West Africa

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Nigeria this Year

IN two speeches during the Commonwealth Conference Chief Awolowo emphasised the confidence the Federal Government retains in the economy. Nigeria's balance of payments difficulties, he explained to the Prime Ministers, were "temporary", and, apart from more direct considerations, they had not felt it necessary to devalue at the same time as Britain. To the West Africa Committee he said that during this year the Federal Government would announce details of a £1,150m. programme of "National Reconstruction and Development", to be financed largely from Nigerian resources.

Overseas creditors who now have to wait patiently, perhaps for months, for their payments from Nigeria (the backlog is now over £25m.) will gain heart from the confidence of the Commissioner for Finance. They realise, too, that if the Central Bank's overseas reserves are to be kept, as they have been, around the "safe" figure of some £37m., overseas payments which might significantly alter the figure must be postponed—particularly in favour of payments for arms supplies, which the Federation is determined to buy for cash, or, exceptionally, for cocoa. But the thought still nags: what happens to the Federation economically if, as now seems possible, the war drags on for months?

In fact conditions seem likely only to improve, whatever the military situation, so long as overseas arms purchases are made prudently—as often they have been—and existing supplies are used effectively. The Federal government, through baseless confidence that the war would be short, was very slow in beginning to put the economy on a war footing, to offset the loss of earnings from general oil and export crops, and to find foreign exchange for arms—some £50m. so far. Exchange controls, increased taxation, and import controls, however, have now had their effect—the import bill has been reduced by £50m. in a year. Chief Awolowo also emphasised to the West Africa Committee that raw materials, equipment, and spares for industry had not been restricted (there have been, however, some administrative problems), which meant that import restrictions had given a "golden opportunity" to local manufacturers, and had accelerated industrialisation. This is true, even if there has been some profiteering: the Federation is likely to end the war with an economy more self-sufficient than before it, and with an established policy of control of imports of manufactures.

From exports, foreign exchange earnings now look promising. Groundnut evacuation has proved remarkably successful; some benefit at any rate, has come to Nigeria from the recent world cocoa prices. There is a good cotton crop, tin prices have recovered. Produce is being exported from the South-East state, timber and rubber exports from the Mid-West have recovered. Nigeria was, however, still running an adverse trade balance last year—some £30m. in the first ten months.

Above all, in spite of the widespread notion that Nigeria's mineral oil is in Ibo areas, oil exports are nearing, and could soon exceed, pre-war levels. Shell-BP restarted production in former Biafran areas in October. The rate is currently about 250,000 barrels a day, and to this, probably by the autumn, will be added another 365,000 barrels a day exported through the new Mid-West facilities. Gulf is currently producing 175,000 barrels a day, at least 50,000 a day are expected from Mobil by 1970. By the end of this year production of all companies (Safrap and Agip included) should be 800,000 a day—the pre-war figure for all areas was some 500,000. In 1970 the figure of 1m. barrels is almost certain to be passed. The Government would then receive in revenues some £N70m. in foreign exchange—almost half current Federal Government revenue.

All this concerns Nigeria's external economic and financial situation. But the war gives rise, too, to enormous internal financial problems. Import restrictions reduce import duties. An army swollen to 10 times its former numbers may have cost so far, in pay alone, some £20m., and it has been estimated that beer for the troops (all locally brewed) has cost £3m. Clothing and boots are locally made—but the taxpayer must pay for them. Local food prices, it is true,

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Conference:

By a correspondent

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To the Foundation's detailed work I eturn in a second article. But its stablishment in 1966 as a "private, utonomous" body, quite separate from he Commonwealth Secretariat, illustrates ne of the essential features of the Commonwealth. The communiqué issued his week after the Prime Ministers' onference, referred to "the advantages he Commonwealth association offers—a ommon uniting language, similar tradiions in government, administraton, edutational methods, and the organisation f the professions". It is above all to ncrease interchanges between Commonvealth organisations in the professions hat the Foundation exists. And its xistence has tapped a most fruitful field.

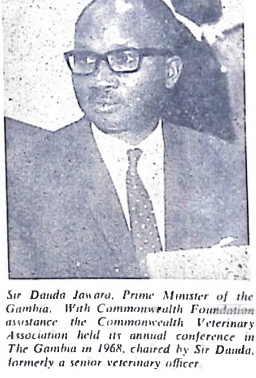
Just below the Foundation, in the same building, the Association of Commonwealth Universities has also been carrying on its work, undisturbed by the political excitements of the conference in the splendours of the adjoining building —even if the staff were subject to the security rules the conference and the demonstrators outside made necessary. As well as the functions its name suggest, the association has important responsibilities in connection with the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. It is, however, only one of many bodies which, because of the "advantages of the Commonwealth association" to which the communiqué referred, either as their main or as an essential subsidiary function, serve the cause of Commonwealth co-operation.

The list is long. The titles often explain fully the function—the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers, or the Tropical Section of the Road Research Laboratory. It is not so obvious that the Termite Research Unit or the Overseas Pest Control Committee have special Commonwealth functions, that the grants of the Wellcome Trust for Medical Research are generally distributed inside the Commonwealth, or that the main work of the Cotton Research Corporation is in the Commonwealth.

Certain institutions based in Britain depend on Commonwealth contributions. The Commonwealth Institute obviously does, while the Crown Agents, although there are non-Commonwealth customers, is largely a Commonwealth co-operative supply association. But there are substantial Commonwealth contributions to Kew Gardens, while the Commonwealth Broadcasting Conference, of which Sierra Leone's John Akar is secretary, unites all the "BBC-type" organisations in the Commonwealth, particularly for training.

The UK Ministry of Overseas Development concentrates largely on aid to the Commonwealth, and is responsible for a number of bodies, such as the Directorate of Overseas Surveys. Through Ministries of Defence there is close military co-operation throughout the Commonwealth—until recently, for example, the Commandant of the Nigerian Defence Academy was an Indian Brigadier. Much of the British Council's work is in the Commonwealth—and so the list goes on.

The sterling area and the Commonwealth are far from synonymous, since Canada is not in the sterling area while a number of non-Commonwealth countries are. Nevertheless, one of the main links between Commonwealth countries is their use of sterling as a reserve, a subject which always provides Commonwealth Finance Ministers with controversy at their annual meetings. As a result of last year's arrangement between the "overseas sterling area" countries and the British government, in association with the Bank for International Settlements, there is now for the first time a contractual relationship covering the holding of reserves and the use of sterling as a reserve currency.



Sir Dauda Jawara, Prime Minister of the Gambia. With Commonwealth Foundation assistance the Commonwealth Veterinary Association held its annual conference in The Gambia in 1968, chaired by Sir Dauda, formerly a senior veterinary officer.

As an "aid" mechanism the Commonwealth is of very great importance to a number of its members and at this week's meeting Mr. Reg. Prentice, Minister of Overseas Development for the U.K., said that 80 per cent. of Britain's total aid allocation, which continued to increase and would amount to $215m. in 1968-69, would be bilateral aid to Commonwealth countries. In 1967, taking all Commonwealth countries together, the flow of gross bilateral official aid was around some £264m., while over 17,000 experts and advisers were exchanged by Commonwealth countries and some 11,200 students and trainees financed. All figures show an increase of British bilateral aid, which is by far the greatest source, but Canada, Australia and New Zealand are also important sources.

Mr. Arnold Smith, the Canadian Secretary-General, maintains that the aid-giving performances of Commonwealth countries is as good "or better than the average for all developed countries". The Commonwealth Secretariat itself is far from being confined to a political or purely liaison role. Following the 1967 Nairobi Conference there is now a formal Commonwealth Technical Assistance Programme, which has resulted in the establishment at the Commonwealth Secretariat of a team of experts.

Requests to the Secretariat have included ones for short-term consultancy missions. Two officers visited Sierra Leone to report on new industrial projects and to assess technical assistance. One officer is going to the Gambia to assist in organising the statistical service. The Secretariat also passes on requests to appropriate donor countries. The Nairobi Conference also decided that the Secretariat should arrange for preparation of a report and recommendations on export development. There has been a Commonwealth working party on development of tourism.

The Commonwealth Secretariat carries on broadly the work of the Commonwealth Economic Committee, particularly in the production of commodity reports, and in dealing with commercial enquiries.

A major field of Commonwealth co-operation is in education. The 1966 Prime Ministers' conference decided that the former Commonwealth Education Liaison Unit should be integrated with the Commonwealth Secretariat as its Education Division, which is now under Dr. H. W. Springer, a Barbadian. The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, which in eight years has been responsible for over 3,000 awards, is the most widely known example of co-operation in education. There are, however, many other examples—in the supply and training of teachers, provision of experts, etc.

The first Commonwealth Medical Conference was held in Edinburgh in 1965, the second in Kampala last year. It was agreed in Kampala that expatriate staff are likely to be needed in health and educational services of developing countries for the forseeable future, and that all Commonwealth countries should consider themselves potential donors in this field. A medical officer has been added to the Commonwealth Secretariat to assist in this field.

This week's communiqué from the Prime Ministers announced that there would now also be a small Legal Section in the Secretariat, and further consideration would be given to a conference on legal education. Regional Commonwealth centres for the teaching of English and the teaching of science were welcomed in principle.

The meeting discussed, too, the proposals for a Commonwealth Book Development Programme to assist developing Commonwealth countries to obtain books and journals for education and research.

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10 YEARS OF E.C.A.: 1

Background to African Poverty

In the Operations Room at the Addis Ababa headquarters of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, where many meetings of African representatives are held, coloured charts convey at a glance many of the salient features of the African economy. In view of the scarcity of statistics no finality is claimed for the information conveyed by the charts, but ECA, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary this month, says that they "support broad and significant conclusions." To describe the economic problems with which ECA is faced, a correspondent here outlines the conclusions the charts support.

IN 1966 the gross domestic product (GDP) of a single Latin American country—Brazil—was 40 per cent. of that of developing Africa as a whole. In the same year the products of the UK, the USSR and the USA were more than 2·5, about 6, and about 19 times respectively greater than the African product. Yet the populations of Brazil, the UK, the USSR and the US are only 28, 18, 85, and 80 per cent. respectively of the population of developing Africa. Even more daunting is the fact that in 1966 the increase in the American market (as measured by GDP) was 50 per cent. greater than the *total size* of the developing African market in the same year.

