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WHO WILL LEAD NIGERIA?

Since the flurry of debate at the end of last year, which followed Dr. Azikiwe's suggestion that after 1976 Nigeria would need joint civilian-military rule and not a purely civilian regime, there seems to have been little public debate in the country about the type of government which should follow the military regime. In particular surprisingly little attention was paid to the constitutional issues raised in a paper to the Nigerian Economic Society by Mr. Allison Ayida, Permanent Secretary to the Federal Ministry of Finance. Such controversy as has arisen on Mr. Ayida's speech has mainly concerned his remarks about the position of permanent secretaries themselves. His view of their position under military rule was frank but accurate. Their role in policy-making, he said, was more obvious when there was no parliamentary forum "for honourable ministers to deliver speeches and appear to

be seen to originate new ideas and policy measures". Those anxious to criticise the "so-called new role of senior officials under the military should remember that the military administration is a collective regime of all the talents drawn from the universities and other walks of life".

Mr. Ayida's view of the place of civil servants under civil rule, however, is orthodox. There can be "no place for the so-called quota system in a modern civil service," he said; and went on to declare that "a non-political service adequately staffed to give non-partisan and competent advice without fear or favour, remains the best guarantee of a modern and stable administration in this country".

Far more important were Mr. Ayida's views on aspects of the nine-point preparation programme for civilian rule in 1976, announced by General Gowon in 1970, and on other problems relating to

the return. The points were: reorganisation of the armed forces, implementation of the second national development plan and repair of the damage and neglect of the war; eradication of corruption in national life; settlement of the question of creation of more states, introduction of a new revenue allocation formula; completion of a census; organisation of genuinely national parties; adoption of a new constitution, organisation of elections, and installation of popular governments in the states and in the centre.

Mr. Ayida did not attempt a "progress report" on these points. But he raised questions which will have to be answered long before 1976. Will Nigeria, for example, have an Executive President? Nigerian prejudice was in favour of the Parliamentary system, he said. But they should consider the advantages of an Executive Presidency. An Executive



■ **Benue Plateau:**
Gomwalk looks
ahead



■ **Touaregs: end
of an
era?**



■ **Sierra Leone: new
government's
programme**

President "could be empowered to appoint members of his cabinet from both within the legislature and from outside". He could be obliged to select at least one minister from each state in the federation. "All sections of the country should be seen to participate in federal decision-making until they are ready to trust the national leadership in which they are not adequately represented".

With two more delicate questions Mr. Ayida dealt frankly, if refraining from definite answers. The first question was what will be the place of the army under civil rule? "The political reality in Africa today" Mr. Ayida suggested "is that the fact of the elective basis of a government will not remove the ultimate sanction in the hands of the military... Can the military in Nigeria ever return to the barracks to play their traditional role in our life time? That is the question." The army was now a serious institution. Nigeria was spending in two weeks on the armed forces what it used to spend in a year. "The military leadership in the new set-up is of necessity obliged to conceive an interventionist role for itself. The constitutional settlement must take into account this new and crucial factor" Mr. Ayida went no further: but this is a vital question for the framers of the new constitution.

The possible role of the army in what he called the "most sensitive issue" in the return to civilian rule was also mentioned by Mr. Ayida. Who, he asked, was to lay down the criteria to assess the "national

character" of political parties? Was this to be left to the electorate, or would the army sponsor a national movement outside which "no serious opposition" would be allowed?

Mr. Ayida's main purpose in his talk, however, was to discuss the question: "Has there been, or will there be, a Nigerian Revolution in the 1966-76 period" — i.e. the period of military rule. Military rule, he suggested, had provided the conditions, but without leadership the revolution might prove abortive. Yet there had been remarkable changes. Orthodox economics could not "justify" the current indigenisation programme. But it was essential for non-economic reasons, and may not have been possible under civilian rule. There was "no need for the authorities to continue to adopt an apologetic stance in the matter of historical necessity and national pride".

New states for stability

Creation of new states was another accomplishment of the regime. And it had been well-conceived. The "most sensitive potential threat to the stability of the Nigerian Federation was and remains a North-South confrontation and it was of great strategic importance that the number of states in the 'northern' parts of the country should be seen to be equal to the number of 'southern' states".

The regime could claim other

achievements. The National Plan, even if not fully implemented, contained remarkable social policy measures. But said Mr. Ayida, a lot more "could be seen to be accomplished were the style of government of the military administration to improve substantially. This could also have electrifying effect on operational efficiencies of all sections of the public services, including the universities, where it is possible to see some professions fully engaged in extra-mural commercial pursuits. Such diversions are incompatible with the spirit of a revolutionary regime".

Nor did Mr. Ayida, although a leading architect of the indigenisation programme, see much hope of assistance for the revolution coming from its main beneficiaries. "Thanks to the petroleum boom and the indigenisation programme those engaged in the further acquisition of wealth and new businesses under the dispensation in the private sector will probably be too preoccupied to opt for the revolutionary leadership" likely to emerge by 1976 or some time after. So he had excluded civil servants from political leadership, to whom could the Ayida turn? "The vanguard which will ensure the survival of the nation's evolution will have to be drawn from, probably the military, the universities and the former ruling classes." So Mr. Ayida sees no new popular leaders in any political class. For Nigeria that could be an uncertain prospect, but it is probably the only one. In the end it is the nature of the leadership after 1976 rather than the nature of the government apparatus which will matter most.

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Market manoeuvres now

by a correspondent

What is the state of play now over the forthcoming negotiations between a still uncertain number of states in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, and the European Common Market? This month ago, in an editorial entitled "Market Manoeuvres" (*West Africa*, April 2) this journal commented on the complex uncertainty which surrounds this issue, which could be one of the most important facing Africa in this decade. Who goes to Brussels, and under what conditions, and what will result?

Since early April there have been a plethora of meetings — in Kigali, Nairobi, Port Louis, Abidjan, Addis Ababa, and intermittently in Brussels itself. We have also had the memorandum on the subject issued early in April by the European Commission (this journal in searching for a name "Deniau Memorandum" — perhaps unwisely, because immediately after its publication, M. Jean Deniau, the Commissioner in charge responsible for it, moved to Paris, where

he emerged in a new guise as Secretary of State for Co-operation). And there is the "economic charter" prepared by the OAU ministers of finance, trade and economy, meeting in Abidjan, which was approved by the OAU heads of state at their 10th anniversary meeting.

The Deniau memorandum, it will be recalled, produced certain important suggestions, notably relating to the conditions of negotiations between the EEC and the "associables". Without abandoning the "three options" proposed in Protocol 22 of the Treaty which enlarged the EEC to include Britain and others, the memorandum suggested that the negotiations should initially be unconditional. The options put forward in Protocol 22 are: (1) full Association on the Yaoundé pattern, (2) a limited association of the Arusha kind, (3) a simple trade agreement. The objects to such apparently rigid options were that, since both sides agreed that the Arusha agreement had failed, there was nothing between full association of the Yaoundé kind, which many of those eligible find unattractive, and the trade agreement which would probably mean the loss of preferences which Commonwealth countries currently enjoy in the British market.

Can Yaoundé survive?

Thus the flexibility of "no conditions" has been introduced, but there still seems to be some uncertainty about when Protocol 22 will begin to apply. The French in particular, it appears, have been insistent at meetings in Brussels that it should not be abandoned altogether. Others, however, say that once negotiations start it will prove *depassé*. M. Ferrandi, Director of the European Development Fund in his recent lecture to the Oilseed Crushers Federation in Killybegs [see page 89] said that a precise definition of the three options would "strip future negotiations of a good part of their meaning". Behind this question are fears on the part of both the associated African states and the French that the new negotiations will drastically alter, and even destroy, the Yaoundé Convention, although it is agreed that because of enlargement of the EEC some change is unavoidable.

The memorandum also suggests enlargement of association to include all African countries south of the Sahara, i.e. as well as the existing associates, and the eligible Commonwealth territories, the offer of association should be made to Sudan, Guinea, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea and Liberia. This would fit in with the desire on the part of some of the African states that negotiating states should not be eligible simply on the grounds of former imperial connections, but that negotiations should be as far as possible between Africa and Europe. Hence it was considered right for the

OAU to discuss the matter in Abidjan and Addis Ababa. The Nigerians have extended the principal further by inviting to the next important meeting on the subject, to be held in Lagos from July 9 to 11, not only the 19 existing associates, and the Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth associates, but also all five north African countries, some of which already have agreements with the EEC of their own. Thus the Lagos meeting will be for all OAU members, plus Commonwealth countries from the Caribbean and the Pacific, making a total of forty-eight states in all - if everybody puts in an appearance.

The main point of substance which the European Commission memorandum seemed to concede, although this is far from accepted by either the French government, or some of the associates, is that "reverse preferences" should be a major feature of the arrangement. M. Ferrandi claims, as do most officials in Brussels, that this has always been a "false problem" anyway, the preferences have never featured as such in the Yaoundé Convention, and only those countries which wanted to have applied them. Last week, in the end, the Foreign Ministers of the Nine, with Sir Alec Douglas-Home prominent among those urging the step, dropped the idea of reverse preferences as a part of Association.

The earlier "de-emphasising" of the question must be seen as increased flexibility on the part of the Commission. In Abidjan and Addis Ababa the tide of African opinion seemed so strong against reverse preferences, that President Senghor's stand on the question seemed increasingly lonely. The associates themselves were thus already divided, although stronger on the maintenance of aid.

In this issue, as in so much connected with "Association", there is a great deal of confusion as to what are the battles, and where they are to be fought. The elusive nature of the confrontation (if confrontation it be) is seen in the vital role played by semantics. The EEC's memorandum seemed to some readers to fall down because it was not using new language. The word "Association" is now in bad odour because of its slightly paternalist connotations, and the impression that associates are sitting at the children's table. The word "associable" is not viewed kindly because there is a hint of *fait accompli* ("we didn't ask to be associables", said one African diplomat). The name Yaoundé is frowned on because it symbolises the old Association, thought in anglophone countries to have been a neo-colonial arrangement for France to maintain ties with her former colonies. Even the word "co-operation", so harmless and bland, is regarded with suspicion because it has become associated with French domination. But will new words be enough to change the realities unless new realities emerge at the same time?

The question of a united front will be in the forefront of the Lagos meeting

acting as it is as a precursor of the meeting called for Brussels on July 24-25 (all the Lagos states, minus the north Africans, have been invited to Brussels, but it is uncertain yet who will be there, although there is reason to believe that Nigeria is ready to attend any talks as long as there are no strings attached; and there are no strings in Brussels).

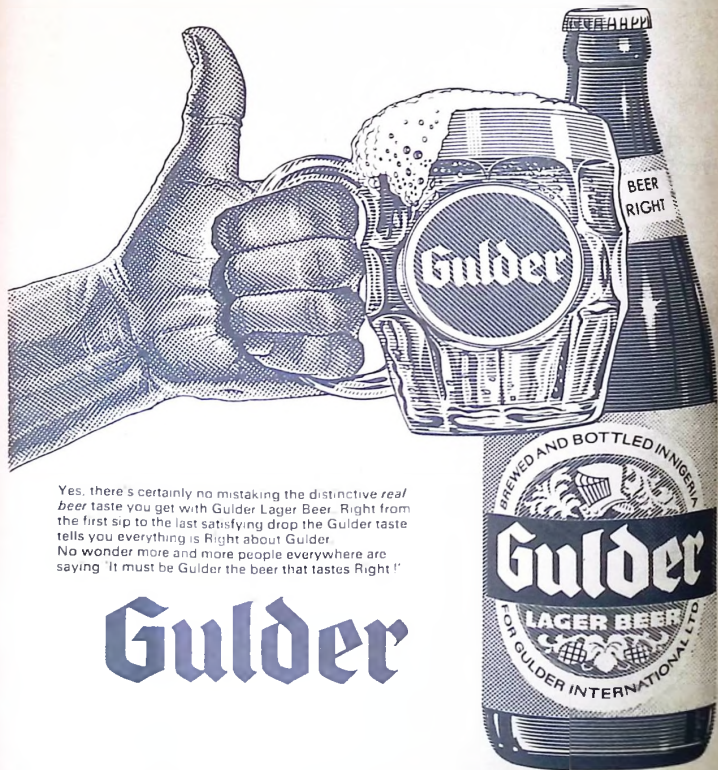
What of the Europeans? The Council of Ministers of the EEC in Luxembourg last Monday said they had lessened their differences, although there is still uncertainty over how financial aid to developing countries should be shared - whether European aid should concentrate exclusively on associated states, or whether there should be a worldwide approach. This fits in with the Abidjan suggestion that the aid and trade parts of Africa's relations with Europe should be separated. The EEC has always said there is no *quid pro quo* between trade preferences and the aid parts of Yaoundé. But some associates insist that in practice the two have been inextricably linked.

Is France isolated?

