

# African

# Concord

SERVALS Bomb: Alozie's narrow escape

27 November 1986 No 118

The Premier Pan-African WEEKLY



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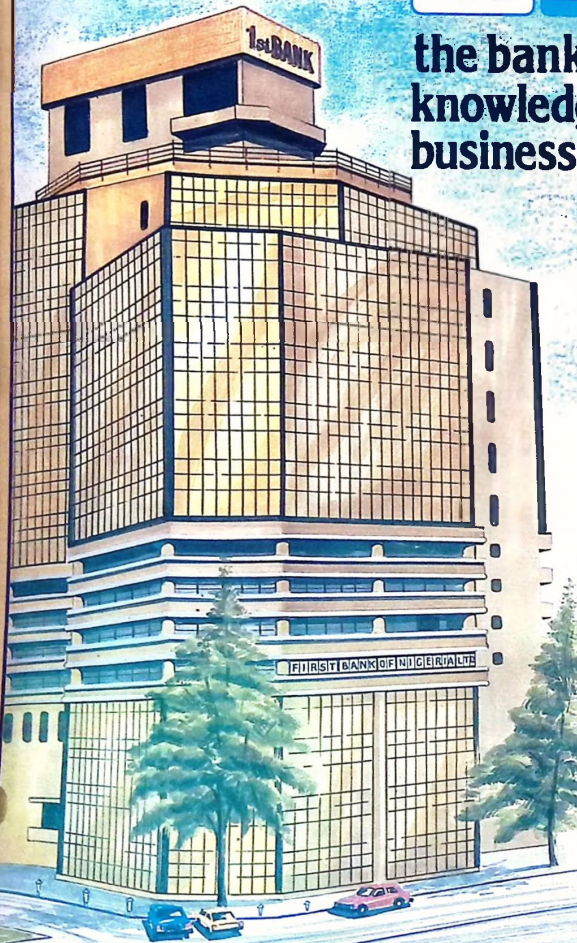
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Nigeria's Flying Eagles have put up a brilliant performance in the current FIFA - Coca-Cola cup. African Concord reports on the team's exciting encounter with their Egyptian counterparts. .... P 10



President Joseph Momoh was feted by Sierra Leone when he took over government from the ageing Siaka Stevens, with the economy still at crisis point. last November. But one year on, he is the butt of widespread criticism and many argue that Stevens' unenviable legacy of corruption and mismanagement could not be solved in one year. African Concord takes a look at Momoh's first year in office and brings readers an exclusive interview with the Finance Minister, Sheka Kanu. .... P 30

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## Contents

Commentary.....	6
Slaying the ethnic Octopus	
Cover Story.....	8
The pride of a nation	
The match lost but won	
The gem 'birds': Profiles	
Youth as redeemer	
Football: Nigeria's many snags	
Coaches, Foreign or Local	
Nigeria.....	22
Alozie's narrow escape	
Trailing the assassins	
The AIDS hoax	
Special Report.....	26
Africa emerges in the square mile	
The City's African whizz kid	
Africa.....	30
Sierra Leone: The unenviable legacy	
haunting Momoh	
Momoh falls short on New Order	
Interview: "Suffer now, enjoy later"	
Uganda: Museveni optimistic about	
future	
Uganda: Europe not always to blame	
Zaire: A thorn in Mobutu's side	
World.....	38
Molotov dies in obscurity	
Science and Technology.....	39
The ease for harnessing natural energy	
Cheap power from the sun	
Business Forum.....	42
25 years of Stock Exchange	
A stronger naira	
Obstacles to ECOWAS trade	
Review.....	43
Fela: Far from boos	
Music: Taxi Pata Pata — Soukous.	
Snee and Salsa sounds	
Exhibition: Dream, fantasy and	
reality	
Concord People.....	50

# Letters to the Editor

## Anini menace must be stopped

Sir,  
Lawrence Anini, alias Ovbigo, is now synonymous with danger. The mere mention of his name at any gathering creates ripples. Anini is an enigma, a name that symbolises death and the hopeless insecurity of life and property.

The Nigerian civil war is considered to be the cause of the upsurge in armed robbery. But it got worse when the country experienced the oil boom, which some consider the 'oil doom'. Traditional values went by the book and it was every man for himself.

Today we do not hear of the stealing of domesticated animals but the raiding of homes, maiming and killing of innocent citizens after their property has been stolen. Thieves are getting sophisticated. Iron fences, gates, the use of personal guards and the sealing off of whole streets or estates have not deterred the marauders. The total subjugation of society by the Aninis of Nigeria is now taken with philosophical calmness as part of life's hazards.

Anini has broken the record books with a 10,000 naira ransom reward offered by the police. But nobody seems to be bold enough to divulge his power base. He has now become a phenomenon that has surpassed the notorious Oyenusi who terrorised Nigeria in the '70s.

Meanwhile people consider the police corrupt, ill-equipped and lacking the will to face the ever increasing crime wave. Above all, the morale of the squad has been so dampened that the outspoken Alozie Ogugbuaja has said that a security man at the University of Lagos earns more than a police constable. A police constable earns a paltry sum of 5 naira a day.

The predicament of the Nigerian police force in terms of salary structure has always been held responsible for the poor delivery of the force.

As Alozie put it, "everybody wants to be a managing director and not a policeman."

Alozie was speaking the mind of millions of people in Nigeria. The ambition of every child is to make large sums of money in a short time — without working for it. Failure to do so leads to frustration.

Nigerian society has watched the cauldron of frustration boil over for too long. There is the frustration of unemployment,

lay offs, unpaid salaries and the knowledge that the higher-ups are looting the Treasury. Some people feel that the only way to beat a rotten system is to become more rotten themselves.

Anini cannot survive if we act as one voice. He lives amongst us and is not invincible. Unless we unmask him now, the serpent we are nurturing will lay more eggs that will be more violent than Anini.

Ohiomah Abiodun  
Ogun State  
Nigeria

## Cowardly murder

Sir,  
I read the news about Dele Giwa's assassination with pangs of anguish. Africa still has a hard road to travel. The cold-blooded murder is undoubtedly the work of cowards who are afraid of their nefarious activities being exposed.

It is for the idea of consciousness and self-commitment that Giwa died.

His ideas still live on, and what he imparted we have inherited.

Munoda Marariki,  
University of Zimbabwe  
Zimbabwe

## Machel lives on

Sir,  
The recent, tragic death of Comrade Samora Machel has shocked the entire African continent and the progressive world. His death was clearly an assassination perpetrated by the imperialists and their racist cohorts in South Africa.

Machel is dead but at the appropriate time the people of Mozambique and Africa will rise to avenge this cold-blooded murder. Samora lived and died for Africa, and his blood, like that of all the martyrs of Africa, shall not be in vain but will continue to lubricate the wheels of the African liberation struggle until total victory is won.

The imperialists are trying all means and devices to break the back of Africa. But their diabolical actions and machinations are doomed to futility. Africa will never surrender. Africans will never capitulate. Samora Machel, like his predecessor, Eduardo Mondlane, fell a victim to imperialist and neo-colonialist conspiracy but will live on forever.

What happened in Mozambique demonstrated once again that as long as Africa remains divided without a central political machinery, a common defence system and a unified intelligence network, the tendency for the imperialists to eliminate African leaders, especially progressive ones, one after another, remains high.

Despite the dangers engulfing Africa, African governments and the OAU remain reluctant to unite our beloved continent. What do we gain from our present disunity? Our unity is our salvation — a simple realism, which if accepted could save Africa and its people from all misery. But this simple realism has been ignored by the leadership since independence.

I feel there is a vital need for a new approach to the question of Africa's unification, which has motivated me to propose recently the formation of an All-African People's Organisation (AAPO). This organisation, if set up, will serve as a new centre of gravity for African people and as a vanguard of the African Revolution from the grassroots. I should like to invite all compatriots to contact me at Post Office Box 32, Kano, Nigeria, for details and to exchange views towards future action.

Amusu Kwaggrey  
Kano  
Nigeria

## 'Prostitute' leaders line up with SA-Israeli axis

A M Babu's warning in his commentary about Israel (*African Concord* No 109) is timely. Africa is certainly being haunted by yet another spectre, the horrific spectre of an apartheid-Zionist alliance! But even more terrifying than this diabolical alliance is the speed with which it is winning converts on the continent. And still more blood-chilling is the consequence the devilish Tel-Aviv-Pretooria symbiosis is likely to have on the shaky unity of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Perhaps the most insidious of Africa's legion of tragedies is the presence of the so-called "prostitute" leaders who hide behind the cloak of "economic pragmatism" to stab Africa in the back by joining hands with Africa's enemies.

Africa must act now, before this Zionist-apartheid alliance, with the blessing of the Reagans and Thatchers of this world, begins to reconquer the continent. It is no secret that the South African racists and their Israeli brothers-in-crime have long been cooperating in the production of a nuclear bomb. When will the Does, Mobotu's and Hassans of Africa see what this gruesome pact means.

The doom of apartheid is inevitable, but the end will be long in coming as long as African leaders cast over-board all ethics, principles and reason for a mesh of pottash.

Charles Quist Adade  
Leningrad  
USSR

# All calm at Fourah Bay

J L Sambo, writing from Freetown, examines the current state of student politics.

Recent months have witnessed a resurgence of Students' Union (SU) activity at Fourah Bay College (FBC), one of the two constituent colleges of the University of Sierra Leone. The ban has since been lifted on all Students' Union activities, which are now the direct responsibility of an interim Students' Union executive.

The whole executive of the last Students' Union government was suspended last March after a violent confrontation between students and college authorities in which three lecturers were dismissed and 41 students declared "ineligible" to continue their studies.

Since 1977, when there was a general uprising by students round the country in opposition to the one-party constitution, the history of Fourah Bay College has been punctuated by student disturbances. Then, under the banner of "No College, No School" and the leadership of Fourah Bay College's Hindolo Trye, Sierra Leone students would have gone down in the African history books as being the first to unhinge a legally constituted government.

For a long time after 1977, following stiff measures by the Stevens Government to cool tempers down, all was comparatively calm. Many prophesied the death of student radicalism in the country. But they were proved wrong in late October of 1983 when the former vice-Chancellor and principal and other college officials accompanied angry students to State House. The students were protesting against the non-fat milk and expired foods they were being issued.

## Students challenge

The second major confrontation between students and government came the following year. In comparison to this incident, the "Milk Fracas" of October 1983 pales into obscurity. Delegates from all over the country converged on Freetown's City Hall, where a convention of the ruling All People's Congress (APC) was taking place. The "Fourabites" felt that the government had no business hosting conventions when more pressing issues had yet to be addressed — the economy and the serious ills plaguing the country's highest institution of learning.

It is one thing when students scuffle with their authorities and quite another when they challenge the machinery of a Central Government. Stevens had a more colourful way of putting it: "A child may play with its mother's breast but never with the father's private parts." Detachments of police and para-military Special Security Division (SSD) were swiftly brought in to

restore order; two students said to have been caught in the act of hurling projectiles at the car of the late retired Vice President were arrested and taken to Pademba Road Prison. A strict disciplinarian, President Stevens closed down the college and instituted the Kutubu Commission of Inquiry to look into the causes of recent and ever-increasing student disturbances. The college remained closed for two months.



Abdul Mahdieu Savage

As a measure to help stem the tide of student demonstrations, University authorities the following school year deemed it necessary for students wishing to complete academic registration to fill in agreement forms. Paradoxically, this solution metamorphosed into another cause of student unrest. The forms, in effect, were declarations that should college property become damaged as a result of student activity, the signatories were to be held legally responsible. Charging that the so-called "agreements" were nothing of the kind, since no representative of their had been a party to their drafting, students refused to carry out the signing exercise.

Events reached a climax last April when the private car of the new Principal, Dr C P Foray, was set alight. Following this, 41 students were declared "ineligible" to continue their studies at FBC, the entire Students' Union Executive was suspended and five of its members, including the President, Alie Kabba, taken to Pademba Road Prison. Up to the time he was taken into state custody, Kabba's one wish was for the Students' Union "to know the exact recommendations of the Kutubu Commission of Inquiry." Prior to this, three

lecturers had been dismissed from the academic staff for their "negative influence" over students. These stern measures were taken in order "to stamp out indiscipline in the University for the orderly conduct of academic study and other normal functions of the two constituent colleges."

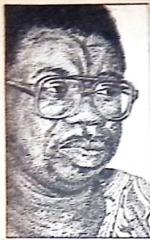
After almost 14 months the ban on all Students' Union functions was lifted, and in May an interim government formed. The interim executive, headed by Sahr K Foyok, seems determined to meet its obligations. It already appears to have struck a compromise with officials at the National Power Authority (NPA). Previously, the campus only got eight hours of electricity daily, most of it during daylight. Presently, electricity can be had sometimes during the day and on most nights.

## Spirit of compromise

Another pressing problem the interim executive will have to tackle concerns the recently instituted cafeteria system. The food situation has improved a lot under the new system but it appears the funds given to scholarship holders does not completely cover the bill. One way it can enhance its credibility among both students and college authorities and show the latter that a strong SU government can make life more bearable for them is for the interim government to secure more money for its constituents, doing so by more conventional and acceptable means. Also on the agenda is a plea for the return of colleagues expelled in March/April 1985. But, as one college official put it, "the only thing that is maintaining calm and sanity on this campus is the understanding that students will be sent away if they misbehave..."

With FBC students now strictly minding their own business, the majority of Sierra Leoneans may find it difficult to reconcile this dormant rule with that of memorable days when students championed the cause of the masses. If anything, it is the prevailing circumstances that determine the framework within which the student body can manoeuvre. Since the expulsions of last year student solidarity has been at an all time low. Only three weeks ago another ban was imposed on students' use of the Mary Kingsley auditorium. This action was taken in order to prevent a local drama group with alleged anti-government overtones from staging a performance there. The blanket ban has since been raised, but plays remain prescribed.

In the face of the many problems of the university and students, a lasting rapprochement would be in the interest of all. There are those who favour sterner measures against students and those, like the interim Government of S K Foyok, who are of the opinion that many problems would be solved if the government showed more interest in education.



*If you disagree with him, you are not facing up to facts and Nigerian unity can never be achieved by running away from the spectre of tribalism.* — Peter Enahoro How To Be a Nigerian

**A**LACK of honesty is a very great nuisance in any society. The honesty of every Nigerian is necessary for the comfort of every Nigerian. It is in this context that one appreciates and applauds the candour and courage of Mr. Olu Falae, Secretary to the Federal Government, in stirring the ethnic hornet's nest.

Addressing guests at the University of Ibadan Alumni Association lecture, Mr. Falae brought to the fore a critical issue which the Political Bureau inexplicably omitted from the agenda of the recently concluded debate on the nation's political future. Falae urged Nigerians to devise a means to end ethnic antagonism and to begin a public debate that would lead to a national consensus. Failure to do these, Falae warned, would condemn the 1990 Third Republic to the disastrous fate of its predecessors.

No sincere observer of our national life would fault Falae's perceptive identification of the nation's cancerous malady — ethnicity. Ever since Lugard united the land, and not the people, Nigerians have been engaged in an unceasing struggle to free themselves from the bondage of ethnicity.

True, during Nigeria's independence struggle no one fought for a region, tribe or religion. We all fought and, seemingly, are still fighting for the same nation, for the single ideal of liberating ourselves from a heritage of widespread illiteracy, disease, poverty and hunger. Yet in the years since independence, our efforts to subsume the parochial loyalties of culture, region, language and tribal groups to the over-riding interests of the nation have met with little success.

Like an invincible ogre, ethnicity has vitiated our efforts to build a politically cohesive and stable nation. Neither the propitiatory creation of states nor the fratricidal civil war has done the trick. Even our latest effort through the 1979 Constitution to ensure that loyalty to the nation overrides sectional barriers is being subverted by the discriminatory implementation of the "Federal Character" principle.

If we are honest with ourselves, we cannot fail to admit that roughness and insensitive application of the "Federal Character" principle is re-fuelling our primordial fears, harming our political stability, and increasing ethnic tension.

A growing number of Nigerians want a review of the "Federal Character" constitutional provision because it oppresses them in the hope for a united Nigeria. They reject a constitutional normative which has resulted in merit and ability taking a back seat in the sharing of federal offices and in admission to Federal colleges and universities. Increasingly for many Nigerians, their true measure is not their ability, competence and talent but their tribe or what part of the country they hail from.

Thus far, the manner we have handled the problem of ethnicity has not created a positive psychological climate which could make the non-achievable a viable possibility. Rather, it is a sorry commentary on our maturity that everything in Nigeria has been ethnicized.

We are so busy ethnicizing everything that we have no time

to Nigerianize, the populace. No time to minimize the centrifugal ethnic tendencies and to promote a sense of shared nationality. We cannot save ourselves except through our Nigerianizing ourselves. But there is a postponed business that requires attention.

No patriot with a sense of history can quarrel with the timing of Falae's call for a public debate on how to end ethnic antagonism and achieve consensus among Nigerians. For exactly twenty years ago, General Yakubu Gowon postponed indefinitely the All-Nigeria Conference assigned a similar task. Given the march of events then the postponement was a necessary move to preserve national unity.

After a 20-year hiatus, Nigerians need to address themselves seriously to creating a cultural-ideological consensus of a very high degree of comprehensiveness. It is not going to be easy. But we need and ought to be brutally honest with ourselves. We need so that the national unity which emerges is rooted not in fear, envy and suspicion but in hope, trust and brotherhood.

One of the home truths Nigerians must tell themselves is that political stability and unity is not possible without the complete liquidation of tribalism. For political instability is an endemic problem in multi-ethnic nations struggling to create national cohesion and to integrate disparate ethnic groups.

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**"We are so busy ethnicizing everything that we have no time to Nigerianize the populace. No time to minimize the centrifugal ethnic tendencies and to promote a sense of shared nationality. We cannot save ourselves except through our Nigerianizing ourselves."**

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To slay the ethnic octopus, the nation needs a new and vigorous approach. An approach by which Nigerians learn to appreciate their similarities and negotiate their differences. An approach that results in the progressive reduction of cultural and ethnic tensions and discontinuities in the process of creating a homogeneous political community.

Society means a community of ideas. Without shared ideas on politics, economics, morals and ethics, no society can exist. Nigeria, not only to exist and fulfil the aspirations of its citizens, needs a community of shared ideas which frees the Nigerian from the burdens of ethnic stereotyping and creates exciting possibilities. A Nigerian society in which people of different ethnicity and different religious persuasions can work together in mutual respect and trust.

To build a democratic and socially just society based on ethnic harmony, every Nigerian must look beyond his or her tribe. We must abandon constricted mental attitudes which limit our potentials and make us all prisoners of our tribes.

If exorcising Nigeria of tribalism is an iridescent dream, then surely Falae's call is an opportunity to actualize a dream.

---

*Dr. Ogunade, a journalism instructor at the University of Lagos, is on a year's leave of absence in the Concord Press.*

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Eagles team

Picture by Segun Olakitan

## The pride of a nation

The Flying Eagles represent what is best in Nigeria's soccer artistry.

**T**HE Flying Eagles are Nigeria's spellbinders. They have acquired the image of the magician, the invincible, and objects of national pride worthy of carrying the Nigerian flag.

They are probably the only soccer formation in Nigeria that evoke no prejudices. For eagles to be eagles, they have to fly. The Flying Eagles do fly. Some other eagles, notably the Green Eagles, have driven numerous Nigerian soccer fans toward the precipice of hypertension on many matches by their inability to fly when it matters. And football is one sport which millions of Nigerians support and advocate.

The Flying Eagles do not win all the time. It is not expected that they should. But even in defeat they lose with a great deal of dignity. Their 2-0 loss to Brazil, 2-1 loss to Egypt, 2-1 loss to USSR are testimonies.

Their match with Egypt in Lagos a fortnight ago pulled the largest crowd to the National Stadium after a drab and uneventful season. The stadium crowd

was of course a tiny fraction of the millions who stayed glued to their radio or television sets to watch them. And true to tradition, the young lads justified the tremendous attention lavished on them by wrecking the Egyptians 4-0 almost effortlessly. Egyptian officials watched with disbelief as their expensively-groomed wards were made to look like ordinary lame ducks as the goals rained in.