Looked at from another point of view, if GDP is taken as a measure of gross purchasing power, then the aggregate purchasing power of the UAR, Nigeria, Morocco, Algeria, Ghana, Libya, the Sudan and Ethiopia in 1966 was roughly equivalent to that of some 230,000 US citizens who, in 1965, filed income tax returns showing individual gross incomes of between $50,000 and $1m. and over.

To take individual African countries, in central Africa, 1966 per capita product was greater than $150 only in Gabon; and in nearly all countries of this ECA "sub-region", which includes the two Congos, Gabon, Chad, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, the *per capita* product declined between 1960 and 1966.

The special case of Libya (oil) apart, South African income levels were the highest in the continent in 1966; and the rate of growth was equalled or surpassed in other ECA sub-regions only by Libya, Liberia and Mauritania—in the latter cases mining alone accounts for the rise.

Most African countries—as judged by the not unrepresentative situation in 1966—receive a significant proportion of their total available resources from abroad; and a significant part of these resources is employed in meeting external demand. Thus, imports in 1966 provided, by value, more than 20 per cent. of total available resources in 14 African countries, and in only one country was the import contribution less than 10 per cent. In eleven countries more than 20 per cent. of resources were required to meet export demand, and in only seven countries was the relevant ratio less than 10 per cent.

The main impression emerging from the population chart is of the extreme youthfulness of African populations. Thus, in no fewer than 38 of the countries, 40 per cent. or more of the population was age 14 or less. At the other end of the scale there was no country in which people aged 60 and over accounted for as much as 10 per cent. of the total population. Nevertheless, because of the high weight of young people in the total population, the dependency ratio in most African countries is extremely high.

In more developed countries, senior managerial and executive positions are normally filled in the main by people from the 45-59 age group. But, apart from education and training, the proportion of African populations consisting of people old enough and still active enough to supply much accumulated experience is relatively small.

A very large number of African states have very small populations of the standards of other continents. In no fewer than 27 of the 41 countries the 1965 population was less than 5m.; and in only 9 did the population exceed 10m. In 1965, there were only three countries—Ethiopia, Nigeria and the UAR—with a population above 20m. Even by 1980, in spite of the relatively rapid rate of increase, there will be still 20 African countries with a population of less than 5m., and only 12 with a population of over 10m. The complications for industrialisation are obvious; but the figures also show that African states are relatively expensive to administer.

Education is another subject covered by the charts. With the exception of the UAR, the number of university students in developing Africa is extremely small. At the other end of the education scale, the percentages of the population in primary schools may be related to the weight of the 5 to 14 age group in the total population. Broadly speaking this age group accounts for around 30 per cent. of the population in most African developing countries. So it is suggested that in 31 of the 52 countries covered by the charts, less than 50 per cent. of primary school age children are being educated. In 17 countries the ratio is less than 25 per cent. in nine countries it is less than 15 per cent; and in six countries it is less than 10.

If the 15 to 19 age group is taken—realistically enough—as providing 8 to 10 per cent. of the population, then with the possible exception of Mauritius, no country covered is at present providing secondary education to as much as 50 per cent. of the relevant age group. In 39 countries less than 25 per cent. of the age group were enrolled in secondary schools; in 18 countries less than 5 per cent.; and in seven countries less than 1 per cent.

In keeping with levels of economic development, energy consumption in Africa is very small. But the charts show that Africa is potentially well-endowed with energy supplies.

Between 1960 and 1966 there was a dramatic improvement in the balance of trade for developing Africa as a whole. Over this period, exports grew at an average annual rate of 8 per cent.; imports at an average annual rate of 4 per cent. These differing rates were reflected in the transformation of a deficit of US $1,250m. in 1960 into a surplus of US $240m. in 1966.

The favourable change in the balance of trade, however, owed much to special circumstances, including the very marked expansion, from a small base, of mineral exports, notably petroleum and iron ore; unusually favourable market conditions for coffee exports; and marked fall in imports into Algeria as a consequence of independence and its aftermath.

In 19 countries one commodity provided more than 50 per cent. of total export earnings; and in four one commodity provided more than 90 per cent. of total export earnings. Given the structural rigidities of African economies and the importance of using foreign exchange earnings for development, a disturbing feature is the relatively high weight of food in total imports.

The development of African economies is ultimately a matter for African effort. External assistance is, however, an extremely important supplement to such effort. The charts relate mainly to flows from members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee—for 1965, and for 1960-1965. Financial flows to African countries varied greatly in their importance in relation to the total economic effort of these countries. In North African, the flows ranged from less than 1 per cent of GDP (Libya) to about 11 per cent (Tunisia); in Central African from 3·4 per cent (Burundi) to about 13 per cent (Congo, Kinshasa); in West Africa from 2·1 per cent (Nigeria) to 15·4 per cent (Gambia); in East Africa from 1·1 per cent (Zambia) to 20·7 per cent (Somalia).

Attempts to overcome the handicaps imposed by the small economic size of many African countries depend greatly on multinational economic co-operation. For this reason ECA decided to divide Africa into sub-regions in a way that might constitute viable units for co-operation. The present divisions are flexible; and other groupings exist, while others still could yet emerge.

The New Year in Calabar

By a correspondent

In his New Year message, the South-Eastern State Military Governor, Lt-Col. J. Ekaete, announcing the location of the state in a year ago when virtually only the Calabar area was in proper state of security, stated that for the first time in the last two years "normal" activities of the people in the state can be given full attention and the effort to bring normalcy to the whole of the state can be intensified.

The state, in the two years, has had its share of the civil war. Before the war, Calabar was the capital of the Eastern Region and was the hub of the whole business activity in the region. Many of the business houses were then having their headquarters in Calabar to be close to the oil fields which are situated in the Niger Delta area.

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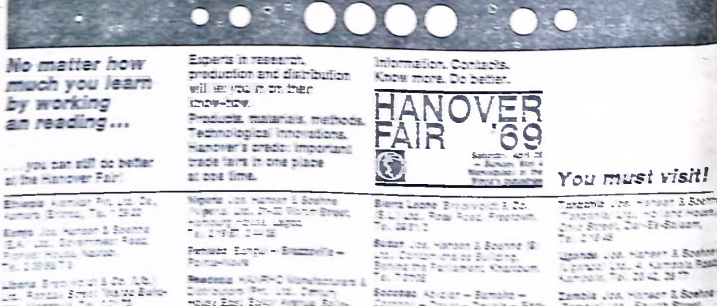
Lt-Col. Ekaete and Visiting Commissioner for North-Central State, Major Ibrahim Dasuki



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be a temporary expedient, however, he said, adding that modest fiscal measures were being introduced to help speed up reconstruction. He hoped this extra burden and sacrifice would be accepted with calmness. Certain economies are already being considered: "poorly and ill-managed secondary schools" will be closed down, for example. The administrative reorganisation in the state, laid out in two White Papers, envisages abolition of the low standard old local government system, whose councils became "instruments of oppression and political jobbery, and their services became dumping grounds for the favourites of politicians, who normally would not make the grade elsewhere." To avoid these evils the existing system is to be transformed into a Development Administration system, and the staff is to be distributed among the appropriate ministries. The provincial administration system introduced in 1966 as a means of devolution of power within the former Eastern region is to be abolished, and the existing 11 divisions will constitute the units of administration.

Some of this obviously constitutes abandonment of the old political system; but in the State Government, old political faces are apparent, often opposition men enjoying the fruits of power, such as Chief Morphy and the Commissioner for Agriculture—former Action Group leader in the East, E. O. Eyo; or durable men of the old NCNC such as Michael Ogon. There is also, as Commissioner of Information, the familiar face of the former Federal Police Chief, Louis Edet.

And what of those whom the Governor described as "our detractors and rebel stalwart supporters", South-Easterners who still support Biafra—whether committed men such as the much vilified radio commentator Okoko Ndem, or those so involved that they cannot escape, such as N. U. Akpan, Secretary to the Government of Biafra? The Governor says that if they come home "we will not take the law into our own hands." Of others who were "forced to remain with the rebels against their will" he says "it will be our duty to receive them and settle them wherever possible in gainful employments." Many have, in fact, already returned. Rehabilitation, in all its forms, is likely to be the top government priority for some time.

ROUNDABOUT

Gabon's Nonagenarian

I see that the death has been announced in Libreville of Mgr. André Raponda-Walker at the age of 97. He was, it seems, the first Gabonese priest, son of a British explorer (are all the Walkers of Gabon descended from him?), and a niece of King Georges Rassondji. Ordained priest in 1899, he travelled widely in Gabon during the colonial period and acquired considerable reputation as a historian, linguist (he compiled a French-Mpongwe dictionary published in 1934) and naturalist, winning several literary and scientific prizes, becoming an associate member of the French *Académie des Sciences d'Outremer*. Not for nothing does Brian Weinstein in his admirable book about Gabon, *Nation-Building on the Ogooué*, describe Raponda-Walker (with whom he was fortunate enough to have several conversations, including one in which the old priest recalled that there used to be a building before the turn of the century in Libreville called "Pahouin House", where lived the Frenchman who recruited Fang [Pahouin] for heavy construction work in the capital), as Gabon's leading intellectual of the twentieth century.

Remember Boganda

The infantile slanging match between President Bokassa and his former colleagues of the Union of Central African States, Presidents Mobutu and Tombalbaye, has now descended to mutual accusations of murder, including one that Tombalbaye was responsible for the plane crash which killed Barthélemy Boganda in March, 1959. The significance of this lies more in CAR's internal politics than as a credible story (if all Bokassa's stories are to be believed, Tombalbaye seems to have had a pretty sharp line in slipping bombs into aircraft). For Boganda (CAR's first priest, unfrocked for political activities) is completely venerated in Bangui as father of the Centrafrican nation in the days when it was merely the AEF territory of Oubangui-Chari; and both the first President after independence, David Dacko, and his successor and ejector Gen. Bokassa claimed to be nephews of this charismatic personality. One of Bokassa's reasons for staging his New Year's Eve *coup* three years ago was claimed to be his feeling that, as a member of a senior branch of the family he had more right to power than Dacko, who came from a junior branch. One may expect that the tenth anniversary of Boganda's death will be marked in Bangui in March, but the recent accusations will lend piquancy to the occasion. It was, after all, Boganda who was one of the leading apostles of unity in Central Africa ranging from Chad to Angola (he called it a union of Latin Africa).

