gone over to them, a claim that is more credible when it is recalled that POLISARIO's initial recruits came from northern Mauritania, rather than the Sahara itself. Not only does a Saharan state seem an unlikely outcome, but the very survival of Mauritania must now appear in jeopardy. President Ould Daddah seems perfectly aware of his predicament and has visited Tripoli, Algiers and Rabat in recent weeks to plead his case. He is unlikely to have had much sympathy, however, and Algeria especially can be expected to "punish" Mauritania for "betraying" her with Morocco at Madrid.

The basic issue, nevertheless, is whether Algeria and Morocco will actually come to blows over the Sahara. Neither side apparently wants to be seen to have struck the first blow and Algeria's tactics appear to be those of provoking Morocco beyond endurance by use of the POLISARIO. Attacks on the Moroccan forces from Algerian sanctuaries are allegedly reaching into Morocco herself, with attacks reported in Zmoul and Zag, among other places. While the POLISARIO seem to have been largely driven from the coastal areas and central pans, they are secure east of Smara in the foothills of the hamada. The development of the situation, therefore, would seem to depend upon the patience of the Moroccan armed forces in the face of guerrilla attacks, which must have inflicted considerable casualties already. And if the Moroccans do not flinch, the Algerians may yet decide to settle the issue by force. Once fighting does begin, the military and morale superiority of the Algerian armed forces will tell quickly.



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Benevolence is not Enough

The regime of Gen. Sangoulé Lamizana in Upper Volta is under seige by the trades unions—which organised a general strike in December. Here, Alexander Kirby, who lived in Ouagadougou for many years and knows Upper Volta well, assesses this latest confrontation.

The general strike which took place in Upper Volta on 16 and 17 December could be the start of a popular pressure-wave aimed at ousting President Sangoulé Lamizana, ruler of the country since he seized power in a bloodless coup almost exactly ten years ago, on 3 January 1966. The strike was called by the trade unions, which claim about 12,000 members from the ranks of the country's 33,000 wage-earners, organised in six main groups of unions. While this is obviously a small percentage, the withdrawal of so high a proportion of the country's organised, salaried labour will certainly have had a significant effect, particularly as many State employees (for instance, teachers) below the rank of *haut fonctionnaire* are union members.

The immediate cause of the strike is said to have been the Government's purchase, last autumn, of two Cadillacs and nineteen Mercedes saloons to replace General Lamizana's elderly Mercedes and a number of other official cars. The President's own vehicle broke down on a recent trip near Banfora and had to be pushed into the town, an occurrence as uneconomic as it was undignified. At all events, popular opinion refused to accept the assurance of the Finance Minister, Marc Garango, that the total cost of the new cars was 48 million francs CFA, insisting instead that the

Government "gave" 100m. francs for them.

In the face of these rumours the Government called a public meeting for Sunday, November 30, in Ouagadougou's *Place des Armées*. It was, in the words of one observer, "a ten-minute non-event — the President announced a number of new *profès* (several of them civilians), and the creation of a new Movement for Democratic Development. And that was it".

The unions thought differently. The next day, December 1, they held a meeting which was reported in *L'Observateur* on December 2. *L'Observateur*, the country's quasi-independent daily, was accordingly not allowed to publish that day, and no copies reached the public.

If the Cadillacs triggered off the strike, an important element which must have contributed to it was the aftermath of the fighting with Mali. The country imported large quantities of arms in the early part of 1975; but neither have these at any time become apparent to the man in the Ouagadougou street. Patriotic fervour suspects — probably quite wrongly — that pockets have been lined at its expense. It certainly does not accept that Cadillacs are a necessary part of the war effort. (A traveller who was in Tombouctou in early December reports that Malians there speak of the likelihood of further fighting during 1976 in Oudalan, the area in dispute between Mali and Upper Volta in 1974-75, and also between Mali and Niger.)

Although Gen. Lamizana has now abolished the patriotic levy, reduced the working week of civil servants and announced other tax cuts, the bars of Ouagadougou are now alive with speculation on the possibility of a civilian coup, presumably on the Greek model, whereby Lamizana would hand back power to the civilians and leave them to make a better job of things than he has managed. There are not many countries in West Africa where such speculation is remotely valid; nor are there many where two-day official strikes are possible. Neither Cadillacs nor frustrated patriotism can properly explain the dilemma in which Lamizana now finds himself. It is, simply, that a man who has ruled as considerably as he has, with a conspicuous absence of repressive measures, is easy prey for the power-hungry or for those who simply think they can do better. Lamizana has always eschewed the ostentation of his predecessor Maurice Yaméogo's *Presidence*, living instead in a modest villa near the barracks in town.

Lamizana is known popularly and without irony as *le bon papa*, a title which few rulers earn. It would be typical of the man, and not at all unfitting, if he recognised that his benevolent paternalism was his own undoing and decided to make way for the civilians once again. No-one knows, however, whether any civilian successors would be able to match his standards of liberal and open government.

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LETTERS to the Editor

Recognise MPLA

SIR: The surest way to resolve the Angolan crisis is for the world to recognise, without further delay, the MPLA as the legitimate and only government of Angola.

Recognition by a majority of the international community will inflict such serious embarrassment on the supporters of FNLA and UNITA that they will be forced to withhold further support. Without external aid these two movements will collapse.

OUA equivocation is the main cause of international confusion on the crisis.

Perhaps the early advocacy of a government of national unity (power sharing by the three rivals) by the OUA arose from the desire to see justice done to all the groups for their part in the liberation effort.

The OUA should recognise that what the Angolan people need now is not the promotion of justice (that will come later) but the establishment of a strong and effective administration over the whole country that will grapple with the many problems that face the new state. A government of national unity will not be an effective government.

If the OUA needs any guidance, it should look at the three former Portuguese colonies, now independent members of the organisation, for such guidance. All three have not only recognised MPLA, but have offered to send troops to help it establish itself. The OUA should do the same thing.

Once the OUA comes out clearly and firmly for the MPLA the rest of the world will follow quickly.

London

LOUIS UDOH

Western arrogance

SIR: While I would like to see the Russians and Cubans out of Angola I consider the present hysterical reaction by the West to events in that country both dishonest and immoral.

When the Angolans were fighting Portuguese imperialism for the best part of the last fifteen years the West described them as trigger happy terrorists. Britain had no quarrels with her oldest ally, the US wanted the status quo in Southern Africa maintained. Is Portugal no longer Britain's oldest ally? Why is the American Secretary of State suddenly interested in African affairs? It is not enough to say that all this is to keep out the Russians; they have been in Angola since the start of the Independence war and are at least honest and consistent in their policy towards Angola and African liberation. They helped the Angolans fight the Portuguese and it can be argued that they have the moral right to continue helping to build a strong nation from the ruins left by Portugal. Since FNLA and UNITA have been moderate for a long time, it appears that the West has only come in to destroy the country that they refused to help build in the first place. Why should the West be so prepared to arm Africans to destroy Africans when they refused these same Africans the arms they so badly needed to fight an oppressive European power?

The arms Portugal got from NATO as a member of that organisation were used to kill Africans in Africa. To think that these same arms that were available only to Portugal barely a year ago now seem to be available to Angolans in unlimited quantity!

I find it difficult to believe that countries which help racialism in Southern Africa through their massive investments, diplomatic presence and

support in the UN and elsewhere can have the interest of black people in Angola at heart. I do not see how the very whites in South Africa who despise black people can be accepted as protectors. For African nationalist movements to ask for the help of people who have always favoured the existence of a situation which made Africans undesirable elements in Africa is a mockery of nationalism.

God help Africa if the US has now appointed herself as a guarantor of African freedom. Is this because the CIA is satisfied that it has eliminated all the Lumumbas of Africa? Since when has the US given up her role as a protector of white supremacy in Southern Africa?

I believe that the West has nothing to fear if they help build up strong and effective African governments in all of Southern Africa. Western economic interests and vital sea routes will be in no danger. If on the other hand the West is only interested in maintaining the existing state of affairs in Southern Africa, then they have everything to fear because the liberation movements will seek and obtain the help of powers not so friendly to the West.

I am writing as somebody who believes in the principles that the West likes to associate itself with but who has now come to be aware of and is totally disgusted by Western political immorality and racism.

PAUL NJI TUMASANG

University of Essex, Colchester

The army and Nigeria

SIR: Nigeria plans to cut her army strength by 100,000 for efficiency. We must not get our priority wrong in this particular important department. What is needed is imagination.

We should ask ourselves whether what we need is efficiency of effectiveness, not only in the army but also in many departments of the administration? Mistakes have been made in the past and no doubt will be made in the future. But we must learn especially in areas where army and

commercial departments inter-relate. These are where most mistakes have been made.

We must not confuse the politics of power with the power of politics. Nigeria needs both at any negotiating table. With a civilian population fast approaching 80 million, what we need is the liberation and diversification of creative energy, not restraint. We have the human and the intellectual potentials for such integration.

Her army strength cut now can only gladden the hearts of colonialists that still people some parts of Africa today.

An aggressive Nigeria is a necessity in Africa. *Edgebaston.* AKANJI FAKOREDE,

Railways reorganisation

SIR: I read with interest the advertisement in *West Africa* (Nov. 25) for administrative staff for the Nigerian Railways Corporation for people of varied disciplines.

This brings me to the question, What kind of railway system in Nigeria?

May I suggest that the Nigerian Railway system should be shaped in such a way that it should be made both to pay its way and serve some social purpose. There should be close co-ordination between it and the other transport modes — especially roads and ports; between certain areas and states, especially those with good port facilities, there should be more than a single track system; staffing should be organised in a manner to do away with labour disputes and disruptions.

The environmental and land use problems should also be noted.

The transport issue is always a contentious one. So, it is a welcome sign that many areas of the Nigerian Railways will be looked into.

London EREKU-EREKU

Nigerians and US degrees

SIR: I am disappointed about the statement made by one of our Commissioners about American degrees. Most universities in the US are well equipped with funds for research, well qualified lecturers, good facilities, and they produce almost half a million graduates every year. My university alone has 32,000 students, more than all Nigerian universities together. These graduates work to make the US the leading country in GNP, industries, science, agriculture, military, giant companies and corporations.

When US citizens with B.Sc. degrees come to Nigeria to work in our schools, businesses and oil fields, we give them a lot of respect but when we Nigerians come home with the same degrees, we are holding HSC or GCE 'A' levels in our hands. This is ridiculous. Many people do not understand American system of education and they turn their ignorance into ridiculing themselves. I call on all Nigerian lecturers and vice-chancellors to make a joint statement to this effect.

Nebraska University 'GBOLA JAIYESIMI

Ghana needs new men

SIR: Your news item (November 24) headlined Ghana Army will rule "indefinitely", may come as a surprise to many politicians in Ghana, but to some political analysts it does not. Ghana needs a new breed of dedicated and selfless people who are prepared to commit themselves wholeheartedly to the aspirations of the masses for a new political beginning. Because this is unfortunately lacking at present and in the foreseeable future, the SMC will have to remain. The capitalist political and economic systems inherited at independence brought in their wake corruption, nepotism and blatant exploitation which have demoralised Ghanaian society.