Thereafter, of course, the Egyptians adduced reasons to the effect that the Flying Eagles were 20 years old or beyond. With such temperament — a mixture of frustration, anger and desperation for Chile '87 — it was a foregone conclusion that a vengeful team and crowd, assisted by officials from the Eagle's next opposition, should confront the youths in Egypt last Saturday.

But the Flying Eagles are no strangers to hostile crowds. On March 31 last year, in Ethiopia, the Eagles faced what was easily the most violent attack in Africa's soccer history. Not less than 16

players and officials, including General Hannaniya, Nigeria's ambassador to Ethiopia, received injuries. Kingsley Onye, one of the players, was abandoned for dead by the Ethiopians, his skull reportedly broken. Many others returned with heavily bandaged heads. The incident put Nigerian-Ethiopian relations to test.

They have also endured a great deal of dubious officiating including two unbelievable red cards during crucial matches. Monday Odiaka was sent off in Moscow. Thompson Olinia in Cairo for no good reasons. But they have been undaunted.

At the USSR U-20 World Cup contest, they played three matches in the preliminaries, won two and lost one, beating Canada 2-0, Australia 3-2, and losing 1-2 to the Soviet Union. At the quarter-finals they lost 2-0 totally against the run of play to Brazil. But they confirmed their billing by going ahead to beat hosts, Soviet Union to win the bronze medal for that competition.

Since that victory, which went to solidify the U-17 Golden Eaglets China feat, the Flying Eagles have come to be viewed as the epitome of what is best in Nigeria's soccer artistry. And through the benefit of history, Nigerians now tend to view the junior team as the coun-



Pix by Ishola Ayilar

**\*A struggle for the ball**

try's hope for glory in international soccer contests.

The Flying Eagles' trade marks have been their incredible confidence, fitness,

and their ability to retain the ball and play games with it. Their precision passes, their intrepid disposition at their opponents' goal mouth and their knack

for weasling out of difficult bends have been their strength. From their ranks have arisen a motley of highly, internationally-rated stars who have now outgrown the squad but who have made remarkable impact on their various club-sides.

Their pattern is often likened to the typical South American free-flowing football that is always a beauty to watch. They are apparently aware that the game is a spectators' game and that spectators look forward to enjoying the game even if their favourites lost. They have managed to steer clear of the discredited so-called 'kick-and-follow' pattern of their elders which is often an indication of lack of confidence in ball control since long thrusts are gambles where the player only wishes for the best instead of taking the destiny of his team in his hands.

The speed, shooting skills, wits, dexterity of the boys compare fairly well with those of countries famed for their performance in the game — Brazil, Argentina, France, England, West Germany and others.

The semi-final matches with Somalia in December, barring mishap, may see the Flying Eagles to Chile, to once again prove that they can be rated with the best in the world. European and South American teams can only underrate them there at their own risk. Before Chile they are likely to be better blended, better tested and exposed and probably better motivated, given Nigeria's predisposition to appreciate dedicated and hardworking teams. And the Flying Eagles are one team Nigerians have been rather proud to identify with.

— Lewis Obi



Pix by Ishola Ayilar

**\*Time for prayers: Eagles before the match**  
AFRICAN CONCORD 27 NOVEMBER 1986

# The match lost but won

The Egyptian junior side put up a brave fight against the Flying Eagles; but was neutralised by a superior side.

**S**UDDENLY the frenzied atmosphere calmed. The crowd had permanently rooted for the home side, with tension almost rising to boiling point. Before the match, every Egyptian had predicted a 5-0 margin to nullify the wide margin which Nigeria had in Lagos. The North Africans set about the herculean task, but ended up as brave fighters in a hopeless case. Deep throated chant of *Ni-g-e-r-i-a* rent the air, as the Flying Eagles carried the day on goals aggregate of 5-2.

Coach Udemezie ran to the field to congratulate his boys, who at the same time were being applauded by the erratic crowd. The boys acknowledged the cheers. Udemezie too did some dancing, raised his hands and waved frantically to the crowd.

Although every one exuded optimism before the Saturday encounter, victory, they knew, would come the hard way, as a jinx appeared to surround Nigerian teams in Cairo. Assistant coach Tunde Disu apparently psyching up said earlier



\*An aerial encounter, a flying eagles player atop an Egyptian.

Pix by Ibhola Asho

that the shifting of the match from Friday to Saturday would mark a departure in Nigeria's teams' misfortune in the ancient city.

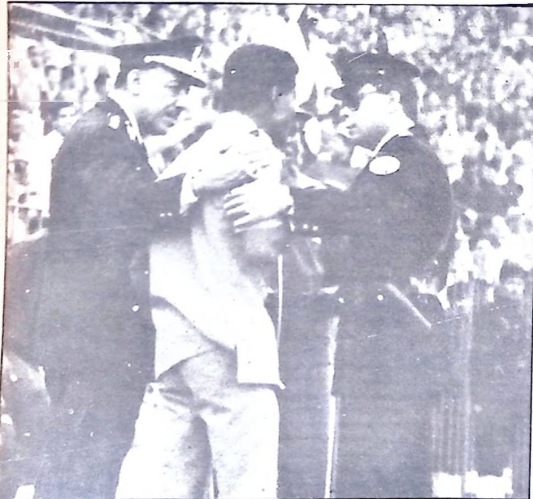
A day before the world cup en-

counter, the city of Cairo was excited following the victory of Ahly National over a Gabonese team, the A.S. Sogara. The Egyptians defeated the Gabonese by 3-0. But the excitement soon dried up with the final outcome of the world cup match between Egypt and Nigeria. The Egyptians rather than cheering their teams, booed them and cheered the better Nigerians instead. The cheers Nigeria got was symbolic, remarked an embassy official in Cairo. "The Egyptians have a football culture that they could go to any length to achieve results. When results failed to square up with expectations, hell is often let loose."

But it easily dawned on the crowd that they lost to a better side. Exchange of passes by Nigeria in the early part of the game was a thrilling sight. John Okon was particularly a beauty to watch on the pitch. The midfielder, having a good possession of the ball most of the time, controlling and distributing serviceable passes to team mates brought the game under control to suit whatever pattern his team adopted.

Although the Egyptians, an almost entirely different squad from the one that played in Lagos showed occasional flashes of skill, their lop-sided attack lacked the bite to utilise most of the gaps created. No wonder, coach Udemezie said earlier that Egypt's 4-0 defeat over Ethiopia was not a good measure of the standard of the Egyptians, not something to scare the Nigerian Flying Eagles.

From readings of the match, the Egyptian defence was weak, but it was caught pants down only once.



\*No way mate: Egyptian police ask NFA scribe out of pitch.

Pix by Ibhola Asho

## Cover Story

The Somali referee left no one in doubt about his sympathy for the Egyptians. Most of his decisions were questionable.

First as a balancing act, he compensated the Egyptians with a penalty kick, a minute after Nigeria had shot into the lead. The second goal by the Egyptians was hotly contested by Nigerians, but the worst was yet to come. Four minutes after the goal, Thompson Oliha was given the red card, a marching order out of the field. Another Nigerian player, Kayode Solomon got a yellow card for killing time.

These as an Egyptian, Khaled Ibrahim reasoned, were to deplete Nigeria of star players in the crucial semi final match between Nigeria and Somalia.

Egypt concentrated their attack on the right wing where Arif Abdulai, staging a come-back after being axed by FIFA during the second round match against Ethiopia, and Aminu Anwar set dreadful problems for Nduka Ugbade.

The strategy mapped out by the Egyptians had been to exploit the central defence manned by Ladi Babalola and Ahmed Ibrahim. An Arabic newspaper, El Ahram reported the lack of coordination between the two players in Lagos. Furthermore, goalie, William Opara was to be tested with ground shots, which they hoped were his weakness.

Opara had swerved from the right to the left hand side to save one of the few grounders that came his way. The Egyptians had laid the blames of the four goals deficit in Lagos on goalkeeper Sayed and the defensive play exhibited.

Much was expected from the team in Cairo. And thus the match venue was shifted from the grandeur International Stadium to the compact Zamalek stadium in the city centre to beef up attendance. Gate fees were drastically cut by about 75 per cent. But the seats and stands were under filled.

Security men apparently drafted to fill up a section of the empty stands joined the supporters of the Egyptian junior team to root for them and jeer at Nigeria whenever the players dawdled in playing goal kicks. It needed sheer courage on the part of the Flying Eagles to overcome the atmosphere of intimidation. Team captain, Opara, had said in Lagos that the antics of the crowd would not unsettle the team. The Egyptians did everything to rattle the players, by provoking them or making them demoralised.

For a start, it took the insistence of the Nigerian ambassador before the Egyptians played the Nigerian anthem. But it was only sung by the Nigerian spectators and players, as the Egyptian police band that ought to play the anthem had retreated to the side lines. Their tune had outraged of this uneasy atmosphere.

Against the backdrop of the game, atmosphere, Nigeria conceded a first minute forcing the hosts to concede a first minute corner kick. Egypt backed by the small



\*Cheering crowd at Zamalek stadium

but vocal home crowd piled up counter pressures that sent jitters down the Eagles' spines. The Eagles, then very anxious, dissipated the earlier confidence radiated. Thompson Oliha restored the sagged confidence when in the 39th minute he scored the first goal of the match.

Nosa Osadolor had lobbed the ball from the corner of the Egyptian post. The ball dropped near the goal post, with Ukaegbu heading the ball into the middle of the goal area, but beyond the grasp of goal keeper Sayed. Oliha burst through two defenders and hurled the ball into the far corners of the net.

The Egyptians, though dispirited, mustered courage and counter attacked. Two minutes later, a sliding tackle by Ladi Babalola on Mahl Mahmoud resulted into a penalty kick which Effat Nasir tucked carefully into the Nigerian net. Ahmed Sary wrapped up the momentary victory with a second goal in

the 54th minute. Other daring attacks were repelled by the Nigerians. And John Okon holding sway at the middle field was able to control the fast tempo of the game.

Etim Esin, the deadly striker who tormented the Egyptians in Lagos was well guarded by the Egyptians. All the same, he was able to make some heart-throbbing manoeuvres through the Egyptian defence to the admiration of the crowd who as the game wore on, shifted their support to the Nigerians.

For the rest of the game, the Nigerian side concentrated more on defensive tactics and often held on to the ball. They were able to contain the Egyptians so successfully, even despite the injury time allowed by the Somali referee.

At the end of it all, the Egyptians carried the day. But it was a match the Eagles actually lost but won.

— Kunle Solaja in Cairo

## Now, the crucial stage

THE battle has reached a crucial stage. Nigeria is gunning for the third consecutive ticket to the Coca-Cola sponsored World Cup contest. It is also in the race for the Tessema Cup introduced in 1983 for the two semi-finalists of the junior Coca-Cola World Cup, Africa zone. — Nigeria has won the Cup twice.

Somalia, an intriguing qualifier, is ranked a marginal outsider in African football. Its qualification was almost by default: a 3-2 win over Uganda in the preliminary last June; they were beneficiaries of the CAF axe that fell on Zimbabwe which, though, had overwhelmed Somalia 4-1 was thrown out for fielding an over-aged player. Somalia is making her debut in the competition.

Her quarter final opponents, Mozam-

bique, also withdrew owing to the funeral arrangements for their deceased leader — Samora Machel.

Morocco, quarter finalists before their elimination by Tunisia last year, has also gone through to the semi-finals at the expense of Ivory Coast. Morocco is gunning for her first ever Junior World Cup ticket as they meet the survivor of the Togo-Tunisia encounter.

Tunisia, first time hosts when the tournament took off in 1977, will also attempt getting to the finals for the third time like Nigeria. Both countries represented Africa last year, but Nigeria showed a class with an impressive bronze medal at the global joust. Tunisia did not go beyond the group matches.

A possible clash of the two countries for the Tessema Cup is imminent as both are favoured to reach the semi-finals.

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# The gem 'birds': Profiles

Most of the current players in the Flying Eagles team are products of competitive secondary school football or those of Youth Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSFON).

**N**DUKA Ugbade, captain of the world Golden Eaglets was discovered by YSFON. He played in all global competitions that YSFON teams took part. He was in the team that won the 1982 Dallas Cup in Sweden and the three global conquests of YSFON team between 1982 and 1984. He shot to limelight during the team's victory in the 1982 Commonwealth Youth Cup Competition. Nduka played for YSFON for five years before he led the Eaglets to their World Cup conquest last year.

He hails from Ubulu-Uku in the Aniocha Local Government of Bendel State. He does not want to talk about his age but Nduka certainly looks 16 or 17. Before leaving Nigeria for the decisive second leg in Egypt, he told



*African Concord* that he was already used to playing big time soccer. The strategy of the team's defence which he leads is to play the game outside the 18-metre box. He explained that it was to avoid giving room for unnecessary penalty awards. Incidentally, one was awarded against the team at the first half of the match in Cairo.



**N**OSA Osadolor hails from Benin in Bendel State. He was a part two student at the University of Ife last session. Nosa, easily the biblical stone which was rejected but later became the corner stone of the building was featured against Egypt on the first leg as "a risk" which his coach said, he had to take. He eventually scored two goals against the Egyptians from free kicks.

While in secondary school, Nosa played for the

**A**HMED Ibrahim, the young man with "antelope legs" hails from Niger State and plays for Niger Tornadoes of Minna. Ahmed's brilliance became prominent during the F.A Cup play-offs and particularly during the Flying Eagles match against Zambia.



Oyo State academicals in 1984. He was discovered during that year's championship which the Oyo State team won.

**E**TIM Esin fondly called "Maradona" by his admirers hails from Cross River State. Similarity in Etim's stature and his clever manoeuvres through opponent's defence like Argentina's Diego Maradona has marked him out as the most impressive striker in the Flying Eagles team. He once had problems that bordered on discipline within the Flying Eagles camp. At a point, the team's coach, Christopher Udemuzue had to travel to Cross River to visit Etim's mother whose ill health had contributed to the striker's truancy.

As things were being sorted out between Etim, his coaches and sports authorities, the press labelled him "the spoilt child" of the team. Etim was to quarrel with the label and preferred to be called a super-brat.

He started his football career with the Calabar academicals in 1981. Although his team was knocked out on the first round of that year's academicals, his talents were



spotted by Calabar Rovers. He could not make the Rovers' first eleven and warmed the reserve bench.

Etim's journey to stardom actually began with the Flash Flamingoes, "Osakwe Babes", of Benin where he was lured by coach Paul Bassey.

Etim, reported to have signed with Iwuanyanwu Nationale told *African Concord* that he was neither with Iwuanyanwu nor his former club, Flash Flamingoes. Which club does he belong, now? Etim is in the meantime keeping this as top secret.



**W**ILLIAM Opara, 18-years-old, captain and goalkeeper, is from Anambra State. He also played for the Anambra State academicals in 1981 before he joined the ACB football club in Lagos.

Asked about the team's psychological readiness in view of the size of Cairo's Stadium, (it is the largest in Africa), Opara said he never cared about the crowd size. "We will simply go into the field of play, play and beat the Egyptians."



**L**AURENCE Ukaegbue L.a.k.a. "Danjuma" played for the Iwuanyanwu Football club of Owerri. Lawrence's greatest asset is speed and stamina. The handsome-looking, gangling lad from Imo State told *African Concord* he had no fears. "I am looking forward to a good game in Egypt. The Egyptians are not very good." He can now say that again, again and again!



The Eagles during a training session.

Photo by James Duncan

## Youth as redeemer

Nigerian junior teams have a long history of excellence.

**C**HRIST the King College, Oshana, played the pioneer in 1977 when it won the world school soccer competition and Bekasuna Memorial College, Kaduna, repeated the feat last year. The Youth Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSPFN) had dominated world youth soccer when its team won the Delta Cup in 1982, including the Commonwealth Youth Cup the same year. The team also won the Delta Cup consecutively between 1982 and 1984 (YSPFN team did not stop there; it won the Brazilian president's cup in 1982, Lagos Satellite World Cup in 1983 and the Pre-Olympic Youth Soccer Tournament in 1984). In fact, a Nigerian, Nivi Adebajo, was the "most valuable player" award in the 1984 Pre-Olympic soccer game.

Nigeria's Youth Soccer team reached its height last year when her U-17 team won the World Cup in far away China, while the U-21 team placed third in the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Cup in the Soviet Union, the same year. Some credit will however go to the present crop of the Nigerian Football Association for resurrecting youth soccer pro-

gramme. The inter-state Mamawa Adebajo soccer competition among secondary schools had been abandoned since 1976 but the present NFA body added it to its graded programme of the F.A. Cup and the inter-division national league. Before its abandonment, the Mamawa Adebajo Youth Soccer Competition, academically and physically exceptional stars, Sam Garba Jakwe, Hamuna Harika, Gervin Gebre and Thompson Layen were some of the products of the programme.

Within the transitional period between the death of the academicians and its resurrection, YSPFN which was organising football among youth clubs in Apapa since 1968, turned its activities in other parts of the country. The federation became the matrix of many budding stars. Almost all the big names in Nigerian soccer today were grinded in the YSPFN mill. Humphrey Edoobor, Henry Nwoma and Tariq Okorowanna were discovered through YSPFN while 17 out of the 18 players of the world-cup winning squad — the Golden Eagles, were products of YSPFN's unqualified

success in Youth Soccer for the past six years.

With the reintroduction of the Mamawa Adebajo cup competition, another world for the breeding of budding stars was reopened. A handful of the current Under-21 team are products of this competition. Adebola Adesina, winner of the opening goal against Egypt (imagine) in the Lagos State Academics in the final last year, Nosa Osofisan was a member of the Oyo State academics that won the cup in 1984 while Victor Igbinodun played for the Benue State academics the same year. Soccer experts by the results might have informed the decision of the Nigerian Football Association's (NFA) council meeting of July 1984 to create a youth department. The academicians' competition usually starts in the states where various soccer associations are organised among schools where players are selected to represent the states at the national level. In the past, good players were selected at the inter-state level to form the Nigerian Academics that played an annual competition against Ghana Academics.

At the base of the nation's soccer games at the youth level are shimmering jewels on her progressiveness to sustain the



Okpara, Flying Eagles Captain

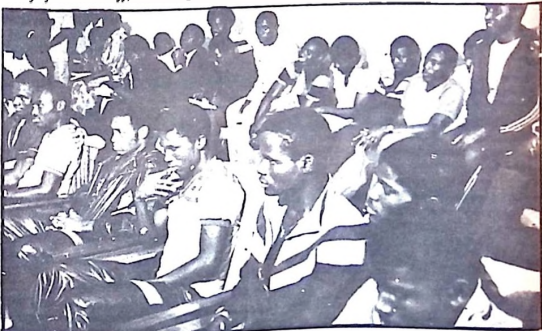
victories and attendant euphoria coupled with the rather inexplicable decline of the youths as soon as they graduated into senior teams. Commodore Bolaji Sojirin, former chairman of the National Sports Commission, last year, offered a controversial if convertible excuse. For Commodore Sojirin, "The missing link is in the curricula planning of our higher institutions. These institutions have relegated sporting activities and have bottled up our best sporting materials in cramped academic activities." Observers however deflate the Commodore's argument on the premise that all the higher institutions in the country do not have half the students as are found in foreign universities. They also believe that the higher institutions had bred football stars in the past — those who successfully combined both the "cramped academic activities" and sports, especially football.

Martin Eyo, Felix Owolabi and Adokie Amaesimeka successfully graduated from the University of Lagos while, Ségun Odegbami and Pat Ekeji are graduates of Ibadan Polytechnic and University of Nigeria respectively — football stars of the 70s who did not complain of academic problems. Nosa Osadolor is a student of the University of Ife. Football followers have argued that salvation lies in the formation of junior clubs alongside the senior ones, something close to the idea mooted by the management of Leventis United who announced recently that a Junior Leventis United team would soon take off.

The idea was first suggested by Alhaji Buba Ahmed, former chairman of the NSC. Brazil adopts this style-every club has a junior one attached to it. The



Chief of General Staff, addressing the Eagles before their departure to Egypt



Flying Eagles: All ears

legendary Pele started his football career playing for the Santos Juvenile team comprising players of 9-15 years. Ghana's Football Association chairman, Mr. Elias Teye had recently suggested ways of improving the fast-fading image of the country's national team — the Black Stars. He identified lack of replacement for retiring stars as the major bane of the game in Ghana.