How isolated are the French on this issue? Some reports say that France did not object to helping other countries as well, provided the funds could be found, but most of the other countries are suggesting, in effect, that the associates have had too many privileges, and the time has come to reduce them. The West Germans are said to take a compromise position. The subject was reportedly discussed at the recent meeting of Messrs Heath and Pompidou. These seem to have been unproductive, although it is perhaps worth recording that according to the Elysee spokesman, the two leaders agreed that Britain and France "should not struggle in Africa in the name of vague colonial memories". Mr Heath made the specific point that "the time is passed when each Englishman saw the shadow of a Frenchman behind each baobab tree and vice-versa". They also reportedly thought increased co-operation between anglophone and francophone countries was desirable, and the conclusion of agreements such as that between Nigeria and Togo should be encouraged.

There are grounds for believing, however, that the British and the French were still close to locking horns on the question both of distribution of aid and of reverse preferences. So what will they say when confronted with the multitude of states who will be in Brussels on July 24? Mr Heath, after all, has one eye on the Commonwealth leaders' conference in Ottawa in the first two weeks of August. The timing of the Brussels rendezvous means that we are still likely to see a certain amount of chasing among the baobab trees. And the mystery of how the Africa-Europe relationship is going to evolve seems nearly as far from solution as ever.

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Matchet's Diary

As far south as Kaduna, Touareg, driven from their Niger pastures by the drought, are now seeking work as watchmen. In Kano and other cities of the North of Nigeria the aloof "people of the veil", and their camels, have long been familiar sights. But I believe it is unusual for them to solicit lowly employment. One of the reports on the West African drought by *The Guardian's* correspondent, Martin Walker, described the particularly sad plight of the Touareg people, who have fallen right in the path of the effects of cumulative drought over the last seven years, and now may be witnessing the end of their old nomadic way of life. Walker described a countryside where the wells have dried up, and the camels, traditionally vital to the Touareg's existence, have nearly all died. So more than 100,000 people have assembled near relief distribution points in Niger. Food aid started arriving there early in May, but the powdered milk gave the children diarrhoea and children have also been dying from a measles epidemic, which their undernourished bodies found too hard to resist. Over 100 children in the Tafardeck area died of measles, "but that", wrote Walker "concerned the people less than the loss of their camels. The 790 families owned about 10,000 camels, said the chief of the tribe, Assalam Djibril. Now there are 73 thin and feeble camels left. The Touareg hate this static life, amid the stench of dead cattle. Some of them still refuse to take government charity and drift to the town of Agades to sell their jewellery and seek work so that they can buy camels again some day. "However this time "the desert may not let them go back, just as schools, dams and market gardening projects are all tempting the Touareg away from their old nomadic ways. But they still keep their camel saddles in the bush as a kind of pathetic challenge to the desert."

Drought seminar

The ever-active Dr. David Dalby, of the Centre for African Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University, is on the go again. Later this month (from July 19-20) he is organising a symposium at SOAS on "Drought in Africa". The acute nature of the present crisis not only in the Sahel region of West Africa, but also in Sudan, Ethiopia, and even Botswana, makes the subject most timely. The aims are to arrive at a fuller understanding of the effects, to establish contact among individuals and institutions concerned with the practical, scientific and academic effects of the problem; to produce a body of documentation relating to the present drought which may be distributed "to the relevant institutions and the press" with

any specific recommendations agreed, and to prepare for a major international conference on Drought in Africa to be held in 1974. The objectives of the conference would be broader than those of the symposium, and would include a fuller study of the longer term causes, characteristics and consequences of endemic drought in Africa. Dr. Dalby tells me he has an impressive roster of speakers, and papers from contributors ranging from Richard St. Barbe Baker to Professor Harrison Church, but is short of participants from Africa. He would be grateful if anyone, especially from one of the drought affected states, who wishes to participate would contact him at SOAS "Duty and interest"

The perennial subject of "French Relations with Francophone Africa" was the topic of a joint meeting of the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Royal African Society in London, addressed by M. Francois Thierry-Mieg. For many years the Public Relations Officer of Niger-France (the French subsidy of the United Africa Company), M. Thierry Mieg has also been since 1963 President of the Association Internationale pour le Developpement Economique et L'Aide Technique (AIAT). This groups a number of business houses with interests in Africa, a kind of French parallel to the West Africa Committee in London. M. Thierry-Mieg was also a distinguished fighter with the Free French during the Second World War, and holds the Legion D'Honneur, the Croix de Guerre and the Resistance Medal (as well as the OBE).

His main message was that, for Europe, a combination of "duty and interest" dictated close relations with Africa, and that for France and Britain in particular it was no longer a question of competition. This latter message emerged particularly in a question about French opposition to West African groupings which included Nigeria. This, he said, was no longer true, although there had been French opposition to Nigeria during the Nigerian war. On West African unity, he said it was not for the French to say very much, but pointed out that President Senghor had said in Mauritius that there had to be rapprochement between all West African states.

On the franc zone M. Thierry Mieg stressed the positive side, that this was one of the strong currencies of Africa, as was witnessed by the black market in African currencies which existed on the borders of all franc zone states. This was because of the guarantee which France was prepared to provide; but France had no reason to fight those who wanted to leave the franc zone, as Mauritania was doing. It was curious, he said, that France was the only European power trying to make one currency serve many states in Africa. He noted in passing the revealing piece of information, which I had not

heard before, that when, last November, there had been a suggestion that Cameroon might have an independent currency, there was a flight of capital of around 2,000m CFA from Cameroon to France. There is a lesson for someone, somewhere, in this I think.

New horizons

Following my note a couple of months ago that Obi Egbuna, the Nigerian writer, had returned to Enugu to run the East-Central State Writers' Workshop, there is more news of his activities. He has just published (at the di Nigro Press in Lagos) *The ABC of Black Power Thought*, and has a number of other books in the pipeline. This journal has already mentioned *The Minister's Daughter* which Nwamife Books in Enugu are bringing out very soon (if it is not already published), but Egbuna also has another play, *Emperor of the Sea*, successor to *Daughters of the Sun*, and a political work, *Mennace of the Hedgehog* (successor to *Destroy This Temple*), both of which are being published in London in the autumn. A production of *The Minister's Daughter* is due to be staged by the Workshop in Enugu, with a view to eventual performance in the Black Festival in Lagos in January 1975. Kalu Uka of Nsukka University is directing it. Of the aims of the workshop Egbuna has written: "Our aim is to give direction, to provide a new literary horizon of vision, to serve as a research centre, talent reservoir, and catalyst in the unfolding of the literary flower of our youth, to create an axis about which young and old, discovered and undiscovered talents will revolve, to introduce the people to themselves by interpreting their longings and their souls, to launch through example and work a new image of the writer, of the artist, of culture in general, and thereby proceed, in not too distant future maybe, to shift the centre of literary thought and activity in the country, perhaps in the whole of Africa, from elsewhere to nearer home..."

African films

In the photograph attached to the article on the African film season at London's National Film Theatre two weeks ago, it was said that there was to be a season of Sembene Ousmane's films at the Electric Cinema Club in Portobello Road from July 1 to 15. The season will be much more extensive. Three films of Sembene (*The Money Order*, *Black Girl* and *Emitta*) will form part of the African Peoples Festival of Films jointly organised by the Electric Cinema and the Keskiide Centre, which will include such titles as *Reggae*, *The Harder They Come*, *The Blues Accorder to Lightning Hopkins*, and a film about Muhammad Ali called *The Baddest Daddy in the Whole World*. The Festival will also show two films by black South Africans about South Africa, *Come Back Africa* and the highly recommended *End of Dialogue*, as well as a film about Eldridge Cleaver, and a three-part documentary on Kenya called *Black Man's Country*.

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Benue Plateau: Anatomy of a State: 4

The future: Governor Gomwalk explains

Peter Harrigan concludes his survey of Benue Plateau State.

Critics of the State often argue that excessive attention has been paid to the development of Jos at the expense of towns in Southern Divisions. However, as my second article indicated, basic amenities are being provided in all Divisional Headquarters. In addition the Governor explained that his Government is embarked on a plan to develop Makurdi and provide it with exactly the same infrastructure as Jos.

A big sports stadium has just been completed to the same design as the new Jos Stadium. The Makurdi General Hospital is now a consultant hospital with 12 doctors — half of them specialists — nearly 200 beds and a school of nursing. A water treatment plant similar to that of Jos is soon to be opened and will be capable of supplying a million gallons of treated Benue River water daily. The new 4m. Technical Training School at Makurdi, the biggest of its type in the State, will be opened by the end of the year.

Makurdi, as a water, road and rail route centre is an ideal focus for future industrial development and the Governor hinted that in the next Plan there will be a bold programme of large scale industrialisation for the State's second town, as well as development of navigation facilities.

Perhaps one of the most refreshing aspects of Benue Plateau is its individualism and complete emancipation from sectional leanings. Like Kwara the State looks to the south just as much as to the north. Geographical location is partly the reason, so too is ethnic and religious variation.

Although the State is a contributing member of the Northern States' RCA (Inter Common Services Agency), and the Governor is the Agency's Chairman, the State has taken several rather dramatic "go-it-alone" steps over the last year.

The most significant was the breakaway from the Northern States Marketing Board and the formation of the autonomous Benue Plateau State Marketing Board. In 1972, the state thus becoming the only Northern State with its own marketing board. Under the NSMB farmers were not getting sufficient incentive to increase production due to low prices and inefficiency among licensed buying agents. Also the State produces several crops not found in other states — notably hennised and soya beans — and unlike other Northern States groundnuts are not important and furthermore are grown in two seasons.



Gomwalk set for development

Thus the State's agriculture was not being sufficiently catered for by the NSMB. The Governor is happy with the new BPMB and the tonnage is has purchased over the last year, and he emphasises that the improved and stricter marketing arrangements geared to the agricultural anomalies have given farmers big incentives to improve production.

Also significant is the formation of the State owned Benue Plateau Printing and Publishing Corporation and launching of the weekly newspaper, *Nigerian Standard*, on July 8, 1972. The State is still a part owner of the Northern States' newspaper the *New Nigerian* and continues to underwrite its losses. The new newspaper was started to give more coverage and attention to State news and events, which are often ignored by the *New Nigerian*. But after nearly a year the *Nigeria Standard* has not really got off the ground and is fraught with production problems as it is printed in Benin, on the presses of the Mid-West Newspapers Corporation, 500 miles from the editorial office at Jos. In addition distribution problems, lack of suitably trained staff and difficulties in gathering State news are posing acute problems and the circulation remains below 8,000. However a ₦500,000 State grant has now been made available to establish a web-offset press in Jos for printing the *Standard*.

This November Benue Plateau will open its own television service, with stations in Jos and Makurdi broadcasting to all Divisions. Community viewing centres are being built throughout the State and schools will be provided with sets. The service will devote a large proportion of



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VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS

The effect of the EEC

In this, the second of two articles, papers delivered at the International Oil-Seed Crushers Congress at Killarney are summarised. The article begins with the second part of a paper given by Mr. J.J. Colebrook, of the Tropical Products Section of UNCTAD's Commodities Division. Mr. Colebrook explained that developing countries exporting vegetable oilseeds and oils faced three principal problems. The first was that of trade barriers in major export markets. The second concerned the likely downward secular trend in prices for tropical oils because of narrowing markets. The third problem was short-term fluctuations.

All major developed market economy countries, said Mr. Colebrook, imposed tariffs on imports of vegetable oils to protect the domestic seed-crushing industry. As these tariffs were generally combined with duty-free entry for oilseeds, the domestic processing industry enjoyed a substantial degree of protection from imports of vegetable oils.

For example, the nominal EEC duty for refined coconut and groundnut oils was 15 per cent, but the effective tariffs were 186 per cent and 180 per cent respectively. So developing countries exporting vegetable oils were unable to obtain full benefits from the value added in processing. Duties were also levied on imports of lauric oils for technical purposes into the EEC. These duties adversely affected the competitive position of these oils vis-à-vis synthetic substitutes. The adoption of EEC duties by the UK on imports of vegetable oils from Commonwealth countries, previously duty-free, would harm several countries including Nigeria.

The growth rate of exportable supplies

of tropical oils was expected to accelerate but, at the same time, two factors might tend to narrow the market. A marked rise in production of soyabean oil, and, to a lesser extent, of rapeseed oil and sunflowerseed oil, could be expected, largely as a result of the continued fast rate of growth of demand for high-cholesterol content oilseeds in the EEC and Japan. Indeed, demand for meal and oilcakes for animal feed would be stimulated by enlargement of the EEC. Introduction of the EEC system of levies on coarse grains in the UK, Ireland and Denmark, the new EEC members, was likely to lead to diversion of demand from coarse grains to the less expensive soyabean meal for animal feed. Supply of vegetable oils produced predominantly in developed countries would thus be artificially stimulated, adversely affecting prices of tropical oils.

Another factor pointing to narrowing of the market for tropical oils, said Mr. Colebrook, was the probable rapid increase in subsidised production of vegetable oilseeds, particularly by the

EEC (by far the largest market for tropical oils). High guaranteed prices for domestic production of rapeseed and sunflowerseed, which were 55 per cent and 22 per cent, respectively, above import prices in 1969-70, resulted in an average annual increase of some 10 per cent in production during the 1960s. Consequently, production of vegetable oils as a proportion of domestic consumption of vegetable oils increased from 20.8 per cent to 25.4 per cent in the same period (1960-62 to 1968-70). Production of vegetable oils was likely to be substantially in the UK with adequate EEC price support system.