Ghana needs a rebirth, which can only come through the organisation and sustained struggle of the downtrodden — the workers, the farmers and the "small" people who have for years been victims of the affluent.

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Oil and education

Many states once poor are discovering that money doesn't automatically provide skill; but they are also finding that you can buy training when it is not provided free. Femi Ogunsanwo writes on the new role of the British Council.

The pattern of involvement of the British Council in cultural and educational aspects of the development of Third World countries, especially Commonwealth countries, has been extremely varied. Since its inception in 1936, the Council has provided training for students from West Africa, South America, Cyprus, Malta and 13 European countries.

In the mid-fifties and sixties there was a growing awareness of the development needs of the countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. With the UK's entry into the EEC and the provision of additional funds for increasing its work in Europe (Rippon funds) the Council's education work there has been increasingly geared to promoting and supporting partnership at all levels of education and the professions as a vehicle for the inter-change of ideas.

With the oil-rich countries clamouring for training and for Western help in establishing or expanding their education systems — and at the same time being in a position to pay for the services required — the Council has found itself pioneering a new role as manager of paid educational services.

Like many non-profit making organisations, the British Council has limited funds. With the growth in demand from the Middle Eastern oil states for educational services on a payment basis, the resources and capacity of the Council to

handle these as well as to administer aid schemes in the LDCs (Less Developed Countries — a new euphemistic jargon term for underdeveloped countries) are in doubt.

Since its amalgamation with the Centre for Educational Development Overseas (CEDO) in April 1974 the Council has been able to boast a concentrated group of professional staff and a reservoir of resources within the Education and the Science Division. These specialist officers include those concerned with teacher training, science and mathematics education, examinations and related curriculum matters, technical and further education, non-formal education, higher education, the sciences and technology.

With the growing interest in non-formal education and rural development and the possible use of the media to help overcome problems like teacher and textbook shortages, educational technology is likely to gain in importance. Although much more research needs to be undertaken into the potential of the media for disseminating new ideas to peasant peoples in scattered communities, Council involvement in this field will inevitably increase. The Council is well equipped with radio and television studios and workshop facilities, with resources for advisory work and training in communication media, in educational broadcasting and in the application of audio-visual techniques.

Another aspect of the Council's work which is of vital importance in the development scene is that of book promotion and the development of public libraries overseas. In an age of mass communications, satellites and television the printed word is too often overlooked as a major innovating tool.

In 17 developing countries the Council is involved in helping to develop indigenous public libraries — and in others, has, on behalf of ODM, disbursed £1.3m. as part of a book presentation scheme to 1300 projects in leading schools and colleges.

In addition to career personnel in overseas offices the Council has for many years acted as a recruiting agency for overseas governments and educational institutions who have desired to recruit, on contract, British staff as advisors, generally in Ministries of Education, university professors and lecturers, teacher educators or school teachers, though the latter category is dwindling.

During the past year the Council has found itself confronted with a new dimension in the development jigsaw, that of rich oil countries, suffering from many of the acute problems of underdevelopment so common elsewhere but now in a position to buy themselves a "solution". Quite simply a number of these countries, especially in the Middle East but also in Latin America and North Africa, suffer from an acute shortage of trained personnel at all levels of the economy and now find themselves in a position not only to buy training overseas where possible but also to provide new institutions.

The role of the British Council in the field of paid educational services is still in its infancy but it is likely to change and increase.



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BOOKS and Publications

The Gods in the forest

The Return of the Gods, by Ulli Beier (Cambridge University Press; £5.75). *Orin Yoruba: Yoruba songs by J. O. Ajibola* (University of Ife Press; 4 naira paper, 6.50 naira cased; £5.50, \$12.95 paper)

For many inside and outside Nigeria the name of Susanne Wenger is associated with original and individual designs for batiks, using Yoruba myths. They will know that she finally went to live in Oshogbo; but since, unlike batiks, her work at Oshogbo, because of its nature, has not been exhibited elsewhere, even her admirers may not realise quite how remarkable this work has been — as she says, she now has a "permanent exhibition, day and night, in the Oshun grove".

In this beautifully illustrated study her former husband, himself an authority on Yoruba art and literature, who has been on the staffs of the universities of Ibadan and Ife, describes both her work on reconstructing the Oshogbo shrines, which has resulted in impressive structures which are both traditional and new, and the religion which she now attempts to reproduce in the language of an art making an almost universal appeal, which is more than artistic. She has been accepted by the "Olorishas" as a devotee of the Yoruba Orishas, or divine beings. You do not worship, or "believe in" (since that would imply the possibility of "disbelief"), these beings; at the lowest level you "have" Orisha; you might even "be" Orisha, you might "make" Orisha, strengthening him through ritual.

Susanne Wenger was born in Austria in 1915, daughter of a professor. She studied art and became a painter — the book illustrates some of her early pictures. She came to Nigeria in 1950 and later learnt the craft of batik-making from a Yoruba woman. She never "studied" Yoruba religion, but, as Ulli Beier says, "lived it". With a group of Yoruba artists, most of them with no formal training but with immense vigour and artistry, she has undertaken the rebuilding of the shrine-complex of the goddess Oshun at Oshogbo. After years of opposition — some of her work was destroyed — she is now so fully accepted and so completely absorbed in her life that, as Ulli Beier observes, "it is hard for her to sit back and analyse her own life calmly". At a time when faith in the Orishas was weakening — Muslims and Christians may participate in the rituals, but little more — she has furnished and revived a vision for some of the faithful, whose religion is no longer the automatic heritage of all, but has to be chosen and to compete with new forces.

Susanne Wenger sees the Oshogbo shrines as providing new privacy for the Orishas in the contracting, less lonely,

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forest: "if the gods can settle again and feel content in this forest, then we can share this contentment because we carry part of the divine being in us". And she is herself the proof that her religion, although not a proselytising one, is also not an exclusive or narrow one. As Mr. Beier puts it: "Whereas in front of the traditional image the outsider feels himself locked out by a foreign culture, Susanne Wenger has succeeded in creating a total situation in Oshun that has brought many outsiders closer to the concept of Onsha. Few visitors to the grove have considered the experience purely aesthetic. Most have found it disturbing or reassuring in a religious sense. In other words: she has been able to transcribe some of the meaning of Orisha into modern terms for the Western observer."

Mr. Beier gives a concise survey of Yoruba culture and of Yorubaland today, together with a rather terse account of its history, which covers in a single sentence the period 1839 to 1894.

If other components of Yoruba culture may have suffered, writes Ulli Beier, "music is still extremely vigorous". Particularly vital is drum music, and Chief Ajibola, in his introduction to *Orin Yoruba*, tells us that many educated Nigerians who have studied English music have realised the importance of the agreement between the tone of the word and that of the music. Unfortunately, however, "they have not yet realised that an authentic Yoruba song must have its characteristic rhythm, that is, it should be capable of being accompanied with one kind of drum beat or another or with the regular clapping of hands. Many of their



The gate of the Arugba's shrine

compositions lack this essential quality. To demonstrate that this essential characteristic is vital in a Yoruba song, research should be carried out away from the coastal towns and far into the interior of Yorubaland, where foreign influence has less domination on Yoruba music. Even a funeral dirge or a restative song in praise of obas or chiefs has its peculiar rhythm which is generally regulated with a drum beat."

Every attempt has been made in this

collection to see that all the songs have these two vital characteristics, and that one musical setting is used for all the verses in the same song.

This is the second edition of *Orin Yoruba*. It consists of thirty-eight sacred songs and thirty-four secular songs, all in staff notation in one, two, three or four parts, with piano accompaniments. It is a revision and enlargement of an edition first published by the Oxford University Press, London, in

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1947, which contained forty songs in staff notation, and was in melody only.

Some of the songs were composed by Chief Ajibola; others have been collected, and sometimes adapted, from a variety of sources.

D.W.

Money and Credit in Developing Africa by Eric L. Furness (Heinemann Educational Books: £7.50 cased, £3 paper)

Intended primarily for second and third year undergraduates in developing countries, this general textbook is written by the Professor of Economics at the University of Strathclyde and Haile Selassie I University.

The intention has not been to describe in detail the organisation and operation of African financial institutions, but to provide an analytical study of the role of the financial system. At the same time an effort has been made to keep the analysis realistic by relating discussion, where possible, to the African context, though space has not permitted reference to more than a small selection of African countries. Although relevance to the developing economy is the prime motif, the book also attempts to give some account of the functioning of finance in developed countries and of accepted monetary theory, since, in the author's opinion, a comparative study of money and credit in less and more developed countries is likely to be fruitful.

Among banking systems described are those of Ghana and Nigeria, the statistics of which countries are extensively used in other connections.

A postscript deals with the "devastating disturbance to the international payments system" following the rise in oil prices.

Professor Furness succinctly sums up the particular problems of poor non-oil-producing countries: "Although many of these benefitted from the sharp rise in other commodity prices during 1972 and 1973, their additional import bills for oil and oil products are likely to nullify such gains. Furthermore, a world slump will tend to reverse the price trend of their exports and may persuade developed countries to curtail the flow of aid. Finally, the re-cycling problem of developing countries is especially acute because they lack the sophisticated capital markets and rewarding investment opportunities likely to attract petro-money. In principle, oil producing nations could invest their surpluses in the developing world. But they are unlikely to do this on a sufficient scale. Whereas in developing countries the need is for free or low interest loans to finance projects which are often uncertain and risky, in oil producing countries the temptation will be to seek investments which are both profitable and safe".

P.S.

The Sociology of the Third World by J. E. Goldthorpe (Cambridge, £6.50)

The establishment of sociology as a separate discipline remains tendentious even in the fields where it has already made a significant contribution, but its insecurity is even more pronounced in the realm of the new states. Indeed, calls for interdisciplinary study of the Third World are increasing steadily, in consequence of the exigencies of

field-work. However, although Dr. Goldthorpe's work is entitled as sociology, its contents include as much politics and economics again, inevitable if such a broad sweep as the Third World was to be encompassed.

The principal value of this book must be as a text, and Dr. Goldthorpe has a facility for presenting argument and literature, from Weber's theory of the Protestant ethic to William Ogburn's studies of Nigerian cash-crop farmers, in a lively and economical way. If he offers no fresh answers to the still virtually untested questions of Third World sociology, he does at least cover the ground, both of the Third World and of the history of the sociological method which is now grappling with this intractable problem.

Experts may find fault with his thumbnail sketches of military coups and syndicalist churches but objection will be aimed more at the sociologist's traditional abuse of historical evidence than at Dr. Goldthorpe's particular variant. Development may or may not be "the transition of a traditional — or authority — bound society into a modern, innovating, experimenting, progressive one", but, within the limits of the discipline, the issue needs to be clearly stated before decisions are taken.

H.P.J.