Mr. Teye advocated a policy of mak-

**"If you have a junior team with boys of about 13 years, they should be trained systematically so that by the time they get to limelight there would be competition among the boys..."**

ing all division one clubs have junior teams while clubs would be restricted to recruiting not more than five players during any football season. A FIFA graded referee, Mr. Linus Mbah, agrees there is need for junior teams but does not favour compelling clubs to raise junior teams. For Mbah, "If you have a junior team with boys of about 13 years, they should be trained systematically so that by the time they come to limelight, there will be competition among the boys on who should wear the team's colours. If the clubs realise it is in their interest to have junior teams there will be no need to compel any club to own one."

He, like the current coach of the Green Eagles, Paul Hamilton, believes that if the Flying Eagles reproduced the quality of the game they played in Lagos, they would not have problems in Egypt.

— Kunie Solaja

— Frank Igwebueze

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# Football: Nigeria's many snags

The potentials for winning global and continental football laurels are high in Nigeria. But there are many snags.

**Q**UITE recently, the game of soccer in the country has considerably appreciated in standards which often times, have been translated into victories. The nation's flag is now hoisted in various global competitions, most gloriously at the junior level.

In spite of this upward surge in the nation's football exploits, there still exist some holes that must be plugged if the country must rise above its present level. The country's football governing body, the 41-year-old Nigerian Football Association (NFA) holds the key to the sustenance of the country's present enviable soccer glories, at least at the continental level.

Other less popular sports — boxing, wrestling and lawn tennis among others, have since gone professional while football professionalism in Nigeria has been embroiled in controversy. The disagreements between the Professional Football Federation of Nigeria (PFFN) and the NFA have stalled every serious attempt aimed at professionalising the game.

This is so even though footballers in the country earn much higher than some of the professional players elsewhere. The introduction in 1984, of transfer fee in club football has complicated issues for the NFA. The Confederation of African Football (CAF) president, Mr. Ydnekatchew Tessema said it was illegal to 'sell' players. He criticised the NFA for collecting money from Dragons de Loume of Benin Republic before the release of Peter Rufai and other Nigerian footballers to the club. His words: 'You cannot sell players in Africa. The procedure for transfer of amateur players which all the associations should know, is a letter from the previous association to the new one. If the previous association would not release him, the amateur player is free to remain with the new association for one year after which he will be eligible to play.'

At the national level, most coaches have cried out against the incessant transfer of players who were usually lured away by the glitters of cash. Alabi Aisien, a former coach of the national team, decried what he called 'killing the game of football in the country'. He believed the standard of football in the country was still low. As he put it: "You don't have to blame coaches for the low standard of the game in the country. Coaches are not to be blamed as far as I am concerned, but the big clubs that laund money about as if there is no

tomorrow. They are killing football". Ironically, transfer fee has since been increased from N1000 to N2000.

The NFA is yet to have a secretariat of its own. The association still occupies a make-shift office under the spectators' stands at the National Stadium. It is argued that the NFA, being the flagship of the National Sports Commission (NSC), ought to have a secretariat that befits the image of the country. In spite of the hurried renovation of the present secretariat just before the arrival of FIFA officials in September, football



Ikaobor, NFA Chairman

watchers argue that the secretariat's structure could spoil the case for Nigeria's chances of hosting the 1989 Coca-Coca World Cup in the country.

One time chairman of the NFA, late Commodore Edwin Kentebe while leaving office in 1973 said of the NFA: "We had plans for the building of a two-storey block behind the present block at Ogunlana Drive, Surulere with improved facilities for the comfort of players, plans for having the meals of the players prepared within the camp; plans for better jerseys to boost the morale and turnout of players. All these plans were submitted in 1971 and everyone of them still has to see the light of day from the dark confines of NSC files."

The situation has not improved especially as the NFA has been denied autonomous status. It is still subjected to the bureaucratic bottle-necks of the

NSC.

Late Commodore Kentebe had also warned in 1973 that "if football is to be given its pride of place in this country, the men appointed to steer the ship must be given the helm." The situation at the NFA - till today — is that day-to-day administrative issues like the issuing of complementary cards, press passes are still routed through the NSC which also approves the fixture of matches.

Some observers blame the country's poor performance especially at the senior category — national and club level to the handicaps inherent in the NFA set-up.

It is argued that an independent NFA would have seen the need to hire more television cameras to cover the Abiola Babes — Leventis United match which was watched by visiting FIFA officials. A video recording of the match so covered would have been handed to the officials as evidence to the outside world that the country was capable of beaming well filmed matches at the 1989 World Cup she hopes to host.

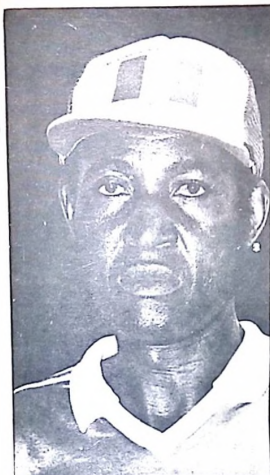
Yinka Craig, a sport commentator with the NTA who has covered many international matches argued that a good filming of any international match with global dimensions should be covered with at least eight television cameras. The ability of most companies and countries to buy television rights — a major source of revenue for World Cup hosting countries, will depend on their confidence on the host country's facilities. It is feared that Nigeria, if given the nod by FIFA may lose so much money if she is unable to convince countries of her communication capabilities which include an uninterrupted transmission of signals. It is whatever is recorded here that would be beamed to the world.

The issue of broken promises still unsettles the game in Nigeria. At the euphoria of victory, promising players are flooded with promises which, most often, are not kept. On the return of the world conquering U-17 team last year, the sports authorities promised an annual U-13 football competition from where replacements would be found to replace stars in the U-17 team. That, perhaps, was the last to be heard of the plan.

Plans for redeeming the scholarship promised the boys last year were only released last week by the Federal Ministry of Education. But for FIFA regulations that ban signing of contracts with an U-17 player, Nigeria would have lost most members of the World Cup winning team to foreign clubs who had already started hunting for the players before the NFA invoked the FIFA rule to call for their return.

— Frank Igwebueze  
Kunle Solaja

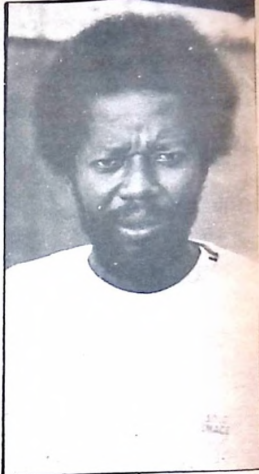




Chris Udemueze



Festus Onigbinde



Tunde Dlsu

football skills and tactics. As he put it: "Skill is a natural asset in a player while tactics could be imparted, not necessarily by an expatriate. Nigerians in our different clubs are doing that with stunning success."

Orok Oyn would cite the remarkable feat of Nigerian's U-21 team last year and the U-17 teams' victory in the World Cup as proofs that Nigerian coaches could do better than their foreign counterparts. It is equally significant that coach Adegboye Onigbinde, perhaps, the most successful national chief coach (the coaches of the U-17 and U-21 teams are not national coaches) led the country to the finals of the Nation's Cup at Ivory Coast in 1984 and the final qualifying round of the Olympic where Nigeria lost to Morocco on penalties. The CAF president, Mr. Ydnekatchew Tessema says expatriate coaches come to Africa to exploit the country whose team they are coaching instead of working for good results. In a speech during a visit to Nigeria, the CAF president said: "Your team was in Mexico in 1983 Junior World Cup, Africa Nations Cup in 1984, the U-16 World Cup in China and the Junior World Cup in Moscow in 1985 with your local coaches, if given the chance, they can make it."

Critics who accuse expatriate coaches of exploitation and treachery easily point to the Zairean World Cup squad of 1974. Handled by a Yugoslavia former goalkeeper, Blagoji Vidnic, the team conquered Africa, winning the

Africa Nation's Cup that year and qualifying for the world cup in West Germany. Against Scotland, Zaire was considered to have escaped disgrace even with a 2-0 defeat and another 3-0 defeat at the hands of the Brazilians. But nobody was fooled by the coach's antics when he fielded a technically unfit team against his country — Yugoslavia. The result was a record 9-0 against Zaire, second only to Hungary's humiliation of El-Salvador (10-1) during the 1982 World Cup.

Even at the junior soccer level, observers still believe that in spite of the successes so far made, the junior teams still lack consistency in the pattern of play. The Brazilians and Italians have definite patterns of play. Watching a foreign football match on television, good football followers could easily tell which countries are involved. The Italians are known for their ultra defensive pattern "Catenaccio" while England used the "wingless wonders" during the 1966 World Cup. This has since become the country's football identity: players are not restricted to particular wings on the field of play.

Onigbinde, in spite of his perceived successes, was criticised for failing to forge a definite pattern of play for the national team. While some critics blamed him for concentrating on the defence, others said he lacked any pattern. Observers believe that the youths need a definite play pattern which they have to grow with.



Uche Ejumafor

# Kilimanjaro seeks a knock-out

Zimbabwe's boxing champ has his sights on becoming the Commonwealth heavyweight champion, reports Charles Rukuni from Bulawayo.

More than just money will be at stake when Zimbabwean boxer, Proud Chembemba — he fights under the name of Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain — meets Horace Notice of Britain for the Commonwealth Heavyweight title.

Kilimanjaro, already Zimbabwe and All-Africa heavyweight boxing champion, will be seeking to emulate what his fellow countryman, Langton "Schoolboy" Tinago, did in August when he brought home the Commonwealth lightweight boxing title for a record third time.

He said: "If Langton, who is almost 10 years older than me did it, I find no reason why I should not bring a second Commonwealth title to Zimbabwe this year."

Tinago, 30, defied a 14-year age gap to win the lightweight title when he stopped highly fancied Graeme Brooke of Australia in the fifth round. The fight was staged in Manchester in England.

Besides the money and the title, Kilimanjaro will have another axe to grind. He will be seeking to avenge his first ever defeat when he was outpointed by another Briton, Hughroy Currie, in a Commonwealth eliminator in November last year.

## Learning from defeat

Kilimanjaro feels he was robbed of victory in that fight which was staged in Cardiff because, he claims, he had an upper hand in the last two rounds of the 10-round bout. He narrowly lost 97-95.

This view seems to be confirmed by a news agency report on the fight which said Kilimanjaro lost because he came back too late to make up for the points lead Currie had established in the first eight rounds.

The report said: "In the ninth round Currie took such a hattering that had he not been a long way ahead on points, referee Harry Gibbs might have intervened."

Kilimanjaro himself claimed later: "When I started nattering Currie in the ninth round aiming to finish him off, the referee interrupted each time I had my man cornered, it was amateur boxing."

As in any game of sport, the referee's decision is final. Kilimanjaro lost. Because of this incident, Kilimanjaro says, he learnt his lesson. He will not give the British another chance. This time he is going for a knock-out.

He said: "After being robbed of victory in that Commonwealth eliminator against Hughroy Currie in Cardiff last year, I promise you I am not going to be caught nursing Notice.



Kilimanjaro: going for the kill

"That painful experience taught me a good lesson. The only way to please the British judges is to win by a knock-out and this is what I am going to do against Notice.

Although he became a professional boxer only five years ago without any amateur background, Kilimanjaro was talking the language he knows best — knocking out opponents.

In his first challenge for the Zimbabwe title, he felled the reigning champion, Ringo Starr, in just 29 seconds of the first round.

Since then he has had another 18 knock-outs, no draws and two defeats. He only won four fights on points. The two fights he lost were both on points, one to Currie and the other to American boxer George Chaplin in Ivory Coast last June.

When he was beaten by Currie, Kilimanjaro was under British trainer Frank Warren. After the defeat, he had a stint with renowned American trainer Bill Slatten, who trained among others, former world heavyweight champion Ken Norton.

At the time Kilimanjaro said he wanted to be accepted by the American public and thus gain entry into the international boxing scene.

Although he stayed in the US for only three weeks instead of three months because of family problems, Kilimanjaro still wants to be recognised on the international boxing scene.

He has to win the Commonwealth title because this will not only put him there but also because it means his survival.

The only alternative is to retire, as he hinted when he said if he lost the Commonwealth title he might have to. In fact that will only be logical because he has lost contenders both in Zimbabwe and Africa, and thus should go international.

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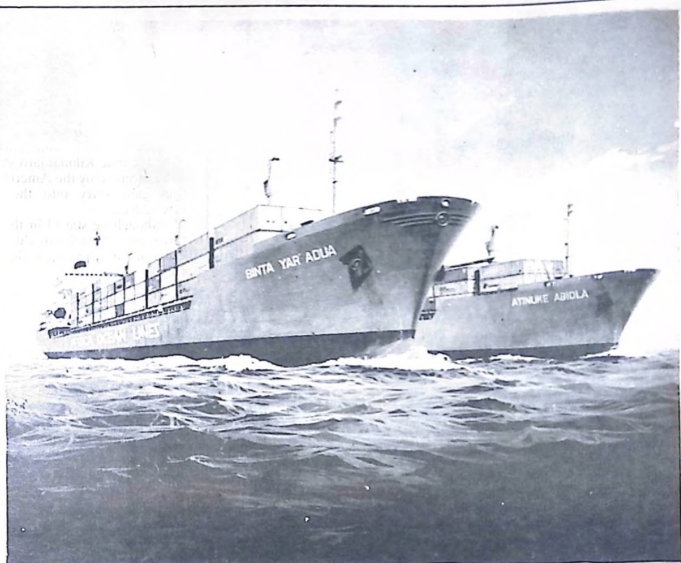
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Ogugbuaja on his way to police D/O. "He and I meet at Phillipi"

## Alozie's narrow escape

It could have been the nation's second macabre death in a month. A grenade was thrown at the car of the suspended police PRO, Alozie Ogugbuaja, but it refused to explode. The whole event has however triggered some controversy, with the authorities wasting their hands off it....

The man was worried. For three days past strange men in strange cars drove about his house warning, "Who were they? Why the hell? What was it?" These questions probably never left the man's mind. Against a backdrop of the general proclamation surrounding his suspension and the beguiling promise of monetary perking in return, the man felt compelled to return for protection from his police command. Little came of that return.

Undaunted by this, the man fell back on the last defence — himself. He took personal precautions, one of which was switching cars. His forebodings seemed to be well-grounded. Last week, Ogugbuaja narrowly missed death when a grenade thrown at his car thumped down and rolled under. It refused to explode. And that saved his life.

It was about 9.55 p.m. on Wednesday. But the story began at 8.30 p.m., when two cars left Ogugbuaja's house on Obu Akinjobi Avenue in Ikaji, Ibeju GRA. The destination of the group was somewhere in Sogunle to get treatment for the suspended officer who was ill. Ogugbuaja's Volkswagen Golf car led

the way with his friend, Mr. Isaac's Peugeot 504 car tailing. Occupants of the Golf Car were Alozie, his brother Chinedu Ogugbuaja and his driver and orderly, Barnabas. The 504 behind had Mr. Isaac with his driver.

On the return trip from Sogunle, the timing arrangement was changed, with the Golf still in front. Only Barnabas rode in the Golf. In that manner, the group drove back to Obu Akinjobi. At about 9.55 p.m., the cars waited for Ogugbuaja's iron gate to be opened.

Chinedu said that while they waited for the gate to be opened, they heard a noise of something hitting something presumably their car. The sound came from an object hurtled from a Green Volk Beetle parked on the opposite side of the road. The Beetle immediately sped off. The object which seemed to have been aimed at the window of the Golf car hit a side door and rolled underneath. A small argument as to the authenticity of the sound produced no conclusion. The matter was left there as the group went in.

A short while later, Ogugbuaja asked his friend to drop Barnabas on the way. At the short path outside the gate, the

504 headlights illuminated an object. The driver got down and attempted to pick up the "stone". A sharp cry from the alert orderly warned that it was a grenade coated olive green. When tossed onto the middle of the gravel road, the grenade didn't explode.

Ogugbuaja and his relatives hurried out to see what the object was. After confirming what the object was, he phoned the police bomb disposal experts. They arrived about 30 minutes later. It was the "worst 30 minutes of my life." Ogugbuaja was overheard saying a prayer the next day. "The grenade was on the road. That's all. Heavy. Any vehicle might accidentally drive over it and... "If that happened, they would say my brother has killed somebody," said Chinedu. Ogugbuaja muttered some prayers and transferred the grenade to the right of his glass window.

The Akinye's residence was bustling with policemen by the time the bomb squad arrived. Alarmed to make three armed police patrol teams swooped in on the residence. The bomb squad confirmed that the object was a grenade which didn't explode. Its pin was half pulled out. Since the bomb was close to



Ogubuaaja, lucky man; a narrow escape.

Below, the gate of his GRA house



exploding, it could not be defused. It was decided best to detonate. Before this was done, Ogubuaaja insisted that its photographs must be taken. After about eight shots by the police, the squad set out to detonate the grenade by wired remote control. Five concrete bricks were laid on it. The detonated grenade blasted them off, pounding them into pebbles. It neatly cleared the underlying grass, digging a small hole. Policemen

who detonated it, did so from a distance.

A few moments after, a man staggered in from the Kingsway end of Akin-gere to meet the crowd. He was clad in a jobi to meet the crowd. He was clad in a white sports outfit made up of a short-sleeved shirt atop white shorts. He claimed to be Ogubuaaja's friend. Noticing trouble in the residence, he said he had come to see if his "friend was alright". The cops called Ogubuaaja to

identify the man, who described himself as Flt. Lieutenant Bala Ahmed with the Air Force Intelligence Unit attached to State Security Service (SSS).

The suspended Police PRO took one look at Bala and said that he had never seen Ahmed before even in a nightmare, talkmore of their being friends. Ahmed claimed he was drunk, according to Chinedu. After some heated exchange of words, Ahmed staggered away clapping his hands and humming some tunes. He disappeared through a path wide enough to take a car. Chinedu suspected that the man hid his car somewhere at the end of the path. The path was a few steps down to the right of Ogubuaaja's house. It was in the same area that the unidentified fleeing Beetle had been parked.

Sooner, the assorted crowd inside Alozie's house sighted a Santana driven up close to the house. It stopped, then reversed quickly and took off. The same Santana, Chinedu said, zoomed past the house a few minutes earlier. Suspecting something fishy was up, the throng dispersed. Ogubuaaja and others took cover somewhere in the compound. The policemen merged with the shadows. And there was plenty of shadows to melt in as NEPA had taken off light. Chinedu claimed there was something sinister behind NEPA's general blackout on the night during the macabre drama in Ikeja GRA. Generators hummed from nearby houses, providing background beats to the troubled thoughts of the anxious, but hidden men.

The Santana zoomed past the house again. It appeared to be on a scouting mission. For moments later, Chinedu recounted, a Nissan Patrol jeep marked NAF 2485 zeroed in at the gate at top speed. The car screeched to a halt when the occupants discovered that the gate was locked tight. They narrowly missed bumping into it.

Like gnomes emitting from the bowels of the earth, the policemen showed themselves. With guns cocked, they covered the vehicle, ready to burst it apart with bullets at the slightest sign of trouble. With speed, the car revved up in an attempt to elope. They ordered the driver to stop or be shot. He failed to heed the instruction, continuing his escape move. Warning shots fired into the air convinced the driver that the cops really meant business.

The Nissan driver came out, hands up. The cops were surprised to see that he was the same "good old drunk", Ogubuaaja's fake friend, Flt. Lieutenant Bala Ahmed. He claimed to be alone in the vehicle. A search yielded something else. A uniformed NAF corporal was hiding on the floor of the van with a loaded, cocked sub-machine gun. The two men were whisked off to the zonal police headquarters.

The evening newspapers were the first

# Tracking the assassins

Police and army intelligence are probing the little-known details of the assassination of General Gowon.

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Fawehinmi's legal battle against the military government is expected to last for several months.



Chief Justice Olu Falola

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A day after the bomb scare, newsmen thronged the place. They couldn't get an interview from Ogugbuja as he was on suspension. He looked relaxed but shaken, a powerful gun at grabbing distance by his side. Newsmen were able to get the story from Chinedu and Mr. Isaac. At about 5.15 p.m. of the same day, four plain clothes detectives came to pick him up in a sky-blue 504 station wagon, marked BN 9909 MA. Before being whisked away, Ogugbuja turned to a relative and said "please come back and see whether I am still here." For the press, he only quoted Julius Ceasar: "We shall meet at Philippi". The detectives were believed to be headed for Force CID, Alagbon, office of Mr. Chris Omeben, Deputy Inspector General of Police. Ogugbuja was brought home later on Thursday night, according to a relative.