The effect of the market expansion impact of these two factors, however, inherent disadvantage facing lower content tropical oilseeds and the increased subsidised production of temperate oilseeds — could not be fully assessed yet. Current trends, however, suggest that the greater availability of major oils might have a disproportionate effect on prices. The burden of adjustment would then tend to fall on



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suppliers from developing countries, rather than on the highly protected producers in developed countries.

In a paper dealing with the relations between the EEC as now constituted, the associated African countries, and African Commonwealth countries eligible for association, M. Jacques Ferrandi, who is in charge of the European Development Fund of the EEC, noted the anxiety of the existing associates about their share in the Development Fund if more countries become associates. For some of the poorest associates the Development Fund accounted for 30 per cent of their external aid. Even at this stage it was not clear whether the EEC would make the financial sacrifices to ensure that the demands of both the old and new associates could be fully met. He recognised, also, that the advantages the associates enjoyed in the European market had been reduced by cuts in EEC tariffs on tropical products and by the generalised preference system. In addition they suffered heavily from instability in their export earnings. For example between 1965 and 1969 the volume of exports of groundnut oil from the associates and its prices varied by an average of 28 per cent and 10 per cent respectively from the averages for the period. M. Ferrandi maintained that the anxiety of the associates about the possible consequences for themselves of an extension of association showed that they valued the relationship.

Dilemma of associables

The dilemma of the non-associated African countries could be illustrated, M. Ferrandi continued, by reference to a particular tropical product, coffee. "The countries eligible for association pay only a two per cent customs duty on their coffee entering the United Kingdom. Entry into the Association would provide them with an outlet into the Community market without any customs duty on their coffee. If they remain outside they will have to face the common customs tariff, which at present is 7 per cent."

M. Ferrandi attached little importance to the "reverse preferences" controversy. He maintained that each associated country retained complete freedom with regard to tariffs applied to third parties. Association established a free trade area between the EEC and an associate, not a customs union. Preferential treatment for community exports could always be "zero", and so far as there was a loss of customs revenue as a result of establishing free trade with the EEC or anybody else an associate could always introduce internal taxes on imports. Moreover an associate could always protect its own industry by raising tariffs. M. Ferrandi pointed out that the suspicion of non-associated countries that the EEC was pressing them to accept association because of the benefits which would accrue to the EEC was baseless. At present EEC exports to associated territories came to only two per cent of

all its sales to non-communist countries.

M. Ferrandi summed up the general position of the associates as follows: "With regard to trade, the principle of a free trade area should remain the basis of the commercial aspect of the Association. But the entry of Community goods to associated countries must not on any occasion constitute an embarrassment to the economic policy of the country concerned. On the other hand, these same associated countries will retain full control of customs tariffs to third countries and full freedom to negotiate. They may grant to others the same benefits as those granted to the Community".

Referring to the Deniau Memorandum [recently summarised in this journal] M. Ferrandi said that the proposals for stabilising export earnings through a system of "compensatory transfer" of funds were of importance. Among items which the proposed scheme would cover were groundnuts and groundnut oil, cotton, cocoa and coffee.

M. Ferrandi concluded by claiming that an enlarged Association would have valuable non-economic consequences. "From the African point of view, apart from bilateral meetings, dealings with the Association's institutions would multiply contacts between old and new associates, between English-speaking and French-speaking countries. It would help to break down political, psychological and economic barriers that colonial history has erected between them. The fact that dialogue with Europe is allowing African countries to overcome divisions which often originated in precisely European intervention will not be one of the lesser paradoxes of this Association.

"And then, in any dialogue, in any contract, in any situation where two partners come face to face, it is a bad thing for one of them to have too many trumps. A certain balance must be maintained between Africa and Europe of the Nine, a Europe of the Nine which is now one of the major economic powers of the world and the leading trading power. If all the eligible countries decide to join in one single Association, more than thirty African countries will come to debate and negotiate with the Community. Each associated state - old or new - the Association, the Community itself, cannot but benefit from this new balance of power, since the most fruitful dialogue is among equals.

"Beyond this still, a sound Association comprising over forty countries could become a balanced and stable zone in an international economic situation subject to the tensions we are all aware of and at a time when monetary crises and commercial rivalry are threatening the economic and monetary order built up after the war. Paradoxically, after all the criticisms the policy of association with the Community could be seen as a contribution towards the progressive reconstruction of a more just and more stable international economic and monetary situation."

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Books and Publications

Small is best

Small is Beautiful, by E.F. Schumacher (Blond & Briggs £3.25).

As a main advocate of the concept of "intermediate technology" the use of labour-intensive not capital-intensive techniques in countries with surplus labour Dr Schumacher is already well-known in Africa. In this book he elaborates his case. But he also deals with a number of fashionable problems, ranging from the threatened extinction of world fuel supplies to the dangers of "factory farming", and the defects of giant organisations. The book comes at an excellent time to make the maximum impact, and if Dr Schumacher quite wrongly gives the impression that he alone among economists holds these views (indeed he shows extraordinary contempt for other economists) he can claim to have been single-minded in his advocacy over a period of years.

Dr Schumacher's main target is the belief that production of goods, or increase in the Gross National Product, can guarantee human welfare and happiness. If the nature of production, however, either de-humanises the workers or renders them unemployed, the growth in production is positively harmful. It, in addition, as is likely, it gobbles up or damages irreplaceable natural assets, fossil fuels, top soil or animal species - it is a cruel assault on future generations.

So impersonal has work become in industrialised or plantation societies that "the ideal from the point of view of the employer is to have output without employees and the ideal from the point of view of the employee is to have income without employment". In fact the right approach recognises that the first need of people "is to start work of some kind that brings some reward, however small, it is only when they experience that their time and labour is of value that they can become more interested in making it more valuable. It is therefore more important that everybody should produce something than that a few people should each produce a great deal, and this remains true even if in some exceptional cases the total output under the former arrangement should be smaller than it would be under the latter arrangement. It will not remain smaller, because this is a dynamic situation capable of generating growth".

Dr Schumacher gives us few concrete examples of the "intermediate

technology" which he would introduce into a country like Nigeria. Although clearly he would prefer a country like Nigeria to employ blacksmiths, rather than automatic engineering workshops, to make agricultural implements, and would encourage production of textiles on handlooms in villages rather than in vast factories, he is not specific. No doubt, too, road building, repair and maintenance could be even less capital-intensive than they are (in Liberia some people claim that if the money collected for "rallytime" is used to import bulldozers etc it might actually do harm). Those who scoff at the idea of a great irrigation canal dug by hand labour from Akosombo to the Acra Plains might ask whether the men so employed might not otherwise be idle - and as Dr Schumacher constantly emphasises, for most people to be idle is to be discontented.

The book, it is true, is not concerned primarily with tropical African countries afflicted with vast unemployment and ever-growing slum cities, but it applies particularly to them. Unfortunately, too many in these countries, particularly Nigeria, an appeal not to repeat the mistakes of the industrialised countries tends to look like an appeal not to compete with them. There is no doubt that Nigeria would be a happier and more stable country if the villages were full of busy blacksmiths and handloom weavers or even if such modern industry as there is was more widely dispersed. But she would never be able without the fullest use of the most modern techniques, operating in factories most advantageously situated from an economic point of view, to compete with goods produced overseas. And few consumers in West Africa would be ready to pay more, as they might have to, for goods produced under "intermediate technology" than for those produced by a technology which, as it operates in Nigeria, can never hope to absorb more than a fraction of those entering the labour market.

It becomes, then, a question of who will take the first step? For, at first at any rate, any country adopting intermediate technology might appear to be putting itself at a disadvantage. It is perfectly true that the waste represented by hundreds and thousands of unemployed people and the social dangers to which unemployment leads, are far more costly to a nation than would be the dispersal of

DAILY TIMES FINAL DIVIDEND

The Directors of the Daily Times of Nigeria Limited have announced the payment of a final dividend of 15% in respect of the trading year ended 28th February 1973, subject to the approval of members in General Meeting.

The dividend will be payable on 3rd August, 1973 to Stockholders registered at the close of business on 5th July, 1973.

This final dividend, together with the interim dividend of 12% paid on 29th December, 1972 makes a total of 27% gross for the year. At the current market price, this gives a gross yield of 10.2% to investors.

THE DAILY TIMES OF NIGERIA LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books and Ordinary Stock Register of the Company will be CLOSED from 6th July, 1973 to 23rd July, 1973 (both dates inclusive) for the preparation of Dividend Warrants payable on Friday, 3rd August, 1973.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

A.A. IGBOKOYI
Company Secretary

LAGOS
19th June 1973

industry and the rejection of capital-intensive production. But this is not the sort of calculation governments, or consumers, make in the world as it now is.

Dr. Schumacher's dislike of bigness extends to big countries. And it is true that, for efficient administration, there is an optimum size for a country as for a company. But if the passion for "takeovers" by Western companies leads to unwieldy and unhappy complexes, there is nothing to prevent separate sovereign states co-operating closely in economic affairs. And, as Dr. Schumacher says, Germany did not have to conquer the United States to make America a market for Volkswagens.

D.W.

Centre for Overseas Pest Research (COI HMSO)

This well produced and illustrated booklet describes the work of the new body formed from four units operating under the Overseas Development Administration, the Anti-Loquat Research Centre, the Tropical Pesticides Research Unit, the Tropical Pesticides Research Headquarters and Information Unit, and the Termite Research Unit. The new centre (COPR) is concerned mainly with pre-harvest pests, chiefly species of international or regional significance to overseas agriculture and public health, either because they migrate between countries (for example, weaver birds - Quelea - and locusts) or because they are widespread and endemic pests of several countries or regions (for example,

termites and mosquitoes and other vector species).

The centre's work ranges far beyond the Commonwealth, since it covers, for example, on the one hand, the Argentine, and on the other Thailand. It also acts as an agent for UN bodies.

In Nigeria COPR has a joint project with the Federal Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to study the problem of Quelea birds in areas of agricultural development. It also collaborates with Ibadan University on the grasshopper pest, *Zonocerus variegatus*. Other work in Nigeria includes termite research and studies of the effects of pesticide residues in relation to overall soil fertility.

One of the most important aspects of the centre's work concerns bilharzia. This, says the booklet, is second only to malaria as the world's most widespread endemic diseases. The booklet notes that its incidence is increasing owing to the spread of irrigated agriculture. The disease is caused by a parasite which passes from man to snail and then back to man. If the snails can be killed the cycle is broken and the disease checked. Owing to the social and economic importance of this disease the search for effective and cheap molluscicides is of international interest and COPR research here is supported by WHO. The work comprises laboratory studies on the toxicity, formulation and mode of action of molluscicides in London and field trials in co-operation with the Institute of Pathobiology, Haile Selassie I University.

A.M.

Wheeler. The Brazilian subjects tend to concentrate on North-East Brazil, with its large population of African origin, and range from messianic movements to "social banditry". The most interesting essays are those which give what the editor calls "A Comparative Overview", namely "Portugal's contribution to the Underdevelopment of Africa and Brazil" by Marvin Harris, and "Lusotropicology, Race and Nationalism, and Class Protest and Development in Brazil and Portuguese Africa", which, in spite of the mouthful of its title, is an effective and entertaining critique of the Brazilian philosopher Gilberto Freyre and the attitude to race in the Portuguese cultural area (Lusitania), by the French sociologist Roger Bastide.

E.A.

Harris in Wonderland, by Philip Reid (Jonathan Cape, £1.75).

Philip Reid is the pseudonym of Andrew Osmond and Richard Ingrams (Editor of *Private Eye*), and this short comic thriller is set in the half-world of a freelance investigative journalist. The hero and narrator, Harris, who has written an expose of the African activities of the Trans-Equatorial Mining Company, is apparently based on Richard West (who last year published a critique of the Rio Tinto Mining Company), and there are various other identifiable figures. One wonders, however, who are the models for the villains (a crooked Labour politician and his lawyer henchman)? The novel is fast and amusing, despite a few loose ends in the plot.

K.W.

NEW FROM METHUEN



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The pattern of long-term economic growth in Africa is only now beginning to emerge from the distracting background of colonialist exploitation and the earlier Atlantic slave trade. This is the first attempt at a systematic general account of the economic history of Nigeria - indeed of any black African country. It tells the story of political, social and economic changes over a century of colonial rule.

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Protest and Resistance in Angola and Brazil: Comparative Studies, edited by Ronald H. Chilcote (University of California Press, £5.40).

This is one of those large composite books, usually the product of seminars, courses or special colloquia, which at the lowest level help academics to justify their existence and lend further dimension to their output. This is not to criticise merely to observe one of the persistent phenomena of the academic scene. These volumes, which usually have a distinguished editor, often contain much that is of interest, and the better of them usually contrive to make some valid points. In this case the point is that both Angola and Brazil have come under the Portuguese colonial yoke. Brazil has its independence, Angola is still a colony, but there are a number of grounds for comparison, particularly in the chosen field of protest and resistance. It still seems to hang together loosely as a book, however.