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Mobutu and th Rebel Province

From a correspondent

IN his end-of-the-year message to the nation, President Mobutu declared 1969 "Year of Work." In his appearances over the radio and TV he did not waste many words on promises and slogans—but did he need to? He had just returned, the previous day, from what was probably the most important tour he had so far made in the interior of the country: accompanied by an entourage of foreign and Congolese officials, the President visited the province of Bandundu for the first time since he seized power in 1965.

The Province of Bandundu, or rather the area of Kwilu, stronghold of the late Pierre Mulele, and his guerrillas since the end of 1963, it has been known as the "Province of the Rebels." Mobutu's official visit there, only a few months after the brutal execution of the leader he had returned from Cairo to Brazzaville of his own will, ex-Premier by Jason-Marie Bombokos, the Foreign Minister, who had promised him amnesty on behalf of the Congolese Government), was a daring and well-calculated act. It also proved him right, and the risk taken a worthwhile one: the people of the Province gathered on the sides of the road to cheer and applaud the President, in just the same way they have done in all other Provinces of the Congo. The General did not encounter any open hostility, and only the slightest incident marred the success of his trip.

Years of Isolation

Three or [illegible] for the first time since it gained independence from Belgium in June 1960, the Congo is at open war in any part of the vast [illegible] square miles which make it. The "rebellion" is dead. It did not die at the hands of the mercenaries brought in by Moise Tshombe to quash it, despite their cruelty and their celebrated efficiency. The guerrillas could still count on their own kith and kin to hide them and warn them of an army attack, so that they could take them by the Congolese army. It was a result of years of isolation and [illegible] external support which brought about total and complete disunion between the most populous of Congo's Provinces.

The "rebellion" was born almost [illegible] rather, it broke away.

The story of its earlier stages [illegible] has been analysed by some political scientists as the sociological [illegible] of Mr. Moise Kapolwe's Katanga [illegible] but showing it in proper perspective would [illegible]

of warning of Régis Debray, the colleague of Che Guevara, that the end of the revolutionary movement is unavoidable when the freedom fighters remain entrenched in one area for too long, and when they consistently live off the local civil population, exposing it to enemy's sanctions.

When the ANC (National Congolese Army) forces started their final push on the remaining pocket near Kilembe, at about the time of the execution of Pierre Mulele, they encountered little resistance. The President ordered his officers not to bomb civilian targets, and military planes dropped thousands of leaflets calling the population to come out of the bush without fear. Only few people are in the position to know how faithfully these orders were carried out, considering the army's deepest hostility towards the "rebels". But what one does know is, that the advancing Congolese army discovered in this war-torn area walking skeletons of men, women and children, rather than fearless, bloodthirsty commandos.

Indeed, the time has come for "work", no more war, in the Congo, a country which has known trouble longer than any other on this continent. Whatever his shortcomings are, and one should not ignore them, Mobutu's name will go down as a great leader in Congolese history if he manages to retain so precious a peace.

President Mobutu's car enters Kikwit, former capital of Kwilu.

letters to the editor

U.S. AND RELIEF

SIR—Six professors of Lagos and Ibadan universities have, by their bitter protest against the American support for the relief of suffering in Biafra, done the Nigerian image great harm. One can understand military commanders wanting to win the Biafran/Nigerian war by any means and at any cost; the harassment of the Red Cross in the field is a case in point. For Nigerian dons to disregard or aggravate the sufferings of civilians—millions of men, women and children—in order to win the war is a sad reflection of the scant regard for elementary rules of humanity. Time was when starvation might have been a legitimate instrument of warfare; the development of international relations as evidenced in the Charter of the UN, the Geneva Conventions on Warfare, the Genocide Convention, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other conventions demonstrate the importance of protecting civilians even against their own governments.

One would have thought that these dons would be happy because the Easterners have left to them all the jobs available in Nigerian universities. The manoeuvrings in Lagos and Ibadan universities when Professors Njoku and Dike were vice chancellors respectively made it clear that the Easterners were not wanted on terms of equality with other citizens. The dons should exert their influence in favour of a negotiated settlement; the areas of contact between the Nigerians and the Biafrans can be expanded on a basis of good-will and mutual confidence. Obstructing relief from the USA or elsewhere to Biafra is hardly the way to nurture such good-will and confidence.

OJI UMOZURIKE

Linacre College,
Oxford.

DEMONSTRATORS IN LONDON

SIR—Matchet's Diary (*West Africa*, Jan. 11) carries an unfortunate distortion of the facts on the demonstrations outside Marlborough House. There were no Yorubas demonstrating "unexpectedly" in support of an Oduduwa Republic. There was, however, a large crowd of rebels demonstrating for their cause. In the middle of the rebel demonstrators one solitary man carried an equally solitary card inscribed "We support the Republic of Oduduwa", but nothing more besides. This, as every political scientist and seasoned journalist would have immediately recognised, is divisive propaganda of the crudest kind. Its aim was purely to destroy confidence in the Yoruba among their fellow Nigerians and place Yoruba commitment to Nigerian unity in doubt. This is nothing new in the Nigerian crisis and ranks equally with the various forms of allegations made by the rebel radio, the churches and rebel publicists on the nature of the war.

I do not know who Matchet is, but I think he has some knowledge of West Africa and its politics, and particularly he is acquainted with the Nigerian crisis and the consequences of certain errors, no matter how genuine. Could we expect him in future to check his facts?

IBRAHIM A. TAHIR.

Ahmadu Bello University.

MORE ON THAT BAN

SIR—If Mr. Nyarko (Jan. 4) wants the Public Office Disqualification Decree abolished merely because of the judgment given by the Exemptions Commission in favour of Mr. Gbedemah, then I am very surprised and disappointed in him.

Even a simple-minded woman like me knows that the role of the Exemptions Commission is to give those covered by the Decree a chance to prove that they have been unfairly treated. It is up to the individual to present a sound and strong case, to convince the Commission that he or she deserves to be exempted. This is what happened in the cases of Mr. Quaidoo and Mr. Gbedemah. The latter has managed to convince the Commission, and that should be enough for us who do not know all the circumstances and evidence.

If Mr. Nyarko thinks the judgment is not in the interest of Law and justice, what will he do if a friend or relative whom he thinks is innocent is convicted by the court of appeal? Maybe, as usual, I have completely failed to understand the logic of the whole thing.

J. E. BOOHENE.

SIR—I congratulate Mr. S. K. Nyarko (Jan. 4) for being honest and progressive. Like very many Ghanaians, I have never understood the purpose of the Disqualification Decree; I believe offenders should be dealt with in the normal way, by the proving of an offence followed by legal action.

Also, I believe that the decree will make it difficult if not impossible for Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, rightly described by President Kaunda as a "great son of Africa", to return to Ghana and continue the African crusade.

J. H. FOLSON (DR.).

NIGERIAN BROADCASTING

SIR—Since the first publication of the Nigerian External Broadcasting programme in *West Africa*, one would have thought that efforts had been directed at improving transmission and consequently, better reception overseas; but what gets through at the moment is a hum of high and low pitch.

The civilian government intended to instal powerful transmitters for broadcasting to Europe and the Americas; that the plan was never implemented before the military takeover. A large sum of money had previously been paid to an overseas agent for publicity purposes, even though people still ask what part of Ghana is Nigeria!

Much as the present war is a dreadful thing, it has helped in its way to put Nigeria on the map. One can only hope that the present regime will see that, as far as the desirability of external broadcasting is concerned, there is no better time than now.

We will continue to tune and listen until we hear a sound—loud and clear.

BOLA AJIDAGBA.

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books and publications

CITIES IN DEVELOPMENT

Urbanisation in Nigeria *by Akin L. Mabogunje (University of London Press; 50s.).*

The Urbanised Nigerian *by Theophilus A. Okin (Exposition Press Inc.; $5.00).*

GEOGRAPHY has progressed a long way from those simplistic days when it was assumed to be merely about maps, in contrast to history and chaps. Today it is not only a sophisticated and complex discipline but also one that spreads its interests across the board of several disciplines. Under the rubric of social geography, it is the topic of urbanisation that has dominated the post-war literature in the African context: the problems of townsmen or tribesmen, of marginal men, and the second generation. These, of course, are familiar dilemmas of society, magnificently exploited in their European setting by the 19th-century novelists—80 years ago Thomas Hardy was depicting the metamorphosis of his Wessex country life and concluding, in words so familiar in Africa today, how "the process, humorously designated by statisticians as 'the tendency of the rural population towards the large towns,' being really the tendency of water to flow uphill when forced by machinery." Somehow it is Africa, partly because of the comparative novelty of urban agglomerations in some areas and partly because of the vigorous "high-life" reorientation of the tenor of pre-industrial city life in those areas where towns have long flourished, that has become the focus for processing the raw laboratory data on modern town-dwellers in the making.

Certainly Dr. Mabogunje, Professor of Geography in the University of Ibadan, believes in the central importance of urban studies. His sustained writings thereon bear ample witness to this; and Nigeria, with its powerful traditional urbanism that antedates the European period as well as influencing the post-independence one with its distinctive vibrant brand of contemporary urbanisation, offers a rewarding source of material. Taking parts of his University of London doctoral dissertation and rethinking them with the help of what he describes as "sophisticated and analytical methods" at Northwestern University, that allowed him to subject his ideas to a computational analysis on an IBM 7090 (an even farther cry from the maps-not-chaps school), Dr. Mabogunje has now given us a thorough conspectus of the twin temporal aspects, "traditional" and "modern," of urbanisation in Nigeria.