The next day on Friday, newsmen who came to see Ogugbuja, were told he wasn't in. Mobile Policemen stood guard within the compound. The gate had the curious sign: "Dogs, beware of men." At about 11.30 p.m. when visitors moved away, a Peugeot 504, drove out of the gate with Alazole, accompanied by securitymen.

Sources revealed that he was taken to Alagbon close. There, he was told he would be placed under detention for his own protection. He protested, saying that a senior officer like himself shouldn't be treated like a common criminal. He wondered what was wrong with his being kept at the police officers' mess. He threatened to go on hunger strike.

As at 9.45 on Saturday morning, Chinedu said he was still being sequestered.

Police and army intelligence are probing the little-known details of the assassination of General Gowon. The police are looking for any clues that might lead to the assassins. The army is also looking for any clues that might lead to the assassins.

After failing to get the DPP's hand on the matter, Fawehinmi turned to the court and filed an application before the state's Chief Judge. In it Fawehinmi requested the court to order the DPP to stop sitting on the matter and declare a stand on the matter. He argued that the law did not prevent an individual on the part of the DPP and that he had to state whether he was going to prosecute the security officers and if not to endorse a license granting him (Fawehinmi) the status of a private prosecutor.

But giving his ruling last Wednesday,

He said the detectives brought Ogugbuja on Friday at about 8.00 p.m. They took him away again at 8.00 a.m. on Saturday morning to an unknown destination. Chinedu queried the ground whether his brother had carried out his hunger strike though he never discussed it with him, he said. Mobile Policemen still hung about the compound.

Earlier, on Friday, Inspector General of Police Mohammed Gumbi spoke on the issue to airport correspondents. He was on his way to Kofor. He said the discovery of the granite was "not unusual since Ogugbuja was a police officer and had access to granite." On the same day, the Air Force declared that the hand grenade found at Ogugbuja's home was not from its inventory. Wing Commander Tom Adadeji, director of Air Force Public Relations, said the two air force men were on routine duty in their operational area which happened to include Alazole's home.

Alazole Ogugbuja was suspended shortly after his arrest before the Justice Mustapha Akande probe into the student crisis of May. The police denied any link between the suspension and his controversial testimony. His suspension was said to be based on "policy reasons" which he had earlier in the year. IG Gumbi promised on Friday that findings on the matter which was still being investigated would be released.

Identifying a man remembered for common, Alazole's close shave with death came exactly one month after the death, by a mysterious letter bomb, of Newswatch Chief Executive, Mr. Nkechi Okafor.

— Fredlinza Igbeare

Mr. Justice Ademola-Johnson refused to compel the DPP to act saying that the statement credited to the DPP did not amount to a refusal but a deferment. On this basis, he said that Fawehinmi was not qualified to file the application for the order deferred.

The Chief Judge said the power vested in the DPP was discretionary and that if he had deferred the exercise of such power he had done so judiciously. He also quarrelled with the timing of Fawehinmi's application, describing it as hasty and premature. The Chief Judge said there was no time limit for the DPP to exercise the power to prosecute a suspect. The law only said it should be done within reasonable time.

He continued: "Even if one considers the reasonableness of time, I will say that the incident that gave birth to the death of the late Dele Giwa is not only unique in its form but also complex and will require sufficient time to conduct detailed and balanced investigations, report of which the appropriate authorities would reasonably act."

Justice Ademola-Johnson explained that the application was impulsive as it did not give sufficient time and chance for such investigation. He said the evidence submitted by Fawehinmi was one sided because it excluded the accounts of the alleged suspects.

The known procedure, according to the Chief Judge, was for the police to conduct investigation into a crime committed and submit report which would enable the appropriate authorities to determine the justification of undertaking a prosecution.

Fawehinmi has challenged the decision of the High Court. He filed five grounds of appeal at the Appeal Court arguing that the Chief Judge erred in refusing his application and in holding that there was no time limit within which the DPP could exercise his discretionary power. He also challenged the decision questioning his qualification to handle the application. He said that the judge erred in describing his application as hasty and premature and in determining the entire application instead of confining himself to only the leave being sought.

Fawehinmi, therefore, prayed the Appeal Court to set aside the decision of the judge, order the DPP to exercise his discretion and transfer the case from the Chief Judge to another judge of the High Court of Lagos State for hearing and determination.

The judicial approach taken by Fawehinmi on the Dele Giwa incident has soured the relationship between him and the directors of *Newswatch* magazine who would rather wish the police be given the responsibility of investigating the mysterious murder of their former Chief Executive. As at last week, there were no indications that the dispute between Fawehinmi and the



Giwa: murdered in cold blood

Directors might be resolved. Fawehinmi himself ruled out the possibility saying that there was no basis for it. He said he had got sufficient support from members of the late Giwa's family to encourage him.

He once more accused the *Newswatch* directors and said: "I suspect thorough and clear-cut government infiltration."

The response from *Newswatch* was terse. Mr. Ray Ekpu, who was named to succeed the late Giwa as the Chief Ex-

ecutive and Editor-in-Chief of *Newswatch* last week said he was not ready to trade words with Fawehinmi. What was of paramount importance to him, he said, was the tracking down of the murderers. "It is so serious. It is a matter of life and death, I don't want it trivialised or sensationalised", he told *African Concord*.

The police however did not seem to be making great progress to justify the confidence reposed in them by *Newswatch* directors. Progress on their investigation appeared to have stalled. They interrogated both Akilu and Togun. But police spokesman, Ralph Onyejekwe did not give indications that any clue was established. He said it was not the style of the police to report to the public the stage of their investigation through the press. The helplessness of his men was however conveyed in the appeal he sent to members of the public to come up with useful information on the murder.

Mr. Onyejekwe declared that the police were no magicians. He said that most crimes were tackled through the assistance of the public: "If we cannot make a breakthrough, a time may come when we may have to close the case as undetected," he told *African Concord*.

— Oluwambo Balogun

## The AIDS hoax

### A case of Aid with no AIDS

**S**UDDENLY, the news came — hitting everybody like a million volts of electrons. It caused great jitters among the populace. And fears rapidly took the place of surprise as the news travelled around last week that a victim of the dreaded diseases — the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome AIDS — was sighted in Lagos.

The man from the United States arrived at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport allegedly carrying an AIDS label on his passport. Immigration officials were appalled by the shock find and immediately took to their heels, abandoning their posts. There followed an instant stampede at the arrival hall as the news broke out. And before nerves cooled off the man had bolted away.

An alarm signal was quickly sent to Health Minister, Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti; and he responded at once by summoning the attention of the Nigerian public asking everybody to be on the look out for the suspect AIDS carrier. On Wednesday, newspapers celebrated the sensation by slamming the news on their front pages.

The following day, the alleged AIDS victims, later identified as Sunny reappeared with his relations in tow. He

showed embarrassment at the news report, and explained himself.

He had no AIDS. It was all a hoax.

What had happened was that he arrived the airport with one of his documents carrying the title, "Legal Aid Directory". The immigration officer who inspected his papers and sighted the enigmatic word, "Aid" mistook it for AIDS.

Sunny was on deportation from the US due to irregularities in his immigration papers. The largest number of cases of AIDS infection had so far been reported in the US. And to be doubly certain that Sunny was not really infected with AIDS, the health authorities had sent his blood abroad for test.

AIDS became a subject of public controversy recently in Nigeria. Claims and counter claims were made about its probable presence and curative potential in the country. Some people postulated that since the disease was known to be rampant in overseas countries and Nigerians were known to be globe trotters the likelihood of AIDS being present in the country was never absolute. But medical experts including the Minister of Health reassured the public saying that while Nigeria might not be an AIDS-free zone, no cases of its infection had been detected in the country.

Perfect diagnosis of AIDS is yet to be achieved worldwide.



branch when at Cheapside in the late seventies. Mr Ogubunka's close associates say he is a shrewd banker who draws on years of experience and a good knowledge of banking problems.

The same can be said of New Nigerian Bank's Peter Avan-Nomayo and First Bank's S A Olukareh who heads their London operation. While most of the banks are essentially branches, the role of their head office in controlling their operations is crucial. But as one of the bankers said, they enjoy considerable freedom in decision making as they are subject to different environmental pressures than those at home.

One banker said that the usual control systems of periodic performance measurements are used, but he stressed that a profit centre will not necessarily wait for head office

to impose controls. Union Bank's Mr Eleyini elaborates, "Any organisation like ours will have to do its own continuous appraisal to ensure that targets are met; to compare actuals with budgets from time to time and ask reasons for the variances."

### Most African banks in the City see themselves as vital tools for the economic survival of the continent.

The exposure of more Africans in international banking is bound to have impact in Third World economic management. Most African banks in the City see themselves as vital tools for the economic survival of the continent. Managements use these branches as 'staff development' centres.

As most African economies are going through a traumatic period, London bankers are very cautious in opening credit lines for goods to the continent, especially to countries like Nigeria. "Not many in the City lines about Nigerian business these latter about Nigerian business these latter days", one banker confirmed dejectedly, "but there are quite a few still very keen because of the country's size and economic potential."

However as the IMF continues to impose its will on the economies of some African countries, the signs are that Western creditors are willing to think again. For instance, since Nigeria joined Zambia and Ghana to introduce the Second Tier Foreign Exchange Market there appears to be a change of heart in pumping in the much needed foreign investment.

## The City's African whizzkid

In a financial jungle like the Square Mile, American, European and Japanese bankers predominate. The moguls of Threadneedle Street have come to respect their judgement when the rules are being set. But a new species has arrived. Its impact may be slight at the moment, but the African banker in the City is steadily emerging as a force to be reckoned with.

One example of the new generation of African bankers in the city is Nigeria's Jeffrey Eleyini who heads the City operation of one of the country's biggest financial institutions, the Union Bank of Nigeria, formerly Barclays Bank.

Suave and knowledgeable in the complex world of international finance, Eleyini is something of a whizzkid, if his performance is anything to go by. Here is what he had to say.

### UNION BANK'S OBJECTIVES

One of our specific objectives was to provide banking services for Nigerians, Nigerian companies or parastatals established in the UK, other international companies, particularly those who have interests in Nigeria such as UAC, UTC, PZ: trade finance for import and export from Nigeria, assisting the flow of capital into Nigeria by offering advice and support to foreign investors wishing to come to Nigeria.

We also seek to provide increased exposure and technical training, and the overall development of our staff in order to maintain good liaison with correspondent banks worldwide, as London is the melting pot of the international financial community and a very important centre for world trade. Being in London has enabled us to diversify while our presence has provided opportunities for both the business and financial sectors.

### CONTROL MECHANISM FROM HEAD OFFICE

The normal traditional control system in any business has been installed — periodic performance measurements, establishment of

priorities and targets. A profit centre will not necessarily wait for head office to impose controls. Organisations like ours, therefore, have to do continuous appraisals to ensure that targets are met; to compare actuals with projected budgets, and to ask questions as to reasons for the variances. If there are variances we send returns on a periodic basis and explain the reasons why we were unable to meet targets. We then re-establish fresh objectives in the light of the performance, and changed circumstances.

### TURNOVER AND PROFITS

Every profit centre has a balance sheet and we are subjected to an annual audit. We are not obliged to publish this balance sheet because it is not a requirement for non-UK incorporated companies to do so. Our branch balance sheet is consolidated with that of the entire bank. It is very difficult to assess our performance on the basis of turnover as we are not a manufacturing or trading company. However, you can assess the branch's performance on the growth of the branch balance sheet and the profitability of the branch. The balance sheet has grown from this initial capital. It is even expected to grow much more rapidly because of the changes that are taking place in Nigeria.

### The African banker in the City is steadily emerging as a force to be reckoned with.

Before we came here, a feasibility study projected that we would not break even until the third year, but we broke even at the end of the first year. During the second year we had to re-draw our plan upward because of our experience in the first year. We had positive variance and we had to revise the target. The second year was much better than we had budgeted for. There is considerable hope for the future.

### LENDING DECISIONS

There must be lending controls through the establishment of needs. At the various levels managers agree to limits. Anything within this agreed limit can be lent, subject of course to normal prudence and the various conditions that bankers are expected to set. Anything outside these limits needs the permission of head office. There is no individual in any bank who has absolute power. A director has a limit and anything outside this limit he refers to an executive committee. An executive committee has a limit and anything outside their power is passed to the board. Of course the board has final authority in the bank.

### MY SUCCESS STRATEGY

It is all a matter of style and circumstance. When we arrived in 1983, Nigeria was going through a difficult patch and we had a credibility problem. Problem of capital, problem of coming from an underdeveloped country in black Africa. We knew that in such a sophisticated environment, right in the centre of Europe, we were handicapped. It was rather a negative standpoint and it required a mammoth effort and an intelligent and well directed approach to succeed.

We went to all the UK and European companies that have branches or business associations in Nigeria. We devised a well thought out strategy to approach them with. Of all companies we approached, 60 per cent responded positively and about half of this number actually started to do business with us. They opened accounts, established deposits and came forward positively to discuss what we could do together. We assisted them in exporting to Nigeria and helped their associates in Nigeria to import for them.

This did not mean sitting down in the office and waiting for business to come to us. We had to write letters, follow them up and arrange meetings.

But because the situation in Nigeria did not improve, the international business com-



Mr Jeffrey Efeogini in his office last week

minutely began to develop cold feet about selling to Nigeria. Their experience had been grand-scale losses and the inability to get their money out. That obviously made marketing very difficult. We also had to do interbank marketing — going out to talk to other banks to establish credit lines. We succeeded with some and failed with others. There is nothing that can do more harm to a Nigerian banker seeking lines in the City than his inability to express, concisely and objectively, current Nigerian economic policy.

#### THE BANK OF ENGLAND AND AFRICAN BANKS

The Bank of England as a regulatory bank has a major role to play. They have to assure that the banks are well managed. There are the European Central Banks' guidelines on banking supervision called the Basle Agreement which empowers the Bank of England to ensure that the commercial banks are well managed; that there is control and that the banks are profitable. The recent Johnson Matthey Bank (JMB) scandal clearly justifies this regulatory role.

The Bank of England continually stresses that people who manage banks must be fit and proper persons. They have to be prudent and the banks must have adequate capital. Then there is the "four eyes" criterion which means that there must be a minimum of two managers with "four eyes". These are all to ensure that the banks do not fail, because the failure of a bank would send shockwaves through the

entire system which could have multiplying effects.

Banking is a confidence game and the operators of the system must be able to generate confidence to enable the public to have full faith in it. Union Bank's relationship with the Bank of England is excellent. We go to them to discuss issues and the results of our operations justify our ability.

#### MANPOWER POLICY

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#### COMPETITION

Competition is generally intense in the market and the strategy is to concentrate on our area of strength such as the finance of letters of credit to and from Nigeria; identifying companies that have operations in Nigeria and trying to offer services to them. These are the areas in which we have competitive advantage and we try to exploit them to the maximum. Otherwise for a bank from a developing country such as ours, it would be very difficult to compete in the mainstream of banking.

#### NIGERIA'S STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT AND SFEM

Our economic structure is monolithic and derives 90 per cent of its income from one source — oil. The starting point is that Nigeria's foreign exchange revenue has got to be diversified so that the economy does not suffer the kind of shocks it has had to go through as a result of the fall in oil prices. This is the structural deformity which led to the liquidity crisis. Nigeria is not able to meet all the commitments it has made in the past because we are not earning enough money. Trade finance is one of those commitments or letters of credit. Nigeria cannot go back on her commitments.

Thus the country has had to seek rescheduling of her debts, but the creditors have insisted on an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before rescheduling can be effected. The IMF has had to impose conditions which include the devaluation of the naira. The SFEM, or second-tier foreign exchange market, is Nigeria's desired route to devalue her currency and since its inception in October a truer exchange rate for the naira is now emerging. Liberalisation of trade or removal of import licensing has also been removed, so the economy, given time, ought to pick up to a healthier state, as the country has met all other IMF conditions. In the long run, the economy must benefit as a result of the efficiency inherent in the new system, we must all do our bit to ensure it succeeds.

Tony Amadi

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Sierra Leone

# The unenviable legacy haunting Momoh



President Siaka Stevens

On 21 November Major General Joseph Momoh celebrated his first year as President. The 46-year-old army chief was handpicked for the job by his powerful predecessor Siaka Stevens, but he won the public support with his promises of a "new order".

Stevens' retirement was greeted by most Sierra Leoneans with a sigh of relief. The 46-year-old autocrat had ruled the country like a personal fiefdom for 17 years. He achieved political stability by skillfully playing off one politician against another and ending brilliant but ambitious careers on the basis of gossip peddled by a group of loyal cronies.

Stevens further boosted his power base by giving certain businessmen extraordinary prominence in the affairs of the country. Working hand in hand with the

politicians, they were able to siphon off the country's riches without fear of exposure.

As the economy worsened, corruption virtually became the official modus operandi. One junior minister of finance, Alfred Akibo Betts, won Stevens' support in an anti-corruption drive. But when his efforts looked like touching top civil servants he was hounded out of office and even suffered an assassination attempt.

One former minister said: "Stevens had his blue-eyed boys, who were in effect untouchable in the land. They could do no wrong until Stevens was fed up with using them; then he ditched them unceremoniously." Corruption revealed its most blatant face at election time, when ballot rigging was accompanied by intimidation and bloodshed and even murder. But on an

## Economy:

# Momoh falls short on 'new order'

After one year of the "new order" the economy is still in trouble, write Samadu Sesay and Feyi Ogunade from Freetown.

After twelve months in office President Momoh is writhing in a labyrinth of economic problems. His promises of a "new order" are beginning to wear a little thin and the joy that greeted his arrival at State House has turned into despair.

The recent floating of the Leone (the Sierra Leone currency) and the mass lay offs, wage freezes and inflation it triggered off was a major plank of the Government's International Monetary Fund inspired economic recovery programme. But it has been an additional source of hardship for the ordinary Sierra Leonean and the "new order" is now being dubbed the "new disorder".

Industry is operating at below capacity and agricultural output continues its annual decline. With only enough foreign currency reserves to cover 50 days of essential imports, Sierra Leone's 3.7 million people face daily shortages of such staples as rice, flour and palm-oil. By the end of last year the country's arrears on its foreign debt obligations totalled one-quarter of its export earnings, saddled by lower than anticipated agricultural and mineral sales.

But the "new order" started well. After only one month in office, the President ordered a review of prices and the cost of most consumer items was slashed by half. And in a tense 40-minute address to top

brass of the customs and police, the President's message was crisp and clear — discipline yourselves or else. "I am a snake, if you step on my head, I will bite you," he warned. His no-nonsense approach saw the slapping of deportation orders against corrupt foreign nationals who flouted the customs duties law.

Sheka Kanu, frankly told Parliament in June "that the GGDO has not only failed to improve the banking system's supply of foreign exchange, but has also failed to reduce the incentive to smuggle precious minerals." Last month its multi-millionaire managing director, Jamil Sahid Mohammed, was forced to resign after bitter in-

## Crisis management

Moving swiftly, Momoh scrapped the defunct PMMC (Precious Mineral and Marketing Company) and replaced it with the GGDO (Government Gold and Diamond Office), to harness the export of gold and diamonds for badly needed foreign exchange. Momoh then called for a full-scale inquiry into all government income generating institutions, reorganised the anti-smuggling squad and cut down Government's excessive spending by removing all provincial ministers. The President even recruited a West Indian banker to reform the country's finances as governor of the Central Bank.

But the President's well meaning attempts to grapple with the economy have failed to produce the desired results. Even the newly-created GGDO is faced with the threat of collapse with little export trade to speak of. The Minister of Finance, Dr



Momoh, flanked by Chief Justice Kutaba (left) and

## West Africa

everyday level, it could be seen in the illicit black market trading and the widespread smuggling of Sierra Leone's mineral riches, diamonds and gold. Despite its much vaunted political stability, the country was a bad bet for any foreign investors; consequently most of them steered clear of it.

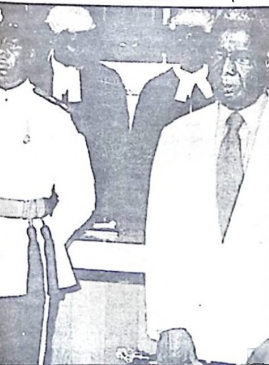
But even while Sierra Leone was crumbling at his feet, Stevens was confident enough to be jovially flippant. When asked whether his hosting of the Organisation of African Unity Summit in 1980 would make the country bankrupt, he replied "I don't think so. We are already bankrupt."