The Commonwealth by Peter B. Harris (Longmans; £1.75)

This book, the latest addition to the "Political Realities" series, has been produced to teach "A" level and other students "British Constitution" and related subjects in a lighter and more integrated way than

has often been the case in the past. Besides marshalling an impressive quantity of fact on the British Empire and Commonwealth, the various chapters introduce quotations from sources and authorities, as well as current academic controversies over perception or interpretation. Decolonisation is most refreshingly treated, theory (as in all the best British traditions) being kept firmly in place by practice.

A chapter on the Commonwealth in Africa is also included, with thumbnail sketches (now overtaken by events) on the larger countries, though not necessarily the most interesting, and sentences such as "Nkrumah had by 1962, become a ruthless dictator" are perhaps just a little too short-hand.

N.H.

The Design of Rural Development by Uma Lele (Johns Hopkins University Press, £7.80)

It was Uma Lele's survey of rural development in Africa that prompted the change in World Bank policy under Robert MacNamara away from prestige projects and towards rural projects and helping "The Poorest of the Poor". This book is a précis of that intricately technical original survey and will thus allow access to the facts that convinced the Bank to those who are neither agricultural economists nor professional planners. This will be especially valuable in opening the issue for general debate, since many people, including the reviewer, remain uneasy at the consequences, if not the motives, of such a momentous decision for the developing world.

R.M.

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ECONOMIC and Business NEWS

Not an easy answer . . . from a correspondent

A cautionary tale for would-be makers of cartels, dazzled or slightly bemused by the success and riches of OPEC. A couple of years ago Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and Colombia decided to get together and take a bigger bite for themselves from the American banana, a trade virtually dominated by United Brands (of notonety), Del Monte and Castle and Cook who between them account for 70 per cent of the banana business.

For the past 20 years bananas have been getting cheaper for consumers — for a change, not an economist's term but a simple description — no doubt due to increased market efficiency but not very cheering for the producing countries which see 11½ cents out of each banana dollar. The other 88½ cents goes, one way and another to the foreign companies who buy, ship, ripen, wholesale and retail the fruit. Panama gets about 50 per cent of its foreign earnings from bananas and Costa Rica and Honduras could absorb 30 per cent. All of which prompted the banana republics to form UBEC, the Union of Banana Exporting Countries.

Having been formed UBEC decided to confront the companies with an export tax. Initially they had thought of \$1 per 41lb case of bananas but in the event the various countries broke ranks and charged what they thought they could get away with — which was governed by the national dependence on banana sales.

In one country one company left 150,000 boxes to go bad rather than pay the levy, in another country another company reckoned that spending \$1.5m in bribes, to persuade officials and others to reduce the tax from 50 cents to 25 cents, was a bargain. And Ecuador, which produces getting on for a third of Latin America's bananas and was not a formal member of UBEC, did not impose any levy.

A somewhat scared UBEC turned to the UN for help in sorting out the big corporations and got some good, though possibly uncomfortable, advice: talk to the companies and try to explain the situation to them, participation can be a more effective, and cheaper for both parties, way of sharing the banana profits more equitably. (Colombia and Panama are also trying to persuade their colleagues that a bit of practical participation in UBEC might help as well.)

The UN advice, from UNCTAD no doubt, is good. There are very few products or commodities that people cannot do without — at present oil does seem to be one — therefore it is better to pool interests than to squabble together. The other lesson is that if making a cartel do not pitch demands so high that it is worth somebody's while to break ranks and benefit by the artificially created shortage or price rise.

Ghana has plan for dividends

Ghana has drawn up a plan to facilitate the repatriation of blocked dividends. Colonel Acheampong said during a call on him by Mr. Paul Marnet, London-based director of UAC International.

Colonel Acheampong said that previous Ghanaian governments should have ensured that the repatriation of dividends was carried out without putting an unnecessary strain on the country's economy.

Palm plantation

UAC International and the Government of Ghana have agreed on joint development of a 4,850

hectare 26m. cedi oil plantation between Benso and Adum Benso in the Western Region. Technical management will be provided by Unilever Plantations Group, forestry clearing starts this month, nursery planting in April and field planting in 1977. The full project area should be completed by 1980.

A 10m cedi palm oil mill will be put up to process fruit, producing about 9,000 tons of palm oil (about half of Ghana's current annual imports) and 2000 tons of kernel. It will also process fruit from Ghanaian smallholders.

The project is expected to provide about 1,000 jobs.

- The Italian Igus company is to assemble electrical appliances such as refrigerators, deep freeze chests and cookers in Ghana.
- The first African Educational Materials Exhibition, DIDAFRICA '76, is to be held at Dakar from February 7th to 12th.

Africa goes into the red

African economies went into the red last year with an overall balance of trade deficit of \$2,500m. according to the Executive Secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, who said the deficit compared with a surplus of \$11,500m in 1974. He blamed world recession, increased energy costs and higher prices for goods imported from the industrialised world for the adverse figures. However, Mr. Adedeji said, Africa's economic outlook was reasonably optimistic providing there was no major upset in the world economic order.

IMF expects lower deficit

The IMF estimates that developing countries will reduce their huge payments deficit of some \$35,000m. by about \$4,000m. this year according to a study prepared for the meeting of the Interim Group of Finance Ministers in Jamaica. One reason for the improvement is that the IMF expects that developing countries' commodities will fetch higher prices over the next 12 months but the Fund does not think that reducing the deficit will have much real effect on the problems these countries face in accumulating debts to pay for costly oil and the essential imports from industrialised countries which have also had their cost forced up by the oil price increase.

The IMF has also announced that members can now borrow more money to finance short term deficits arising from short-term export short falls (that is the drop in earnings compared with a five year average). Members may now borrow up to 75 per cent of their quota. This liberalisation of the Fund's compensatory financing schemes is aimed particularly at the primary producers who have been badly hit by the recession and will be reviewed when disbursements go above 1,500m. SDRs a year. It is also hoped that the IMF's proposed trust fund will soon be in operation as well to help the less developed countries.

OECD sees late growth

The OECD forecast for 1976 is that the Western industrialised nations will move back to real economic growth but it may not happen until late in the year, though the combined GNP of the 24 member nations could rise by four per cent compared with last year's two per cent fall. OECD says in its most recent report that there are considerable uncertainties and its forecast could be out as much as 1.5 per cent either way.

OECD expect America, West Germany and Japan to lead the recovery but it believes that these countries should wait

and see before deciding whether any further stimulation is needed. Italy, Britain (and possibly France), and other OECD countries should concentrate on reducing inflation and rely on export growth, though it is expected that export markets will not expand as much as the past average.

Consumer price rises (in industrial countries) are expected to level out at about eight per cent compared with ten per cent in 1975 but the current account balance of payments for the area will triple to \$17,000m. from last year's \$6,000m.

Emergency aid from Kuwait

The Kuwait National Assembly has approved a \$10m. contribution to a United Nations Emergency Aid Fund for countries most affected by increases in the price of oil.

The fund is meant for nations with a per capita income of less than \$150 a year.

Other contributors to the fund included Venezuela (\$80m.), Saudi Arabia (\$30m.), Algeria (\$20m.), Iran (\$20m.), and the United Arab Emirates (\$10m.).

The assembly did not approve a proposed \$28m. contribution to a new low interest loan fund set up by the World Bank.

Butter upsetting margarine men

According to *Mintel*, an independent marketing intelligence report, margarine manufacturers in Britain feel that they are being victimised by Government subsidies for butter. They say that the subsidies have led to the well publicised butter mountains and meant that the cheapest butter costs less than some margarines. It says that this situation means that there is a disincentive to invest in margarine plant in an industry which has a record of efficiency but is now suffering from short time working and the prospect of redundancies. Margarine is a considerable user of groundnut oil.

Transport delays affect Bisichi

The chairman of Bisichi-Jantar (Nigeria), Mr. W. T. Meredith Browne, says that plans for expansion are now a year behind schedule and until they are implemented a return to profitability cannot be expected.

The main reason for the delay is that essential mine equipment and spares are not being received when required because of transport difficulties.

In addition, output for the first nine months of 1975 ran below that of the comparable period of 1974 for both tin and columbite added to which there has been an inevitable increase in costs.

- India's National Dairy Development Board is to open a chocolate factory in Bombay.

London Tin take-over bid

Plans are said to be well advanced for Pemas, the state-owned Malaysian concern, and Charter Consolidated, the mining finance group, to mount a combined take-over bid for London Tin, the world's largest tin-mining company. Pemas already holds 20 per cent of London Tin. Although London Tin operates mainly in Malaysia it has interests in Nigeria.

The bid is expected to be worth about 197p, a share to United Kingdom shareholders, this value will be in part because of the investment premium which will attach to the shares as a result of planned switch of domicile of London Tin from Britain to Malaysia followed by an exchange of shares for those of a new Malaysian company.

It has not yet been settled what price will be paid for the 30 per cent holding which Haw Par Brothers International, a Singapore firm, has in London Tin, but it is expected to be somewhere between the 197p which the deal would be worth to UK holders and the 120p in cash, per share, which it is expected to cost Pemas-Charter Consolidated.

- China has developed a technique for using the "red mud" left over after bauxite has been converted into aluminium oxide by incorporating in cement and bricks.
- Mr R. E. Groves, chief executive of International Timber Corporation, has become chairman in place of Mr Robert Law, who also retires from the board next month.

Rubber pact moves ahead

Technical experts of the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries have settled a draft agreement for the proposed international rubber price stabilisation scheme. It will be discussed at the executive council meeting in Kuala Lumpur next month before being passed on to a ministerial meeting of member countries. It lays down a two pronged approach, covering creation of a stockpile system and supply rationalisation measures and financial contributions.

Industrial ambitions

African industry ministers, at their recent conference in Nairobi, worked out an ambitious programme to make sure that Africa gets its fair share of world industrial output by the year 2,000. The ministers, from 27 countries, including an observer from Namibia (South-West Africa) and representatives of 16 United Nations agencies, see industrial co-operation and collective self-reliance as the best way to achieve this. They want a producers' association, an African centre for the iron and steel industry, an African Mineral Development

Council, a regional pesticide development programme, and a regional plant construction and engineering centre. The ministers also called for a solar energy testing and development centre.

In a communiqué, the ministers called on the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to start consultations with governments immediately about the projects. The ministers said African countries should give priority to training and inter-African technical and financial co-operation.

The conference also wants an industrial development fund established, with financial help from governments and other institutions, including the African Development Bank and the Arab Fund for Technical Co-operation. It called on the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to promote industries most likely to help landlocked and island countries.

Textile trade changes hands

According to preliminary report from the GATT Secretariat, although textile production in the industrialised world declined by 4 per cent (and clothing by 3.5 per cent), accompanied by a reduction in jobs, the world's production of textiles in 1974 was virtually unchanged because of increased output in the developing countries. The value of combined export and clothing exports by developing countries rose 29 per cent to \$11,360m.

- Cotton harvests in Asia and Brazil have turned out to be lower than expected and a tight position is developing in the world market.
- Nigerian cotton production is estimated at 128,000 metric tonnes in 1975, an increase of over 20,000 tonnes on the previous year. Increases are also expected in Cameroon, Chad and Central African Republic.