Starting from empirically derived generalisations about the theory and patterns of urban phenomena, Dr. Mabogunje goes on to consider pre-European urbanisation in the classic loci of African metropolitanism, the city-states of Hausaland and the Yoruba towns. He then brings his survey up to the modern revival and redefinition of urbanisation, reflected in the enormous changes in utilities, services and the whole economic base of town life introduced by the colonial period. At slight variance with the implication of the dustjacket's statement that "the author shows that the basic economic and social factors which are at work in cities and towns in Nigeria are similar to those which have formed urban centres elsewhere," Dr. Mabogunje does, in the event, demonstrate that there are as many differences as there are similarities between Nigerian and non-Nigerian cities. In the second half of this book, he exemplifies his concept of urbanisation in Nigeria by undertaking a detailed and stimulating analysis of the traditional metropolis of Ibadan and of the emergence of the modern metropolis of Lagos, giving careful attention in both case-studies to their internal structure, including spatial organisation, residential districts, business centres, inner circulation, and the distribution of communications and socio-economic characteristics. Readers "without a basic training in the social sciences" are warned by the author that they should not shrink from the conceptual framework and statistical sophistication elaborated in his Chapter 6, where he evaluates what he considers to be the major patterns of overall urban development in Nigeria.

A final chapter discusses the issue of over-urbanisation, using Bert Hoselitz's triple definition, and concludes that by and large Nigeria's cities are today not functioning effectively in the economy; "in return for the investment in social amenities made on them, only a few are making positive contributions to the economy . . . many others can be regarded as parasitic in the system." There follows an interesting discussion of the "parasitic" and the "generative" city, backed up by valuable comments on social identification (that is, the atti-

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JANUARY ISSUE

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By FRED MPANGA

(2) Spotlight focuses on Monsieur Felix Houphouet-Boigny, President of Ivory Coast.
By Dr. A. M. KAMANDA

(3) Analytical survey of O.A.U. in its sixth year.
By RONALD K. NAGEL

(4) Democracy and Mr. Smith's Rhodesia.
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tude of emigrants from certain urban centres towards the social and economic conditions of their home towns) and on the problems created by "the sons of the soil," those native landowners who are powerful in the town, yet who fear and envy the superior economic status of the immigrants. There is also a review of the inadequacy of present-day urban functioning, especially management, in handling the enormous problems posed.

Dr. Mabogunje foresees something like 25-30 per cent. of Nigerians living in urban centres by 1985. Has he any advice to give the policy makers confronted by such a tremendous human problem? Emphasising the prime responsibility of urban centres for generating economic development, he maintains that a positive urbanisation policy can only be envisaged as an integral part of a bigger conception of regional economic planning. To delimit such a region, Dr. Mabogunje believes that Provinces (or maybe States today) can provide a sound basis for stimulating major developmental efforts, drawing on their historical association and a sense of belonging together. This, of course, assumes a cure for Nigeria's endemic disease that is as vital to the political scene as it is to the economic and planning one. Furthermore, Dr. Mabogunje does not hesitate to go back to Lugard, advocating the old colonial system of grading urban centres into various classes of township, and using as the criterion their revenue-raising capacity.

In summing up the essence of his thesis, namely that the city must be an important generating centre for economic growth and that its "efficient management is as crucial to the rate of growth of the country's economy as is the management of any directly productive activity," Dr. Mabogunje enters a plea for improved data collection. It is sad to have to point out that, despite the calibre and scholarship of this excellent study, it depends on nothing more recent than the population statistics gathered 16 years ago and in the total absence of such basic requirements as housing, production and distribution censuses. Dr. Mabogunje is too fine a scholar not to be aware of this limitation. He openly regrets his inability to base his deductions on the controversial (and not noticeably informative) 1963 census figures now released, nevertheless believing that many of the inferences that can be made from his dated census figures remain valid today.

Despite this, his admirable study, further enhanced with many valuable plates, figures and statistical tabulations and the whole most pleasantly produced, is clearly and deservedly set to become the standard text on urbanisation in Nigeria. It is also a book to which scholars from many disciplines as well as administrators and businessmen will make generous, grateful reference.

Mr. Okin's slim volume would not expect to find itself in the same class. Written by a young Nigerian who graduated in architecture from Ahmadu Bello University and Columbia Graduate School and then became an urban design consultant with New York City Housing and Development Administration (he is now a doctoral candidate at Liverpool University), it puts forward, in 35 pages, the writer's solutions to what he sees as "the problems that are plaguing the transplanted Nigerian" as soon as he shifts from a traditional way of life to that of "a modern urbanite," duly dazed by the bewildering problems that ensue. The writing is too slight really to tell us much that is either interesting or new about such a far-ranging and essentially human subject as that selected for the title. As an architect, Mr. Okin's main competence lies in such matters as physical planning, design factors, and ways of reducing the spread of squatters, all of which are better evaluated by his professional colleagues than in this journal. But I did find interesting the sketches of the organic compound of the Higi and Yungur, even though they seemed to have little relevance to the text.

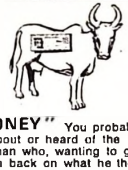
A.H.M.K-G.

Chroniques et Recits du Fouta Djalon *by Alfa Ibrahima Sow.*
Dictionnaire Dogon: Langue et Civilisation *by Geneviève Calame-Griaule (Langues et Littératures de L'Afrique Noire, Librairie C. Klingsieck, Paris, 48 francs and 60 francs respectively)*

At the moment of the French conquest the Fouta Djalon had been a Moslem state for three centuries, strong in structure with an entrenched hierarchy. It was one of the regions most described by French travellers in the 19th century, such as Gaspard Mollien, Hyacinthe Hecquard and Ernest Noirot (whose works today are unhappily little known and rare), and 20th-century administrators in Guinea made important contributions to our knowledge of the state through their own investigations, but the annals presented in M. Sow's volume are transcriptions of oral accounts of episodes in the history of Fouta-Djalon. This is the authentic language of the griots, transcribed into phonetic Fulfulde on one side of the page, and translated into French on the other. The "*recits*" seem to a great extent to concern military exploits (the longest section of the book is called "Power, the Sabre and the Faith"), with long lists of warriors, and of the villages they variously conquered and destroyed. But there is much raw material invaluable for students, and fascinating for the layman.

Mme. Calame-Griaule's book is very definitely for the scholar, but there is a vast store of insight into Dogon civilisation to be had from the mere study of their language, and there is no ethnologist more equipped than she to do it.

G.V.



"MONEY" You probably read about or heard of the gentleman who, wanting to get his own back on what he thought was a very mean local government council, wrote them a cheque on the *living hide of a cow* and led the cow to City Hall. The requisite revenue stamps having been duly affixed, of course, the cow was legal tender! (Its flanks were probably very tender too—after all that scratching about with a red hot quill!) I suppose, in the way that banks return old cheques to their customers, the cow eventually found its way back to home pastures—having been stamped with the Teller's number *et al*.
But, joking apart, there was a time when, if they had banks or safety deposits in some pastoral communities, they would in all probability look more like cattle ranches than banks as we now know them. For in such communities cattle would be money—the actual medium of exchange against which goods and services were valued. In other communities grain, wool, fish-hooks, skins, furs, cowries and shells have been used as currency. Indeed, in parts of Nigeria, cowries and manilla were, less than 100 years ago, legal tender. If you were to lose your cheque book and you decide to write your next cheque on the flanks of a cow, National Bank of Nigeria will honour it—provided you *do* have an account with the bank and that all legal requirements for valid cheques—duties, etc., are complied with.
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MATCHET'S DIARY

FOR the British Government it
well that non-nationals who
settled in West African Common
countries to trade were not offere
same chance of British citizenship
independence as were those in
Africa. For, last dramatically,
African governments, too, are spu
our compatriots from some
activities. In Ghana (see "Comm
News") taxi services, businesses with
50 employees, or with minute inves
retail trade businesses with an a
turnover below £250,000, and wh
businesses with a turnover
£500,000, will be restricted to Ghan
On the other hand—a provision
might be copied in East and C
Africa—non-Ghanaian enterprise
tered and operating in these res
fields can continue if they demo
that they have a definite pla
"Ghanaianisation." In Ghana, ho
unlike on the other side of the
tinent, the majority of people a
are themselves Africans, in thi
Nigerians, who are very promin
retail trade and transport. But th
a number of Lebanese and Indian
are also affected. In the last
census, which took place in 196
850,000 people are recorded as orig
in foreign countries, over half of
having been born abroad. The Li
exceed the Nigerians (some 2
among the African population
Indians only number about a th
and other Asian Commonwealth c
only 100 or so. The Lebanese and S
however, number over 2,000. No
the Indian and Lebanese male
whose numbers have probably in
since the census, are likely to be e
in now restricted commercial ac
and among the Nigerians a large
of adult women as well.

●

Sierra Leone's arguments for e
some 7,000 Ghanaian fishermen a
families are now based on the
they pose to security on the b
When the idea was first mooted
ever, emphasis was laid on the
they posed to Sierra Leone's fish
Whatever the reason, they have
been repatriated. While reti
proposal by Sir Albert Margai
nationals in various fields, in
retail trade and transport, [illegible]
peoples by the military regime are v
in force. Again, a number of Niger
Ghana, but in Sierra Leone th
now a large number of Lebane
Indian traders and transport op
The Gambia appears to have n
repatriation and in Nigeria al
there are mutterings about the p
it is said throughout Nigeria
more assistance in the

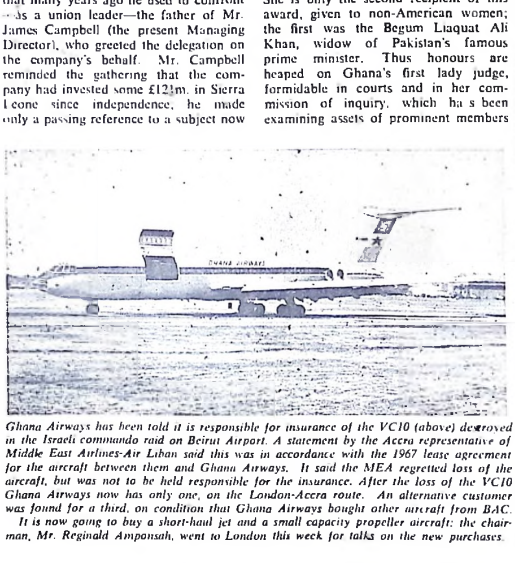
commercial capacity than the citizens of most other African countries, and do not feel the need for artificial protection. In any case, the departure of tens of thousands of Ibos from retail trade and other businesses in the Federation, would make it absurd to suggest that Nigerians at the moment require protection of this kind.