But by 1983 the country's total foreign debt exceeded US\$500m, almost a half of the gross national product, and debt servicing absorbed almost a third of official exports. The United Nations designated it a "least developed" country.

Many people believed that after years of studiously avoiding the issue of who was to succeed him, Stevens' retirement was prompted by the country's steady deterioration. It was no longer a joking matter.

fighting and criticism of his handling of the company. But it is not faring any better under its new management.

The Government's courtship with the IMF has been bitterly opposed by the majority of Sierra Leoneans. The President, explaining the need to go to the IMF to Chamber of Commerce members, said the "revitalisation of the economy will not be done without the cooperation of major financing agencies" and that such cooperation could only be achieved with the support of the IMF. The IMF's austerity package involved the floating of the leone following its delinking from the US dollar, the withdrawal of subsidies on rice and motor fuel, and liberalisation of imports.



Siaka Stevens, taking oath of office a year ago

and it was better to jump the sinking ship while there was still time.

The man he chose had never held elective office. He had spent all his life in the army, and his most notable qualities were his honesty and unsullied reputation. Under Momoh Sierra Leoneans wanted a complete break with the past, and were surprised when it didn't happen from day one.

Stevens' unenviable legacy has hung over Momoh's first year. The desired dramatic turnabout in the economy has failed to materialise; members of Stevens' "old guard" continue to wield considerable influence, and certain businessmen still stride confidently through the corridors of power, sometimes openly resisting new policies; and key sectors of the government continue to be run by people whose commitment to Momoh is highly suspect.

The man who was once hailed as a messiah is now a frequent target of attack. He himself recently acknowledged: "I know the public is unhappy and I know my popularity has dwindled."

But, he added: "In this business one should expect to be cheered today and jeered tomorrow. The day is not far when the public will cheer again."



Ex-President Siaka Stevens

These moves, State House aides argued, would eliminate the price distortions in the black market and end the numerous trade malpractices.

In less than 24 hours after the Minister of Finance announced in his annual budget speech that the leone had been floated in June, housewives were shocked to discover that the price of a ball of footoo had doubled and that sugar had gone up by 200 per cent a few hours later. "Goods are simply disappearing from the shelves of stores, only to reappear a few days after with new price tags," was the common grumble. Meanwhile, the leone has lost almost all of its value against the US dollar, with an exchange rate of Le30 compared to Le6 in January.

### Infrastructure's decay undermines potential mineral wealth.

Mining in the famous diamond mines of Kono and Sifadu has declined by 40 per cent, and light-manufacturing industries located at the Wellington Industrial Belt of Freetown are wiling because "there is not enough foreign exchange to import raw materials and spare parts. The result is that most store shelves are empty, and by next year experts predict that if the situation does not improve, people could start dying from starvation.

Speaking recently to a panel of principals and head teacher, the Chief Education Officer commented that: "The educational foundations of our society are presently being corroded by a rising tide of mediocrity that threatens our very future as a nation and a people. The recent IMF flotation of

the leone has made matters worse." Before the flotation, tuition fees for secondary schools stood at Le15 per term; now it has been revised in some schools to over Le120. High school fees will be another deterrent to parents to send their children to school in a country in which only a quarter of the population are literate.

As usual, the students were the first to voice their disapproval. After the proposed increase in fees of more than 500 per cent by the West African Examination Council (WAEC) for all candidates entering for the general certificate examinations in June, a mass demonstration was quickly averted by the Government who quickly budgeted a Le4.5m subsidy for this year's examinations.

The state of the country's infrastructure paints an equally gloomy picture. In the towns, especially Freetown the capital, pipe-borne water is a rarity. The private generators of the affluent can be heard grinding everyday as blackouts become an almost permanent feature of everyday life.

Torn between the potential of its mineral wealth and the reality of its pervasive poverty, the country faces a crisis of expectation.

Today Momoh faces his greatest challenge. But despite the grumbling discontent, even his bitterest critics agree that the amiable President had more than his work cut out for him when he took over from Stevens. "It's a case of a poorly-constructed building one inherited. You cannot demolish the building overnight," commented one prominent Sierra Leonean. Twelve months seems a long time, but it is short when one has to overhaul an economy that has been in the doldrums for nearly two decades.

Interview

# 'Suffer now, enjoy later'

Samadu Sesay, our Freetown correspondent, interviewed Finance Minister Sheka Kanu about the country's economic prospects.

**Q:** You recently returned from an International Monetary Fund meeting in Washington. What did you achieve?

**A:** We achieved a great deal. We went to Washington while our discussions with the IMF were at a critical stage. We were able to arrange payment of our arrears to the Fund. We made enough progress in our negotiations to be able to sign a Letter of Intent and as a result of that we expect a programme with the Fund shortly. This is a tremendous achievement: the country has gone through three years without such a programme, and during that period the international financial community had actually put Sierra Leone in quarantine, so to speak. No major financial institution in the world was prepared to do business with us.

**Q:** How much money did the Fund commit in the Economic Recovery Programme?

**A:** When we have the programme in front of us, I will announce how much money we are to get. But I can say that they are examining the possibility of a Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF). They are also looking at the possibility of an Extended Fund Facility (EFF). These are all indications that they are confident about our ability to sustain the programme, an expression of renewed confidence in the country and the running of its economy, generally.

## Policy initiatives

**Q:** In June you described the economy as being in a severely depressed state. What is the situation today?

**A:** It is still largely depressed. But I believe that having hit rock-bottom, we can now look forward to a new era of growth. Already our receipts of dollars are on the increase. For example, we recently received an application asking us to raise a million dollars for the payment of the shipping charges for the PL480 rice. We had a meeting at State House and I remember the startled looks on the faces of everybody when I announced that there were enough dollars in the banking system for the people who were running the PL480 programme.

**Q:** How is the economy responding to policy initiatives contained in the last budget speech?

**A:** The economy has responded well especially on the monetary front. The average import receipts from the sale of diamonds for the past two months is US\$5 million a month, that is an average which is nearly three times the average receipts for the preceding three years. And there is every

indication that that volume will increase further in the months ahead and perhaps the years ahead.

What we have done through incentives, through the efforts to destroy the black market, is to encourage all those who are operating in the economy to stop smuggling the diamonds because there is nothing to be gained from it. Diamonds should be sold on the open market so that money is put into the banking system.

You also know that as a result of the measures we announced in June, Dior (The Diamond Corporation of West Africa) has returned to Sierra Leone and has been buying large quantities of gold. In the first four weeks of their return they bought about \$600,000 worth of diamonds. Developments like this are happening all over the economy. What has not yet happened is that the productive sector of the economy has not yet responded because of certain difficulties.



Finance Minister Sheka Kanu

**Q:** There seems to be a lot of concern about the fluctuating exchange rates of the Leone to major currencies. Can you comment on how the revised exchange rate regime is responding to the forces of demand and supply?

**A:** I have already said that the country has hit rock-bottom as far as the economic depression is concerned. The clearest indication of this is that increasingly the banks are refusing to pay much more than Le30 for a dollar. A few weeks ago, they were paying as much as Le34 to a dollar. That is already a significant advance and the evidence available to us suggests that the slight improvement will continue because the economy is running short of Leones for reasons which I am not prepared to explain to you.

Businessmen who have been hiding their

dollars will be forced to sell them in order to collect Leones and operate in the economy. This is a trend that will continue.

We will do something of course to ease the shortage of Leones and that by definition means that the Leone is going to appreciate a little against the dollar.

**Q:** But in spite of these positive gains on the monetary front, there still seems to be a problem with servicing foreign debt obligations, leading to frequent withholding of disbursements of aid to sectoral ministries. How is this affecting the credit worthiness of the country?

**A:** The fact is that our credit worthiness is improving all the time. We have already repaid debts to the international community something like \$40 million since the beginning of July, and we shall continue to do so. The reason why the situation continues to look bad is simply that our indebtedness had already grown out of proportion because there was a long period during which no payments were being made at all.

It is true that a number of international financial institutions including the African Development Bank are still waiting to be paid. But we are confident that by the end of the year we'll be in a position to pay them because they are financing a number of key development projects. This includes the highway maintenance scheme which has come to a halt.

**Q:** Consumers started paying the full Leone equivalent of foreign exchange cost of petroleum products and rice immediately after your last budget speech, and yet we've seen two more price increases for petroleum products. Why is this and why are there still long fuel queues. Also, is the foreign exchange oil fund operational?

## Price increases

**A:** First of all, we have not yet allowed a full pass through of the international price of rice. A full pass through of the international price of rice is Le241 per bag and we have been selling rice to the Sierra Leone community at Le170. In the case of oil, when we announced the prices on the 27th of June, the basis of the calculation of these prices was Le14 to one dollar. By the time we announced the new prices in the middle of September, the Leone had depreciated to around Le30 to one dollar. Having agreed that we would eliminate the subsidies on petroleum products, we didn't have any choice but to practically double the price of those items which we had announced in June.

There are still queues because we have still not sorted out the difficult supply situation. But the matter is receiving our fullest attention. An additional factor for the long queues is the irregular supply of electricity to Freetown. A number of oil companies have pumping stations which

cannot be avoided. You have to operate them electrically, otherwise you damage the machines. As all these matters are receiving the most urgent attention of government, the sectors of electricity to the city, for example, should improve significantly, since an additional eleven megawatts of electricity will soon be available. And we are considering that, instead of simply continuing to repair machines which are more than 20 years old, it would be better to install new generating capacity in the city.

We realise that in the case of petroleum products, if the supplies are not normal, we limit activity in the two most important sectors of the economy, mining and agriculture. Therefore, we are determined that with the new mining season due to start in November-December, supplies of fuel to those sectors should return to normal and we hope we'll be able to do it.

The foreign exchange oil fund is not yet operational. We expect to put it into place early in the new year. Again, it is the pressure of our debt payments. When these ease up we shall start up the oil fund.

**Q: You have often expressed concern about budgetary performance. Yet there doesn't seem much more hope in reducing the overall deficit to the 2.5 per cent you envisage because the budget estimates, which were prepared before flotation, have become totally unrealistic. What are the indications so far?**

## Unrealistic exchange rate

A: The indications are that we are still running a deficit but at the end of the year that deficit should be substantially lower than it was for 1986. Of course the lighnes have become unrealistic for the reason which I have stated earlier: the basis of calculating these figures was an exchange rate of Le14 to one dollar. Exchange rate at the moment is around Le30 to one dollar. That is why we are going to Parliament with a mini-budget in December in order to correct these distortions.

**Q: You seem to put a lot of hope on watchdog bodies like the Presidential Economic Advisors Council, the National Planning and Development Institute, the Public Enterprises Council (PEC) and the Public Enterprises Monitoring Unit (PEMU) in managing the economy when you announced them in June. Are they now operational and what impact, if any, have they made?**

A: These bodies are not yet operational because of the tremendous amount of administrative work that was necessary to get the new policies moving and adopted by the various sectoral ministries. But the PEC and the PEMU are already approved by the Cabinet and we are in the process of establishing them. I am also actively discussing the establishment of the Planning and Development Institute with the Minis-



Momah with his officials at a rice project of his Green Revolution

try of Development and a West German financier. We expect early in the New Year to proceed to the business of setting up this institute which is critical in my own judgement to a better planning and performance in the economy generally.

**Q: Have you been able to enforce full surrender obligations without exception?**

A: Yes. To the best of our ability, we have. We still have one major company with whom we have not yet reached full agreement. But they have already started surrendering substantial sums of money to us and we hope that very soon we will reach a full agreement with them.

**"The sacrifices which people are having to make now are necessary for that bright future ahead."**

**Q: Don't you think that too much reliance on market forces in an underdeveloped economy can only encourage unscrupulous businessmen to unfairly manipulate the market to their advantage?**

A: This was in fact the response of the business community when I announced the budget measures. Some of them said, "We are going to have a field day." But they did not realise one thing I also said in the budget that while we would decontrol prices, cautious valuation was to be done on the basis of the floor. The result is that revenues have increased quite substantially and a lot of small business houses are running into difficulties. We did not deliberately set out to create difficulties for them, but they are in difficulty because they thought they could toker with the system. Most of them now realise that they are a part of the system and they have a responsibility to behave properly.

We hope that when the economy begins to pick up in the second half of the financial year, the whole business community will benefit and the whole community of Sierra Leone will benefit. The

strains will begin to lessen because we expect that by the end of the financial year, every importer in the country will be able to go to their bank and buy their dollars and bring their goods in without any problem. Therefore, the sacrifices which people are having to make now are necessary for that brighter future ahead.

**Q: On reflection, do you think it was right to float the Leone?**

A: Absolutely. If we hadn't floated the Leone, we would not have seen US\$5 million in a month from diamonds. It means that when all the other sectors of the economy respond to the measures we have taken, the country is going to start enough money to service the whole economy without problems. I think the results are there to show that it was the correct thing to do. If you have a disease and you decide to take only half the quantum of medicine you need to be cured, you are not going to get cured. You might feel a little better, but you stay permanently sick. The economy had stayed permanently sick for too long and we thought it was necessary to take the drastic measures that we took in order to find a remedy and a cure.

We believe that we are on the way, we believe that the economy is beginning to mend, we know things are very difficult but if the increase in revenues is sustained and foreign exchange comes in as it is beginning to come in, then we will be able to do something substantial by next July. It is better to suffer for these few months and look forward to better payments in wages and salaries, better receipts of produce. Produce is coming in, the marketing board buying season is on now and we have information indicating that private buyers have bought more than a thousand tons of cocoa and coffee in the border areas. And the implication of this is that people are no longer smuggling their cocoa and coffee but they are selling it within the system because we are paying the correct prices for them.



Uganda

## Museveni optimistic about future

Elizabeth Kanyogonya reports on a meeting of Ugandans held during the President's first official visit to London.

More than a thousand people packed into London's Commonwealth Institute to hear the Ugandan leader Yoweri Museveni speak during his recent three-day visit to Britain.

The unexpectedly high turn-out took even the President by surprise as he took his place on the platform. But after exclaiming: "Who are you all?" he quickly launched into a one-hour long speech.

The political situation in Uganda had been "unsatisfactory for some time," he said. More than 800,000 people had been killed "by the state," and the National Resistance Movement's response to this carnage had been to wage an armed campaign against "all these dictators" who had plunged the country into such a mess.

"Politics is like medicine, and politicians should, like doctors, be in a position to make a proper diagnosis. Ever since independence Uganda had always been given the wrong diagnosis, and therefore, inevitably, the wrong prescription."

Religion and tribalism had been the watchword of Ugandan politics. Politicians had in effect said: "Elect me because I am your man — from your religion and tribe. The question of my quality does not come into it." But the President was confident into the "new politics" of the National Resistance Movement Government. Ugandans were at last being steered away from this sectarianism.

Turning to the economy, Museveni said the country's potential was considerable. Only a small proportion of land was currently under cultivation, and despite the

disruption of the civil war "nobody has ever heard of starvation in Uganda."

He emphasised that the small peasant farmer needed the government's support because he was the mainstay of the agricultural economy and was more reliable than the absentee plantation owner. "Whenever there is a disturbance, the plantation owner runs away . . . perhaps some of you are plantation owners who have fled to London? But the small farmer will not leave his only source of livelihood."

### Uganda was given the wrong diagnosis for 24 years — but the NRM has changed it.

The major constraints on the economy, the President said, were the broken down infrastructure and inflation. Roads were "a real bottleneck." It now took nine hours to travel from the 265 miles from Kabale (in Western Uganda) to Kampala. In the past it used to take five hours. This slowed down other economic activities and damaged vehicles, for which there were no easily available spare parts. All of this had an inflationary effect on the prices of other goods and services. "A bunch of *matooke* costs 15,000sh in Kampala, while in Ibanda it costs 300sh, simply because there are not enough trucks to transport agricultural produce from one part of the country to another," he told the meeting.

The shortage of manufactured goods like soap and toilet paper — "small things but which nonetheless destabilise the

economy" — and an excess of currency notes inherited from former regimes were contributing to the hyper-inflation. The *matooke* (the staple green bananas) farmer had to put up the price of his produce in order to be able to afford soap and so contributed to the vicious circle.

Museveni added that the NRM Government had inherited debts left by Idi Amin and Milton Obote. "We don't know what they did with the money and whether the debts are justified or not." Since there was little evidence that the money had been spent on development projects, but that it had probably been spent on "whisky, wigs and perfumes," what obligation did the new government have towards its creditors? he asked.

The European Community had agreed to give Uganda £125m over a five-year period, but the country's annual debt servicing bill was \$200m. The government was looking into ways of either having the debts cancelled or rescheduled and would also introduce legislation limiting the state's powers of incurring foreign debts and leaving future generations saddled with them.

### Doomsayers proved wrong

The NRM Government would also negotiate barter trade deals in order to stop the country sinking deeper into debt, he said. And while donations and grants from outside bodies were welcome, they could only provide a temporary respite as Uganda could not live on charity forever. Once Uganda had produced about 60 per cent of its manufactured consumer goods, that capacity had now gone down to about 10 per cent. The government had to work to rebuild that base, and that could not be done with aid funds alone.

On the security situation in Uganda, the President said that predictions in some sections of the international media that the country was about to disintegrate were untrue. In the north "troublemakers" had been "neutralised," and Resistance Committees had been successful in West Nile (Amin's home area) and Lango (Obote's) in showing people that the NRM was "on their side." "Uganda is more homogenous than people imagine," he said. Previous governments had exploited people by highlighting differences and minimising their common features.

The President added that the NRM was popular among ordinary people and had proved the doomsayers wrong who had insisted that "Ugandan tribes are so hostile to each other that they cannot possibly live together." And he talked of the many "experts" who were offering advice on how the country should be run: "Do this, do that. This is good for you. When it comes to African politics, everybody is an expert — but I don't blame

## East Africa

them for trying to take advantage of it if we put ourselves in an exposed position of weakness."

On the question of whether Ugandan Asians were welcome back to the country, the President said Asian citizens of Uganda could reclaim their rights, but those who held other passports would have to reapply for work and residence permits. Compensation for their property expropriated by Idi Amin in 1972 was, however, a more difficult issue. "What about the those who lost lives? How will they be compensated?"

### No compensation for Asians

The audience was a fairly comprehensive reflection of Ugandan society and political life: Conservative Party (CP) monarchists jostled with supporters of Obote's Uganda People's Congress Party; members of the anti-NRM UNLF-AD (Uganda National Liberation Front - Anti-Dictatorship) who, among other things, have accused Museveni of being a militarist dictator, were there too, along with supporters of the Democratic Party and the Uganda Freedom Movement who wanted to know why "their" ministers had been imprisoned by the NRM Government. Museveni told them the matter was still *sub judice*.



President Museveni (left) shaking hands with Mrs. Alidina Vorzun, a Ugandan woman centre (wearing glasses) is the Ugandan High Commissioner in London, Mr. Ernest Rastika. On the right standing, standing is Mr. Tumusiime-Mutebile, PS in the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development.

## Europe not always to blame

The British tactics of divide and rule had created many problems for the people of Uganda, President Yoweri Museveni said in London this week.

He was speaking at a gathering of the Royal Commonwealth Society just fresh from a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, at which he was promised a £10m grant.

"They divided the country into two and decided that the northern Nilotic people were 'martial' and so recruited them into the army, and the southern Bantu were 'softer' intellectual types.

"This has caused us many problems, but we are steadily getting rid of this political and economic disequilibrium," said the President, who came to power in January after a bitter civil war.

Moving from Uganda to the rest of Africa, he told his audience of distinguished Commonwealth diplomats and prominent businessmen that the continent's relationship with Europe had not been a happy one.

"The relationship started out as an equal trading one and then degenerated into a plundering of our resources and manpower," he said. But he added: "I am not saying that this was all the fault of Europeans because the slave trade was carried out with the connivance of our chiefs."

Today, many African leaders mortgaged

the future of their countries for video recorders and other luxury consumer items from the West rather than creating wealth for their people.

"African leaders must accept responsibility for their problems. It is within our power to resist the disequilibrium. I am sure our position will be respected if we do."