Tea talks

Ministers from tea exporting countries meet in Colombo next March to work out details for an international tea agreement to protect their interests and to promote tea drinking round the world.

- The International Development Association has granted The Gambia \$4m. cedis for infrastructure and tourism projects.

Insurance firm

The Stewart Wrightson Group has extended its insurance broking activities to Nigeria. It has formed Ark Stewart Wrightson in Lagos with Nigerian and West German partners. This now takes Stewart Wrightson into 24 countries.

Electric profit

First half power sales of Nigerian Electricity Supply Cor-

poration went up to £620,925 compared with £590,268 and profit after depreciation was £259,471 (£279,996) of which tax takes £102,000 (£120,000).

Masters risk two years jail

The Nigerian Government has given statutory force to the regulations announced last August and September restricting shipping access to Nigerian ports. A master who sails into a Nigerian port without having first obtained an entry notice from the Nigerian Ports Authority risks up to two years imprisonment, without the option of a fine. Notices of entry are only issued by the authority upon receipt from the ship of a notice of departure two months before it sails and a description of its cargo and tonnage. The owner of the ship is also liable to a similar term in prison or a daily fine of 10,000 naira for each day that the vessel stays in Nigerian territorial waters.

The decree, which the Nigerian Government says will be reviewed as soon as possible, also proscribes the shipment of cement. At present the rate of discharge of cement is estimated at between 18,000 and 20,000 tons a day compared with just over 2,000 tons a day at the end of July. The latest figures from the NPA say that there are 272 ships awaiting berthing facilities at Lagos, 149 of them are carrying 1,354,723 tons of cement.

Cement blocks British exports

The Trade Department has been asked to intervene because large quantities of British exports are in danger of being seized and sold off abroad to pay debts following the collapse of Africa Container Line.

The company was based in Old Bond Street, London. It chartered 11 foreign ships and went out of business because the ships could not get into Nigeria's crowded ports to unload.

Shipowners claim the bills of lading give them the right to seize any of the cargo and dispose of it to clear debts owing to them by Africa Container. This may become a matter for legal argument but most of the ships are German or Norwegian and would take the goods to their homelands for sale.

Several hundred exporters have consignments at risk. Exports worth around £30 million could be involved. One move is to try to persuade the Nigerians to let the ships have priority instead of having to queue for months to get into port.

Apart from cargo on board ships off Nigeria, other consignments have been dumped in Ghana and Togo, leaving the exporter to find a way of getting them to Nigeria. The problem has arisen because of the great Nigerian cement muddle, with as much cement ordered for delivery in a single year

as the country's ports could normally handle in seven years.

The Department of Trade is making strenuous efforts to get the Nigerians to give priority to the Africa Container Line ships and hopes to see them all unloaded by the end of January. This would avert the risk of cargo being sold off by the ship-owners. But this will be opposed by other shipping lines if it delays their own services, and puts up costs.

It could take until July to get all the containers out of the docks because the container terminal for Lagos can handle only 365 containers a month. There are said to be 1,500 containers on board ten Africa Container ships queuing off Nigeria and that a further 1,500 containers have been offloaded at ports in other West African countries. Taking the two lots together, their total value with cargo amounts to about £40 million. Only one of eleven Africa Container ships has unloaded so far.

Ferry to beat bottlenecks

A deep sea roll-on, roll-off ferry has been chartered by a new company, African Ferry Services, to try to help British exporters beat Nigerian shipping bottlenecks. The company has been formed by the Manchester based Ski Transport International and Arabian Freight Services. The charter vessel, holding 180 trailers, makes its maiden voyage from Felixstowe to Cotonou, 85 miles from Lagos on January 28.

- The Huddersfield firm of Peabody Holmes has shipped a 100 ton crusher, capable of turning two or three ton limestone rocks into small gravel at the rate of 300 tons an hour, to Calabar. It will be used to prepare raw material for a cement manufacturing plant.

Tanker surplus hits Liberia

Liberia has been most affected by the current surplus in oil tankers. There are 4.7.7m. deadweight tons of tankers laid up or idle and 30.8 per cent (about 15m. tons) of this represents Liberian vessels. Next worst affected is Norway at 26 per cent. The UK share is 12.1 per cent.

Ore shipping tip

Shipping consultants H. P. Drewry forecast that shipping requirements for the transport of iron ore are likely to grow at a faster rate than for international trade as a whole over the next few years because of the increasing dependence of steelmakers on distant supplies of ore.

- Sweden has become the tenth member of the association of Iron Ore Exporting Countries, which has its headquarters in London. The other members are Algeria, Chile, Australia, India, Mauritania, Peru, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Venezuela.

The state of the cocoa crops

Gill and Duffus' latest report (just before Christmas) on the world's cocoa markets says that since the beginning of October the price has remained firm, never falling below £655 a ton and a week before Christmas nearest position. Main Crop Ghana was being quoted at £755 a tonne. Gill and Duffus attribute the firmness of the prices to two factors, a trickle of reports that perhaps there may not be as much cocoa about as once forecast, for example Ivory Coast main crops may not top 180,000 tonnes, seemingly low purchase figures from Ghana so far, rumours that Russia is buying liquor and butter in Brazil and paying in oil, renewed buying by some American manufacturers. The other factor is that producers have not rushed to market to make quick killings on the higher prices but have let them rise gently and pulled back whenever they declined.

In Ghana the decline in purchases although expected has been sharper than forecast, even so by December 11 purchases amounted to 265,321 (long) tons compared with 231,263 at the same time in 1974. (The Volta Region is said to have been badly hit by losses from black pod infection, some farmers in the northern part may not be able to harvest any cocoa). The overall forecast is about 400,000 tonnes compared with last season's estimated production of 377,000 tonnes.

Because of (frequently understandable) doubts about sterling sales by the Cocoa Marketing Company, have been in US dollars. There is a feeling that estimates of 250,000 tonnes of sales are likely to be fulfilled.

Confusion

In Nigeria the scene is a little confused because of a strike by Produce Inspectors in September and October which has affected the monthly grading figures but it does seem that the crop could be as much as 235,000 tonnes, for the previous couple of seasons it has been around 215,000 tonnes.

There have been quite a few reports that Ivory Coast's crop is not going to match earlier prospects, though there have been continued good sales by Ivorian shippers. It seems that there has been some sort of set back, with beans said to be rather small this year and wet weather both delaying transport to Abidjan and possibly hitting quality. The overall forecast is 225,000 tonnes.

East Cameroon purchases by December 10 were reported as 46,167 tonnes, compared with 28,604 by the same time the year before. Gill and Duffus forecast a total of 125,000 tonnes, a six per cent improvement on last season's 118,000 tonnes.

Brazil's Bahia main crop seems to have come in well and early and is unlikely to be much more than last year's. Making a lot of assumptions, Gill and Duffus expect

overall Brazilian production for the 1975/76 season to be about 216,000 tonnes.

World grindings for 1976 (calendar year) are at 1.5m. tonnes, an increase of 4.8 per cent over the estimated grindings for 1975. Producing country grindings are expected to increase substantially for the third successive year but those in the main consuming countries by only 3.8 per cent, with the biggest increase in America and virtually none in Russia, because of the foreign exchange problem involved in buying in large amounts of grain.

GSP extended

America's Generalised Scheme of Preference has now been extended to grant duty free entry to cocoa butter, cake and powder and chocolate made in, and exported directly from, developing countries (beans and unsweetened chocolate were already duty free). Most cocoa producers benefit except for Cuba and the OPEC members, Nigeria, Venezuela and Ecuador.

Gill and Duffus conclude their report by pointing out that despite a crop which could be the third largest on record and grindings still well down (though moving up) on the figures which obtained before the recession the surplus could well be as little as 24,000 tonnes!

Forecast for groundnuts

The outlook for groundnut harvest in West Africa is mixed, according to the *Statistical Report of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the US Department of Agriculture*. In Senegal, commercial production is forecast at 870,000 metric tonnes in-shell (850,000 for crush, 20,000 edible for export), up 18 per cent on 1974. In Nigeria and Niger, however, production has been sharply curtailed by pest infestations and an epidemic of green rosette groundnut virus. Commercial output in Nigeria is expected to be much the same as last year — 225,000 tonnes — compared with average production over 1m tonnes during the late 1960's. Niger's commercial groundnut crop, which has ranged between 150,000 and 250,000 tonnes in recent years, is expected to be negligible.

World production of groundnuts in 1975 is estimated at 17.9m. metric tonnes in shell, up 1.1m tonnes, or 7 per cent, from 1974's output. The increase primarily reflects a bumper harvest in India, estimated at a record 6.4m. tonnes, up 1.4m. tonnes on last year's drought-riddled harvest.

Contract call

A number of developing countries have asked the Asian African Legal Consultative Committee, based in New Delhi, to draw up model standard contracts for a wide range of commodities.

SHIPPING News

ELDER DEMPSTER LINES

SOUTHBOUND — From Liverpool: FOURAH BAY sig Jan. 1. From London: POLYDORUS sig Dec. 29; EBOE due Matadi Dec. 30; SHERBRO sig Apapa Dec. 28. From N. Continent: DUNKWA sig Rotterdam Jan. 13; AUTOMEDON sig Amsterdam Jan. 14; DALLA due Douala Dec. 29; DARU due Banjul Jan. 8; IDOMENEUS sig Apapa Jan. 3; OSTERFERN arr. Apapa Sept. 18. From Dublin: MANO due Douala Dec. 30.

NORTHBOUND: To Liverpool EBANI due Pointe Noire Dec. 29. To London: SHONGA due Dec. 29; DEGEMA due Takoradi Dec. 29; DIXCOVE due Dec. 30. To N. Continent: LYCAON due Abidjan Dec. 29. To Avonmouth: FALABA due Jan. 6; PEGU due Dec. 30.

EASTBOUND — DEIDO sig Douala Dec. 29, DONGA sig Apapa Jan. 6.

WESTBOUND — To New York: DUMBAIA due Baltimore Dec. 29; DUMURRA due Philadelphia Dec. 29.

BARBER LINES

OUTWARDS — TUGELA due Tema Jan. 6, thence Lagos/Apapa and Douala. TIJUCA sig Baltimore Jan. 19, New York Jan. 23 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema and Douala.

HOMEWARDS — TUJCA now due New York, thence Norfolk and Baltimore; TUGELA due Lagos/Apapa mid-Jan., Douala end Jan for US/NA Atlantic.

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WESTBOUND — OTI RIVER Tema Dec. 14; Takoradi Dec. 19; Philadelphia Jan. 7; New York Jan. 11; thence Gulf.

BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT

SOUTHBOUND — KLORTE LAGOON Bremen Jan. 14; Hamburg Jan. 13; Antwerp Jan. 17; Rotterdam Jan. 20; Rouen Jan. 22. **BENYA RIVER** — Middlesbrough Jan. 23.

NORTHBOUND — KLORTE LAGOON Amsterdam Jan. 8; Rotterdam Jan. 10.