Among subjects dealt with are "The African Response to Early Portuguese Activities in Angola", by David Birmelham, "The Tokoist Church and Portuguese Colonialism in Angola", by Alfredo Margarido, and two useful essays on education by Michael Samuels and *avunladi*: protest writings by Douglas L.

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Sounds of a Cowhide Drum by Oswald Mbuyiseni Mtshali, with a foreword by Nadine Gordimer (OUP, 90p).

All the horror of the life for blacks in South Africa finds expression in these poems by Oswald Mtshali. It is the economy of his style, the tautness of his verse that brings home this horror. His writing is all the more effective because he does not indulge in political rhetoric. For instance, he observes with almost clinical simplicity the abandoned baby eaten by dogs. But the simplicity is only apparent — the tone of each poem is suited to its subject.

There is often a sting in the tail. Nadine Gordimer's foreword speaks of his "imagery of survival". One would agree with the foreword that "the most exciting poems are often those where the verbal magic — in this case the creation of mood or sense of place — contains a sting that finally shrivels the verbal magic away, leaving a question or statement burning in the mind".

This collection of poems, which was first published in 1971 in Johannesburg, sold over 10,000 copies in less than a year.

N.T.

United Nations Development Aid — Criteria and Methods of Evaluation, by William Leonard, Beat Alexander Jenny and Otja Nwabi. Arno Press, New York.

With international resources in short supply in relation to the development

needs of the third world, it is just as well that the UN with its specialised agencies, should take stock of the effectiveness of its development aid and try to assess its value. One of the weaknesses of the first UN programme decade was that its programmes lacked, according to a report by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, "a reference system which could be used as a yardstick for measuring progress".

This study by the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) discusses in the first part, problems of planning and management of development projects. The second part deals with some of the tools of analysis which provide decision makers a reliable information base. Different aspects of evaluation and size and cost of programmes are discussed, among other items. The important thing in this UN second development decade is not so much the volume of aid flow into developing countries as the impact, effectiveness and relevance of UN aid. This study provides guidelines for evaluating projects.

F.A.

Nii Ayi Bontey by Anokye Wiredu (Ghana Publishing Corporation, no price given).

An adventure story for children set in a seventeenth century Ga state. It tells of how Nu Ayi Bontey, the heir to the throne, was stolen at birth and found and cared for by a hunter. When he comes of age Nii Ayi Bontey traps and kills a wild

beast that has been terrorising the town, people, and is restored to his real parents. There are some tense moments apart from the trapping of the beast, as when the hunter is almost executed for defying the king. But in the end they all live happily ever after.

A New Geography of West Africa by J. J. Hoeg (Longman, 60p).

This is an excellent geography book for anyone studying the subject for the West African School Certificate. The text is clear and concise and is illustrated with plenty of diagrams, tables and photographs. There are many cross-references. The book covers fully the syllabus both for the school certificate and teachers examinations. It is invaluable in that, unlike so many of the English textbooks at its level, it does not dismiss francophone West Africa in a few pages but gives each country full and fair treatment. The book begins with a general study of the human and physical background and continues with a detailed regional study. Part Three examines the major economic activities of the countries studied in Part Two and the book ends with a brief survey of West African current affairs. There are plenty of questions and revision exercises.

The author, who made many field study tours in preparing the textbook, is Senior Inspector of Education (Planning and Research) in Enugu.



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Letters to the Editor

Nigerian police and tax collection

SIR, The statement on tax collection in Nigeria credited to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Mr Theophilus Egbula, in *West Africa*, May 28, is incorrect. Your publication gives the impression that the Police will no longer assist local authorities in the collection of taxes. What the Deputy Inspector-General said during his discussion with the Chief of Jov is on record and I quote:

"Although the police are not tax collectors, the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order and any threats to peace or order of violence arising out of tax collection campaigns remains that of the police."

"Accordingly the local authorities and chiefs should be advised to inform the police when tax campaign is to commence. The police will then draw up an operational order after assessing the threats and obvious pockets of resistance and deploy men to cope with the situation throughout the period."

R. I. EZEKIEL-HART

Nigeria Police Force Public Relations Officer

Njala's rice seminar

SIR, We refer to a news item on Sierra Leone (April 23) headed "Rice Shortage Explained". The rice seminar referred to in that news item was a joint seminar and workshop organised and conducted by the Agricultural Society of Sierra Leone in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension of Njala University College and the Rice Corporation of Sierra Leone. Mention should have been made of these sponsors.

You also did not mention the fact that besides local and foreign scientists the seminar and workshop was attended by farmers. The farmers (for whose benefit the workshop was organised) participated in demonstrations of new techniques in rice growing conducted by research scientists.

The purpose of the rice seminar and workshop was not to explain rice shortage in the country, an impression your reporting would convey, but to discuss demonstrate and document the more recent rice research findings for increased productivity.

Finally it is important to report that the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources has received with enthusiasm resolutions which crystallised the policy implications of the seminar deliberations.

S. S. DEEN,
E. R. TERRY.

Agricultural Society of Sierra Leone

Crawl before you run

SIR, Illiteracy is not a curse but a misfortune. Not to be ignorant where a bit of intelligence is expected, is offensive. It is more offensive when the ignorant person lays some claim to educational attainment. The worst culprit in this respect are Nigerian students in Britain who are seeking employment in Nigeria. I have met quite a number of them of recent and we often get into discussion as to job opportunities in Nigeria. They often spoke with an utter sense of disappointment about their failure to secure

"senior posts" in Nigeria. "Are you really qualified for these senior posts? I leave. "Good God", they continue with a flourish, "I have two degrees in Economics, two in Estate Management, post-graduate training in this field and that". "These look good to me", I assure them. "But what posts have you applied for?" "I have asked for the post of 'Chief Engineer', 'Chief Valuation Officer', 'Principal Accountant', 'Senior Education Officer etc.' but I have been offered a post several grades below what I have asked for". Without waiting for an answer they lapse into serious castigation of the governments of Nigeria. "What is wrong with our governments back home? Can't they see what I have passed? Do they not think that I have gone through so many terrible winters before I get these qualifications?" etc.

"Yes, you are qualified - even more qualified than what our governments want", I reassured him. He nods his head in full agreement with my statement. But deep down in my mind, I am convinced that I am speaking to an ignoramus, who, although academically qualified, yet has got an extremely poor knowledge of the Civil Service.

To reach a higher grade in the Civil Service is normally by series of promotions spread over a number of years. It is therefore, not the practice of the Civil Service to offer a 'starter' post higher than the starting grade of the class of post he has applied for. So, if you have the Master's degree in Engineering, or in Economics or in any field of study, you cannot expect to be offered 'Chief So and So'. There is already a 'Chief So and So' in that Ministry/Department, and he will not be asked to step down for you because of your academic qualifications.

Even if you succeed to get the Chief man in the Ministry fired by our celebrated Firing Squad, you still cannot step into his shoes because in the Staff List, there is already someone next to the "fired" man who will be promoted to the post! Qualified Nigerians in Britain are very ambitious. But such ambitions should be tempered with a bit of commonsense. Learn how to crawl before you start to run.

The most fantastic story I have heard was that of a Nigerian who has got a BA history in a very fine grade. He promptly applied for the post of a "Permanent Secretary". He never got it! When he told me about his "utter disappointment", my answer to him, was worse than his disappointment. I told him - "Why don't you try for the post of Nigeria's Head of State? You might be lucky there!"

"DIFO KOMOLAFE"

Gowon, UK and Rhodesia

SIR, I have followed with keen interest the progress of the recent state visit to Britain by General Gowon which brought Nigeria once again into the headlines of British newspapers. The visit has been referred to by both sides as a great success. Much strained Anglo-Nigerian relations have now improved.

However, one wonders whether the General's visit has had any serious effect on Britain's policy towards South Africa and Rhodesia. General Gowon is well known to have strong views on this issue and the British Government was aware that he was here not only as Nigeria's leader but also as the current chairman of the OAU. It was not unexpected that the General maintained his strong views on the issue, since of all the major problems in Africa today racial oppression is the most intolerable. Neither General Gowon nor any Nigerian would merely be content with improved Anglo-Nigerian relations when Britain's policy towards South Africa and Rhodesia remained unchanged.

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Commercial News

NIGERIA

Aluminium plant for Oshodi

Nigerian Aluminium Extrusions is to establish the first aluminium extrusion and anodising plant in Nigeria. It will be located at Oshodi, near Lagos, and will produce 2,400 metric tons of aluminium profiles annually. It is expected to start operations by 1975 and its entire production will be sold in Nigeria.

Main sponsors of the project are Swiss Aluminium, Zurich (Alusuisse), and UTC-Basle. Both already have subsidiaries in Nigeria. Alusuisse is one of the world's leading producers of aluminium, and mines bauxite in Sierra Leone. Its Nigerian subsidiary, Alumaco, has been producing aluminium products from imported profiles for the local construction industry since 1962. UTC-Basle, a subsidiary of UTC-Basle, is the large trading company with varied business interests in Nigeria.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, is investing \$1,306,000 in the project. The IFC investment consists of a loan of \$912,000, an equity investment of \$304,000 equivalent, and a contingent commitment of \$90,000.

The project will obtain its main raw materials from Alusuisse, which will assure regular supplies at international prices. Alusuisse will also be responsible for operating the mill and providing technical assistance. The project will create 160 new jobs and is expected to result in net foreign exchanges savings of up to \$1m. per year.

Total cost is estimated at \$4,840,000 including \$297,000 equivalent for working capital. The share

capital will amount to US \$1,824,000 equivalent, of which the main sponsors will provide the majority. The remainder will be provided by two government-owned Nigerian insurance companies and by three financial institutions: the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank, SIFIDA (Societe Internationale Financiere pour les investissements et le developpement en Afrique) and IFC. IFC is a shareholder in both NIDB and SIFIDA.

Loans totalling \$2,219,000 will be provided by IFC, NIDB and SIFIDA, and a revolving credit supplied by a local bank will account for the remainder. An IFC statement explains that the rapid expansion of Nigeria's economy in recent years has resulted in accelerated demand for construction material, including aluminium profiles, widely used as partition walls, doors and windows, and by body makers of commercial vehicles. These profiles are well suited to Nigeria's climate because of their high resistance to corrosion. Local demand has reached a point where a local aluminium extrusion plant based on imported billets has become economically feasible. The new plant will meet most of that demand, which at present is met entirely by imports, mostly from Europe.

This is IFC's fourth investment in Nigeria, where the Corporation's gross commitments now total \$9m. Last week's issue carried details of the IFC commitment to a cottonseed processing mill in Funtua. IFC's main field is co-operation with private enterprise.

• The Nigerian National Oil Corporation (NNOC) and

Ashland Oil Company have signed a product sharing agreement under which Ashland will explore for oil in two of the concessions vested in NNOC. The company will finance its exploration up to discovery of oil in commercial quantities. The agreement provides that a portion of proceeds from crude oil may be applied to defray exploration and production costs and payment in full of royalties and taxes. The Federal Ministry of Mines and Power said in Lagos that NNOC would receive 65 per cent of balance of crude oil produced while Ashland would get 35 per cent, up to production level of 50,000 barrels a day. Beyond this level, distribution would be 70 per cent to Ashland, which is based in Kentucky, while gas discovered during exploration would belong to NNOC.

• Mr Abdul Wahab Labidi, Chairman of the African Development Bank, has visited Cameroon where he signed a \$12m. dollar loan to help build the new airport at Douala.

Britain and cocoa pact

Britain has notified the UN that she will apply provisionally the International Cocoa Agreement adopted last October and scheduled to go into force by June 30. Countries that have already agreed to be bound definitely by the Agreement are Australia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Ghana, Hungary, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Rumania, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, USSR. Like Britain, Guatemala has declared provisional acceptance.

Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, told a meeting of the International Cocoa Council

Interim Committee in London that importing countries, including Britain, were finding it difficult to meet the stringent timetable laid down for bringing the International Cocoa Agreement into force.

Although some might question the need for a Cocoa Agreement in the present state of the market, Mrs. Fenner thought that a longer view should be taken. One of the Agreement's objectives was to secure an appropriate balance between supply and demand without excessive price fluctuations as had been experienced in the past. Clearly the Agreement would not moderate upward price movements until it had acquired a stock of cocoa. But it was hoped that the security afforded by the Agreement as a continuing concept would encourage producers to develop production in line with consumer trends.

The economic rules for the proposed Agreement were worked out in Geneva at the end of May and were reported to the Interim Committee by the working group's chairman, Mr Gordon Meyers.

Britain has offered London as the site of the permanent headquarters of the International Cocoa Organisation.

Kano hotel contract

A contract worth £1.7 million for the construction of a new hotel in Kano has been awarded to J.F. Lesser of Hounslow by the State Government. The contract covers the design, construction and furnishing of the new hotel. Lesser is also arranging finance over a seven year period for the project. The hotel is scheduled for opening towards the end of 1974.



Artist's impression of the new Kano Hotel

GHANA

Foreign payments eased

The Bank of Ghana announces that it will immediately release foreign exchange to the commercial banks for the payment of import bills and approved service payments not exceeding 5,000 cedis in value, which are unpaid for want of foreign exchange and in respect of which the cedi counterparts were paid to the commercial banks after February 5, 1972.