●

How many of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers were entertained while in London by London-based firms which formerly employed them? The only one I know is Mr. Siaka Stevens, who, at the Sierra Leone Development Company luncheon for his delegation, recalled that many years ago he used to confront him as a union leader—the father of Mr. James Campbell (the present Managing Director), who greeted the delegation on the company's behalf. Mr. Campbell reminded the gathering that the company had invested some £12½m. in Sierra Leone since independence, he made only a passing reference to a subject now Delco's gratuity scheme to other employers, and emphasised that his government understood fully the need to encourage investment of this kind.

●

A year after being chosen as chairman of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, on which she has been Ghana's representative since 1961, Mrs Justice Annie Jiagge has received the Gimbel International Award for Promoting World Peace and Understanding. At a ceremony in Philadelphia she received the award from Mr. Arthur Goldberg, former US ambassador to the UN, and, from the president of the Philadelphia Division of Gimbels Department Store, a cheque for $5,000. She is only the second recipient of this award, given to non-American women; the first was the Begum Liaquat Ali Khan, widow of Pakistan's famous prime minister. Thus honours are heaped on Ghana's first lady judge, formidable in courts and in her commission of inquiry, which ha s been examining assets of prominent members



Ghana Airways has been told it is responsible for insurance of the VC10 (above) destroyed in the Israeli commando raid on Beirut Airport. A statement by the Accra representative of Middle East Airlines-Air Liban said this was in accordance with the 1967 lease agreement for the aircraft between them and Ghana Airways. It said the MEA regretted loss of the aircraft, but was not to be held responsible for the insurance. After the loss of the VC10 Ghana Airways now has only one, on the London-Accra route. An alternative customer was found for a third, on condition that Ghana Airways bought other aircraft from BAC.

It is now going to buy a short-haul jet and a small capacity propeller aircraft: the chairman, Mr. Reginald Amponsah, went to London this week for talks on the new purchases.

greatly exercising the company—the likely increase in their costs when they are obliged to take their oil products from the new Freetown refinery instead of importing them directly. Mr. Stevens, who worked on the construction of Delco's railway, on which he later became a station master, was a founder of the United Mine Workers Union and for many years its first full-time General Secretary. He recalled the formidable stature of the elder Mr. Campbell, and even remembers vividly the size of his shoes ("in those days. James Campbell I remember as a sort of ADC to his his father"). Mr Stevens and the company had many disputes, but now their relations appear to be extremely cordial. In particular, Mr Stevens commended of the old regime since 1966, and has not finished yet. She is no longer the only lady judge in Ghana (there is now Mrs Doris Owusu-Addo as well), nor —fortunately, in view of the volume of work—the only assets commissioner. Annie Jiagge comes from a prominent family, for she was formerly Miss Baeta, and one of her brothers is the Rev. Christian Baeta, head of the Department of Religious Studies at Legon and now a member of the Constituent Assembly. Another brother is a director of UAC. She was the country's first woman magistrate, and a barrister, before being raised to the Bench and recently was in charge of organising the UN seminar on the education of women held in Accra

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commercial news

GHANA

Decree on Foreign Traders

UNDER the decree on promotion of Ghanaian enterprises, a 16-man committee will advise the Government; the chairman is to be the Permanent Secretary, External Affairs. The decree reserves for Ghanaians the operation of retail trade with an annual sales volume of 500,000 new cedis or less, and of wholesale trade yielding an annual sales volume of [illegible] cedis or less, or any taxi service [illegible] business for hire-purchase sale under hire-purchase contract of taxis or for operation of a taxi service). Also, enterprises with thirty employees or less which, in the opinion of the new Committee, require simple production or operational techniques; any enterprise with a capital of 100,000 new cedis or less which is an extractive, processing or manufacturing enterprise; and any enterprise connected with the transportation of [illegible] goods, will also be reserved for Ghanaians. So will any enterprise specified in an executive instrument by the government as being a small scale enterprise and any enterprise with representatives of overseas manufacturers.

No alien shall operate, or be concerned in the operation of, any taxi service or any business for sale under hire-purchase contract of taxis, or any business concerned with the representation in Ghana of overseas manufacturers, more than two years after the operative date. Of any other reserved enterprise more than five years after the date. Every alien operator shall ensure that [illegible] after the operative date all [illegible] of reserved enterprises [illegible] are Ghanaians.

No alien shall enter into partnership with a Ghanaian operator in any reserved enterprise operated by such a foreign (non-Ghanaian) owns [illegible] not less than 60 per cent of the capital.

[illegible] promises made by [illegible] E N Omaboe, Economic Affairs Commissioner, last July and again in November. The Nigerian press has noted that it will apply to Nigerians (in retail trade) among others, but Lebanese and Indians will also be affected.

Locusts in North-Wes

The North-Western Nigeria Ministry Natural Resources and Co-operatives announced that desert locusts have reache Zuru Emirate of Niger Province, and warn that there was a slight danger of locusts la ing eggs if they reached the river Nig where conditions for breeding were favou able. People around the insects' expect route have been alerted and urged to co-e erate in resisting the spread of the invasi On Nov. 20 swarms covering an area about half a square mile were sighted Dan Sadau, about 50 miles south-west Gusau. Then they were found feeding trees, but some slight damage was done cotton, cowpeas and guinea corn: a state local emergency was imposed in the ar Then, says the report, the locusts went sou westwards towards Wasasu and Kotonka districts of Niger Province. Steps to exterminate them (including burning, and use insecticides) were taken before they co do any damage, the report claims.

■ The Executive Committee of the In national Organisation Against Migrat Locusts (OICMA) has held a two-d meeting in Bamako, ending with an appe to member states to pay their contri tions. Delegates attended from Niger Niger, Sierra Leone, Mauritania a Uganda.

■ The final phase of evacuation of t 80,000 people displaced by the Volta La has begun in the Northern Region far, in an operation begun in 1963, peo formerly living in about 700 villages ha been resettled in 52 larger communities

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Nigeria and British Firms

PUBLIC and private capital investment proposed for Nigeria's post-war programme of national reconstruction and development will total more than £1,150,000,000, Chief Awolowo said at a lunch in his honour given by the West Africa Committee in London. Most of this would be found from Nigeria's resources in four years, and foreign exchange would be conserved mainly for imports of capital equipment, know-how and the needs of consumer goods industries. He thanked the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. W. Gates, for his promise of British investment to help reconstruction.

Mr. Gates criticised some aspects of Nigerian policy towards foreign investment. Proposing the toast of Chief Awolowo, he said the Nigerian Government did not always seem to show as much favour towards businessmen as the Committee (representing firms trading with West Africa) showed towards Nigeria. The Committee's pleas against retrospective legislation, including decrees on hire-purchase and state lands compensation and Decree No 51 on companies, had been ignored, he said, on Decree No. 51, he said many Committee members had already incorporated their businesses in Nigeria, but the "completely unexpected enactment" of Part X of the decree "came as a very considerable shock to us," while some concerns could work best if included in an international set-up.

Decree No. 51

Chief Awolowo, replying to the toast, said Nigeria, though no longer interested in the "get-rich-quick investor," welcomed foreign investment of the sort which the said) West Africa Committee members were providing, and had revisted the opportunity to make foreign businessmen a scapegoat for her troubles. Industrial incentives and tax concessions had been maintained despite wartime austerity, which has also, by necessary import restrictions, helped to stimulate Nigerian industry. Foreign business had not "fallen from grace"; the Federal Government did not believe in retrospective legislation, though this was occasionally necessary, and had accommodated the wishes of some companies concerning Decree No. 51. Part X of that decree, he said, was intended to "indigenise" foreign firms, not to nationalise them; the aim was that investors should come to stay and regard Nigeria as an "important economic proposition," not as an adjunct to "vast international operations." If "socialisation" were carried out it would be according to law the said the iron and steel complex would be publicly owned).

● The Nigerian Central Bank's external reserve on Dec. 14 was £N37,848,000—about £N800,000 less than on Nov. 30 (when it was £N38,694,000).

By Dec. 31 the reserve figure had risen again slightly, to £N37,957,000.

● At the AGM of Barclays Bank DCO the company's authorised capital was raised from £30m. to £50m., the maximum permitted under the Barclays DCO Act of 1965. Two directors, Marshal of the RAF Lord Portal of Hungerford and Sir Eric Machtig, retired, and Mr D. O. Maxwell, a Director and Chief General Manager of Martins Bank, joined the board. Sir Julian Crossley, former chairman, was among those re-elected to the board.

WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

ELDER DEMPSTER LINE
SOUTHBOUND—from Liverpool:—DIXCOVE slg. Milford Haven Jan. 22; KADUNA slg. Milford Haven Jan. 23; FOURAH BAY due Tema Jan. 20; DUMARRA slg. Liverpool Feb. 13; OBUASI slg. Liverpool Jan. 30; DUNKWA due Tema Jan. 18.
From London:—EBANI slg. London Jan. 17; PATANI slg. London Jan. 24; KOHIMA slg. London Feb. 11.
From Continent:—FULANI slg. Rotterdam Jan. 17; FIAN slg. Hamburg Jan. 24.
NORTHBOUND—To Liverpool:—AUREOL due Freetown Jan. 18; DUNGA due Sapele Jan. 20; KABALA due Takoradi Jan. 22; OWERRI due Port Gentil Jan. 21.
To London:—DEGEMA due London Jan. 29; BHAMO due Abidjan Jan. 20; EBOE due London Jan. 17; EGORI due Lagos Jan. 25; KUMBA due Freetown Jan. 19; MAPLEBANK due London Jan. 19; MONIKA WIARDS due London Feb. 2; ONITSHA due Leith Jan. 20.
To Dublin:—CITY OF GUILDFORD due Takoradi Jan. 18.
To Hull:—CRESTBANK due Hull Feb. 2.
To Avonmouth:—TEVIOTBANK due Abidjan Jan. 23.
To Continent:—PERANG due Hamburg Jan. 18; FORCADOS due Takoradi Jan. 19.
EASTBOUND—From USA/Canada:—FREETOWN due Lome Jan. 23.
WESTBOUND—To USA/Canada:—DEIDO due Abidjan Jan. 19; DUMBAIA due Halifax Jan. 25.
From India/Pakistan/Burma:—IRISBANK due Douala Jan. 17.