### Kampala now safe

While he was at the Non-Aligned Summit in Harare in September his colleagues had been "busily denouncing the evil" of the Western powers. "I asked them why we didn't put our own houses in order first," said the President, who also met with the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and the Queen.

Mr Museveni went on to say that he refused to accept that there was an "African crisis." "It is not the Africans who created these problems (of poverty, hunger and debt). You cannot rule out the contribution of other races."

The President agreed that Kampala was now one of the safest cities in Africa. The bringing of peace to the capital after years of civil war had not, however, been a miracle but one of the main objectives of his government.

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# A thorn in Mobutu's side

Three years ago the Congolese Liberation Party (PLC) was established to wage an armed struggle against President Mobutu Sese Seko who seized power in 1965. Our Kampala Correspondent, **Henry Gombya**, spoke with its leader Antinio Kibingu, a former member of Patrice Lumumba's Mouvement National Congolais. Lumumba, Zaire's (then the Congo) first leader, was widely believed to have been assassinated by his rival Mobutu in 1961.

**Q:** Could you explain the basis of your movement?

**A:** The movement was formed in 1983 in opposition to the Mobutu regime. Mobutu is a fascist who does not want to negotiate or discuss the problems of the country with anyone. Those who have criticised him have been arrested; many have been killed. We realise that we would have to wait for a thousand years before getting any favourable response from him. That is why we have adopted the only alternative — an armed struggle against Mobutu.

After we have overthrown him it is our intention to restore democracy in the country. We also have to build up the economy and raise the standard of living of our people. We also want to give every Congolese freedom of expression and to rehabilitate their civil rights. We also intend to end the corruption.

**Q:** What were the main conditions you gave to Mobutu?

**A:** One of them was the restoration of democracy — that he must allow a political opposition to exist. We also demanded that he hold elections so that the Congolese people can choose the leaders they want.

## Human rights

**Q:** How extensive is the violation of human rights in Zaire?

**A:** I will give you one example. About 13 parliamentarians decided to create a new party. They wrote to Mobutu about their intentions. But soon after, they were arrested, tortured and some of them are now invalids. Clandestine assassinations of those suspected of being anti-government frequently take place. Others have been arrested and put in prison where they have been literally starved to death.

In Shaba Province, for example, it is the Protestant missionaries who feed prisoners and not the government. Last year, there was a massacre of students in Bukavu, Kivu Province, as a result of a misunderstanding between Mobutu's soldiers and the students.

**Q:** Does your movement have real support within the country?

**A:** We have the support of the Congolese people, that is all I have to say.



Kibingu Marandura: set to bring Mobutu down

**Q:** Why do you use the name 'Congo' for your party?

**A:** We do not know why Mobutu changed the name of the country to Zaire. When the PLC takes over we shall restore the name to Congo. And we shall ask the people to choose their own names (Mobutu ordered Zaireans to drop their Christian names after he discarded his own name of Joseph Desire as part of his 'Africanisation' policy).

**"Mobutu is a puppet because he is in the pockets of the United States and France."**

**Q:** Is your armed struggle operating in Zaire or outside the country?

**A:** We are operating over almost all the Congo. We have bases in Kivu and Shaba Provinces as well as in the northern part of

Kisangani. And we have small guerilla units all over the country.

**Q:** Have you made any recent attacks against the Mobutu Government?

**A:** In August we launched an attack against Mobutu's troops and killed 60 soldiers. Only last month between the 11th and 14th, we attacked Mobutu's soldiers at Mchokra and Mtwara.

**Q:** Where do you get your troops from?

**A:** In 1964, we launched a huge offensive against the enemy in which the revolutionary forces occupied three-quarters of the country. Despite the fact that the revolutionary forces failed to oust Mobutu, our combatants remained in the country. When I left the country, I was in communication with the Simba Forces which also remained in the Congo and with whom we began to collaborate. We then started recruitment through the Simba because many of its troops had been specially trained for guerilla warfare by the Chinese Government. Our present army has never been trained outside the country. Our senior soldiers carry out all the training.

## Waging war

**Q:** Where do you get your weapons from?

**A:** We get them from the enemy after each attack. In the beginning, though, we fought with traditional weapons.

**Q:** In 1964 Mobutu used foreign troops to help him crush the rebels. Don't you think he will do this again once you start seriously threatening his government?

**A:** When we started the struggle we were fully aware of foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Congo. Our movement, however, is based on the people's support. We have already started mobilising the people who have now accepted us. Mobutu and his foreign troops cannot conquer us with this backing. If the first revolution collapsed, it is because the people did not know exactly what we stood for.

In the past, diplomacy was at a low level. We are now in a more experienced position to convince the powers to withdraw their support from the puppet Mobutu. Even if these countries do not accept this, we are still a force to be reckoned with.

**Q:** Why do you call Mobutu a puppet?

**A:** He is a puppet because he is in the pockets of the United States and France. Mobutu is a policeman of imperialist interests: he is an international agent of imperialism in Africa. When a country is attacked by revolutionaries, Mobutu sends in troops because the West asks him to do so. Look at his role in Chad and Togo.

Mobutu sent his troops to Chad against Libyan-backed rebels on behalf of France in 1984 and to help crush seditious activity

following an abortive coup attempt in Togo in September. Mobutu is also allowing UNITA to operate from within his country in order to topple Marxist Angola.

**Q:** Currently there is a rumour circulating among Southern African countries that President Mobutu might have had a hand in the death of the late President Machel. Do you think this might have been possible?

**A:** Indeed. Our organisation has evidence that Mobutu used his ambassador in Maputo to carry what might have been the cause of the plane's crash. Perhaps you might ask me why Mobutu would risk the life of his ambassador who died in the accident. For Mobutu, an ambassador is nothing. He can always get another one. The main objective was to accomplish the mission given by his masters. Mobutu has killed his ministers before, so he would not mind killing his ambassador.

### Insidious murderer

Mobutu could have also alerted South Africa that Machel had left Zambia (where he and other Frontline state leaders had been meeting with Mobutu), for Maputo so they could make their preparations. We know that Mobutu was involved in the sudden death of former president Augustino Neto of Angola. We cannot reveal the



President Mobutu Sese-Seko

details, but we, the Congolese, know what Mobutu did. And we know how he instigated the death of Marien Nguabi, the late leader of Congo-Brazzaville. Whenever Western countries want to kill radical leaders, they use Mobutu.

## More violence in Zaire

Kibingo Marandura later told our correspondent just before press time that after the recent clashes between the Congolese Liberation Army (FAPC) with the Zairean Government troops, which took part on 13th and 14th in three towns of Muchora, Mtwanga and Lume, more soldiers were killed and several soldiers were reported to be admitted in Witcha, an American hospital. Those admitted to hospital are continuing to die.

There is more violence in three towns: Muchora, Mtwanga and Lume. Government troops are involved in raping women and schoolgirls, stealing of property. All goats and pigs were taken by soldiers. Nobody to complain about it.

# MURTALA MUHAMMED — A LEADER BETRAYED

(A study in Buhari's Tyranny)

BY EBENEZER BABATOPE

MURTALA MUHAMMED — A LEADER BETRAYED is a documentary sourcebook of political events in Nigeria between February 1976 and August 1985: an insider's view of the background to the watershed 1979 elections and the intrigues, conspiracies and motives of the leading actors in that drama; the political traumas, the parties and personalities, the political alliances and misalliances of the Second Republic; the reign of terror of General Buhari and his clique.

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# Molotov dies in obscurity

The last of the old Bolsheviks who helped Lenin seize power in 1917, and who was Stalin's right-hand man for 50 years, has died in semi-disgrace. William Forrest describes the career of Vyacheslav Molotov.

At the ripe old age of 96 Molotov died in his bed. History will credit him with greater achievements than that but none more remarkable. The odds were all against a peaceful end for the little white-coated Bolshevik with the gold pince-nez who had lived for half a century in the shadow of violent death.

In his early years he was jailed six times and exiled twice by the Tsarist police. He survived, to halt the overthrow of the Tsar in 1917 in the columns of *Pravda*.

In his prime he was admitted to the club with the highest death-rate ever — Stalin's Politburo.

In his declining years he led the Bolshevik old guard's unavailing opposition to the new star, Nikita Khrushchev. He survived, to endure 30 years of humiliation and obscurity, contemptuously dismissed by Kremlin spokesmen as "a political corpse of no importance." Lenin had seen nothing more in him than "the best filling-duck in Russia." Trotsky despised him. "You are mediocrity incarnate," he told him once. Molotov quietly replied: "Not everyone can be a genius, Comrade Trotsky. But we shall see who comes through in the end."

## Diplomatic skill

Stalin too baited him unmercifully, but from him Molotov took it all lying down — even when his own wife, a Jewess from Odessa, having fallen foul of Stalin was banished from Moscow. When de Gaulle came to Moscow in 1944 Stalin told him, in Molotov's presence: "You are a hard bargainer. You got the better of Molotov. I think we shall have to shoot him."

De Gaulle laughed, but Molotov went white. Having seen what happened to so many others, could he be sure it was just a joke? It was left to the Western leaders, with whom he crossed swords in many a Cold War encounter, to give Molotov his due. To Churchill he was "a man of outstanding ability and cold-blooded ruthlessness." And Dulles awarded him the diplomatic Oscar: "I have seen in action all the great statesmen of this century. I have never seen such diplomatic skill at so high a degree of perfection as Mr Molotov's."

But Ernest Bevin, on one occasion at least, proved more than a match for him. Molotov had been dilating on the rights of the toiling masses. "What do you know about workers?" asked Bevin, and thrust-



Vyacheslav Molotov: died in obscurity

ing out his big horny hands, demanded: "Show me yours." Molotov reddened and evaded the challenge.

In fact, like most of the Bolshevik leaders, Lenin among them, Molotov had no roots in the working-class. His father, Mikhail Skryabin, kinsman of the composer, was a bookkeeper in a small provincial town. Young Vyacheslav — a romantic sentimental youth, — played second fiddle in a local violin quartet, then went to high school in Kazan, and on to St Petersburg. In Kazan he had already joined the illegal Bolshevik Party. In St Petersburg his comrades gave him the cover name of Molotov (Hammer Man).

In 1912 a millionaire sympathiser put up 100,000 roubles to launch *Pravda*. Editor: Stalin, the Man of Steel, aged 33; news editor: the Hammer Man, aged 22.

So began an association that was to last forty years, through Revolution, Civil War and Terror, two Great Wars and the Cold War, with Molotov always content to play second fiddle to the great No. 1.

If his conscience ever troubled him over the horrors of the thirties, his dead-pale face never showed it. Looking into Molotov's eyes, said a Western diplomat, was "like looking into a refrigerator when the lights have gone out."

In May 1939, Molotov replaced Litvinov as Foreign Minister, and three months later he stunned the world with the

Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, the signal for World War II. Not till he was 50 did Molotov set foot outside the Soviet Union. In November 1940, during the London blitz, he was Hitler's guest in Berlin. Within a year he was Churchill's guest at Chequers.

Thereafter the world was his stage, and one on which he was to win his melancholy reputation as the abominable No-man-of-the-East-West debate.

After Stalin's death things could never be the same again for his life-long shadow. But until the power vacuum in the Kremlin could be filled by a new master it was expedient to have him at the helm of Soviet diplomacy. There he remained three more years, a steady influence rather than a driving force.

In any case all the drive was now coming from Khrushchev, who blazed trails that Molotov could never follow. The Thaw, Peaceful Co-existence, reconciliation with Tito — these were not for the old Cold Warrior.

## Downward slide

In June 1956, on the very eve of Tito's first post-Stalin visit to Moscow, Molotov was dismissed from the Foreign Ministry. But he was not yet done for. When the upheavals in Poland and Hungary exposed the dangers of over-hasty de-Stalinisation, Molotov rallied the Stalinist old guard for a comeback. This was the famous "anti-Party plot." And it only just failed.

For Molotov the price of failure was an ignominious posting as ambassador to Outer Mongolia — the equivalent of exile — and three years later the no less humiliating assignment with the Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

To everyone it looked like the end. But Khrushchev's open breach with China in 1961 tempted Molotov to one last throw. In a circular letter to all the members of the Party's Central Committee he backed the Chinese line, saying: "Without serious conflict, without war, an advance to Communism is impossible."

At the subsequent Party congress Molotov was denounced by speaker after speaker as "an enemy of the Party"; his name was erased from everything that bore it; and in 1964 he suffered the ultimate degradation of expulsion from the Party which he had joined in 1916.

Two years ago, during Chernenko's brief reign as No. 1, Molotov, aged 94, was restored to the Party ranks, but by that time the man who had made so much of the history of the tempestuous 20th Century had ceased to cut any ice at home or abroad. And if his name was mentioned at all, it was more often than not in reference to a certain cocktail — not the convivial cocktail that cheers but the highly inflammable one that kills. A fitting end, perhaps, to a grisly career.

## Energy

# The case for harnessing natural energy

More energy arrives at the earth's surface in an hour than the world consumes in a year. Despite that, most industrial nations say they will go on investing in nuclear power. Mike Rose examines the reasons.

**E**cologists and environmentalists who hoped that the Chernobyl nuclear disaster would herald a major emphasis on alternative or renewable energy sources are likely to be disappointed.

Most advanced Western industrial nations have said they will continue investing in nuclear power while taking advantage of the fall in the prices of traditional energy. The Communist bloc under the Soviet Union appears to be following a similar policy.

Falling oil prices, which in turn have forced price cuts in coal, mean that the burning of polluting fossil fuels has again become an economically viable alternative to nuclear energy.

This has led to the indefinite postponement of the commitment to invest enough funds in renewable energy research which would eventually permit the mass provision of environmentally sound power supplies.

Most experts acknowledge that the complete phase-out of traditional energy sources will take many years because of the huge scale of energy needs of both advanced industrial and developing nations.

### Solar power

But supporters of renewable resources argue that there is no practical reason why nations should not increase the ratio of alternative energy so that it gradually comes to outweigh less healthy energy.

They point out that whereas colder nations would be dependent on substantial amounts of traditional energy during the winter months in the short to medium term, hotter nations are better placed to adapt rapidly to renewables, especially the abundant opportunities provided by solar power.

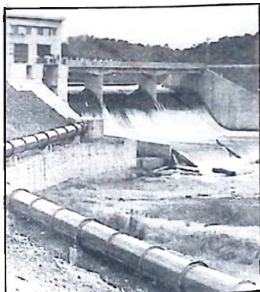
A spokesman for the London-based environmental organisation, Earthscan, says Chernobyl could not have come at a worse time: "If it had occurred five years ago, when the price of oil was high, there would have been a much greater incentive for governments to embark seriously on large-scale projects to harness renewables."

"Now, with OPEC in disarray and oil prices down, countries are content to rely on the windfall of cheap energy prices with little time or money to contemplate seriously forking out the sums which the large scale conversions to renewables would cost."

It is a question of scale. Most major  
AFRICAN CONCORD 27 NOVEMBER 1986

industrial nations prefer to think big when considering energy supplies, not least for questions of national security. A few major installations producing large quantities of energy — nuclear, hydro-electric, coal- or oil-fired — provide a sense of national strength and capability. They also provide easily located targets.

In contrast, small-scale and localised systems dependent on the natural availability of energy can leave nations feeling vulnerable and subject to the whims of nature.



The Goma hydro-electric station built by the Chinese

Such thinking is fallacious, argue Daniel Deudney and Christopher Flavin in their book, *Renewable Energy: The Power to Choose*. They claim that "countries filled with communities that use small-scale dispersed energy technologies will be much less militarily vulnerable."

### "communities using small-scale energy technologies will be much less militarily vulnerable"

"As a recent US Government study points out, Japan — reliant on small hydro plants for 87 per cent of its electricity — emerged from the bombing attacks of World War Two with almost all its power-producing capacity intact. On the other hand, Germany's ability to wage war collapsed when Allied bombers destroyed the relative handful of large coal and synthetic fuel plants that powered German industry."

Nevertheless, most policymakers continue to think that "big is beautiful," paying lip service to the merits of renewable energy while emphasising its parochial nature and promoting it as the little brother of large-scale energy production.

As one European energy consultant put it: "Although renewable energy can in some cases complement nuclear and fossil fuel energy, it is unlikely to replace it in the foreseeable future."

Britain provides a good example of a nation paying lip service to renewable energy while pursuing a pro-nuclear policy. Its Department of Energy is quick to highlight its commitment to renewable energy, emphasising annual expenditure on research of around £15 million.

Critics point out that the nuclear industry receives ten times that amount. They are also concerned that the official research establishment involved with renewables is far from independent: the Energy Technology Support Unit is based at the Atomic Energy Research Centre at Harwell, a vital part of Britain's nuclear effort.

Supporters of the anti-nuclear lobby have given considerable thought to the viability of renewables over the short, medium and long terms. Energy expert Dr Michael Flood estimates that: "If measures were taken to improve overall energy efficiency in Britain, renewables could contribute around 20 per cent of energy in 2025."

In other words, a gradual change in the ratio of renewables to non-renewables while at the same time promoting conservation programmes which experts estimate could save up to 30 per cent of current energy consumption in colder northern climes.

Organisations like Britain's Friends of the Earth readily acknowledge that different nations and climatic regions have different supply and demand patterns. For example, a landlocked African country would be unable to harness tidal or wave power but would have an abundance of solar power easily converted into electrical energy to run irrigation pumps and other facilities.

Many colder northern nations could harness a combination of systems, using wind and geothermal, tidal and wave and even solar, according to availability and season.

Deudney and Flavin argue that: "There are no Saudi Arabias of renewable energy. Almost every place on earth has an

abundance of either strong wind, intense sunlight, rich plant growth, heavy rainfall or geothermal heat."

More energy arrives at the earth's surface in an hour than the world consumes in a year. The immense power of the sun can be used "passively" by constructing buildings which can directly absorb solar energy and "actively" by converting it into electricity. Moreover, such systems can be individualised — a marked contrast with tidal and wave power systems which need large-scale installations and major investments.

Production of fuels and energy from a diversity of plants and waste matter, known as biomass, is increasingly being used throughout the world. Refuse incineration is being channelled to heat buildings. Sewage and agricultural waste has long been used to produce methane gas, and nations like Brazil produce alcohol from sugar cane to fuel specially adapted

vehicles.

Several European nations have already introduced combined heat and power systems which use coolant water from power stations to provide community heating, doubling the efficiency and yield of traditional power stations.

Huge wind farms producing energy from giant windmills have been successfully set up in California, although their visual impact on the environment has attracted adverse comment.

Overall, most ideas for alternative energy systems have been thoroughly tested and found to work well. All that is lacking is the political will to implement them on a nationwide basis in the face of disparagement and sometimes entrenched hostility from the pro-nuclear lobby. Without the support of central governments, many worthwhile projects will never get off the ground due to the magnitude of the research and investment required in them.

According to Deudney and Flavin, nations rich and small will benefit immeasurably from the conversion to renewable energy: "Localities will be much more energy self-reliant in a world where renewable energy is dominant. Much of the money now leaving one nation for the purchase of fuel from another will be spent on locally gathered supplies."

"Heat for buildings in North America will come from the rooftops, not from the Middle East. Villagers in India will light their houses with electricity generated using the resources of the local environment instead of with kerosene from Indonesia's outer continental shelf."

"As the distance between users and suppliers of most energy supplies shrinks, self-reliant communities will be ever less subject to sudden price hikes or supply interruptions. Energy production will thus reinforce rather than undermine local economies and local autonomy."

### Energy

## Cheap power from the sun

The most promising source of energy for the world is the sun. Solar power stations are the best prospect, especially for remote Third World areas. They would operate unattended for 10 to 20 years, having no moving parts to wear out. **Geoffrey Hugh Lindop reports.**

The primary source of power on our planet is the sun. It bathes the earth in heat, driving our weather systems. It provides plants with energy, which in turn become energy for animals.

Yet while we may burn coal and oil, which are forms of second-hand sunlight, we have not tapped the power of the sun itself as a form of energy to any great extent to power our industry or to heat our homes.

This is not surprising when we consider that our homes need to be heated and lit at night. Even during the day, industry would be unable to cope with an energy source that disappeared behind a cloud.

Tomorrow's technology has a solution. Sunlight will be collected above the atmosphere by a spacecraft. The sunlight will then be converted into a radio beam and transmitted to the ground where a receiver will convert it back into electricity and feed it to a city in the normal way.