Exchange rates will be the following:-

(a) For goods that arrived in Ghana on or before December 27, 1971. One cedi = \$0.98 or the appropriate cross-rates in force immediately before December 27, 1971.

(b) For goods that arrived in Ghana after December 27, 1971, but not later than February 5, 1972. One cedi = \$0.78 or the appropriate cross-rates in force immediately after February 5, 1972.

Payment of these bills should be supported with the customs entry form and the original invoice. After this

foreign exchange allocation, all items under 5,000 cedis for which the Cedi counterpart had been lodged with the commercial banks and are in arrears, would have been paid.

Oil takeover costs

Implementation of the new agreement with Shell-BP will in the long run lead to considerable increase in Nigeria's earnings from the oil industry, but now places heavy demands on the resources of the Federal Government, said a commentator on the Lagos Overseas Radio Service. "Shell-BP, in which the Government is to take 35 per cent acquired shares, claims to have invested almost 1,000m. naira in Nigeria over the past 35 years. The acquisition of the shares means that the Government has to pay compensation. The amount which it has to pay is expected to run into hundreds of millions of naira. The huge amount of money

paid as compensation is expected to be recovered within two years. From then on the Government will earn massive profits in taxes and royalties from the new arrangement".

■ The Pioneer Metal Products, Ikeja, has been given up to the end of the year to make its shares available to the Nigerian public. The Federal Commissioner for Industry, Dr. Adetoro, gave the order yesterday while opening an extension to the company's factory. He admonished the company for showing lack of interest in the indigenisation programme by failing to appoint Nigerians to any of its key positions. Dr. Adetoro said the company must have a minimum of 40 per cent Nigerian participation and should introduce for Nigerians to enable them to take over from expatriates.

Soviet credit

A special credit fund is to be set up at the Soviet International Investment Bank to assist developing countries. The bank, established in 1971, extends credits primarily for measures

connected with "the international socialist division of labour, specialisation and co-operation of production in Comecon countries". The special fund will total 1,000m. transferable roubles. It is to be made up of collective currency (transferable roubles) and convertible currencies. It will be put into operation on January 1, 1974. It may be joined by other countries.

Mr. Vitaly Verobys, chairman of the bank, said that the bank will grant credits for up to 15 years for construction of new enterprises and reconstruction, modernisation of existing

■ Mr. J.W. Hickman, Chief Accountant of Palm Line, has been appointed Financial Director of the company. This is a new board appointment. Mr. Hickman joined the Underver Group in 1948, transferring to the Accounts Department of Palm Line in 1951. He has worked in Sierra Leone, Ghana and Nigeria. In 1967, he was seconded to Shell (now a Division of the International) as commercial director, returning to Palm Line last year.

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● Gill and Duffus, the produce merchants and processors, who own 49 per cent of the shares in the Takoradi cocoa processing enterprise, West African Mills, report total net profit for 1972 of just over £1m. The annual report notes the particular success of the company's cocoa factory in Brazil.

● Latin American coffee producers have warned that arabica coffee available in the world market for the rest of the current coffee year was limited and warranted the maintenance of current prices.

● The British Government investigation into Lonrho will be in private but reports of such inquiries are normally published, the Trade Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said in Parliament.

Ghana talks end

Negotiations between the Ghana Government and the mining and timber companies in which it has acquired majority shares have been completed. An announcement is expected soon. A Government decree, dated December 6, 1972, established local companies to carry on the business of the companies in which the Government has acquired 55 per cent majority shares.

In respect of Ashanti Goldfields — the Lonrho subsidiary — the decree said the Government will pay to Lonrho a sum equal to 55 per cent of the total value of assets calculated on the basis of their net written-down value for income-tax purposes, minus 20 per cent representing the equity capital already owned by the Government. According to the decree, the value of stores incorporated in the assets would be subject to adjustment in accordance with a technical valuation.

This formula basically applies to all the other companies concerned. No mention is made of the time limit during which the compensation would be paid, and it is thought that this was one of the issues thrashed out by the companies and the Government's negotiating committee.

Other matters covered by the decree include royalty payments, for which it provides that Ashanti Goldfields (Ghana) and Consolidated African Selection Trust

(Ghana) would each pay a sum not exceeding 6 per cent of the market value of the minerals they produce.

It is understood that no detailed agreement has been worked out about actual compensation payment.

● Two shipments of Emcot ploughs have been made to Ghana by John Holt Agricultural Engineers, of Zaria. One shipment of 300 ploughs was for distribution by Christian Aid and the other, of 1,500 ploughs, was for sale through branches of John Holt Bartholomew.

The plough was developed by Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, of Ipswich and is now widely used for staple crops in West Africa. It was originally developed for growing cotton. The name "Emcot" is an abbreviation of "Empire Cotton Growers Association". The implement is technically a ridger. Since 1968 the ploughs have been manufactured by John Holt Agricultural Engineers, Zaria, a company in which NNIL has a substantial investment, and which manufactures a wide range of steel fabricated items. The Ghana shipments are believed to be the first of their kind from Nigeria.

● Mr. Emmanuel Jaja has been appointed a Director of Times Press and Nigerpak. Mr. A.O. Afolajuwonlo has been appointed a Director of Times Press. Mr. A.A. Igbakoyi becomes Company Secretary of Nigerpak.

Mr. Pius Ayodeji Ayan, has been appointed Chief Executive of the Printing Division (Times Press). He succeeds Mr. Keith Robertshaw, who becomes Chief Executive of the Packaging Division, (Nigerpak). Mr. Robertshaw will hand over to a Nigerian as Chief Executive of Nigerpak in July 1975.

● Japan will contribute a sum equivalent to \$15m to the proposed African Development Fund of the African Development Bank. Japan's contribution would be part of a total contribution of about \$55m, pledged by 15 industrialised nations. So far, contributions of \$30m, have been promised by seven countries, including Japan and Canada, with Japan the largest contributor. The projected fund, aimed at supplying "soft" loans to the 33 ADB member-nations, will be created on July 2, when the ADB Board of Governors meet in Lusaka.

Shipping News

ELDER DEMPSTER LINES

SOUTHBOUND — From Liverpool: FOURAH BAY stb. Jul. 5; KOFIMA stb. Jul. 12; EBOBI stb. Jul. 19, DUNKWA due Boma Jun. 30; IRINI due Cotonou Jul. 1. From Middlesbrough: BHAMO due Lome Jul. 1. From Glasgow: DECEMA stb. Jun. 30. From North Continent: FREETOWN stb. Hamburg Jun. 29, for Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam.

From Southampton: AUREOL due Las Palmas Jul. 2. To Liverpool: DECEMA due Jun 30. EGOS stb. Belfast Jul. 5. To London: FULANI due London Jul. 1. PALABA stb. Appa Jul. 1. FIAN due Freetown Jun. 28.

To Avonmouth: EGORI due San Pedro Jul. 2. To Hull: DALLA stb. Appa Jun. 30. To Glasgow: KUMBA stb. Takoradi Jun. 30. To Poole: CLEARWAY due Jul. 11. WESTBOUND — To USA/Canada: DARU stb. Montreal Jun. 28, DEIDO due Norfolk Jul. 1. From USA/Canada: DONGA stb. Cotonou Jun. 30; DUMBAIA stb. Mafadi Jun. 6. Eastern Service to WA — GREYBANK due Douala Jul. 5; TWEEDBANK stb. Takoradi Jun. 29.

BARBER LINES

OUTWARDS: BARBERGATE due Freetown Jul. 1. Abidjan thence Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema, Lagos/Appa, Warri and Douala. BARBERBROOK stb. New York Jul. 27, Stephenville Jul. 31 for Montreal. Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema, Lagos/Appa, Douala. **HOMEWARDS**: BARBERBROOK idg. Lagos 8 bound, Ghana Jul. 26, Abidjan/Monrovia Jul. 10/13, Freetown Jul. 14. BARBERGATE idg. Lagos 5 bound Jul. 19, Sapele Jul. 23, Douala Jul. 26, Abidjan/Monrovia Aug. 1/3, Freetown Aug. 5.

'K' LINE

WESTBOUND From Japan via Hong Kong to Lomé, Luanda, Matadi, Kott, Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Abidjan — MISSISSIPPI MARU stb. Japan Jun. 8, due Lagos Jul. 16.

EASTBOUND — From Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. MISSISSIPPI MARU stb. Lagos Jul. 26, Tema Jul. 27, Freetown Jul. 30, Abidjan Aug. 4, due Hong Kong Sept. 5, Japan Sept. 9. **BLACK STAR LINE/USNH/WEST AFRICA**

KORLE LAGOON Ghana Jul. 11, Abidjan Jul. 12, Philadelphia Jul. 25.

BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT/WEST AFRICA **SOUTHBOUND** — BENYA RIVER Hamburg Jul. 6, Bremen Jul. 9, Antwerp Jul. 11, Rotterdam Jul. 12. **NASIA RIVER** Middlesbrough Jul. 6. **NORTHBOUND** — NAKWA RIVER Bremen Jul. 12, Amsterdam Jul. 15. **AFRAM RIVER** Avonmouth Jul. 14.

DAFRA LINES **EASTBOUND** — DAFRA PAUL stb. Houston Jun. 28 due New Orleans Jun. 20. **MONROVIA** Jul. 18. **WESTBOUND** — FRANKRIG idg. Abidjan Jun. 30. **MONROVIA** Jul. 2 due Houston Jul. 18.

PALM LINE **SOUTHBOUND** — LAGOS PALM stb. Appa Jul. 8. **NORTHBOUND** — NANNINA PALM due Luanda Jul. 4. **MATADI PALM** stb. Calabar Jul. 4.

N.Y.K. LINE

WESTBOUND — SAIKYO MARU Tema Jul. 4/20, Lagos/Appa Jun. 21/26, Douala Jun. 27/29, Abidjan Jun. 30/Jul. 3. **EASTBOUND** — Tema Jun. 14/20, Lagos/Appa Jun. 21/26, Douala Jul. 27/29, Abidjan Jun. 30/Jul. 3, Cotonou Jul. 4/6, Japan first Port Aug. 5. **MITSUI OSK LINE** **ARIZONA MARU** stb. Kobe Jun. 16, Lagos Jul. 16, NORFOLK 5 due Lagos Jul. 26. **MARU** stb. Kobe June 22, Lagos August 16.

MAERSK LINE

INWARDS — From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Abidjan: MAREN MAERSK stb. Kobe Jul. 5 due Luanda Aug. 1. **OUTWARDS** From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Takoradi — JOHANNES MAERSK stb. Lohito Jul. 11 due Luanda Jul. 12. **SCAN-LEOY AB**

BANDA due Boma/Matadi Jun. 30, Luanda Jul. 7, Lohito Jul. 4, CUMULUS stb. Bordeaux Jul. 2, Boma/Matadi Jul. 16, Luanda Jul. 23.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE

NORTHBOUND — INDIANA stb. WA Jul. first half of Aug. for discharge Scan Aug./early Sept. **COVENTRY CITY** stb. W.A. Aug./early Sept. for discharge Scan Sept.

ROYAL INTER-OCEANIC LINES

INWARDS — STRAAT FRANKLIN stb. Jun. 18 due Luanda Jul. 17, Monrovia Jul. 22, Tema Jul. 23, Freetown Jul. 24, Jul. 29, Lagos/Appa Aug. 1, Tema Aug. 10, Takoradi Aug. 11, Abidjan Aug. 13. **STRAAT MAGELAN** stb. from Hong Kong stb. Jun. 12 due Lagos/Appa Jul. 13, Cotonou Jul. 27, Lome Jul. 29, Tema Jul. 30, Abidjan Jul. 31, Monrovia Aug. 3, Freetown Aug. 5, Douala Aug. 9, Conakry Aug. 13, Abidjan opt. Takoradi Aug. 17.

OUTWARDS — STRAAT FRANKLIN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan early August. **STRAAT MAGELAN** from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt. Hong Kong, Japan and Shanghai Jul./Aug.

FARRELL LINES

HOMEWARDS — AFRICAN MERCURY stb. Lagos/Appa Jul. 30 for Tema, Takoradi, Abidjan, Monrovia, US Ports. **AFRICAN SUN** stb. Lagos/Appa Jul. 30 for Matadi, Luanda Jul. 15, Lohito, Abidjan, Monrovia, US Ports. **GUITARUS** AFRICAN SUN due Monrovia Jul. 23 for Abidjan, Tema Jun. 29, Lagos/Appa Jul. 1, Matadi, Luanda; AFRICAN COMET due Dakar Jul. 10 for Freetown, Monrovia, Jul. 16, Buchanan, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Jul. 24, Lagos/Appa Jul. 26. Port Harcourt, Douala.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

BUENA FORTUNA stb. New Orleans Jun. 30, Houston Jul. 3 for Tema, Lagos, New Orleans, Freetown. **WESTWIND** stb. New Orleans Jul. 6, Houston Jul. 10 for Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire, Luanda, Freetown. **WESTBIRD** stb. Houston Jul. 10 for Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire, Luanda, Freetown.