BARBER WEST AFRICAN LINE
OUTWARDS—TEMA due sail New York Halifax (NS) end Jan for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos, Douala and Takoradi; CORNEVILLE due sail New York/Halifax (NS) 1st half Feb. for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala and Takoradi.
HOMEWARDS—CORNEVILLE now Cartaret, thence New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Norfolk. FERNWOOD now due load Abidjan, Monrovia for US North Atlantic. ITTANDA due load Lagos/Ghana N. Bound, Abidjan/Monrovia end Jan.

JAPAN " K " LINE
WESTBOUND—From Japan (Via Hong Kong and Cape) to Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown etc. to Japan:—NEHIMA MARU sld Japan Dec. 28, due Lagos Feb. 6.
EASTBOUND—From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown etc. to Japan (Via Cape and Singapore):—TSUNESHIMA MARU slg Lagos Feb. 13, Tema Feb. 16, Freetown Feb. 19, due Japan Mar. 30.

WOERMANN LINE
STUURMANN HUK slg. Hamburg Jan. 22, Bremen Jan. 24, Rotterdam Jan. 29, Antwerp Jan. 27, due Las Palmas Feb. 4, Freetown Feb. 9, Monrovia Feb. 11, NAJADE slg. Hamburg Jan. 24, Bremen Jan. 27, Rotterdam Jan. 29, Antwerp Jan. 31, due Dakar Feb. 13, Conakry Feb. 16, Abidjan Feb. 22.

NOPAL WEST AFRICA LINE
EASTBOUND—NOPAL LUNA sld Lagos Jan. 22, Takoradi Feb. 2, due Warri Feb. 6; NOPAL SUN sld New Orleans Jan. 29, Takoradi Feb. 18, Lagos Feb. 21 due Warri Feb. 25.
WESTBOUND—NOPAL SUN sld. New Orleans Jan. 16 due Houston Jan. 20, NOPAL LUNA slg. Luanda Feb. 24, Takoradi Mar. 2, New Orleans Mar. 20 due Houston Mar. 24.

PALM LINE
SOUTHBOUND—**From London:**—IBADAN PALM due Abidjan Jan. 20
From Liverpool:—LOHTO PALM due Freetown Jan. 25.
NORTHBOUND—To London:—AKASSA PALM slg. Sapele Jan. 21
To Liverpool:—ILORIN PALM slg. Abidjan Jan. 18.
To Continent:—BADAGRY PALM slg. Douala Jan. 17.
TO Continent:—BAMENDA PALM slg. Freetown Jan. 18.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINES
INWARDS—STRAAT MAGELHAEN from China and Hong Kong sld. Hong Hong Dec. 10 due Lagos/Apapa Jan. 11, Cotonou Jan. 16, Lome Jan. 18, Tema Jan. 19, Abidjan Jan. 20, Monrovia Jan. 22, Freetown Jan. 23, Dakar Jan. 26, Conakry Jan. 30; STRAAT FRE-MANTLE from Japan slg. Kobe Dec. 21 due Lagos Apapa Jan. 22, Monrovia Feb. 2, Freetown Feb. 4, Abidjan Feb. 8, Takoradi Feb. 11.
OUTWARDS—STRAAT MAGELHAEN from Nigeria, Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong & China second half Jan.; STRAAT FREMANTLE from Nigeria Ghana to Singapore Hong Kong and Japan second half Jan.

HOLLAND WEST AFRIKA LIJN
SOUTHBOUND — From Continent: — NIJKERK due Dakar Jan. 22, KATENDRECHT due Dakar Jan. 27, SENEGALKUST due Dakar Feb. 1.
NORTHBOUND — To Continent — TOGOKUST due Rotterdam Jan. 22; DAHOMEYKUST due Rotterdam Feb. 19.

CHARGEURS REUNIS
CIRCEA due Tema Feb. 12, Freetown Feb. 21; TANAGRA due Kobe Feb. 15.

MAERSK LINE
ANETTE MAERSK slg. Douala Jan. 21, arr. Victoria Jan. 22; TORBEN MAERSK slg. Luanda Feb. 14, arr. Matadi Feb. 15.

MITSUI OSK LINE
HUDSON MARU sld Kobe Dec. 21, due Lagos Jan. 22; HAVANA MARU sld Kobe Dec. 30, due Lagos Feb. 4; KINKASAN MARU slg. Kobe Jan. 21, due Lagos Feb. 21.

GOLD STAR LINE
SAHAR slg. Lagos/Apapa Jan. 20/21, Tema Jan. 22/23, Takoradi Jan. 24/25; SHAVIT slg. Singapore Jan. 20, Durban Feb. 2/3, Lourence Marques Feb. 4/5.

BLACK STAR LINE/SEVEN STAR LINE/UNIHAWA
WESTBOUND—BELLAVIA Luanda Jan. 22, Douala Jan. 25, Tema Jan. 27, Abidjan Jan. 29; SAKUMO LAGOON Ghana Jan. 26/Feb. 1.

BLACK STAR LINE/CONTINENT/WA
SOUTHBOUND—KULPAWN RIVER Dakar Jan. 17, Freetown Jan. 19, Abidjan Jan. 21; BIA PEWER Hamburg Jan. 20, Antwerp Jan. 21, Rotterdam Jan. 22/23, Dakar Jan. 30.
NORTHBOUND—KORLE LAGOON Takoradi Jan. 16, Rotterdam Jan. 22, Amsterdam Jan. 30, Hamburg Feb. 3; BENYA RIVER Abidjan Jan. 26, Avonmouth Feb. 6, London Feb. 14.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE
SOUTHBOUND—MINNESOTA ldg. Scandinavia and Bordeaux 2nd half Jan.; TJELMARE ldg. Scandinavia and Bordeaux Feb.; YARRAWONGA ldg. Scandinavia and Bordeaux 2nd half Feb.
NORTHBOUND—MANARELLA ldg. West Africa Jan. end Feb.; INSARES ldg. West Africa Feb.; MINNESOTA ldg. West Africa Feb. early Mar.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE
WESTWIND slg New Orleans Jan. 26, Houston Jan. 30 for Lagos, Luanda; SOPHIEC slg. New Orleans Feb. 2, Houston Jan. 31 for Luanda, Abidjan, Freetown; BUENA FORTUNA slg. New Orleans Feb. 13, Houston Feb. 18, for Lagos, Luanda, Abidjan, Freetown

EDWARD NASSAR LINES
EMIR BECHIR due Famagusta Jan. 29, Beirut Jan. 31; TERESA due Tema Jan. 16, Lagos Jan. 21.

HOEGH LINES
ATLANTA sld Rouen Jan. 17, due Dakar Jan. 24, Monrovia Jan. 28, Abidjan Jan. 30, Lagos/Apapa Feb. 1; HOEGH AURORE slg Bremen Jan. 22, Hamburg Jan. 24, Antwerp Jan. 27, due Freetown Feb. 6, Abidjan Feb. 9.

FARRELL
HOMEWARDS—AUSTRALIAN REEF slg. from Ghana Jan. 16 for Monrovia, US ports.
OUTWARDS—AUSTRALIAN GULF slg. Apapa Jan. 24, Sapele Feb. 1 (if inducement) for Ghana Feb. 3, Abidjan, Monrovia for US ports.

HUGO STINNES TRANSOZEAN SCHIFFAHRT GMBH
JULIUS HUGO STINNES sld. Rouen Jan. 16, due Sta. Cruz Jan. 22, Las Palmas Jan. 22, Dakar Jan. 25, Conakry Jan. 27; MAX HUGO STINNES slg. Dunkirk Jan. 21, Rouen Jan. 23, due Sta. Cruz Jan. 29, Las Palmas Jan. 29, Dakar Feb. 1.

NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE
SOUTHBOUND—KING JAJA slg. London Jan. 31; RIVER NIGER slg. Rouen Jan. 31.
NORTHBOUND—ELKANEMI due Liverpool Jan. 19; ODUDUWA due Belfast Jan. 26.

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commercial news

New Plywood Mill

GLIKSTEN'S new plywood and veneer mill in Ghana's Western Region, for which a contract was signed in October, "is, we believe, the first major industrial development in that country with investment of outside sources of capital since the present Government took control," says the Chairman of this timber trading and processing company, Mr. R. Law. The two production companies in Ghana, Glikston (West Africa) and International Hardwoods, "achieved much better results this year, although not in fact up to the levels we had budgeted." He said communications difficulties, particularly on the railways, had reduced production and shipments.

The new plywood and veneer mill will be adjacent to Glikstен's Dwinasi sawmill. This will be able to use "facilities already provided in anticipation of such development"—log production and steam and ancillary facilities: without these, Mr. Law said, the project would have cost £1·5m., instead of £500,000, the actual cost of the new investment.

Total profit of the Glikstен group, covering many other countries besides Ghana, was £878,000 after taxation in 1967-68 (year ending June 30), compared with £455,000 the previous year.

● Ashanti Goldfields made a pre-tax profit of £290,177 for December bringing the last three months' total to £841,555, also before tax. Gold production was 40,400 oz from the milling of 52,000 tons of ore, giving an average yield of 15·62 dwt per ton. At £841,555, the working profit for the first three months of the present year compares with £609,053 for the comparable period of last year and reflects free market sales since last March.

● The new £3·7m. Gombe-Biu road in Nigeria's North-East State is now completed, the State Governor has announced. He said it was "an important feeder-road to the Bornu Railway extension," and would allow increased agricultural trade.

UK Trade in 1968

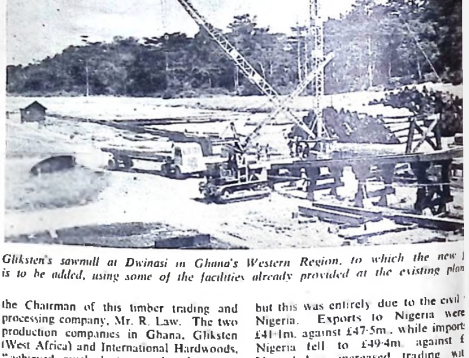
Our Manchester correspondent Mr. Peter L. Bridge, of Joseph Bridg Co., the Manchester West African verters, was elected chairman of the Section of the Manchester Chamb Commerce at the annual meeting o section. Mr. Bridge succeeds Mr. Homes of United Africa Co. and had acting chairman for several months be Mr. Homes had resigned on taking appointment in London. Based on th nine months of the year, the annual of the section, shows that trade with monwealth West Africa fell sharply in but this was entirely due to the civil Nigeria. Exports to Nigeria were £41·1m. against £47·5m., while import Nigeria fell to £49·4m. against £ Nevertheless increased trading wit other three countries in both directio to the total exports for the four co of £75·3m. against £79·5m. and impo £102·2m. against £114·5m.