The system provides for a safety cut-off should the beam wander off station. This is seen as a reliable non-polluting form of energy. However, we must await the turn of the century before any such station becomes operational.

In the short-term, solar energy can be collected by very large mirrors and concentrated on to a boiler. The steam it produces can turn a turbine and generate electricity. The Soviet Union has already achieved a degree of success with such a system.

In 1980 the Turkmenian Solar Power Institute in Central Soviet Asia provided solar power systems for shepherds in the Kara Kum desert. Not only was heat and light provided for the shepherds' houses, but also a facility to house 2,000 sheep in heated pens. Power was also provided to pump and desalinate well-water.

In the Crimea the Soviet Union has a solar power station generating 5,000 kilowatts. It also plans to build a 200-megawatt system. Scientists in Leningrad are planning a network of such stations in the sunny, cloudless areas between the Pacific Ocean and the Black Sea — a network spanning 11 time zones which, when linked to the national grids, will provide electricity 24 hours a day.

### By the year 2100, every home will have a solar power unit.

The US expects to have a 60 megawatt solar power station operational within five to ten years. It has joined forces with eight European countries which, under the West German research organisation DFVLR, have tested two types of solar power station at Almeria, Southern Spain. Results from the three-year project concluded in 1984 have just been published.

In one system, sunlight is reflected from 4,000 square metres of mirror surfaces on-

to a tower 43m above the ground. Here sodium is heated to 530°C. By pumping the sodium around a closed circuit, it is cooled by passing it through a water vessel. The resultant steam powers a turbine. Despite the complexities of the concept, the heat transfer system has an efficiency of 91 per cent.

The second system tested at Almeria uses thermal oil to transfer the heat to the water. This worked at a lower temperature of 250 to 300°C. Overall, the performance of both systems was disappointing. Only 9 per cent of the sunlight was converted into electricity using the thermal oil system, and 18 per cent using the sodium receiver.

Nevertheless, such solar power stations will become viable in the near future. The disadvantage lies in their having to be located in cloudless areas. Perhaps the Sahara will become the world's smelting house.

Devoid of natural resources but able to sustain industry with unlimited cheap power, the cost equation might make it economic to import raw materials and export finished products from the Sahara.

But these solar power stations and the spaceborne power stations generate electricity indirectly. It is possible, using a solar cell, to generate electricity directly from sunlight. The simplest such system is the photographer's light meter, which measures the electricity generated by the incident light and provides a means of determining the light level of the scene to be photographed.

A single solar cell can only produce 0.5 volts, but higher voltages can be achieved by connecting cells together. The cost of producing a single cell is high, and this is reflected in the cost of manufacturing a large array of cells.

In 1954 one watt of electricity produced by a solar cell cost \$10,000, but provided a

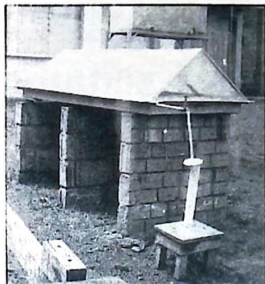
reliable form of power over 10 years. This reliability and the abundant supply of sunlight above the earth's atmosphere make the solar cell an ideal method of powering spacecraft.

With the development of more powerful satellites, demand has been steady for larger and larger arrays of solar cells. This has led to mass production techniques, bringing the cost down from \$1,000 per watt in 1965 to \$500 per watt in 1973.

The development of cheap solar energy is taking longer than anticipated. In 1978 the US Department of Energy challenged the industry to produce solar energy for \$0.50 per watt by 1986. Even allowing for inflation, that goal has not yet been met.

But the outlook is not altogether pessimistic. No mechanical system is 100 per cent efficient. Typically, in a coal-fired electric power station only 32 per cent of the energy available in the coal is converted into electricity. The rest is lost as waste heat and in the friction of the bearings.

Yet this seemingly poor performance is good compared with the efficiency of solar-powered generation. A breakthrough came in 1975 when a new type of cell developed by Dr Richard Stern of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory achieved an efficiency of 15 per cent with ambitious prospects of achieving 24 per cent in the near future.



*Solar distiller at a technological institute in Enugu, Nigeria*

At the beginning of this year solar cells had achieved an efficiency of 21 per cent. Then engineers at Stanford University, California, made a breakthrough with 27.5 per cent and hope to reach 29 per cent soon.

This improved performance has been realised by making the cell smaller and trapping the light inside it by means of tiny lenses. It is realistic to forecast the cost of solar electricity at between \$2 and \$3 per watt. It is still far more expensive than conventional power, but only because we think on a big scale.

Once installed, solar power stations should operate unattended for 10 to 20 years. With no moving parts to wear out, they provide excellent maintenance-free systems.

In Tangaye, Burkina Faso, a 1.8 kilowatt solar power unit is able to pump 4,500 litres (1,200 gallons) of water from the 9.15m (30ft) deep well. An electric grindstone can grind flour in 10 minutes—a task that used to take two hours by hand.

Although such power units are expensive initially, they should be seen as a long-term investment. Compare the once in 10 years installation visit with the monthly trek to bring diesel oil or bottled gas over non-existent roads to a remote village.

Further, a diesel electric generator is prone to break down, and without a mechanic this presents a problem.

A small remote village could not afford the capital cost of such an investment, but a donor country would benefit by the sale of solar electric units. Furthermore, by the stimulated demand the cost per watt would be further reduced, making the units attractive for the domestic market as well.

Thus it can be confidently predicted that by the year 2100 every home in the world, except those in polar regions, will have a solar power unit on the roof. This will provide all the household electrical needs, eliminating the need for conventional power stations, nuclear or fossil fuel.

# THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF ORGANISATION OF NIGERIAN PROFESSIONALS IN THE UNITED STATES

The members and the National Executive of the Organisation of Nigerian Professional (O.N.P.) in the United States cordially invite individuals and organisations in and outside the United States to its third annual national convention planned to take place in Washington D.C. USA, on Saturday, November 29, 1986.

Lecture and symposia topics are welcome. For additional details, interested persons and organisations should contact:

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1827 Gentilly Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70122  
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# CONCORD BUSINESS FORUM

## 25 years of Stock Exchange

The Nigerian Stock Exchange seem justified to celebrate last week

**D**ESPITE many difficulties and setbacks, the Nigeria capital market has proved itself adaptable to changes and capable of growth. Twenty-five years and five months ago, the Nigerian Stock Exchange (formerly Lagos Stock Exchange) opened its doors for trading without permanent office of its own. It had then listed 19 securities worth about N80 million with three dealing members (stockbrokers). Today, the Exchange has 186 Securities listed with a market value of over N7 billion. There are 23 stockbrokers on the Exchange representing institutional and private ownership.

This impressive growth in value and number of Securities listed is mainly due to the support and actions of the Federal Government. Since the first government securities were floated in 1942 to start the Nigerian Capital Market, government has supported the market by buying and selling securities and by various legislations.

In 1961, the government created the Lagos Stock Exchange (and later Nigerian Stock Exchange in 1977) by the Stock Exchange Act of 1961. This institution was established as an independent and non-profit making body. Through its trading floors in Lagos, Port Harcourt and Kaduna it creates the appropriate mechanism for capital mobilisation and channeling capital into the productive sectors of the economy.

The exchange also provides the vehicle for the provision of equity capital for companies, and free movement of shares and securities in the Nigeria capital market. Bankers and Creditors also rely on the opinion of the Stock Exchange in deciding on a debtor's credit worthiness. The Stock Exchange remains the best indicator of the price to be asked for taking a risk in the financial sector.

A large proportion of

securities listed came as a result of the indigenisation exercise of 1972 and 1977. The Indigenisation Decrees of 1972 and 1977 compelled foreigners to relinquish large portions of their equities in various companies in Nigeria. In 1972 thirteen companies used the facilities of the Exchange to comply with the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Act 1972. By 1977, 78 companies sold over 300 million shares worth over N210 million

Some other legislations also helped greatly in the supply of Securities to the Nigerian Capital Market. The Insurance Act of 1976 required insurance companies to invest 25 per cent of their funds in government securities and the remaining 75 per cent in listed equities and loan stocks.

Another legislation that strengthened the Capital Market is the Income Tax Management Act of 1961 which granted tax free status to



Alile, D-G, Stock Exchange



Fadina, GM, SSM

through the Exchange.

The Exchange despite being bedeviled by limited resources, few staff, low public awareness, six stock brokers/issuing houses, few registrars and a weak distribution network during the indigenisation exercise, it performed well. The Exchange helped to ensure a smooth transfer of ownership from foreign shareholders to Nigerians, and also accomplished a more equitable distribution of share ownership.

Today, the Exchange is better equipped than nine years ago. It has 35 issuing houses stockbrokers, more experienced staff, more registrar capacity, increased awareness and increased distribution network of the banking system which acts as agents for stockbrokers.

pension and provident funds which invest one-third of their funds in government securities.

In April 1985, the Exchange introduced the Second-Tier Securities Market (SSM) to provide a framework for small and medium-sized companies to mobilise capital and managerial talent through the exchange at reduced compliance cost for their growth. The SSM is the first of its kind in Africa, and fourth in the world. The SSM has since inception listed only two companies — Grommac Industrial Limited and Jull Pharmacy Nigeria Limited.

The poor response, according to Prince Lekan Fadina, general manager SSM has to do with people's culture. He said it is a big task persuading owners of small business in Nigeria to relinquish some of their holdings in order to take

advantage of SSM. For a company to be listed on SSM, at least 10 per cent or 50,000 of its equity capital must be sold to the public either in the case of an offer by introduction. No shareholder may hold either directly or indirectly 75 per cent of the issued capital of the company. According to the Director-General of the Exchange, Mr. Hayford Alile, the Exchange is very cautious in listing companies in SSM as not to list companies that may be delisted shortly, and thereby affect adversely the integrity and public confidence in the Stock Exchange.

The Stock Exchange in its effort to support the structural adjustment programme (SAP) and stimulate the inflow of foreign exchange into the economy, is promoting the is-

suance of and sale of N300 million non-voting shares to foreign buyers. According to Hayford Alile the scheme was launched in response to the fact that the economy has witnessed a drop in foreign investment over the last decade and the depressed economy is hardly inviting.

Some of the highlights of the scheme are, first 50 per cent, of the foreign exchange proceeds of sales will be directly allowed to the offering companies to finance the importation of production essentials for manufacturing and agricultural projects. Second, 20 per cent of the capital raised in foreign exchange will be held and managed on behalf of the selling companies in an interest earning Escrow Account by the Central Bank of Nigeria for an initial period of two years and

used for the prompt payment of dividends.

Also, in order to mobilise funds to support SAP, the president of NSE, Alhaji Aliko Mohammed has revealed that the Exchange is considering opening trading floors in Kano and Onitsha where there is relatively high articulation of investment interests.

NSE has made important effort to educate investors on their attitude to portfolio management and the need to trade in their stock-holdings. The NSE recently adopted computerized system in disseminating information on the daily official list and the Stock Market Index to the public.

The development of the capital market in Nigeria seems

to have good prospects as recent economic trends in the economy call for vigorous mobilisation of long term funds, and channelling of such funds into efficient projects. The liquidity crunch in the economy occasioned by the withdrawal of N3.3 billion from the banks by the Central Bank and the Second Tier Foreign Exchange Market favour the raising of funds through the capital market. Banks have less liquidity, and are reluctant to grant new loans, and are even cancelling overdraft facilities. In addition, lending rates have recently been increased by the Federal Government.

The introduction of State government bonds, said experts is a tremendous boost to the capital market as it entices

many state governments to use the facility of the Exchange to raise funds for development. Before 1977 when the Bendel State government raised the first loan stock, state governments had virtually relied on commercial banks and the Federal government to raise money for development projects.

The proposed privatisation of government parastatals is also seen by experts as providing another prospect for the development of the capital market. It is expected that there will be a spate of shares to be traded on the floors of the exchange.

The Unit Trust and Venture capital financing the decrees of which are in the pipeline, will provide sources of equity

investment in the capital market. While venture capital will be provided mainly by banks, Unit Trust will give opportunity to numerous small and potential investors who normally would consider their funds too small for investment to come together and invest their funds.

Finally, the non-voting share scheme is an attempt to internationalise the stock market, and thereby increase the supply base of the market. According to Mr. Alike, the scheme provides one major acid test of foreigners' confidence in the Nigerian economy, and the response has been encouraging.

— Nimi Wariboko

## A stronger Naira

The Naira moves up a third time

THE external value of the Naira appreciated again by 1.51 per cent against the dollar, at the ninth bidding session at the Second Tier Foreign Exchange Market (SFEM) last Thursday. The Naira was fixed at the rate of N3.4599 to one American dollar as against the N3.4993 last week. In real terms, the value of the naira has risen from 28.57 American cents last week to 29 American cents — the highest value since the beginning of the market. At the First Tier Market, N2.3410 exchanged for a dollar — that is, a naira was equivalent to 42.72 American cents.

The marginal rate was submitted by the Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry (NBCI), which got only \$66 million of the \$1.5 million it requested for. The highest bid rate of N3.9995 was submitted by Pan African Bank, while the lowest rate of N3.3125 to a dollar was quoted by Nigerian Arab Bank. For the first time all the authorised dealers quoted rates below N4 to a dollar.

The naira has been rising since the sixth bidding session when the Central Bank intervened by putting additional one million dollars thereby forcing the week's exchange rate from N4.2026 to N3.8525 to a US dollar.

Thirty-eight banks submitted their bids for the US \$75 million offered for sale by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). Thirty-four were successful and one (NBCI) was partially successful. Kaduna Co-operative Bank, Co-operative and Commerce Bank and Nigerian Arab Bank failed to secure any foreign exchange as their bid rates of N3.4503,



Ahmed, CBN Governor

N3.4100 and N3.3125 were below the marginal rate.

The total amount asked for by the banks stood at N81.34 million as against the 75 million American dollars offered for sale.

The Central Bank governor, Alhaji A. Ahmed in an address revealed that a total of \$17.4 million, averaging \$3.48 million per week were purchased by the authorised dealers from the public in the first five weeks of the operations of SFEM. This is however, lower than the average of \$4.9 million recorded in the first two weeks of the SFEM.

Ahmed said that: "The fact that the economy very much depends on this autonomous sources of funds for the operations of SFEM can hardly be over-emphasised. "Indeed, it is our hope that this source of funds should, in the long run, be more important than funds officially provided.

He noted that the operation

of SFEM has been generally smooth and a measure of confidence, "enough to encourage the inflow of foreign exchange on a fairly steady and substantial scale," has been built up.

He also disclosed that after an examination of the books of 35 banks by the Central Bank in the first five weeks of SFEM, CBN discovered that the banks committed \$254.01 million to transactions of various categories. Of the amount \$196.6 million or 77.4 per cent was allocated to industry, related raw materials and machinery spare parts, \$45.6 million or 17.96 per cent went to general merchandise, Food got \$10.9 million or 4.3 per cent, while service items, such as education, personal home remittances, profit and dividend and airline services claimed about \$0.9 million or about 0.3 per cent.

Other rates fixed at the session are shown in the table.

— Nimi Wariboko

### CROSS RATES (IN N)

	2nd Tier Bid No. 8 November 13	Bid No. 9 November 20	First Tier November 20
Dollar	3.4993	3.4599	2.3410
Pound Sterling	4.9848	4.9096	3.3220
Swiss Franc	2.0879	2.0712	1.4014
French Franc	0.5298	0.9814	0.3565
Dutch Guilder	1.5358	1.5252	1.0320
Japanese Yen	0.0218	0.0213	0.0145
Deutsche Mark	1.7332	1.7525	1.1674

# Obstacles to ECOWAS trade

Businessmen blame government for poor economic relations among West African States.

THE Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce as part of activities of its 14th annual general meeting held November 19-21 heard a detailed report on the obstacles to trade and investment in the sub-region. The executive director of ECOWAS, Alhaji Momodu Munu noted that a bulk of trade is conducted among the member states and other countries outside West Africa. External trade statistics reveal that only 4 per cent of the recorded external trade of ECOWAS countries is conducted with other West African states. And that even if allowance is made for illegal intra-community trade transactions, it would still not constitute more than 10 per cent of total foreign trade in the sub-region.

This appalling level of trade relation between member countries is directly related to statutory and non-statutory obstacles to trade and investment in the sub-region. Speaking at the conference, Chief E.A.O. Shonekan, chairman and managing director of UAC of Nigeria Limited said: "While some of these obstacles are part of our unfortunate heritage from colonial times, the bulk of the obstacles to trade and investment, business and wealth generation generally have been created by our own governments."

Participants at the conference identified and discussed extensively over 20 obstacles to trade and investment in the sub-region. Prominent among them are statutory obstacles (high tariff barriers, restrictive investment codes, crippling tax policies, barriers to foreign ownership and quotas), inability to remit profits, poor communications, low complementarity of production, inconvertibility of the national currencies of the sub-region and the over-valuation of currencies.

Others are, an unco-operative and non-chalant customs and immigration of the officials, under-utilisation of the facilities of the West African Clearing House (WACH).

underdeveloped banking sector, lack of information, low per capita incomes and political antagonisms.

The multiplicity of currencies (there are about 10 different currencies) in the region, coupled with the twin problem of inconvertibility of the currencies and over-valuation of currencies, were considered the most serious obstacles to growth of trade and investment in the region.

"The obstacles as noted," Munu emphasised, "seem to confirm the general belief that in spite of the apparent popularity and the incontrovertible logic and viability of regional economic groupings, the forces of narrow and misplaced national instincts are still stronger than the rational sentiments of internationalism."

Yet a cursory look at the external trade statistics is likely to make the observer gloss over some interesting aspects of the existing intra-community trade. States like Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger — a land-locked countries — their substantial portion of their trade, between 35 per cent and 50 per cent, is conducted with other West African countries. Even for coastal countries such as Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire, intra-community trade averages the significant figures of 20 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire annually net \$200 million and \$150 million from trade in the region respectively.

Transactions in the community are dominated by few primary commodities like petroleum and live animals. Most of the countries produce the same primary products (mainly agricultural) which is an added hindrance to trade.

This fact, according to participants, instead of being a weakening force could be exploited as an instrument for the development of resources in the sub-region. Thus production policies in the region could be rationalised on the basis of the principle of comparative advantage so that the problem of majority of member states

producing identical products will be removed. This will increase demand for one another's products.

For instance, it was revealed at the conference that given the

integration through policies such as free trade among member states, a common tariff and freedom of movement of persons and capital.



Munu, ECOWAS boss

necessary inputs to irrigate the basin of the Niger River in its territory, Mali has the potential to produce all the rice needed by the community. Also Burkina Faso and Niger have the capacity to meet the meat requirements of the community.

Most importantly, some manufacturers that entered intra-community trade fairly recently have been gaining considerable ground. This gives hopes for the pursuit of the establishment of industrial complexes to support an integrated production process and policy of sub-regional import-substitution.

The aforementioned benefits can only be realised, said Shonekan, if private business men in the sub-region through the chambers of commerce can persuade governments to dismantle the formidable battery of disincentives to international investment in the sub-region.

ECOWAS agreements aim at far reaching

Other suggestions made at the conference are: first, concerted effort should be made by governments to develop roads, telephone and telex links and postal facilities in the sub-region. Second, full use of the WACH as a payment mechanism in the intra-community commercial transactions should be encouraged as it is bound to stimulate the growth of trade in volume and value. Support should also be given to the West African Bankers' Association (WABA) to encourage financial intermediary.

The creation of ECOWAS monetary zone was seen as the solution to the multiplicity of currencies, their inconvertibility and over-valuation.

Finally, it was agreed that the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce and the ECOWAS Secretariat should work on an economic data bank for the purpose of storing and disseminating information on all areas affecting the community's economic integration effort.

— Nimi Wariboko

## Fela: Far from boos

The recent reports in the local media that Afro-beat King Fela Anikulapo-Kuti was booted in USA may be a disinformation ploy.

WORLD acclaimed Afro-beat king, Nigeria's Fela Anikulapo-Kuti ended his ten-city United States tour last week, a prelude to another 22-day European playing trip that would take him and his Egypt 80 band to 15 cities.

The American tour was Fela's first in 17 years, two years after another planned one was aborted, with his arrest at the Murtala Muhammed Airport for currency trafficking. Fela was charged and consequently jailed for five years. He regained his freedom last April following his controversial disclosure that the trial judge, Justice Okoro Idogu had confessed that his sentence was a product of pressures from the last military regime.