THE E.A.C. LINES

SOUTHWIND — SINALOA stb. Copenhagen Jul. 4, Aarhus Jul. 6, Bremen Jul. 8, Hamburg Jul. 11, Antwerp Jul. 13, Rotterdam Jul. 16, New Orleans Jul. 6, Houston Jul. 26, Monrovia Jul. 29, Abidjan Aug. 1, Tema Aug. 3, Cotonou Aug. 5, Lagos/Appa Aug. 2. **NORTHWIND** — JAGODHA stb. Lagos/Appa Jul. 2.

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THE NIGERIAN LAW SOCIETY

OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

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GRAND ANNUAL DANCE

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FINSBURY TOWN HALL
Rosebery Avenue, EC1
on Saturday 7th July, 1973
6.30 p.m. midnight

Under the Distinguished Chairmanship of
CHIEF A.Y. EKE
Federal Commissioner for Education

Movic by:
MAYOR SULE AGBOOLA
AND HIS MOONLIGHT SPOT BAND
on their first European tour
All are welcome
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1. 'Sambola Mama'
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- Come and see your brothers in action

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6th July, 1973	Holborn Assembly Hall,
21st July, 1973	St. John's Mews, Northington Street,
27th July, 1973	London, WC1
17th & 24th Aug. 1973	
14th July, 1973	Hampstead Town Hall,
3rd Aug., 1973	Haverstock Hill,
31st Aug., 1973	London, NW3
Dates and Halls to be announced later	Liverpool Manchester

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SITUATIONS VACANT

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SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

THE NIGERIAN
NATIONAL OIL CORPORATION, LAGOS

Vacancies

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointments to the following vacant posts in the Corporation:-

- (a) Accountants
- (b) Accounting Assistants
- (c) Accounts Clerks

Qualifications and Experience:

- (a) Applicants must be Chartered or Management Accountants with at least two years post-qualification experience. Good practical experience in assets verification, evaluation and appraisal, and internal auditing would be an advantage.
- (b) Intermediate level of ACA, ACCA, ACMA, or RSA Stage III in accounts and related subjects with good knowledge of book-keeping up to Trial Balance.
- (c) WASC, Grade I or II, GCE or RSA Stage II accounts and related subjects with some experience in book-keeping.

Remuneration:

Basic salary negotiable. There are also generous and attractive fringe benefits.

Method of Application:

Applications with full curriculum vitae and photocopies of certificates should be addressed to:

The Secretary,
Nigerian National Oil Corporation,
P.M.B. 12650,
Lagos.

to reach him not later than July 7, 1973. Envelopes should be marked "Accounts" on the upper left hand corner.

DANCES Cont.

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EGBE OMO IFE (UNITED KINGDOM)

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Grand Annual Summer Dance

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Music by a Nigerian Top Band

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Admission by invitations and tickets

Tickets: £1.00 flat

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Advertisement No. NMC(1)73

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF
MINES AND POWER, LAGOS

Vacancy

GENERAL MANAGER

to the

NIGERIAN MINING CORPORATION

1. APPLICATIONS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Nigerian candidates for consideration for appointment to the post of General Manager of the Nigerian Mining Corporation, a Federal statutory body, established recently to promote rapid exploration and development of Nigeria's solid mineral resources in fields other than Coal and Iron Ore, and to encourage greater indigenous participation in and control of the country's mining industry.

2. QUALIFICATIONS

- (i) Age: not less than 35 years;
- (ii) Academic: a good Honours Degree or Diploma from a well-recognised university/school in Mining Engineering or Science or Mineral Economics;
- (iii) Experience: at least 10 (ten) years post-qualification experience in the mining or allied industry, including 3 (three) years in a top-management position;
- (iv) Personal Qualities: high integrity, dynamic leadership motivation and drive.

3. SALARY SCALE

N7,000-N9,000 (old Nigerian £3,500-£4,500). Successful candidate's point of entry will depend upon acceptable experience.

4. OTHER CONDITIONS

Appointment to the post will be made on permanent terms, with an initial period of probation. A car for official duties and housing will be provided in accordance with the Corporation's Conditions of Service which include a superannuation scheme and an annual vacation leave.

5. DUTIES

The General Manager, as chief executive officer, will be responsible for the general administration of the Corporation and the transaction of its day-to-day business and the execution of its approved policies. As a Member of the Corporation's Board of Directors, he will also participate in the formulation of basic management policies, etc.

6. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Application from eligible candidates should be typewritten (in 12 copies) and sent to the address given below, stating detailed curriculum vitae as follows:

- (i) applicant's full names;
- (ii) place and date of birth;
- (iii) nationality and marital status;
- (iv) academic qualifications (including dates and institutions from which obtained);
- (v) statement of experience (including summary details of posts/jobs previously held, scope or nature of responsibilities, and particular specialisations acquired, if any);
- (vi) names and addresses of three personal referees, including the Head of Department/Organisation of last occupation; and
- (vii) proposed date of availability for duties, if appointed.

7. CLOSING DATE

Applications, addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Mines and Power, P.M.B. 12574, Yakubu Gowon Street, Lagos, Nigeria, and marked for the attention of the Secretary for Mining Matters, should be sent not later than 16th of July, 1973. Only applications considered meritorious will subsequently be acknowledged.

W.E. AKPIEYI

for Permanent Secretary,

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF MINES & POWER
LAGOS, NIGERIA

SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

RICE RESEARCH STATION
ROKUPR

Vacancy for

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

RICE RESEARCH STATION
ROKUPR, SIERRA LEONE

Applications are invited from suitable candidates for the above position.

Requirement:

A primary degree in Agriculture or Agricultural Science. A higher degree in Crop Science, Agricultural Economics and Extension or Agricultural Engineering. A minimum of 5 years post qualification experience. Candidates with high and proven professional calibre, preferably in rice work will be preferred. They should be capable of commanding the respect of station research staff as well as international research staff to be located at the station. (Applicants may enclose copies of relevant publications if available).

Duties:

To assist and deputise the Director in all matters relating to the planning and administration of the Station and will be expected to prepare, conduct and supervise such research projects as agreed upon in consultation with the Director.

Conditions of Service:

Consolidated salary - starting (£) 3,250.00 per annum; car allowance of £150 per annum; 6 weeks annual leave; partly furnished house at nominal rent; contract gratuity of 15 per cent salary contributed by the Station.

Applications:

Three copies of application giving age, marital status, details of qualifications and all relevant experience including the names and addresses of three referees should reach the Secretary, Interim Committee, Rice Research Station, Rokupr, Sierra Leone before the 10th August, 1973. Applicants should request their referees to submit references directly to the Secretary under confidential cover.

DANCES Cont.

IKARE ASPIRANTS SOCIETY (U.K.)

"OMO ONILE ODI, OMO AROWO SOGE"

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on SATURDAY 14th JULY 1973

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(Gen. Master Guitarist)

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G. Oia Balogun Adetola Fay - Subs

Publicity Secretary Social Secretary

NIGERIAN NATIONAL
OIL CORPORATION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Nigerians for the following posts in the Nigerian National Oil Corporation

- (a) Graduate Engineers
- (b) Engineers Grades I & II
- (c) Senior Engineers

1. Qualifications

(a) Graduate Engineers

Candidates must have first or second class honours degree or an approved equivalent professional qualification in civil, mechanical or electrical engineering.

(b) Engineers Grades I & II

In addition to a minimum of a good honours degree in civil, mechanical or electrical engineering or an approved equivalent professional qualification, candidates for Engineers Grade I or II must have six or four years post graduate experience, respectively, in the oil industry or in the field of civil engineering construction and maintenance of the maintenance and operation of mechanical plant and equipment or in the operation and maintenance of electrical plant and equipment or as Design Consultant.

(c) Senior Engineers

As for Engineers Grade I except that eight years of post qualification experience is required part of which must be in a planning and supervisory capacity.

2. Remuneration

The Nigerian National Oil Corporation offers challenge as well as scope for advancement for Nigerians of the high calibre and conviction. Salaries and other conditions of service are attractive and the former are negotiable.

3. Closing Date for Application

Applications stating age, qualification, details of work experience together with photo copies of certificates should be addressed to

The Secretary,

Nigerian National Oil Corporation,

P.M.B. 12650

LAGOS

to reach him not later than 7th July, 1973. Envelopes should be marked "Engineer" on the upper left hand corner.

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Under the Distinguished
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NOTICES Cont.

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Africa

SIERRA LEONE

New parliament opened

In an hour-long speech opening the first session of the Parliament elected in May President Stevens confirmed that the small contingent of Guinea troops which had been responsible for his security had returned home. He expressed appreciation of the work of the Sierra Leone Police and recalled the arrival in Freetown of two 125 ton naval patrol boats provided by the Chinese and the acquisition of two helicopters and three small aircraft. These together would form the nucleus of an air and sea defence system. New quarters and other buildings would be provided for the army and police.

Although there had been a satisfactory rise in the total, minerals still contributed some 80 per cent of exports. The high world price of gold had made it worthwhile to consider the resuscitation of gold mining in Sierra Leone. Although it was Government policy to acquire a controlling share in big mining enterprises, negotiations would always be geared to individual circumstances. In agriculture an important development was the establishment of an oil palm plantation at Gambia-Matru, with 4,500 acres for "outgrowers". The African Development Bank had made a loan of over \$3m. The Government would do everything in its power to control the rising prices of consumer goods and had set up a Price Commission. Progress had been made in preparation for formulating a new national development plan. The National Planning Council and its advisory committee of permanent secretaries had been established and the Central Planning Unit of the Ministry of Development strengthened by five UNDP experts.

Among other projects

mentioned by the President was the development of Lungi Airport to cater for jumbo jets and the development of Hastings Airfield to cater for services to Conakry and Monrovia.

The President was wearing a white civilian suit and the Speaker was in full robes, but all ministers and MPs were wearing identical light green suits. All are members of the APC.

Making "high
protein
mixture"

The UNDP Representative in Sierra Leone, Mr. Alfred Edwards, has presented two Bedford lorries to the Minister of Social Welfare as part of the UNICEF contribution for the "High Protein Mixture" project, which started last September. The lorries will transport raw material such as rice, beniseed and beans, to the mixing plant and distribute the mixture in bulk. Mr. Edward said that UNDP has ordered machines for manufacturing the mixture, which were expected to arrive in August. With the assistance of Oxfam, a building was under construction in Bo to house the whole project.

A \$6m "country programme" for Sierra Leone has been approved by the Governing Council of the UNDP, covering 1973-1976.

• The Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Desmond Luke, was decorated with the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, when he took formal leave of President Heinemann at the end of his assignment as Sierra Leone's Ambassador in Bonn. Mr.

Luke was also accredited to France, Belgium, Holland, and Luxemburg, and was Permanent Representative to the EEC.

• Opening the first provincial branch of the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank at Koidu, Kono District, the Minister of Finance said that Koidu had been selected for the new venture because of the confidence held by the Government in the future in the area. Diminco, which has taken over the diamond leases formerly held by Sierra Leone Selection Trust, has its headquarters in the area, where there is also considerable licensed and illicit digging.

• Expressing the Government's concern about the frequent breakdown in electricity supplies in Freetown and the Western Area, a Government statement notes that the generators at King Tom Power station are only between three and seven years old and should have a life of up to 25 years. One generator has been sent to Germany for repairs and German engineers have flown in, together with spare parts, to repair another. Mobile stand-by generators are also being obtained.

• Diamonds valued at £9,085,000 were bought by Britain from Sierra Leone in the first quarter of 1973, of which £7,602,000 worth were purchased in March.

The figures are included in the latest UK overseas trade statistics. Both totals represented increases on the corresponding 1972 figures of £8,780,000 and £6,238,000 respectively.

The diamonds accounted for the bulk of Britain's imports from Sierra Leone, which totalled £9,613,000 for the three months' period and £7,653,000 for March. Other British purchases in the quarter included coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, oil seeds, nuts and kernels and feeding stuff for animals.

Sierra Leone also bought more from Britain. Total British sales in the first quarter of this year were £3,143,000 of which £1,390,000 were made in March. The corresponding 1972 totals were £2,640,000 and £913,000.

GHANA

Flood damage again

Several parts of Accra were flooded last week following four days of intermittent rains. Extensive damage was done to homes, bridges, and roads, and household articles worth thousands of cedis were washed away. Relief operations have begun to rehouse those displaced.

The rainfall was the heaviest in Accra for two years, according to the Meteorological Services Department. Col Acheampong visited the worst flooded areas and ordered immediate action to prevent further damage. The rains made many roads impassable and destroyed bridges.

The Meteorological Services Department recorded 6.90 inches of rain during the weekend's rainfall. Elsewhere in the country, the rains have caused havoc. Road transport between Sekondi-Takoradi and other parts of the country was cut by flood waters. It is believed that if the rainfall continues so heavily, it could destroy food crops under cultivation and hamper harvesting.

An emergency flood relief committee was also set up at Yamoransa near Cape Coast. The Central Region Commissioner, Cdr. Amedee, called soldiers from Takoradi to help erect temporary shelters for those affected by the floods.

In comparison with other parts of West Africa even southern Ghana has been experiencing a shortage of rain. The damage resulting from heavy rains in 1968 took some years to repair.

Honour for Danquah?