● The Chairman of the British N Export Council, Sir Arthur Smith (ch of UAC) and the Council's Secretar J. B. Davis, will make a tour of Leone, The Gambia and the Islands next month. The program not yet definite. This is said to be a finder visit, for the purpose of see many business men as possible and recent development.

● The Distilleries Division of the Industrial Holding Corporation has a net profit of more than NC500,000 turnover of about NC5m. this year. Kwabena Owusu, general manager NC1·4m. had been paid in taxes.

Mr. Owusu announced that the an form of a commercial agreement between the distilleries and Duncan and Matheson expired at midnig December 17. As a result, all pr manufactured under that name hav ceased. (D. G. & M. has supplies centrates to the Distilleries Corpo as it was formerly called, under thr cessive agreements. Talks earlier in th on a new agreement were unfruitfu

Mr. Owusu (who recalled that h been arrested just six years before for ing to sign the original agreement) that all debts had now been cleared.



Glikstен's sawmill at Dwinasi in Ghana's Western Region, to which the new is to be added, using some of the facilities already provided at the existing plan

Cocoa Prices Fall

Ghana cocoa purchases in the week ending January 9 were 11,042 tons, considerably more than in the previous week (when the figures were, it is said, probably distorted by the Christmas holiday). The Cocoa Marketing Co. remains withdrawn from the market for the 1969-70 crop, says Overseas Buyers, the Nigerian Produce Marketing Co. is similarly withdrawn from cocoa. Nigerian purchases are unofficially estimated at just over 150,000 tons, and are, like Ghana's official figure of 285,000, well below last year's figure.

London cocoa prices have declined for several days, and were on January 14 below 410s. per cwt. for 1969 contracts. A record turnover on the London market—15,208 lots of five tons—was recorded last week. One reason for the drop in prices was thought to be expectation of lower US grinding figures in the fourth quarter of 1968. These were in fact 6·4 per cent. below last year's figure for the quarter, and 1 per cent. down for the year; the UK figures were 2 per cent up for the last quarter, compared with 1967, and 2½ to 3 per cent down for the year.

A takeover bid for Rowntree & Co. the British chocolate and confectionery group, has been made by the US General Foods Corporation, manufacturers of varied sweet and dessert foods.

● The International Coffee Agreement entered into force definitely on Dec. 30, and has now been ratified by 41 exporting and 20 importing member states. The exporting members include Ivory Coast (the biggest coffee producer in Africa and the third in the world), Guinea, Liberia, Dahomey, Togo, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, CAR, the two Congos, Gabon, Rwanda, Burundi and Portugal (whose coffee production is in fact nearly all in Angola, a major producer—usually fourth or fifth in world output). Four importers—Belgium, Italy, Japan and Spain—are provisional members of the Agreement, which expires in 1973.

● The US Department of Agriculture expects world crops of 1,209,900 metric tons of cocoa, and 61,825,000 bags (of 60 kg. each) of coffee in 1968-69.

IN BRIEF

● M. Moise Mensah, 34, became substantive FAO Regional Representative for Africa on January 1. A former Dahomey Minister of Rural Development, and an agricultural engineer by training, M. Mensah has been acting in this position since the departure of Chief Gabriel Akin-Deko last July.

● An $8·9m. water treatment plant to supply Monrovia and its environs with 8m. gallons of pure water per day has been inaugurated. Of the cost $7·2m. will be covered by a USAID loan. Liberia's capital now suffers periodic water shortages.

● The Bauer Dredging Co. have started operations following the award of a contract to dredge the creek for a 30-mile stretch between Warri and Escravos, Mid-West Nigeria.

● Mr J. D. Robertson has been appointed a director of Elder Dempster Lines, responsible for traffic control of vessels.

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NOTICES

LAGOS STATE UNION

Calling all Nigerians from Lagos State to the inauguration of the Lagos State Union.

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NOTICES—Continued

ONDO UNION UK AND IRELAND BRANCH

It is hereby notified that the above-named organisation held its Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 29th September, 1968, and at the Adjourned Meeting which took place at Friendship House, Wandsworth, on Sunday, 27th October, 1968, the following were duly elected as officers for the year 1968-69

President ..... G. O. Awonika
Vice-President ..... E. Omogbehin
General Secretary ..... Ile Gbadebian
Assistant General Secretary ..... Kole Fatonah
Social Secretary ..... Kayode Adesale
Publicity Secretary ..... Abdulai Ogunye
Financial Secretary ..... Ife Ogunye
Treasurer ..... Boi Fabunye
Ex Officio ..... Funke Orenuke (Mrs.)
A. Omogbehin (Mrs.)
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Method of Application

Applications which should give full details of the Company and previous experience in this field and marked "Management Agent for Ukpilla Cement Company Limited" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope should be addressed to:—

The Secretary,
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Private Mail Bag 1045,
No. 22, Ugbague Street, Benin City,
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To reach him not later than 7th February 1969

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MEETINGS

ASANTE YOUTH ASSOCIATION
(NON-POLITICAL)

The Asante Youth Association will hold the general meeting at 3 Collingham Gardens, London, S.W.5, on Sunday 19th January, 1969, at 2 p.m. to transact the following business on the agenda:

1. Approval of draft constitution, Bye-laws and regulations.
2. Election of officers for 1969-70.
3. Any other business.

All sons and daughters of Ashanti and Brong-Ahafo, irrespective of one's political and unions affiliations are cordially invited to attend this important national meeting.

KWASI OWUSU-ANSAH,
AG. GENERAL SECRETARY.

MUSLIM ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA
London Branch

There will be the Annual General Meeting of the above named Association on Sunday 26th January 1969, at the Nigeria Centre and Hostel, 22 Inverness Terrace, London, W.2., at 3 o'clock prompt.

AGENDA

1. Minutes
2. Reading of the Executive Report and Auditors' Report.
3. Finance
4. Election of Officers.
5. Swearing in of new Officers by the Imam.
6. Closing Prayer.

GENERAL SECRETARY.
RASAKAK OLA AFUWAPE
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GHANA
OTU DEMANDS PUBLIC TRIAL

WHEN the Commission of enquiry into their case opened at Burma Camp on Jan. 7, Air Marshal Michael Otu, former GOC Armed Forces, and his ADC, Naval Lt. Benjamin O. Kwapong, repeated their demand for a trial instead of a Commission, and asked to be excused from the Commission. They said they would not give evidence or cross-examine any witnesses before the Commission, which is headed by Mr. Justice A. N. E. Amissah of the Court of Appeal. The director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. J. N. K. Taylor, said the alleged charges mentioned by Air Marshal Otu (who said that, as he had been publicly accused of the capital offence of treason, and had been served with charges and publicly accused by Mr. J. W. K. Harley, he should have a public trial) did not affect the inquiry; and that any refusal to testify, or to answer questions, by the two men would be contempt of court. Mr Justice Amissah said they would be subpoenad if necessary. Lt. Kwapong said he had been interrogated by eight police and two army officers for 15 hours, and his belongings had been searched for subversive literature, but none had been found.

After an application by Mr. Taylor, saying some aspects of the case were still being investigated, the Commission was adjourned to Jan. 28. Mr. Amissah had stated earlier that in seeking the facts, the Commission would not be influenced by any statements already made by anybody; he urged that evidence involving security matters should not be given more publicity than necessary, adding that some hearings might be in camera.

The post of GOC Armed Forces has now been re-styled "Chief of Defence Staff". Major-General Albert Ocran, of the NLC (besides being GOC of the Army), has been acting holder of this post since Air Marshal Otu's arrest in November.

● The independent weekly *Echo* has claimed that its offices were searched by police after it published an article on Air Marshal Otu's first public demand for a trial (in his petition to the NLC just before Christmas). The editor, Mr. Francis Amuku, was taken to a police station, where he made a statement saying he had obtained a copy of the petition from Mr. da Rocha, solicitor for Air Marshal Otu.

● There are five committees established by the Constituent Assembly, including a new Standing Orders Committee replacing that set up after the swearing-in session on December 30. The Speaker, Mr. R. S. Blay (a former judge), said the Selection Committee, another of those newly established, was alone competent to appoint the Standing Orders Committee. The latter is headed by the Speaker. The Selection Committee is chaired by the Deputy Speaker, Nene Azu Mate Kole; the Privileges Committee by Mr. B. J. da Rocha, a barrister representing the Bar Association; the House Committee by the Speaker (who is an NLC-appointed member of the Assembly); and the Business Committee by Mr. Justice Samuel Azu Crabbe.

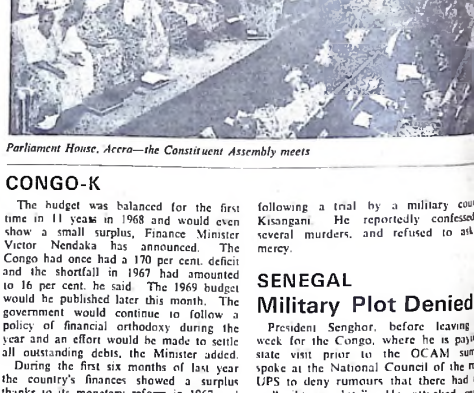
Mr. Alhasan Cudjoe, Northern farmers' representative, was (contrary to earlier reports that he resigned) ordered, after the swearing-in ceremony, not to attend any more sessions until a petition against his election had been resolved.

● Private gatherings have continued to make constitutional proposals. One suggested that future Speakers of the National Assembly should come from outside parliament; another, that Ghana should have a French-style Constitutional Council to interpret the Constitution, a function le the judiciary under the Constitutional posals to be discussed in the Consta Assembly.