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EASTBOUND — GUATEMALA MARU due Japan Feb. 4th, from Lagos and Abidjan.

PALM LINE

SOUTHBOUND — ENUGUPALM due London Jan. 13; LAGOS PALM due Liverpool Jan. 12.

NORTHBOUND — ELMINA PALM sig Port Harcourt Jan. 12; LOBITO PALM sig Apapa Jan. 22.

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INWARDS — SEA IRISH sig Kobe Jan. 22; Lagos Mar. 8-18; Tema Mar. 24-28; Takoradi Mar. 29-31; Abidjan Mar. 26-28.

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INWARDS — MAREN MAERSK sig from Kobe Jan. 31; Feb. 5; Matadi JOHANNES MAERSK Jan. 29-31.

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NORTHBOUND — VIKAREN

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The Faculty has two inter related divisions — Commerce and Communication Sciences. The former provides educational programmes of occupational preparation in Accountancy, Banking, Business Administration and Secretarial Practice, as well as basic and service courses in Economics and Management. New programmes are planned in Insurance, Marketing and Bilingual Secretaryship. Communication Sciences covers all aspects of courses in language communication and cultural transmission. Basic courses are provided in English, French, Yoruba, History, Music and Religious Studies.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY

Applications are invited from Accountants with strong academic qualifications, extensive teaching or professional experience and established interest in the general management area. Teaching experience and/or specialist knowledge of two or more of the following is essential

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Cost and Management Accountancy	Management Information Systems and Auditing
Business Administration	

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND GENERAL STUDIES

Applications are invited from well qualified scholars with wide research and teaching experience in the Languages, Mass Communication or General Studies at the post-secondary level. In particular, candidates should be able to demonstrate a capacity for academic leadership and skills appropriate to the development and effective teaching of new general studies courses. The successful candidate will be required to participate fully in the future development of technical and commercial educational programmes in the emerging occupations within the national economy.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Applicants should possess relevant high academic qualifications at no less than the level of a second degree, as well as wide teaching or professional experience with a strong background in two or more of:

Business Administration	Office Management
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Marketing	Organisation and Methods

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The Faculty is responsible for the Polytechnic's current educational programmes of occupational preparation in Engineering (Civil, Electrical and Mechanical) and Environmental Studies (Architectural Technology and Town Planning). Basic courses offered are Engineering Drawing, Fine Art, Geography and Geology. New programmes are planned in Fine Art, Estate Management and Land Surveying.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ART

Applicants should have appropriate tertiary academic qualifications in either Architecture or Three-Dimensional Design (including two or more of furniture design, industrial design, interior design, jewellery and silversmithing, and theatre design). The successful candidate will be expected not only to teach courses within his professional speciality, but also to provide administrative co-ordination as well as academic leadership in fostering a unity of purpose for the two sections of the Department.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Applicants should have appropriate tertiary academic qualifications in Geography, Geology, Land Surveying or some other related field with wide teaching or research or professional experience. In particular, candidates should be able to demonstrate a capacity for academic leadership and skills appropriate to the development and effective teaching of multi-disciplinary courses geared to the needs of students enrolled in other courses. The successful candidate will be expected to make a significant contribution to the development and teaching of the Department's proposed diploma programmes.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF TOWN PLANNING AND ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Applications are invited from well qualified professionals with extensive professional, research or teaching experience in Town Planning or Estate Management. The successful candidate will be expected not only to teach courses within his professional speciality, but also to provide administrative co-ordination as well as academic leadership in fostering a unity of purpose for the two sections of the Department.

FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

The Faculty contains biologists, chemists, physicists and mathematicians working together to provide a variety of basic courses and specialist occupational courses. The Faculty recognises the need for non-specialist scientists and multi-disciplinary activities of teaching and research in all aspects of Natural Sciences as well as the science educational needs of students following programmes of study that are not basically science oriented.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Applications are invited from well qualified scholars with wide research and teaching experience in General Biology at the post-secondary level. The successful candidate will be required to participate fully in the future development of terminal laboratory technology programmes for Students who have completed GCE 'A' level programmes in the Polytechnic. In particular, candidates should be able to demonstrate a capacity for the development and effective teaching of multi-disciplinary course courses in team teaching situations and geared to the needs of students enrolled in other courses.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

Applicants should have a post-graduate degree in Mathematics, Statistics or Computer Sciences as well as extensive research and teaching experience at the tertiary level. Preference will be given to candidates who are able to demonstrate a capacity for academic leadership and skills appropriate to the development and effective teaching of service courses geared to the needs of students enrolled in other courses, chiefly engineering who have completed GCE 'A' level programmes in the Polytechnic.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

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The academic staff are expected to contribute to both teaching of their disciplines in the internal diploma and external certificate programmes as well as their research or public service projects in their disciplines. In addition to the instructional programmes, research projects and public service projects within their own Faculty, staff may also be required to contribute to others mounted within other Faculties.

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Dateline AFRICA

GHANA

Daily Graphic attacks "plotters"

Col. Acheampong's disclosure that another plot to overthrow the government had been uncovered and the plotters arrested must have been a big jolt to Ghanaians as they prepared for Christmas, said an editorial in the *Daily Graphic*. A strand running through the previous attempts against the NRC government had been a desire to disrupt efforts to build a stable society so that "a few selfish individuals who believe they can do better can try their hands at the art of governing", it said. The *Graphic* cited as an example the Togo separatist movement, members of which had, despite "the hand of reconciliation" chosen to remain in Togo "to continue their acts of sabotage." As Col. Acheampong had pointed out, said the newspaper, the needs of the Volta Region were receiving as much attention as those of any other region. "Secessionist attempts which beget active sabotage which in turn usher in confusion are definitely not in anyone's interest", the *Graphic* concluded.

Col. Acheampong had revealed the plot when receiving a delegation of chiefs from the Volta Region just before Christmas (for details see *West Africa* January 5, p 21). He said then that there were some people in Ghana "who believe they are the only ones who must rule the country. If they are not in the government then they must scheme to be in the government." He stressed: "Whoever tries to overthrow the government is a subversionist and must be dealt with irrespective of his ethnic, social or religious affiliation or preference." The Head of State recalled the trial of Mr. J. H. Mensah and others and said they were not treated as Ashantis or Brong Ahafo but as subversionists. The same consideration was uppermost in the Ofosu-Appiah trial, of mostly Progress Party men, and the Botso case, which involved mostly CPP men. They were not tried because they were former CPP or PP members, Fantis, Northerners or Ewes, but were dealt with as subversionists he said.

Armed forces "united"

Speaking at a buffet luncheon for senior armed forces and police officers at his Burmah Camp residence, Col. Acheampong noted that the presence of retired officers at the gathering was a testimony to the unity of the armed forces. The success of the government "will be

your success and its failure your failure", he said, adding: "once a soldier, always a soldier". The buffet was attended by members of the SMC and about a dozen retired army officers and commissioners, including Col. Kwame Baah, one of the three officers recently retired who were thought to have been closely associated with the Head of State, Mr. E. N. Moore, the former Attorney General, Col. K. Agyekum, Maj. Gen. D. C. K. Amentu, Maj. Gen. N. A. Aferi and Maj. Kwame Asante.

Following the luncheon the state-owned *Daily Graphic* said that the gathering, "at which the retired Commissioners were conspicuously present, should lay to rest all suspicions on the part of the Ghanaian population." Recalling that the retirement exercise was designed to streamline the government machinery the *Graphic* said this "was followed by wild rumours in which unfounded allegations became rife and unjustifiable motives were imputed to the government's action."

• Miss Elizabeth Acheampong, eldest daughter of the head of state, became engaged to Lt. J. K. Peperah, a nephew of the former Foreign Affairs Commissioner, Col. Kwame Baah, at a ceremony at Burmah camp.

Manganese plans

A Mexican company is to help Ghana's National Manganese Corporation in its five-year expansion programme estimated to cost 50m. cedis. Mr. J. E. Cudjoe, managing director of the Corporation, told the Commissioner for Lands and Mineral Resources, Col. Thomas Kutu, when he visited the mines at Nsuta. Mr. Cudjoe said the Corporation was now awaiting a draft agreement from the Mexican company.

The National Manganese Corporation was formed in January 1975 when the government took over the mining operations at Nsuta from the African Manganese Company which had been mining at Nsuta since 1923. African Manganese was a subsidiary of the US company, Union Carbide.

The five year plan, begun early last year, is part of an exercise to rehabilitate the Nsuta mines despite claims by African Manganese that the ore was totally depleted. It is planned that deposits of manganese carbonate at Nsuta will be converted into oxide for the production of ferroalloys with iron ore to be extracted from the mine at Opon Manso.

• Activities marking International Women's Year ended in Accra with a rally addressed by Mrs. Faustina Acheampong, wife of the Head of State.

Mrs. Acheampong said that the search for equality for women had given rise to misunderstanding and added that besides asking for equal treatment, fairness and justice in the handling of women's affairs, "women are also asking that the mistakes of centuries be corrected and amends made to enable them to catch up with men".

Mrs. Acheampong noted that traditional attitudes and beliefs had been the greatest obstacles to women's development and integration in society, adding: "It is not only fighting to assume equal control in their homes that should preoccupy women in their capacities as wives but to fight against certain traditional practices which discriminate against wives in certain customary situations."

Operation Golden Grain

Operation Golden Grain was launched to mark the beginning of the 1975 rice harvesting season. Over 64,800 ha. are expected to be harvested this season, a 50 per cent increase over the last. 15m. cedis has been set aside by the government for the purchase of paddy rice by the Rice Mills Unit, a 5m. cedi increase on last year, and a 2m. cedi rice mill is planned for Tamale. The Northern Regional Commissioner said that the government had spent 10m. cedis since the inception of Operation Feed Yourself on the import of agricultural machinery and spare parts.

• The Gushe-Na, Alhaji Sule Alhassan, has called on the government to reconsider its decision not to increase the price of paddy rice in order not to dampen the spirits of farmers who needed a better price to boost their moral. Alhaji Sule is one of the leading farmers in the Northern Region.

• Barclays Bank of Ghana Ltd invested more than 2.5m. cedis in the Northern Region last year. The money was given as loans to 150 farmers who cultivated more than 25,000 acres of paddy rice during the farming season.

Sportsman of the year

The Ghanaian boxer, David Poison Kotek, the World Boxing Council Featherweight Champion, has been named African Sportsman of the Year by African sports journalists. Second in the competition for the Mobutu Sese Seko trophy, given by the Zaire President, was Ethiopian distance runner Mirus Yifter, with the third place shared by two other athletes, Filbert Bayi of Tanzania, and Alice Annun of Ghana.

Results of the competition were announced by Mr. Tshimpumpu Wa Tshimpumpu, President of the Union of Zaire Sports Journalists, which organised the poll.

• Nana Osae Ntifi Ababio, Adontehene of Akwapim Traditional Area and a patron of the Ghana Sports Writers Association, has called on the SMC to appoint a substantive Commissioner for Sport to streamline Ghana's sports administration. He said that the absence of such a commissioner had been the cause of many blunders at local and international sports commitments.