A front page commentary headed "Let us honour our heroes", in the independent *Echo*, on the establishment of a committee to plan fitting tribute to Dr. Nkrumah, suggests that other "heroes" of Ghana's struggle for independence should not be forgotten. Although Ghana's economic situation did not excuse the lavishing of money on "merely prestigious and meritorious monuments", to "willingly neglect to do

honour to all who deserve honour will hardly be forgivable". The columnist, Mercy Boaso, called on the Government to widen the terms of the Casely-Hayford Committee "to include such political stalwarts as the late Pa Grant, Dr. J.B. Danquah, Obetsebi Lamptey, Nii Boni the 'Boycotthee'". Recalling that the Busia regime planned to celebrate the funeral of Dr. Danquah, the columnist continued "A fitting funeral can be planned now for Dr. Danquah to be followed by the erecting of a fitting national monument as a token of our nation's appreciation of all the scholarly works he performed for the enhancement of the Negro race". Such an action would have much support and "help bring divided ranks together".

Science in schools

Ghana's education system is to be given a new scientific dimension under reforms proposed by the government. Science and elementary technology will be included at all levels. Col. Acheampong announced the proposed reforms when he addressed the University of Science and Technology staff and students at Kumasi. Speaking on his first official visit to the campus, Col. Acheampong said that if Ghana was to succeed "we must endeavour to build new industries, improve our agriculture and attain self-sufficiency in food production, and improve the health of the people".

• The possibility of reactivating the gold refinery abandoned at Tarkwa after the overthrow of the Nkrumah regime is being studied by the Soviet Union. An economic team has inspected the refinery.

• Ghana would not accept anything short of African majority rule in Rhodesia, said a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman. Commenting on the visit to Rhodesia by Sir Denis Greenhill, head of the British Diplomatic Service, the spokesman said that Africa's stand was that there should be no independence for Rhodesia without African majority rule.

• Gabon has accepted a Ghanaian proposal to establish diplomatic links, according to Radio Libreville. It said the first Ghanaian

ambassador to Gabon would reside in Zaire.

• Ghana's first Stock Exchange market is to open soon, it is reported from Accra. Sources said arrangements have been finalised for the opening of the market, designed to help the Government expand investment in new industries. The idea of establishing a Stock Exchange was conceived six years ago by the National Liberation Council and the Bank of Ghana has since been conducting feasibility studies.

• The Trades Union Congress has complained to the Commissioner for Labour about the "lukewarm" attitude of the Prices and Incomes Board on the implementation of collective agreements.

• Work has begun on the "face-lift" at Aflao on the Togo border. The redevelopment project involves the construction of duty-free shops, an office complex, workers' flats, an electronic observation tower and chalets.

• People in the Yendi area were warned to stop eating meat following an outbreak of anthrax. All cattle in the area are being inoculated in an attempt to stop the disease spreading.

• Sir David Lidbury, remembered as author of the two-volume report published in 1951 which recommended the reorganisation of the Gold Coast Civil Service, has died, aged 88.

• Col. Nyante, Volta Regional Commissioner, has ordered that raw materials be sought for the reactivation of the Demu fibre factory, which fell idle after the 1966 coup.

• An East German delegation has visited Ghana for talks on prospects for buying cocoa direct from Ghana instead of London.

• The canning section of the Tema Food Complex is scheduled to go into full production of canned and smoked fish in July.

• The Government has decided to provide a subsidy for any rural community that decides to build a health post.

• Three Rumanian experts have arrived to explore the possibility of co-operation in forestry with Ghana.

LIBERIA

Plot trial ends

At the end of a three-month trial last week, the defence Minister, Mr. Paul Browne, and Lt. Col. Walter Saydee and Moses Kenneh were found guilty by a court of conspiracy against the state. The three who denied any knowledge of an alleged plot to assassinate President Tolbert, who overthrew the Government, interrupted Mr. Cassim Simpson, Justice Minister, during his summation; a special Saturday afternoon court session Mr. Browne the chief defendant, called out: "Lies, lies, it is I who earlier called Lt. Col. Kenneh shouted, "Liar, liar, liar." The Minister referred to the defendants as murderers.

Defence lawyers claim the prosecution had not put out a *prima facie* case at that there was not a shred of evidence to support the allegations. The prosecution argued that as conspiracy were carried out in this case had to rely purely on circumstantial evidence. During the trial, prosecution witnesses alleged that President was to have been killed at Monrovia while inspecting a supersonic Conquest. President however was not present at the airport.

• The World Bank and its affiliate, the International Development Association, will lend Liberia \$5 million towards a five-year maintenance and development programme. The agreement follows a donor conference last week. The complete programme, which will improve access to Monrovia port, will cost over \$10 million. The rest of the money will be provided by West German USAID and UNDP.

• After his US three-day official visit, President Tolbert met with Lt. Col. Walter Saydee. He was met at the airport by President Jean-Claude Duvalier. Mr. Tolbert said Haiti was "a land where Africans will always find a home". Last month a Haitian peace mission led by Foreign Minister Adrien Raymon visited Liberia during the African countries.

NIGERIA

Balewa Trust for students

The London-based Britain-Nigeria Association, of which the Duke of Edinburgh is Patron, has set up a Sir Abubakar Talawa Balewa Memorial Trust Fund to honour the memory of the late Prime Minister.

Awards will be made each year to students nominated by Nigerian universities. The Association said that the Federal Government had approved of the Fund and that all formalities had been completed. "Very generous donations" had been made and a list of donors in Britain and Nigeria would be published. The Association appealed to intending donors to send their contributions to Mr J.N.D. Bettley, Honorary Secretary, c/o Barclays Bank International, 54 Lombard Street, London, E.C.3, no later than December 31, 1973.

Australian Minister of State, Senator Donald Willesee, has had talks with senior government officials. He met Mr Philip Asodu, permanent secretary in the Federal Ministry of Mines and Power, for talks believed to have centred on exploitation and utilisation of Nigeria's solid minerals. Senator Willesee also had talks with Brig Johnson, governor of Lagos State, and Dr Okot Arikpo, Commissioner for External Affairs. A high-powered Nigerian mission stated Australia earlier this year.

The chairman of the Federal Board of Inland Revenue, Mr V.O.A. Ogunba, has been made first permanent chairman of the Joint Tax Board. The Board, made up of heads of income tax departments in the country, was set up 12 years ago to harmonise income tax policies of all governments. The chairmanship used to rotate among its members.

Smuggling at the borders has been brought under control as a result of customs men carrying arms, the chairman of Board of Customs and Excise, Mr. Henry Duke, has said.

Dr Arikpo has called on the Nigerian Press to desist from giving foreign diplomats exaggerated publicity. He said that such publicity was not reciprocated by foreign countries as Nigerian diplomats there paid for whatever publicity they got.

The *New Nigerian* has described acquisition of 35 per cent equity shares in Shell-BP by the Federal Government with a provision for majority share participation by 1982 as "a truly historic and remarkable feat". The newspaper noted that the agreement reached with Shell-BP would be applicable to Gulf and Mobil. "The effect of petroleum prosperity should not be limited to increase in government revenues. Let the ordinary Nigerian feel it through reduced prices of petroleum products".

Graduates admitted for post-graduate studies, pregnant women and other physically handicapped students would have their call-up deferred, chairman of directorate of the National Youth Service Corps, Dr. Adebayo Adedeji, has said. Dr. Adedeji is also Federal Commissioner for Economic Development.

Chad Basin authorities

The Federal Government is to set up two authorities for development of the Sokoto River valley and the Chad Basin. The principal function of the two authorities will be promotion of land and water development schemes to increase agricultural and fish production. A federal official statement said the authorities would undertake construction and maintenance of dams, irrigation and drainage channels. They will also develop plantations for production of food and cash crops as well as ranches for cattle and other livestock.

The two authorities will include representatives of the Federal Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Economic Development and Reconstruction and Industry and three members to be appointed by the Government of the North-Western and North-Eastern States respectively.

World Bank loan for North

The World Bank has approved a loan of \$54m to improve and expand education facilities in the six northern states. The project, the third by the Bank for education in Nigeria, will be used to expand secondary education and diversify the curriculum to include technical, agricultural and home economics courses and to increase the number of primary school teachers. The loan is for 25 years at 7.25 per cent interest with a 10-year grace.

Nigeria has set up a Petroleum Technology Development Fund to train Nigerians in various professional fields to meet demand for specialised skills in the booming oil industry. According to a decree published in Lagos, the fund will be made available to local universities and petroleum undertakings for the purpose of training Nigerians to qualify as graduates, professionals and technicians in various sciences and management in oil industry. The decree repeals the Gulf Oil Training Fund of 1964 and regulates balance of monetary assets outstanding in the accounts of the Gulf Fund and other moneys received by the government from agreements related to the oil industry. The new Fund, which takes effect from June 4, will provide scholarships and bursaries and meet costs of seminars and conferences on the oil industry.

War gratuities

Nearly all dependants of soldiers who died in the civil war had been paid their entitlements, an officer in army pensions office, Ikoyi, Mr J.O. Onasogun, has told the Federal Commissioner for Establishments and Service Matters, Gen Hassan Katsina. Disabled soldiers of the second world war were also being paid. About N300,000 was being paid monthly as pensions and gratuities.

Nigerian universities may boycott the August congress of the Association of Commonwealth Universities in Edinburgh unless the invitations to South African

and Rhodesian universities are withdrawn, sources close to the universities have indicated. Meanwhile, the National Union of Students is seeking a ban against South Africa and Rhodesia on the grounds that both countries practise apartheid. Sixteen Labour MPs have sent a letter to Sir Hugh Springer, Secretary-General of the Association, asked him to introduce the ban. There are over 200 universities in the body.

The Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN) has set up a N2,000 annual grant for research institutions for improvement of industry, its vice president, Mr Emmanuel Eribo, has said. He added that industries have been accepting engineering students from Nigerian universities on attachment.

N40m highway contract

A 40m naira contract is to be awarded soon to build a highway to link Kontagora and Jeredi in the North Western State, the Federal Commissioner for Works and Housing, Mr Feimi Okunnu, has said. Work on the road would begin at end of rainy season. Plans were also underway to build a highway to link Lagos with Sokoto. The road would pass through Kontagora, Kainji and Iseyin. He did not indicate how much the project would cost. Mr Okunnu said that work on Kontagora-Jeredi road had been delayed because of strings attached to foreign loans from which it was to be financed.

The Federal Commissioner for Trade, Mr. Wenike Briggs who attended the trade fair in Poland, has had talks with Polish deputy Prime Minister Kazimierz Olshewah, on ways of expanding trade and economic co-operation between Nigeria and Poland.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria has recognised the Ibadan Polytechnic as a training institution for its examinations, a spokesman, Mr A.A. Adeyemo, has announced.

From the states

Cdr. Alfred Diète-Spiff and Mr. Ukpabi Asika, Administrator of East Central State, have addressed a joint press conference in Port Harcourt after attending a Supreme Military Council meeting in Lagos. Mr. Asika refuted reports that he had raised the issue of abandoned property at the SMC. "There was no reason to raise it", he said. He also denied that the Eastern States Interim Assets and Liabilities Agency (ESIALA) was a failure. He noted that a formula on sharing of assets and liabilities had been agreed. Cdr. Diète-Spiff told newsmen that the SMC had decided that no efforts should be spared to ensure that the census next November was free from political undertones.

Lagos traffic "master plan"

Mr. Isa Adejo, Commissioner of Police for Lagos State, has announced a "master-plan" to rid Lagos of chaotic traffic congestion. Under it, a helicopter would be used to spot traffic jams and traffic police would be equipped with walkie-talkies to ease communication between units. Mr. Adejo told drivers and transport owners in Lagos that vehicles involved in accidents would no longer be allowed to remain on the scene longer than necessary. "Once there is an accident, the police will move in quickly, tow the cars involved aside before they begin their investigation". It would also be impossible for a driver to escape from where he had committed an offence. The police motor traffic division would be decentralised and all units would now deal with traffic and criminal matters.

Mr. Adejo has also told an accident prevention committee that 386 people died in road accidents in Lagos State last year, while 992 were hurt. Most of the accidents were caused by excessive speed and recklessness, he said.

• The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, has announced the appointment of Dr. Bede Okigbo professor and head of the Department of Plant/Soil Science, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, as agronomist and leader of the Farming Systems Programme. Dr. Okigbo will assume duty on July 1. Dr. Okigbo who holds a Ph.D. in agronomy from Cornell University, US, had worked at the University of Ibadan and in Western State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. At Nsukka he had emphasised crop production and ecology with a strong programme in cassava production.

Research by the IITA is underway to locate sources of resistance to mosaic and bacterial wilt of cassava. 10,000 plants of different genotypes had been inoculated with wilt bacterium and their reactions are now being evaluated.

• The East Central State has launched a N90,000 scheme under which civil servants would be insured against accidental death. The Commissioner for Establishments, Mr. Osiata Okeke, has announced. Under the scheme, to be financed by the government and civil servants, any civil servant who died within six months of receiving injury from an accident would get benefits five times his annual salary. The benefits would complement those available under workmen's compensation and pensions law. The government would take a group personal insurance with the Universal Insurance Company.