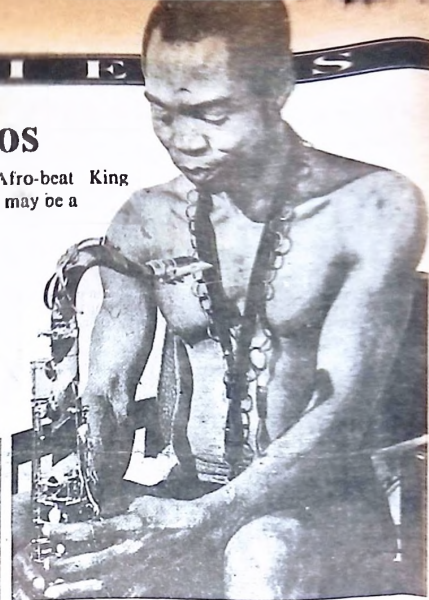
Fela and his 46-man ensemble, including six female dancers, entertained fans at Washington, Boston, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, Seattle, Austin, Chicago, San Francisco, New Castle and Los Angeles.

From the spate of rave reviews and blitting publicity in US media, Fela seemed, throughout the tour, to have truly lived to his billing as Africa's most famous and controversial musician and the undisputed maestro of the afro-beat. He more than entertained Americans and the sprinkle of Nigerian folks resident in the US; he also served them potful of politics. He made searing remarks about everything that was wrong in his country, Nigeria and the Black World; he 'yabbed' on everything that didn't work and he captivated his audience with his music which a US reviewer describes as a wide-ranging mix of African percussion, jazz solos, R & B horn charts call and response chants, erotic dancing and political commentary.

The reviews largely gave ample testimony of hundreds of fans, how he thrilled them, how they enjoyed him, how he put everyone on the tenterhooks and how he warmed them up to want to jump up and dance in the mostly crammed halls where he played.

Said a reviewer in the *Boston Herald* of November 7 about Fela's show at Boston's Opera House: "Each of the numbers in the three-hour extravaganza averaged a full half-hour in length. But rather than aimless jams, these were tightly organised pieces that built ever so gradually to jubilant climaxes. All that was missing was room to dance. The easy rhythmic flow of Fela's group made staying in your seat a chore."

Another reviewer with the *Washington* AFRICAN CONCORD 27 NOVEMBER 1986



Fela, at controversial as ever.

*ton Post* who witnessed Fela's performance at the Constitution Hall in Washington, wrote: "The encore, 'Beast of No Nation,' was the evening's best, boasting rich horn charts and competing bass lines."

The Washington show on November 5 was Fela's debut in the US. A Nigerian reporter saw it not with the relishing of the Americans, but in a different perspective. And the reporter, Mr. Bisi Oluwunmi, manning the Nigeria desk of the News Agency of Nigeria reflected this in the story he dispatched to Lagos.

"Hundreds of Fela's fans," he wrote, "who turned out on Wednesday in Washington to watch his first performance in his current playing tour of the US, were disappointed as the Afro Beat King used part of the occasion to criticise Nigeria as a country where nothing works rather than maintain the tempo of excitement generated by his appearance."

The NAN despatch circulated to Nigerian newspapers, went on: "When Fela finally started performing, the audience which comprised mainly Nigerians expressed their disgust for him because he was obvious that he had lost as it became obvious and captivating floor shows for which he was well known."

"Fela also dampened the enthusiasm of many fans by refusing to play their favourite tunes as he hung on to rolls of tissue papers to contain his running nose, having caught cold a few days

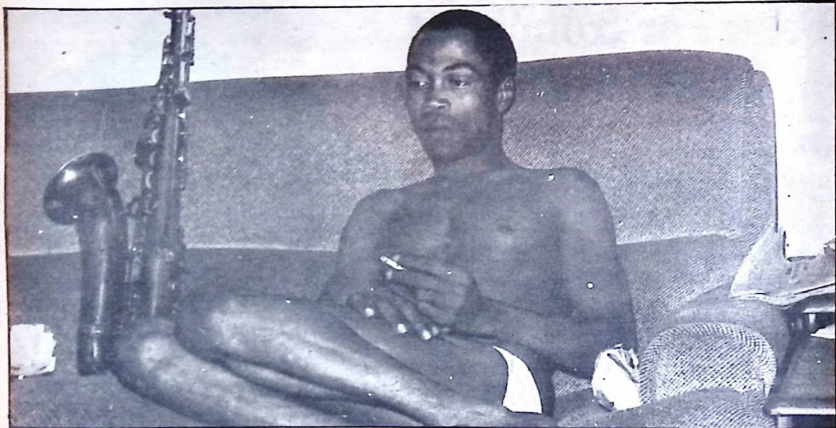
before the show."

Nigerian newspapers feasted on the story and some of them came out with boo-boo headlines, such as "Fela booted in the US", "Fela disappoints fans." Two newspapers, the *Daily Times* and the *New Nigerian* followed up on Friday, November 14 with two critical editorials, saying that Fela deserved the hisses and boos he got for publicly berating his fatherland, Nigeria.

Said the *Daily Times*: "Fela by deciding to wash our dirty linen in a foreign land, has done a grievous harm to himself and his country. He's a Nigerian. He is a part and parcel of this country and therefore cannot logically alienate himself from whatever attributes Nigeria is said to have. We are disappointed that the Afro Beat King could go to the extreme as he did in Washington. We take it that he learnt some lessons from his audience's mass disapproval of his castigation of his own country — Nigeria."

The *New Nigerian* editorial entitled "Boos for Fela," was in the same critical vein, going a step further to highlight: how Fela's music has lost its original touch, how the quality has "palpably declined."

Said the *New Nigerian*: "And we must say that how he carried on in Washington DC last week during his first performance in the United States was most unbecoming of someone who lays a claim to leadership in this country... We think he deserved the boos and



Fela: Shocked by local reports

all.

"Of course Fela is entitled to criticise Nigeria and Nigerians. We all are. But it is irresponsible to carry our dirty linen abroad for laundry. It is doubly irresponsible when one's life-style has contributed in no small measure in making the linen dirty in the first place... Our duty to our country is clear: to love her warts and all and in love, strive to remove the warts."

Fela's younger brother, Dr. Beko Ransome-Kuti told the *African Concord* that Fela was shocked when he was informed about the local media reports and the searing editorials that followed. According to Beko, the flabbergasted Fela, immediately promised to send American press cuttings to debunk the NAN story. He had since sent some, and Fela's local manager, Mr. Atere, last week, sent photocopies to many newspaper houses. "We are awaiting more cuttings," Beko said.

He said Fela's US shows were very successful as in most venues, the tickets all sold out. Beko bought the suggestion that the NAN story was probably sponsored. "One gets that impression, especially when what is reported is contrary to what is happening. Two government papers have written the same editorials about Fela. We hope those who are behind it are not in the official quarters."

The Editor-in-Chief of NAN, Mr. Wada Maida, however, denied that the agency was being used to spite Fela. He said the report filed by Mr. Olawunmi

was the truth as the reporter saw the Fela event.

"The reporter in Washington is one of the best we have. As far as NAN is concerned, we can't be used. We have 39 media subscribing to our news. We are serving different persuasions. We can't write stories to please government papers as our acceptability depends on our credibility."

To prove his point that the NAN report was not at anyone's goading, Wada Maida called for the raw wire copy sent to the Lagos office by Olawunmi from Washington.

The original copy contained ten paragraphs as against the edited version of four paragraphs made available to local media. Both versions carried a value-loaded intro-though Fela's fans were disappointed "as the afro-beat king used part of the occasion to criticise Nigeria as a country where nothing works." The original intro did not however include the clause, "rather than maintain the tempo of excitement generated by his appearance." That belonged to the second paragraph, but the sub-editors brought it forward. In the proper context, the second paragraph read: "Fela who came on stage to a prolonged and tumultuous applause went into a rap session rather than maintain the tempo of excitement generated by his appearance."

The third paragraph was also value-laden. It said: "His rap session was about how things do not work right in Nigeria and people had to accept the situation just like that, a satire that did not elicit applause from the fans."

The fourth paragraph read: "In my

country, things happen just like that. You want to drink, you open tap, no water just like that — you want to relax by watching television, light is cut, just like that and 19 states were created just like that."

At nowhere in the original report did the NAN correspondent use the word "disgust", to describe the fans exasperation with Fela's loss of agility and captivating floor shows. The adjective was the coinage of the sub-editor and which did more damage to the biased report. A paragraph which would have given some credibility to the use of "disgust" was subbed out of the story. There, the reporter quoted a fan as quipping, after watching a Fela's acrobatics on stages; 'Agba Se Nde,' meaning old age is setting in.

Editor-in-Chief, Wada Maida agreed that the subs did some injustice to the story, but he insisted that the reporter bore no malice against Fela, as he went there as a fan and must have reported what he saw.

In one respect, the NAN report largely agreed with the account given by the *Washington Post*. This was in the area of attendance at the show. NAN said the Constitution Hall with 3,000 seats, was one-third filled. The *Post* said it sat during the show, 1,500 people. The divergence could be tolerated at least.

Fela had since left the United States. He is now on a playing tour of Europe that will end December 10.

— Bayo Onanuga



Nowadays ordinary folk can understand poetry, because ordinary folk write it. The first quote is merely depressing; the second, equally depressing, is the real giveaway.

On a recent television programme the great West Indian poet, Derek Walcott, responding to similar sentiments from Linton Kwesi Johnson, said that he didn't think a good poet could be "semi-literate". Just so. To call Milton Smaling semi-literate would be to do him a favour. You don't have to take my word for it. Sample: "The rich barbarians will take you for a ride. Even if you're poor and blind. Money is their only friend. They don't want half. They must have it all. Another sample: "The politicians are out. For what they can get. They're European pirates. Some of them get everything. They have knives. They're carving up your lives. . . . This isn't poetry; this is drive and to argue that "ordinary folk" should be content with it is not only obtuse but condescending in the extreme.

Adewale Maja-Pearce

## Southern African stories

*The Penguin Book of Southern African Stories.*  
Edited by Stephen Gray.  
reprint 1986 (Penguin, 1985).  
£3.95

There is an important point to make about this selection of short fiction by some southern African writers, nearly half of whom are black: the selection was made by a white English-speaking South African who is not intent upon making any radical political statements. A black editor would have made a very different selection.

In this introduction Professor Gray, of the Rand Afrikaans University, says his choice of these 39 stories was based on deliberate disregard for 'reputation' and 'standing' or for the linguistic and geographical divisions of southern Africa.

We are not told why the literary region of southern Africa is then defined as the area which "through long trading in its history, its publishing and its educational practices" includes South Africa, Lesotho,

Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Swaziland, and Namibia (the last two are not represented in the selection) but excludes Zambia, Angola, and Mozambique. Not least, South Africa's mining interests in the former British colony of Zambia, and South

Africa's military involvements in the former Portuguese colonies, should make them as much part of the sub-continent's moral and imaginative world as the countries which are represented in this South Africa-based anthology.

Of their kind, the stories, aside from a couple of clangers, are a pleasure to read and have clearly been chosen by someone completely au fait with the field.

Once again we are reminded that Pauline Smith is in a class of her own. "The Schoolmaster" provides a sample of excellence in the British literary tradition.

Elsa Joubert's "Milk" is a good example of how bad taste — or the strangling hold which the South African milieu can exert on a writer — can coarsen imaginative insight. "Milk" is about a white woman who is raped by a gang of black Angolans while a pistol is held to her husband's head. That night he "enters her torn body", and to their surprise (but not the reader's), nine months later she gives birth to a dark-skinned child. Distraught, she murders the infant.

The story by Nadine Gordimer was an unfortunate choice, given that short stories are widely regarded as her forte. At the "Rendezvous of Victory" reads like an outline for a novel with an offensively simplistic moral. It is about a guerrilla leader who, when his country (which seems to be Zimbabwe) wins independence finds himself with no role to play other than that of a rich and decadent philanthropist.

Although many of the items, some of them translations, may be unfamiliar, the name of every author either hails from the colonial hall of fame or from a distinguished literary background. We are not told why other well-known writers, such as — off the top of my head — Dan Jacobson and Sarah Gertrude Millin, are omitted.

Having said all that, one must admit that an editor can't do everything in 318 pages of text. But if you want to while away your leisure hours, or if you want an indication of the priorities of South Africa's English-speaking literary establishment, the anthology is well worth reading.

Patricia Morris

## Mean streets

*Daddy Was A Numbers Runner,*  
By Louise Meriwether.

*Daddy Was A Numbers Runner* tells the story of Francie growing up in Harlem. She is twelve when we meet her. Her father is a

proud man who often lets his need for independence take precedence over the needs of his three children. Her mother is a religious woman, devoted to her children and loyal to her husband. Francie is proud of her father, who tries as best he can to protect her from the seedier side of life in Harlem. Meriwether paints a moving picture of a child on the verge of womanhood, who displays all the contradictions and uncertainty of her age.

Francie is an energetic child, who spends much of her time collecting her father's number slips from clients, as well as playing the numbers when she has the money to spare. Meriwether paints a picture of a community exploited from without. Even the numbers racket is controlled by organised white crime, and yet it is an integral part of the fabric of the community. Every one in Harlem plays the numbers. Everybody scrapes up the money in the hope that one day they will strike it rich.

Francie's family is no different. Her father sinks all the commission and small winnings he gets on the numbers, and even when there is a win, it goes towards paying off debts.

But Harlem is about more than playing the numbers. It is about poverty, racism and a community trapped on "Mean Street". Francie's parents see education for their sons as the only way out of the Harlem trap, and they are prepared to sacrifice anything to reach that goal.

However, the eldest, Junior, has no time for school and gets mixed up in a street gang, the Ebony Earls. The Earls are implicated in the murder of a white man — the same man who continually attempts to molest Francie for a dime — and Junior and several others are arrested. Although he is later released, Junior's father runs up enormous debts in the process.

Sterling, the other son, is studious and makes good progress at school, but he leaves and goes to work at an undertaker when he tires of the poverty of his existence. The family ends up on welfare going through the humiliation and exposure it entails. Junior leaves home and turns to crime, but lives well, though he is too ashamed to face his mother.

Francie's father also leaves, his pride shattered by having to go on welfare. She finds out that he is living with another woman. Francie's image of her father is

shattered and she cannot forgive him for what he has done.

*Daddy Was A Numbers Runner* is a bleak book, mirroring with accuracy the depressed hopelessness of inner-city poverty that is echoed in any area of urban decay. Yet it is also the story of a caring community: a place where neighbours rely on each other to get them through to the next welfare check, and the support system of the women make it possible to weather the blow of seeing children sucked into the inevitable downward spiral of poverty. Meriwether captures the warmth and generosity so often characteristic of the very poor, when Francie's family take in a family from the South and share their already inadequate food and possessions.

Louise Meriwether writes with sincerity and sympathy. She makes no attempt to gloss over the harsh realities of Harlem of the thirties. Yet this is balanced by humorous insight into the other side of life, the humanity and warmth that is often highlighted by depressed surroundings.

Joan Riley

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION ACROSS

1 Relic. 4 Metical. 8 Fungi. 9 Senegal. 10 Reinsure. 11 Trio. 13 Piano. 14 Tanga. 18 Undo. 20 Fallible. 23 Metro. 24 Nkomo. 25 Nkomati. 26 Sense.  
**DOWN**  
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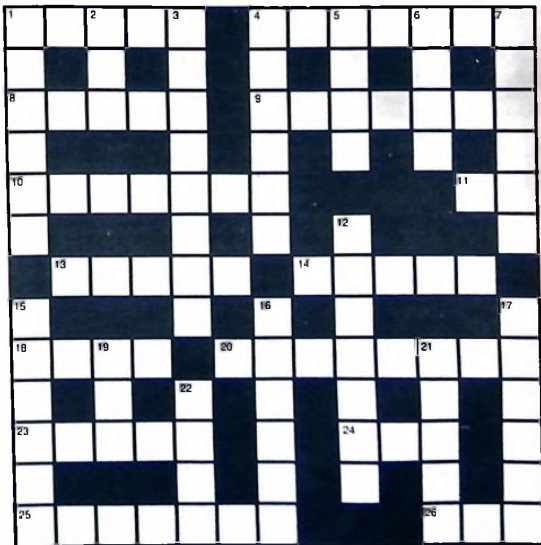
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### ACROSS

- 1 Decline to take (5)
- 4 Former African president (7)
- 8 Textile fibre (5)
- 9 Bad specimen (7)
- 10 Angolan rebel leader (7)
- 11 A degree (2)
- 13 Currency of Sudan (5)
- 14 Christian scripture (5)
- 18 African plant (4)
- 20 African country (8)
- 23 Sum (5)
- 24 Short sleep (3)
- 25 W African country (7)
- 26 Yes (3)

### DOWN

- 1 Woodland (6)
- 2 Beam of light (3)
- 3 Decoration (8)
- 4 Exert (6)
- 5 Fasten (4)
- 6 In the interest of (4)
- 7 Overseas (6)
- 12 A drink (7)
- 15 Fibrous substance (6)
- 16 African country (6)
- 17 Frontline state (6)
- 19 Decay (3)
- 21 Baby towelling (5)
- 22 Write indistinctly (3)



THEY were the first comical couple on the screen. But they gave up the ghosts at tender ages. Ojo Ladipo (then known as Baha Mero) was 33 when he died in 1978. Mary, his wife, followed seven years after aged only 30.

Bayo Salami (Oga Bello), who now heads the Ojo Ladipo Theatre group and Sunday Bolanle (Aluwe) were two of their proteges who became successful in the business. Thus their group, Awada Kerikeri thought it fit to give their mentors a special Remembrance Week. Starting from November 29, plays will be shown at Glover Hall, Ibukun Cinema, Abeokuta (December 4) and KS Motel Ibadan (December 7). A novelty football match will also be played at Onikan Stadium between the Association of Theatre Practitioners and PMAN, on Dec. 2. Pappy 'Luwe (sorry), Bolanle said: "We have always wanted to have this remembrance for our founding fathers. I am glad that all the details have now been fully worked out."



Ojo



Mary



Agwu

TAKE an Aribra man and put him in the wilderness, and you are likely to see a successful farmer when next you visit him. Goddy Uche Agwu is no exception to the rule. The Economics graduate from Alabama University USA, came home in 1980 to pursue the golden fleece. By 1982 (after his service year) he set up a cosmetics importation company — J. Passion Suppliers. It was successful for a while, but that isn't the in-thing now. Late last year, his wife Joyce brought up the idea of setting up a restaurant. So he called on musician-turned-designer Beckley Ike Jones (of BLO fame in the 70 s). He had an idea of what he wanted, but could not find a name for it; he wanted sleek, elegant and comfortable decor for the restaurant. Well, that did it! Why not 'Sleek Restaurant? And that's what it was called. It has plush red carpets and an oriental air about it. Seats take 50 dining guests, and 150 people partying. You might go in feeling sleek, but with drink mixes like Barcadi Salome, Malibu McCain and Pouch of Sleek.

BEING a beauty queen has nothing to do with religion. Or so it seemed when Miss America, Sezzette Charles, 23, talked about her faith in God. After the Miss America contest (in which she became runner-up) she thought she should have won, but she kept faith. "I told her to keep her head up high like a winner, and after two weeks she began getting as many phonecalls (for contracts) as the winner Vanessa Williams said her mother, Sezzette De Gaetano. "In fact she was the first runner-up in history to have had such a busy schedule." Thanks to fate, Miss Charles was eventually crowned Miss America after Ms Williams was disqualified (towards the end of her reign). Mother Suzette, naturally, feels her daughter is an epitome of what the contest stands for — intelligence, virtue, beauty and

self-discipline.

But for the past nine months, daughter Suzette, a music graduate of Temple University, has been living away from her mother, in Los Angeles — a very fast city — trying to tie up her first album, and in pursuance of her acting career. Said mother Suzette, a staunch member of the African Methodist Episcopal church: "I trust her, and I have confidence in her. Besides, she calls me everyday and tells me about her problems." Suzette Charles, a born-again christian said: "I like to live a good life according to my religious beliefs." Someone at the Miss Nigeria zonal finals of the Miss Africa Pageant could not help musing: "She's got the body that could drive a man nuts!"

— Ademola Oguntayo



Charles

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