The sports portfolio is held by the head of state, Col. Acheampong, whose very heavy commitments, Nana Ntifi said, did not allow him to give sport the necessary attention.

TMB target

Staff of the Timber Marketing Board have been urged to improve their services "so that with co-operation we could expect not less than 150m. cedis worth of timber by the end of 1976", by their chairman, Lt. Col. S. M. V. Akwagyiram. Presenting nine long-service awards to workers at Takoradi, the chairman said that 1976 had been declared a year of hard work and better results.

He said that the board did its best to sustain trade during the bleak 1974-75 period, adding that in 1974 436,715 tons of timber valued at 90,029,000 cedis were exported and 484,507 tons valued at 78,051,000 cedis in 1975.

• The Government has directed all motor parts dealers to register with the Prices and Incomes Board.



Ghana recently issued a set of stamps to commemorate the 14th World Boy Scout Jamboree.

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• The joint study group on the Development Administration system in the South Eastern State has presented its report to Governor Omu.

• The Federal Government's purpose in exploring the possibility of creating more states was to carve the country into more manageable portions so that rapid and even development could take place, Brig. Mohammed said when receiving the report of the Inkefe panel on the creation of more states.

Petrol probe

The Mid West State has announced its measures to combat the intermittent shortage of petroleum products in the state. It plans to put its tankers at the disposal of oil companies which need them and to buy new ones to hire to fuel transporters. It will set up radio contact with the oil depot at Ogharefe and continue efforts to increase the state's oil storage capacity.

• Police in the Mid West state are reported to be questioning a German national suspected of planning illegal exports of art works. The man was not named and West German embassy officials said they were checking the story.

The New Nigerian said a police search of the German's house in Warri yielded religious and other art works worth more than 500,000 naira. The man's passport had been seized while investigations continued.

• Mr. John Yekeni Obalangle, from Otta, who has been blind since the age of two, is returning to Nigeria after a two-year course at the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh to take up a post at the Paccell School for the Blind in Lagos.

• 1,787 citizens of South Eastern State origin have been awarded higher education scholarships for the 1975-76 academic session by the State Government.

• The Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sir Abubakar, has been invited to visit the US by the director of the United States Information Service at Kaduna, Mr. Lillard L. Hill.

• Dutch textile specialists have been commissioned to survey the possibility of reactivating the print mills of Aba Textile Mills, which were abandoned when the present management took over a year ago.

• A five man delegation, headed by the Commissioner for Agriculture, Brig. Mafeni, has visited Brazil and Italy to negotiate for further meat supplies for Nigeria. In Brazil he also discussed forestry and manioc processing.

• Mr. David A. Omatade, a prosecuting attorney in the Federal Prosecutor's Office, has been awarded an MA in criminology by the University of Keele.

• The playwright Wole Soyinka who returned home recently after self-exile in Ghana has been appointed Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Ife.

• A cholera outbreak in the East-Central State has claimed seven more lives, bringing the death toll to 15, the Daily Times reports. The latest victims were three nursing mothers, three children and a farmer in Okigwe division.

• A 2m. naira steel pipe industry is to be established at Onitsha. The project will be a joint venture between an Onitsha based company and a Japanese firm.

• Dr. T. P. Reilly, the British Athletics coach, is conducting ten courses throughout Nigeria. His ten day visit was sponsored by the British Council and the Nigerian Athletic Association.

• Alhaji Yusuf Gobir, Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Transport, has been killed in a car crash while on holiday in Spain. His coffin was carried by 12 permanent secretaries to a Nigerian air force helicopter when it arrived by Nigeria Airways at Ikeja.

• Ukpilla Cement Factory is to be expanded to produce 500,000 tonnes of cement a year against the present capacity of 150,000.

LIBERIA

Tolbert's inauguration

President William Tolbert was sworn in to serve an eight-year term as Head of State in the presence of thousands of citizens and distinguished visitors including the current chairman of the OAU, President Idi Amin of Uganda. President Tolbert declared that he would continue with his policies of national self-reliance, total involvement of all the people and a continuation of the system geared towards developing local industry.

He said that he expected the economy to grow at 6 per cent a year, through a combination of improved rice production, an expanded telephone network, the benefits of a vocational training centre to be set up in Monrovia and construction of some 350 miles of roads, both laterite and paved.

President Tolbert called for more dedication and proclaimed the coming of a new order which "demands stricter discipline and

sacrifice". He promised that Liberia would never have a single political prisoner and added that there are plans under way to make prisons wholesome rehabilitation centres for criminals.

President Amin was greeted with a 21-gun salute on arrival at Robertsfield International Airport. Welcoming President Amin, President Tolbert said that when reference is in future made to the inauguration of the President and Vice-President of Liberia in 1976 it would be recorded that the whole of Africa was present, because of President Amin's presence as Chairman of the OAU. President Amin conveyed greetings to the people of Liberia from the people of Uganda, and Africa as a whole, and said that other OAU heads of state and governments sent greetings through him to the people of Liberia.

President Amin also met the Guinean delegation at the inauguration ceremony. The delegation was led by Ismail Toure, brother of President Sekou Toure and also a member of the Political Bureau of Guinea. President Amin explained Uganda's stand on Angola and requested Mr. Toure to inform President Sekou Toure that Uganda has not changed its stand from that of the OAU and would only do so if the OAU at its extraordinary Meeting in Addis Ababa decides to change its previous decision. He made it clear that Uganda does not take sides and recognizes all the three liberation movements, as the OAU does. President Amin said when taking decision on Angola all the three liberation movements should be represented.

• President Tolbert, in his role as a clergyman (he is President of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention) joined the Reverend Dr. Bennie D. Warner, Bishop of the United Methodist Church of Liberia, to officiate at the wedding of Mr. Charles Cecil Dennis Sr. and Mrs. Martha Elizabeth Proant.

• About 150 Liberians were reportedly repatriated from Ghana shortly before Christmas. However official sources have not released any information about the repatriations which have allegedly been going on since September. The Ghanaian Ambassador to Liberia, Commodore P. F. Quaye, wrote to *The Liberator* Age, which had reported the repatriations, denying any implication that the repatriations were being forcibly carried out by the Ghanaian Government.

• The Japanese Ambassador to Liberia and Sierra Leone, Mr. Junnosuke Katayama, has forecast that the development of the Mano River Union will attract increasing interest by Japanese businessmen because of the larger unified market that it will produce.

• The official price of rice, both imported and locally grown, is now \$22 a bag (23 cents per official measuring cup).

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The Nwanwene committee set up to review Development Administration in the Mid West State has presented its report to Governor Innih Col. Innih agreed with the committee that the present Development Administration system which had been based on clannish considerations carried with it the seed of disintegration and destruction of all attempts at development. Dr. Nwanwene noted that in the Mid West, where efforts should be concentrated on unifying forces in society rather than on clans to carry out development projects, the Clan Development was a blunder. He had earlier told the Governor that many divisional councils and development committees were afraid to perform their duties because they had not been established legally.

• The joint study group on the Development Administration system in the South Eastern State has presented its report to Governor Omu.

• The Federal Government's purpose in exploring the possibility of creating more states was to carve the country into more manageable portions so that rapid and even development could take place, Brig. Mohammed said when receiving the report of the Inkefe panel on the creation of more states.

Petrol probe

The Mid West State has announced its measures to combat the intermittent shortage of petroleum products in the state. It plans to put its tankers at the disposal of oil companies which need them and to buy new ones to hire to fuel transporters. It will set up radio contact with the oil depot at Ogharefe and continue efforts to increase the state's oil storage capacity.

• Police in the Mid West state are reported to be questioning a German national suspected of planning illegal exports of art works. The man was not named and West German embassy officials said they were checking the story.

The *New Nigerian* said a police search of the German's house in Warri yielded religious and other art works worth more than 500,000 naira. The man's passport had been seized while investigations continued.

• Mr. John Yekeni Obalangle, from Otta, who has been blind since the age of two, is returning to Nigeria after a two year course at the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh to take up a post at the Pacelli School for the Blind in Lagos.

• 1,787 citizens of South Eastern State origin have been awarded higher education scholarships for the 1975-76 academic session by the State Government.

• The Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sir Abubakar, has been invited to visit the US by the director of the United States Information Service at Kaduna, Mr. Lillard L. Hill.

• Dutch textile specialists have been commissioned to survey the possibility of reactivating the print mills of Aba Textile Mills, which were abandoned when the present management took over a year ago.

• A five man delegation, headed by the Commissioner for Agriculture, Brig. Mafeni, has visited Brazil and Italy to negotiate for further meat supplies for Nigeria. In Brazil he also discussed forestry and manioc processing.

• Mr. David A. Omatade, a prosecuting attorney in the Federal Prosecutor's Office, has been awarded an MA in criminology by the University of Keele.

• The playwright Wole Soyinka who returned home recently after self-exile in Ghana has been appointed Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Ife.

• A cholera outbreak in the East-Central State has claimed seven more lives, bringing the death toll to 15, the *Daily Times* reports. The latest victims were three nursing mothers, three children and a farmer in Okigwe division.

• A 2m. naira steel pipe industry is to be established at Onitsha. The project will be a joint venture between an Onitsha-based company and a Japanese firm.

• Dr. T. P. Reilly, the British Athletics coach, is conducting ten courses throughout Nigeria. His ten day visit was sponsored by the British Council and the Nigerian Athletic Association.

• Alhaji Yusuf Gibr, Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Transport, has been killed in a car crash while on holiday in Spain. His coffin was carried by 12 permanent secretaries to a Nigerian air force helicopter when it arrived by Nigeria Airways at Ikeja.

• Ukpilla Cement Factory is to be expanded to produce 500,000 tonnes of cement a year against the present capacity of 150,000.

LIBERIA

Tolbert's inauguration

President William Tolbert was sworn in to serve an eight-year term as Head of State in the presence of thousands of citizens and distinguished visitors including the current chairman of the OAU, President Idi Amin of Uganda. President Tolbert declared that he would continue with his policies of national self-reliance, total involvement of all the people and a continuation of the system geared towards developing local industry.

He said that he expected the economy to grow at 6 per cent a year, through a combination of improved rice production, an expanded telephone network, the benefits of a vocational training centre to be set up in Monrovia and construction of some 350 miles of roads, both laterite and paved.

President Tolbert called for more dedication and proclaimed the coming of a new order which "demands stricter discipline and

sacrifice". He promised that Liberia would never have a single political prisoner and added that there are plans under way to make prisons wholesome rehabilitation centres for criminals.

President Amin was greeted with a 21-gun salute on arrival at Robertsfield International Airport. Welcoming President Amin, President Tolbert said that when reference is in future made to the inauguration of the President and Vice President of Liberia in 1976 it would be recorded that the whole of Africa was present, because of President Amin's presence as Chairman of the OAU. President Amin conveyed greetings to the people of Liberia from the people of Uganda, and Africa as a whole, and said that other OAU heads of state and governments sent greetings through him to the people of Liberia.