New coaches

The Nigerian Railway Corporation has ordered 140 coaches to be used in its eastern district. Already 20 new diesel engines has been bought and are now in use in the area, the NRC district manager, Mr. J. N. Anozie, told the East Central State Commissioner for Information and Home Affairs, Chief Charles Abangwu, during a visit. Mr. Anozie appealed to the government for help in acquiring more land to construct better rail lines between Enugu and Port Harcourt.

CONGO Voters approve constitution

More than 90 per cent of voters approved the new constitution in the June 24 referendum, according to first unofficial results. The new constitution provided for the creation of a State Council, a Council of Ministers and a National Assembly with a five-year term for the elected president. The constitution was approved by the ruling Congolese Labour Party (Parti Congolais du Travail) at its congress last December. Voters also chose a 115-member national assembly and regional councils. In all nearly 6,000 candidates were put forward for well over 1,000 legislative and administrative posts following the visit of "information missions" to different parts of the country. The final single list was selected by the Central Committee of the party.

Special arrangements were made in Kinshasa, across the river in Zaïre, for Congolese citizens. All over 18 were requested to register at their embassy and attend election meetings at the embassy.

President Nguoubi, in a television broadcast, said that the new constitution would bring profound changes to the political life of the country. He appealed to "all the nation's active forces to unite around the party's programme against foreign domination and completely eliminate the neo-colonial state apparatus".

GUINEA Army "purge"

President Sekou Toure has announced that the Guinea army is to be purged of "all saboteurs and people with 'dubious' attitudes. At a meeting with military garrison political committees, the President told the committees to be more vigilant, to act firmly, and not to be put off by the number of stripes an officer was carrying. They should "denounce all corrupted agents", he said, adding that in the event of attack "shoot all suspect elements and then turn your guns on the enemy". The President added that the army's supply system was to be changed, because it

was known to the enemy.

Earlier, speaking to officers and men, the President said that some "hired killers" recently been arrested had infiltrated Guinea. Their targets had been some of the Guinean revolutionaries and of the PAIGC. The plan established by the infamous Foccart and Portuguese accomplices for the possession of the arrested had been for various types of alert posts in the form of automatic pistols in the hands of cameramen, and small cameras for firing asphyxiating gas.

DAHOMY

Kerekou on unity

President Kerekou, in an interview with *West African*, said the West African Economic Community (CEAO) is unrealistic. It now stands, and could in the last long while be speaking common sense in the region, such as Ghana and Nigeria were excluded. He should follow Kerekou's example, where the ECOWAS still going strong despite language and ethnic differences. On the present situation in the region, President Kerekou said the country was going to wipe out the effects of "colonial economic policy since 1892". The government would take control of the main sectors, but would allow all foreign investment in promoting small private industries. He called for scrupulous respect for public property by civil servants.

THE GAMBIA

New British loan for Yundum

Britain has offered to loan The Gambia up to £675,000 largely to finance the replacement of air terminal buildings and to provide an apron for two aircraft at Yundum airport. The cost of the project is estimated at £675,000 and the present UK contribution includes £150,000 already provided under a loan made in 1970, covering the provision of navigational and communications equipment and a new air traffic control tower. The airport expansion has been necessitated by the growth in tourism. In the 1972-73 season there were 17,000 visitors.

DROUGHT Diori calls for "Marshall Plan"

President Hamani Diori of Niger, speaking at a dinner for M. Francois-Xavier Ortoli, President of the European Commission, has called for a "Marshall Plan" to assist the economic development of African countries. The aid could take the form of technical assistance, or a vast loan raised internationally. In official talks M. Diori and M. Ortoli discussed the effects of the drought, and renegotiation of the Yaounde Convention.



President Hamani Diori

President Diori has also proposed that his fellow heads of state from drought affected countries should meet, probably in August, to draw up a plan of campaign for submission to international organisations and industrialised countries.

President Nixon has said that the US is ready to provide more aid to the drought-stricken areas of West Africa, and has appointed a special supply co-ordinator. This will be Mr. Maurice Williams, Deputy Administrator of the Agency for International Development. President Nixon, in a letter to UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, said that the US had already made available \$3m. in disaster relief funds, and by the end of June had shipped 150,000 tons of grain, valued at \$19m., and was prepared to commit more resources as needs became identified.

The last US contribution had been \$300,000 for the hire of aircraft to fly urgently needed seeds to the affected regions. The US contribution is the largest to the FAO fund, to which Norway has

donated \$263,000, Sweden \$238,000, (in addition to an earlier \$476,000) and the Netherlands \$88,000, in addition to an earlier shipment of biscuits worth \$150,000.

Senator Hubert Humphrey, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Africa, has criticised international relief agencies for a delay in providing drought relief in West Africa. Two million people could die unless urgent food aid was provided, he said. The purpose of the hearing was to make sure that the catastrophe was no longer played down. The committee would examine the need for an early warning system to predict food shortages, for better transport facilities, for improving water resources, rebuilding herds, restoring crop production and reclaiming land taken over by the desert.

Mr. David Newsom, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, told the Committee that the US was reviewing relief and rehabilitation the area needs in the months and years ahead. To Mr. Humphrey's charge that thousands had already died, Mr. Newsom said that the State Department had no firm evidence that actual starvation had yet resulted in the deaths of significant numbers of people.

Mr. Donald Brown, Deputy Assistant Administrator for AID, said there were clear signs of a gradual deterioration of the ecological base of the region resulting from the drought. There was need for a recovery programme lasting several years.

British team

A six-man team of British Royal Air Force experts has been in Abidjan to study ways in which a British airlift could help the relief effort. The team have been making an assessment of the airfield, communications, and other facilities needed for RAF aircraft to operate most effectively in bringing relief supplies to the affected areas. Preliminary arrangements have been made for RAF aircraft to be sent to the area in anticipation of the team's report.

An article in the London *Sunday Times* says that the FAO World Food Programme Project Manager in Dakar, Mr. Siegfried Bethke, came across detailed figures of rainfall in 1972-73 revealing how serious the drought had been, "just by chance". He added: "had we been following the figures during the rainy season we could have accurately predicted the catastrophe by mid-September". The article also notes that delays in mounting the FAO operation at a later stage were caused by the strike of post and telegraph workers in Italy in April, which meant that important telegrams to FAO headquarters in Rome were held up.

The articles also notes that France has given no money to the FAO operation, but has preferred to channel all its aid through the European Development Fund. "Although there is formal contact between the two relief programmes, nobody in Rome, Brussels or in the Sahel itself disguises the fact that there is rivalry between the two organisations... In the Sahel the result is two separate co-ordinating centres, 300 miles of difficult terrain apart".

Delays at Dakar port

According to a report from Dakar in London's *Observer* almost 40,000 tons of relief supplies for Mali have piled up in Dakar port because of the incapacity of the railway to take the load (the railway's capacity is only 1,500 tons a week). The report also says that 78 people died of starvation in Mali between Timbuktu and Gao. The area to the north of Timbuktu where there is a population of 700,000 is reportedly very badly affected.

According to *L'Essor* in Mali, two French Nord Atlas aircraft, used to transport 180 tons of cereals, have returned to base having completed their mission. More aircraft may be lent during the crucial August-September period. Belgian aircraft have also returned to base after distributing nearly 110 tons of cereals.

Reports from Niger also indicate that the French, Belgian and West German aircraft ferrying urgent supplies have now completed their missions, although there is a need for continued transport aid.

In Fort Lamy it has been announced that US and West German aircraft have delivered more than 800 tons of cereals to outlying regions in Chad. The German mission flew 30 sorties to Zouar, Abeche and Bardai, with 300 tons of cereals. After the coming of the rainy season, 13 lorries given by the West German government will take over the delivery. The US mission has transported over 500 tons to Largeau and Biltine.

Libya doubles money

Libya is to give further aid worth \$860,000 to drought affected countries. Upper Volta will receive £286,000 and Chad, Niger, Mali and Mauritania will receive £143,000 each. Libya has already given similar sums to these same countries.

Gabon has despatched a goodwill mission to the six affected countries, with an offer of aid worth possibly £50,000. The mission is led by the Secretary of State at the Presidency, Martin Bongo.

Upper Volta's National Assembly has approved plans setting up a national fund for "struggle against public disasters and calamities". The fund, which will be run by a national council, will receive annual contributions of a day's pay from all public and private employees earning more than 10,000 CFA francs (£17) a month and sums from merchants and industrialists.

In an interview in *Le Monde*, Mgr. Jean Rodhain, President of Secours Catholique, a French Catholic aid body, said that the sociological consequences of the drought had not been sufficiently underlined. The massive exodus of nomadic populations of the Sahel region towards the south, and the construction of precarious slums around the towns, could have extremely grave consequences, he said.

TOGO Meeting with Nigeria

A further meeting between Togolese and Nigerian delegations at ministerial level to discuss the projected Economic Community has been held in Lomé. The decision to form the community was taken in Togo in April 1972, and it has been said on a number of occasions that other countries are free to join. The new community is expected to be formally launched at the next meeting in Lagos. Nigeria's delegation was led by Economic Development Commissioner Adebayo Adedejo, and Togo's by Commerce Minister Henri Dogo.

On his return from a short visit to France, President Eyadema said the present state of Franco-Togolese relations was excellent. He saw President Pompidou, Premier Messmer, Foreign Minister Michel Jobert, Defence Minister Robert Galley and Secretary of State for Co-operation, Jean Francois Deniau. President Eyadema said he had discussed with French officials projects

which have been submitted to the French Aid and Co-operation administration, now totalling over £2m.

The EEC has granted 1,300m. CFA francs (about £2.5m.) to help finance an extension to the port of Lomé. The project involves building a new cargo quay, the installation of a fishing quay, lengthening a jetty and improving various harbour installations. To meet the total cost of the scheme, the Togo government has contracted a loan of over 2,000m. CFA francs from a West German bank. Work will begin in 1974.

SENEGAL RIVER Saudi money for dam

Saudi Arabia has agreed to help raise an interest-free loan of 2,000m. CFA francs (about £3.6m.) for the construction of a dam on the Senegal river, Senegal's Minister of Planning, Louis Alexandrenne, has announced. He said the dam at Manantali planned by Senegal, Mali and Mauritania should reach the planning stage soon. The Minister added that the loan is repayable over 15 years.

Mali's Industrial Development Minister, Mamadou Keita, current chairman of the Ministerial Council of the Organisation for the Development of the Senegal Basin (OMVS), said after a meeting in Nouakchott with the Mauritanian President that the search for investment funds for the OMVS would be speeded up.

SPANISH SAHARA

Morehob's flag

Fdouard Morehob, Chairman of the liberation movement of the Spanish Sahara, said in Algiers that an independent state in what is now Spanish Sahara should be called "The Republic of the Arab Sahara". Its flag would be a blue crescent and star against a white background. The colours had been decided at a special Meeting of Morehob at El-Guerra, inside the borders of Spanish Sahara. The proposed name of the country and the flag were communicated to the secretariat of the OAU last month.

• Morocco's Interior Minister

has pledged to an assembly of nomadic peoples at Taoudeni annual oasis fair at Taoudeni near Morocco's southern border, that the government of King Hassan is determined to decolonise the "Spanish-dominated Moroccan Sahara". The Minister stressed King Hassan's concern for "return to the motherland territories under Spanish domination".

IN BRIEF

Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban, has postponed indefinitely his African tour due to start on June 20. The official reason is preoccupation with the UN debate on the Middle East, but it is understood the Minister preferred not to make the tour in the wake of the anti-Israel resolution of the OAU in Addis Ababa.

The French cabinet has approved an agreement on international status to the Technical and Co-operation Agency to which 27 countries where French is a wholly or partly spoken language country to join in Haré.

• President Mitterrand is expected to make a State visit to London in December.

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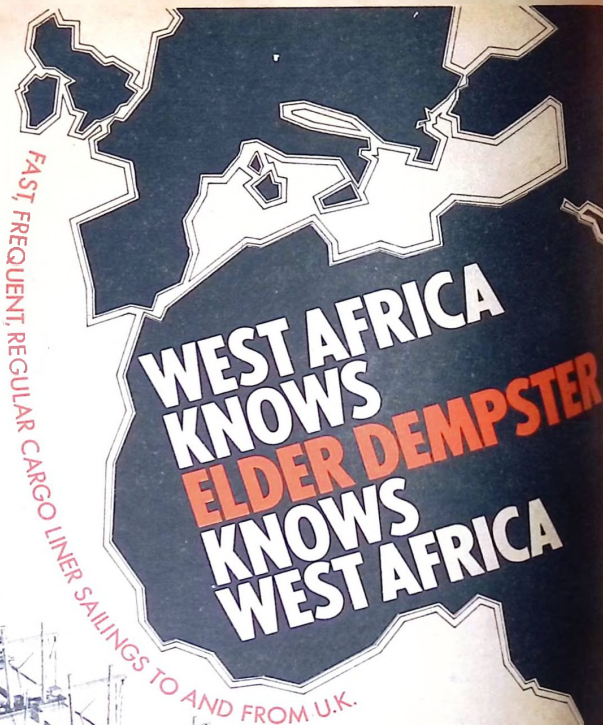
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