President Amin also met the Guinean delegation at the inauguration ceremony. The delegation was led by Ismail Toure, brother of President Sekou Toure and also a member of the Political Bureau of Guinea. President Amin explained Uganda's stand on Angola and requested Mr. Toure to inform President Sekou Toure that Uganda has not changed its stand from that of the OAU and would only do so if the OAU at its extraordinary Meeting in Addis Ababa decides to change its previous decision. He made it clear that Uganda does not take sides and recognizes all the three liberation movements, as the OAU does. President Amin said when taking decision on Angola all the three liberation movements should be represented.

• President Tolbert, in his role as a clergyman (he is President of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention) joined the Reverend Dr. Bennie D. Warner, Bishop of the United Methodist Church of Liberia, to officiate at the wedding of Mr. Charles Cecil Dennis Sr. and Mrs. Martha Elizabeth Prout.

• About 150 Liberians were reportedly repatriated from Ghana shortly before Christmas. However official sources have not released any information about the repatriations which have allegedly been going on since September. The Ghanaian Ambassador to Liberia, Commodore P. F. Quaye, wrote to *The Liberian Age*, which had reported the repatriations, denying any implication that the repatriations were being forcibly carried out by the Ghanaian Government.

• The Japanese Ambassador to Liberia and Sierra Leone, Mr. Junnosuke Katayama, has forecast that the development of the Mano River Union will attract increasing interest by Japanese businessmen because of the larger unified market that it will produce.

• The official price of rice, both imported and locally grown, is now \$22 a bag (23 cents per official measuring cup).

ANGOLA

FAPLA take FNLA capital of Uige

The MPLA has made spectacular progress on its northern front, writes a correspondent, and has taken the town of Carmona, formerly the headquarters of the FNLA, whose forces were forced to evacuate the town in the face of the MPLA assault. Even more important that the town was the large military airbase at Negage, which has also fallen to FAPLA, thus cutting the air link with Zaïre. FAPLA reported the destruction of two US aircraft (presumably already disabled) on the ground and, because the FNLA had only four days in which to evacuate their headquarters "many hundreds of tons" of war material have fallen into the hands of FAPLA. Ambriz, another former headquarters of the FNLA on the coast, has also fallen and the intruders of this latest offensive must deal an almost mortal blow to FNLA organisation in the north.

However, there are signs that the FNLA-UNITA offensive has reopened on the central and eastern fronts, with a big push in the area of Luso under way. An attempt seems also being made to reach Malanje, cutting the MPLA held area in two and relieving the har-pressed FNLA forces to the north, but neither of the counter-offensives appears to have achieved any substantial result. Despite continuing anonymity within the various organs of the US government, over Angola, arms are still reaching the FNLA-UNITA allies. *Le Figaro* also reports that Saudi Arabia has offered some \$50m. for arms to this faction although the report, like the accusation of the British Liberal leader, Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, that the USSR has paid \$30m. to an African leader to recognise MPLA, has not been substantiated.

The OAU Ministerial Conference, already in session, has been faced with an immediate problem by the demand of the People's Republic of Angola to be admitted as an independent state, recognised by over half of the members of the organisation although OAU sources indicated, before the conference opened, that the three movements would be admitted only as observers. With the decision of Libya to recognise the MPLA, indeed, one of what at one time seemed likely opponents has been won over. The OAU Conference will almost certainly condemn all foreign intervention in Angola, especially now that the Soviet Union and the USA, whatever their actions in fact, both now publicly support this position. The call of William Schaufele, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, for a return to the Alvor Agreements, however, perhaps best illustrates the confusion of American policy in the imbroglio. President Ford's circular letter to African Heads of State has infuriated many, Nigera publishing the text with an announcement that she would oppose US proposals at the OAU. Moreover, Brazil, in a surprising move, has decided to upgrade her diplomatic mission in Luanda to ambassadorial status. This final recognition of the MPLA, an official rejection of US advice, adds to the flood of support for the People's Republic.

South African involvement in the Angolan fighting has produced increasing resistance among press and public in the Republic. With the announcements of further losses on active duty, including a Bngadier, opinion is hardening against both the interventionist policy of Prime Minister Vorster and the secrecy surrounding its implementation. South Africa, which is democratic in parts, thus presents a very similar aspect to the divided councils at present paralysing US decision-making.

There has been a report, carried by NBC in the US, that South Africa has decided to withdraw all her forces from Angola before the OAU conference opens.

Holden Roberto has attacked Sekou Toure, who accused him of being an "imperialist spy", counter-charging that he, Toure, was in the pocket of the US and dependent on their financial support since 1961. Dr Savambi of UNITA has been equally exasperated by the failure of the West to aid his cause and, with only South African aid left, is rapidly losing his room for manoeuvre. If, as many observers expect, the OAU recognises MPLA, the fate of the other two movements seems bleak. A meeting of Zaïre transport chiefs to consider alternative transport arrangements "were Zaïre to be denied the port of Lobito in Angola" indicates the prudent expectations of the Kinshasa authorities at least.

CAMEROON

Doctorates at Yaounde

Wim Mvumbo writes:—

The University of Cameroon at Yaounde has completed plans for the study and award of doctorate degrees in the fields of studies offered in the University. Recently, the Chancellor of the University, Mr. Mbella Mbatpe, announced harmonised changes for first degree courses in the University.

The doctorate degree programme is expected to be operative from this academic year for which, as the Chancellor

claims, staff is available except in political science, not taught in the University. He also dismisses doubts on the acceptability of Cameroonian doctorate degrees abroad, contending that doctorate degrees call for inter-university cooperation and where staff is not available in Yaounde to examine theses, reputable universities in Europe, America and Africa will be called upon to assist, thus making degrees awarded in Yaounde internationally recognised. Mr. Mbatpe said the idea of a Yaounde graduate getting his doctorate degree in another university was unsatisfactory as the credit went to another body rather than Yaounde.

• A young man caused chaos at a church service in Yabassi when he threw a firework into the congregation. The celebrant reportedly leaped from the window and other members of the congregation fled as precipitately, imagining it to be a bomb. The culprit is helping police with their enquiries.

• The Minister for Planning, M. Youssoufa Daouda, has signed an agreement for the construction of a "cultural palace" and for work on the Lagdo hydro-electric station with the Chinese ambassador.

• The second Congress of the Association of African Historians has been opened by President Ahidjo in Yaounde. Delegates from some 30 countries attended the conference, whose theme is the history and development of the idea of an African continent.

• The joint Gabon-Cameroon Commission has held another, of its regular meetings in Yaounde, during which the chief topic of discussion was reportedly the implementation of the UDEAC regulations on easier passage of nationals from one country to another.

SENEGAL

Senghor "Tied to UNITA"

President Senghor has promised amnesty to an undisclosed number of political prisoners next April as part of ceremonies to mark Senegal's 16th anniversary of independence. In his New Year message, the President added that an amnesty law would be voted on soon in the Assembly and that "reconciliation and national rehabilitation" would be the watchword for 1978. On Angola, the President confessed that Senegal was "more particularly tied to UNITA".

• President Senghor has been invited to attend the forthcoming national congress of the PDS, the new legal opposition party. The PDS Secretary General, M. Fara Ndjaye, said that the President had been asked in his official capacity, but that no reply had yet been received. The PDS conference is to be held on January 29-31 at Kaolack and is expected to draw up its national programme at the meeting.

• M. Pierre Abelin, the French Cooperation Minister, has paid a visit to Senegal, where he held talks on cooperation with his opposite number, M. Ousmane Seck. French aid to Senegal is to be increased to over 200m. francs this year, including substantial aid to the dam projects in the OMVS River scheme and to iron ore development at Falemé in the east.

• Lions have killed and eaten 48 cattle in the neighbourhood of Sithian Koundara in central Senegal, near the Niokolo-Koba National Park. Local herdsmen have been complaining lately that the lions' numbers have increased and that, finding less wild prey in the forest, have descended on their own herds. The Forests and Game Department is to investigate.

MALI

Political party statutes

President Moussa Traore has revealed that the Central Committee of the Militant Committee for National Liberation, the country's ruling body, was considering the "draft" statutes and internal regulations of the proposed single political party. The documents would later be submitted to the people for approval, announced the President to the cadres meeting at Kayes.

• Mali, which had been forced to suspend exports of live cattle in June of this year, has been suffering from the consequent loss of earnings, according to a report in "L'Espoir" magazine. Mali traditionally exports beef cattle to Ghana, Algeria, Niger and the Ivory Coast but the drought has so reduced the herds that some controls have proved necessary in past months. The problems have been exacerbated by rustling.

• Col. Moussa Traore, the Malian Head of State, has opened the new international airport at Bamakou-Senou near the capital. M. Claude Cheysson, the EEC Commissioner for Development and Cooperation, attended the ceremony, representing the EDF which had contributed some 97 per cent of the funds needed.

• Help from Christian Aid has allowed the construction of a new type of granary in Fatomah in Mali which utilises new ideas in alternative technology. The building, which holds 32 tons of grain, as opposed to the 2½ ton held by traditional granaries, was built with local materials by the people of the village, with a minimum of instruction. The granary, which can be extended to take 100 tons of grain, was commissioned by the Mali government's "Operation Millet", a campaign to increase rural self-reliance in food. So impressed have the authorities been with the building that they have asked USAID and "Operation Millet" to cooperate in the building of 2 more in other parts of the country.

BENIN

Border still closed to Togolese

According to reports in the *Daily Times* of Lagos, Togolese nationals are still being refused passage over the Togo-Benin border, despite the proclaimed reopening of the border on December 24th last year. The border is, however, reported open for nationals of other countries and commercial traffic is therefore less affected.

• President Kerekou has been overseeing the replacement of the *Conseils pour la Defense de la Revolution* with loyal cadres in Cotonou. The President stressed that the candidates for the new party must be "workers and exemplary citizens who are convinced and determined to defend

the causes of the revolution." The President noted that many unsuitable people had got into the CDR's under the old system and hoped this would cease. He then called upon the people to "work hard and produce a great deal more to feed ourselves." This "renewal operation" will be repeated in all parts of the country once Cotonou is thus "cleansed."

ZAIRE

Belgian links restored

Relations between Belgium and Zaire have now returned to normal after a disturbed period of some nine months. With the designation of M. Eugene Rittweger as the new Belgium ambassador to Kinshasa, the period of official coolness is now formally ended. Relations first really improved, writes a correspondent, after the visit of the Belgian Prime Minister, M. Leo Tindemans, to Zaire in September, when new co-operation and aid arrangements were agreed. The original cause of the rift was the alleged actions of the former Belgian ambassador in hinting to prospective investors that the Mobutu regime would not last long, and the publication of a biography of Mobutu in Belgium, of which the Zaire leader disapproved. President Mobutu took the Belgian government's position on this publication, which was that they had no control over press or publishing, as an excuse, refusing to believe it.

• A Belgian military mission led by Col. Callaert has paid an official visit to Zaire, where the group was escorted on its tour by Col. Mutombo Musambo Ulelema of the General National Defence Directorate.

• China is to aid Zaire with the construction of a sugar refining and cultivation project at Yawenda, near Yangambi in Haut Zaire province. The agreement between the Chinese People's Republic and the Department of Agriculture was announced in December.

• The British government has granted 22 postgraduate scholarships to Zaire students.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Cameroon aid request

The Equatorial Guinea Foreign Minister, Sr. Nguema Esono, has paid a visit on President Ahidjo at Yaounde, bringing a message of undisclosed import. Relations between Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon have been "abnormal" for at least two years, writes a correspondent, and the present visit may bring some sort of rapprochement. Sources in the Cameroon capital indicate that President Macias Nguema of Equatorial Guinea may have asked for aid and co-operation from President Ahidjo.

SPANISH SAHARA

Gen. Giap visits POLISARIO

Fighting continues in Spanish Sahara between Moroccan troops and POLISARIO Front guerrillas with casualties reported high on both sides. POLISARIO claiming to have inflicted over 1,000 casualties since the commencement of hostilities. The Red Cross, however, has launched an appeal for aid for the 40,000 Saharaois who have been driven from their homes and have gathered at Tindouf in southern Algeria. In Algiers, Sr. Ouali Argubi, the POLISARIO Secretary-General, and other Saharaoi leaders, had a meeting with Gen. Vo-Nguyen Giap, the North Vietnamese Defence Minister. Gen. Giap, the man who led the successful campaigns against French and American intervention in Vietnam, and is reckoned the world's foremost authority on irregular warfare, held lengthy discussions with Front leaders.

Gen. Giap's visit, writes a correspondent, will be both a psychological and propaganda fillip for the POLISARIO Front, who do seem to have taken heavy casualties in the fighting. While figures are unreliable, the extent of the losses may be gauged by the fact that, already, three out of the 14 *Yemaa* members fighting for POLISARIO at the front have been killed. The conflict has clearly disturbed the Mauritania President, M. Ould Daddah, who has visited Libya, reportedly to ask Col. Gaddafi to effect a reconciliation between his government and the POLISARIO. Col. Gaddafi is said to have told the President that it was now too late. With Moroccan troops already in Mauritania to help with security, Mauritania itself may be threatened with annexation.

For her part, Morocco continues to treat the matter lightly. M. Ahmed Osman, the Prime Minister, has described the fighting as "some individual actions of harassment" and stressed the allegiance of the population to the crown. The capture of a Soviet trawler by the Moroccan navy, allegedly for running guns into the Sahara, remains a confused and apparently anomalous incident.

IN BRIEF

Djibouti decolonisation

The General Assembly has approved a resolution by 109 votes to none "inviting" France to grant "immediate and unconditional independence" to the French Territory of the Afars and Issas in the Horn of Africa. The resolution, which came from the UN Decolonisation Committee, was passed with the unanimous vote of the African states and with only 20 abstentions, mostly European countries and the US. France did not take part in the vote.

Meanwhile in the Territory itself, the Prime Minister, M. Ali Aref, who narrowly escaped assassination last month, announced that he would lead a delegation to France within a year to discuss independence. French defence aid, technical assistance and the matter of a currency would be discussed and would themselves dictate the timetable and conditions for eventual independence. Opposition to M. Aref's *Union Nationale pour l'Indépendance (UNI)* is, however,

growing. M. Hassan Gouled Aptidon, President of the opposition African People's League for Independence (LPAI), said that there had been many arrests and that the house of Sultan Ali Mirah, leader of the Afars, had been searched. Replacements are being found for the Ministers of Labour and the Civil Service, MM. Ahmed Ouled Ab and Ali Aref Kraïche (both Issas), who resigned from M. Aref's government last month.

The prospects for an easy transition to independence, writes a correspondent, are thus far from bright. The ambitions of Ethiopia, which supports the Afars, and Somalia, which claims the Issas as part of the Somali nation, are unlikely to be dissipated by formal independence. Both sides feel their demands to be mutually exclusive and non-negotiable and the prospect of independence will be seen as the clearing of seconds from the ring rather than the end of an oppressive colonial era. The vote for independence, in fact, by reviving expectations, will surely have undone in a moment the years of hard and patient work by the OAU Secretariat.

UN Namibia conference

The United Nations Council for Namibia is to hold its meeting on the territory in Dakar from 9 to 12 January. The UN Commissioner for Namibia, Mr. Sean McBride, has said that he expects the UN to take responsibility for Namibia "within three to five years", now that the differences between the UN and Mr. Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, are relatively small. Mr. Vorster has already accepted the principle of elections, said Mr. McBride, and as soon as the Angolan crisis is over, a settlement is to be expected. Mr. McBride dismissed suggestions that the Security Council would ever intervene in Namibia but accepted that military action in the territory had been instrumental in forming present South African policy.

However, SWAPO, the guerrilla organisation, has claimed that South Africa intends to seize some 60-70 km. of Angolan territory and add it to the Ovamboland bantustan. SWAPO representatives at the conference laid down conditions for any negotiations with South Africa and declared themselves ready to go on with the armed struggle.

THE GAMBIA

Salary report accepted

• The Vice President, Mr. Assan Musa Camara, told Parliament that the Government generally accepts the main recommendations of the Salary Commission's Report. Some parts of the sessional paper are to correct errors and omissions in the report which the Commission itself has noted. In general where the Government does not see eye to eye with the commission it is a question of when "rather than what" . . . Mr. Camara pointed out that recommendations for Civil Service grades 1 to 11 were put into force last September instructions have now been given to implement it for grades 12 to 21. The debate on the report will be later this month.

• World Health Organisation smallpox expert Dr. A. S. Slopoushkin has visited The Gambia to check how successful the 1970 smallpox eradication campaign has been.

• A West African radio co-production team completed its first venture with a week's work on a programme about the Medical Research Council in the Gambia. The team, which had representatives from Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and The Gambia, had already made programmes about the Civil Aviation Training School in Zaire, the Dawhenya Irrigation Project in Ghana and the Rokupr Rice Research Station in Sierra Leone. The project arose from the fourth regional meeting of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association in Freetown last year and was partly financed by The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation.

Better umpires

• The West African Cricket Conference decided at its meeting in Banjul last month to take advantage of the presence of an MCC umpire with the MCC touring party and ask him to address seminars aimed at improving the standard of umpiring in the Conference countries — The Gambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. It was also urged that national Umpires' Association should be formed.

The meeting also approved special rules for the Quadrangular tournament to be played for the first time this year in Nigeria and also drew up the order for its future venues. Sierra Leone was elected to nominate the next president, for a two year term starting in September, and the next meeting was set for Freetown in August.

• Alhaji F. M. Touray told Parliament that the current shortage of refined groundnut oil was due to the limited capacity of the present installations. He said action was being taken to improve the situation including a study of the machines to see if it is possible to increase their capacity.

SIERRA LEONE EEC aid mission

Mr. Maurice Foley, who led a six man mission from the EEC to appraise Sierra Leone's priority projects, explained that the purpose of the visit was to study how best to use Sierra Leone's share of the 3,000m. Leone fund which the EEC had set aside to help the 46 ACP states which had signed the Lomé Convention. He said that Sierra Leone was eligible to receive some 30m. Leone shortly for development. A third of the money would go for rural development. There would also be financing for the Makeni-Kabala Road and for feasibility studies of the road round the Peninsula.

Mr. Foley, who is the EEC's deputy Director for Development, said that the mission had noted potential areas for assistance in health and education and another team will be visiting the country soon to look for other ways in which the EEC can help Sierra Leone's development.

In his Christmas message to the nation President Stevens urged Sierra Leoneans to spend their money wisely, extravagant or frivolous spending drains savings and can harm the country's foreign exchange position, he said. Looking back over the past year he said that the country had enjoyed considerable political stability but had suffered economic blows. "Our country like many

others, not excluding the rich industrialised nations," Dr. Stevens said, "continues to feel the serious pinch of world inflation accentuated by the energy crisis". The country had also faced double-barrelled disaster. In June and July a series of hurricanes had devastated wide areas, demolishing homes and damaging crops which might have contributed to the country's earnings. The response from both at home and abroad to his appeals for assistance had been gratifying and it was continuing to come.

Then had come the collapse of the Sierra Leone Development Corporation after 40 years of operation. On top of the energy crisis and other problems this had pushed the national economy near to the brink. President Stevens said that the Government was continuing to seek solutions to the country's economic problems and he urged everybody to help. He repeated his appeal for a return to agriculture which provides the backbone of the wealth of so many underdeveloped countries.

Carnegie grant

The University of Sierra Leone has been given a grant of 375,000 Leone by the Carnegie Foundation of New York to help the University's proposed planning unit and "outreach" programme. The grant will also be used to bring up to date the Education Review report, which is soon to be published, and to formulate plans for new courses at the University.

As a first step towards establishing a full medical school the university will include a Medical Department to train medical auxiliaries in its development plan. An Institute of Management Development is also to be set up with assistance from the World Bank and support from the Government. This will train technical, middle and third level managers.

World University Service of Canada has given the University 34,000 Leone to develop the animal science department at Njala University College. The grant will help to bring the livestock section at the department up to strength, put up pig and poultry buildings and set up poultry extension programmes in ten secondary schools.

New Year's honours

Three women were named in the New Year Honours List. Dr. Marcella Davies, chief medical officer, was made a member of the Order of the Republic of Sierra Leone; Mrs. Cassandra Garber was made a member of the Order of the Rokel for her services to education and Mrs. Keziah Corner was awarded the Republic Day medal for meritorious public services. The former German Ambassador Karl Muench was also made an Officer of the Order of the Rokel for his distinguished services to Sierra Leone.

The Commissioner of Income Tax has issued reminders that the Foreign Travel Tax is now in force. Anybody leaving the country must

pay a tax of five per cent of the value of a return ticket by the means of transport they are using.

Two days after returning from Cuba, where he had been leading the official three man delegation of the All People's Congress to the Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, Mr. Daniel Theodore Akibo-Betts, Chairman of the Freetown City Council Committee of Management, died at his home. Mr. Akibo-Betts, a Grand Commander of the Order of the Rokel, was given a state funeral.

Aged 66 Mr. Akibo-Betts was a pharmacist by training; he qualified in 1941 as a druggist and in 1959 was appointed Chief Surgical Assistant. He entered politics in 1964 when he was elected to Freetown City Council and was elected Mayor for 1970/71 and again for 1971/72.

Abdul Mansaray, Accountant and Alternate Director of Dicoorwaf, died suddenly in Freetown shortly before Christmas. Before joining Dicoorwaf in 1962 as Assistant Accountant he had worked for UAC in Freetown and D. H. Evans in London. Mr. Mansaray, who was 46, leaves a widow and five children.

Mr. D. J. Fraser, former Chief Inspector of Mines and now Vice-President of Sierra Leone Rutile, has been elected President of the Sierra Leone Chamber of Mines. He succeeds Mr. A. D. Wurie who held the post for five years.

Princess Ashraf, sister of the Shah of Iran, is due to visit Sierra Leone this week.

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