● The TUC is complaining to the I national Labour Office in Geneva abou Ghana Government's alleged "injustice discrimination against workers of Gha The Congress has accused the Govern of violating some ILO international co tions. Mr. Benjamin Bentum, TUC S tary-General, said the move had agreed upon, reluctantly, at a meetin December. No details of the compl have been published.

● Mr. John Harris, formerly Libr and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the versity of Ibadan and for a time A Vice-Chancellor, has now been appo Professor of Library Studies at University of Ghana.

● Several hundred fishermen expelled Sierra Leone have now arrived bac Ghana by boat. The Government ha up a committee at Takoradi to help t



Parliament House, Accra—the Constituent Assembly meets

CONGO-K

The budget was balanced for the first time in 11 years in 1968 and would even show a small surplus, Finance Minister Victor Nendaka has announced. The Congo had once had a 170 per cent. deficit and the shortfall in 1967 had amounted to 16 per cent. he said. The 1969 budget would be published later this month. The government would continue to follow a policy of financial orthodoxy during the year and an effort would be made to settle all outstanding debts, the Minister added.

During the first six months of last year the country's finances showed a surplus thanks to its monetary reform in 1967 and to high copper prices in world markets. But during the second half of the year expenditure started to rise and a deficit of 20 million zaires (about £8m.) appeared possible. As taxation was already at a fairly high level, the government decided to retrench and to cut its expenditure and the balanced budget target was reached.

● General Alphonse Bangala, Governor of Kinshasa and Chairman of the Regional branch of the MPR has been suspended while police are investigating the shooting of Pierre Lungusu, private secretary and chauffeur, at Gen. Bangala's house.

● One of the leaders of the 1964 rebellion in Eastern Congo, "General" Gaston Ngalo, has been caught and executed following a trial by a military cou Kisangani. He reportedly confessed several murders, and refused to ask mercy.

SENEGAL
Military Plot Denied

President Senghor, before leaving week for the Congo, where he is payi state visit prior to the OCAM sum spoke at the National Council of the n UPS to deny rumours that there had a "military plot". He attacked cer foreign journalists living in Dakar inventing catastrophes in develo countries, but he thought it a good to have a free press. The previous the Information Secretary, M. Abdou Diack, had also denied the report which been sent by AP. It claimed that diplom sources in Dakar had said that a cer number of army officers had been arre including Major Faustin Pereira, ex-C mander of the paratroop division, and military attaché at the embassy in Was ton. M. Diack said that while it was that two army officers, one of them ret had been summonsed, there is no founda for saying there was any "military p An inquiry into the alleged misdeeds of two officers concerned was continuing.

SIERRA LEONE

SIR HENRY LIGHTFOOT BOSTON DIES

AFTER a long illness in London Sir Henry Lightfoot Boston has died at the age of 70. He came to London in April 1967 after the military takeover and did not return to Freetown.

Sir Henry was the first Sierra Leonean to be appointed Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief. Before this appointment, made in July 1962, he had served for five years as Speaker of the House of Representatives. He was the youngest of nine children of the Rev. N. H. Boston, Pastor of St. Charles Church, Regent, and was called Lightfoot after Dr. Lightfoot of Durham, a close friend of his father. He was educated at the Cathedral Boys' School, the CMS grammar school, and Fourah Bay College. He graduated Bachelor of Arts at Durham in 1910 and became Master in the following year. After a brief period in the civil service he studied law at Lincoln's Inn. He was the first African to win the Barstow Prize.

Back in Sierra Leone he began a flourishing private practice and was later appointed City Solicitor in Freetown. In 1946 he was appointed a police magistrate and later a Puisne Judge.

Sir Henry's period of Governor-General will be remembered chiefly for two events, writes a correspondent. In 1964 it fell to him, on the death of Sir Milton Margai, to call to the premiership the man who seemed to him most likely to command a majority in the House. Against his personal inclinations, but on the advice of the Attorney-General, he choose Mr., now Sir, Albert Margai, Sir Milton's brother, rather than Dr. John Karefa-Smart, regarded by many as Sir Milton's deputy. The House confirmed the choice.

In 1967, at the time of the army takeover, Sir Henry was confined to State House, together with Mr. Siaka Stevens and some of the Prime Minister's supporters. His imprisonment figures among the charges now alleged against those responsible for the overthrow of civilian government. Sir Henry was subsequently released from house arrest and proceeded to the UK ostensibly on sick leave. Under the military regime the question of his status was never resolved, and when civilian rule returned it was accepted that he would be invited back to resume his office. He was too ill to accept the invitation.

Mr. Banja Tejan-Sie, the Chief Justice, has been described as "acting" Governor-General since April last year.

Because the Queen, whose representative Sir Henry was, and the British Government (although technically the matter had nothing to do with them) proved unable to do anything to assist Sir Henry to resume his office under the military regime, or to punish those who had imprisoned him, many Sierra Leoneans felt that the arrangement under which the Queen was Queen of Sierra Leone but was represented by a Sierra Leonean Governor-General had proved unworkable and should give way to a republican constitution. Such a constitution, Mr. Stevens has announced, will be introduced this year.

In a tribute to Sir Henry, B.T. writes: Quiet and unassuming, the late Governor-General's life was not altogether easy, but the training imparted to him at the vicarage helped him to soar above his difficulties. He rose from obscurity to eminence: from a Treasury clerk with a salary of £1 10s. a month, he eventually became Head of State. Academically he shone during his schooldays, at Fourah Bay, at Durham, and at London, where he obtained First Class honours in the LL.B.

He was a man of few words but displayed considerable forensic skill, depth of learning, and integrity. These qualities led to his appointment to the Bench. He was an ideal judge, who listened very carefully both to counsel and witnesses, with very little interruption. His face remained expressionless during a hearing, and when he delivered his judgments, they were masterly and full of legal wisdom. Ill-health compelled him to retire from the Bench. His talents were then reflected in his conduct of the affairs of Parliament.

The military coup created problems for Sir Henry which resulted in a rapid deterioration of his health (the death of his wife, the former Miss Christina Songo Davies, in London in 1966 had affected him deeply). While in Britain he once again showed his profound knowledge of the law in the celebrated letter which he wrote after the announcement of his retirement, which he strenuously contested on

Mr. Siaka Stevens outside Buckingham Palace before having an audience of the Queen during the Commonwealth conference. With him are the High Commissioner in London, Mr. G. L. V. Williams (Secretary to the Prime Minister) and the Prime Minister's ADC.

legal grounds. Mr. Siaka Stevens had always hoped that Sir Henry would recover to return to Sierra Leone as Governor-General, even for a short time before retiring, in order to regain his authority.

Always elegantly dressed, Sir Henry was peaceable and philosophical, and even when despair faced him in the eventide of his life, he did not lose his humour.

May God grant him peace at last.

● In a notice of the election petition for a Kailahun constituency, it is alleged that, on behalf of the successful SLPP candidate, Poro "Devils" were called on to intimidate APC supporters. The Paramount Chief is also alleged to have threatened to drive out of the Chiefdom anybody who voted APC, and to have said that there was no government in Freetown and that the SLPP candidate represented Sir Albert Margai, who would soon be returning to form a real government. Other allegations include ambushes of APC supporters, and attacks on people, houses and vehicles. Similar allegations are made in an election petition against the former SLPP minister, Mr. Margore Kallon, who won his Kailahun Central, and is now understood to be in Liberia. These two petitions are due to be heard on January 28. The by-elections themselves were the result of successful petitions against the SLPP candidates.

● Record sales of diamonds were handled by the Central Selling Organisation during 1968, 21 per cent higher than in the record year of 1966. They amounted to £25Om., with the rate increasing towards the end of the year. CSO handles some 80-85 per cent of world output, including stones bought by the Government Diamond Office in Sierra Leone. Most of Sierra Leone's production is gem stones, and it was the demand for these rather than industrials which particularly affected last year's figures. It is reported that gem stones held by CSO are now exhausted.

According to Dr. George Switzer, chairman of the American Smithsonian Institute's Department of Mineral Sciences, diamonds are to become scarce and more expensive, particularly large stones of this quality. The demand was increasing every year and the rate of mining was increasing, but unless discovery of new deposits kept step with the depletion of existing ones a scarcity would arise.

● During the Commonwealth Conference, Sir Albert Margai issued a statement in London alleging that more than 500 civilian civil servants and members of the opposition were awaiting trial in Sierra Leone and that 200 opposition people had been killed. In his news conference, Mr. Stevens said that detention of many SLPP members had proved necessary if law and order was not to break down.

One hundred and fifty-one persons are listed as detained in a public notice issued this month. They include former minister D. L. Sumner, a number of chiefs, and an army warrant officer.

● Policy on retail trade, including supermarkets and the operation of transport by non-nationals, is now under review according to a Government statement. Non-nationals, therefore, are advised that it may be risky to start new undertakings in these fields before the policy decision is announced. Restrictions on the entry of non-Sierra Leoneans into certain commercial fields, including transport, was first announced under the Albert Margai régime.

● Answering allegations that it would not be safe for foreign women to go about Freetown alone, the Hotel and Tourist Board has said that since the 1965-66 season, when 2,000 tourists from cruise liners spent some time in Freetown, there has been a steady increase in the number of visitors. In 1966-67 there were 3,000 and in 1967-68 5,000. In this season 9,000 are expected.

● The trial at the Supreme Court on charges of treason and misprision of treason of former Brigadier Juxon-Smith, former Commissioner of Police William Leigh, former Colonels Charles Blake and Kai Samba, former Captain Foyah, and the former Attorneys-General Koroma and Berthan Macaulay, will start on January 21.

MEETINGS AND GROUPINGS

OCAM Nears Summit

As we go to press arrangements are continuing for the holding of the OCAM (Afro-Malagasy Common Organisation) Foreign ministers' and heads of state meeting in Kinshasa. The Council of Ministers opens on January 21, the summit a week later. President Mobutu has sent messages to several heads of state in the 14-nation grouping reassuring them that no effort will be spared to make the summit a success. President Senghor is committed to attend as is President Tsiranana of Madagascar. Congo-Brazzaville, however, has said it will not be represented.

The row between Central African Republic and its former colleagues in the UEAC grouping continues to reverberate. President Mobutu, on his return from Chad, where he attended celebrations of the 19th anniversary of self-government, said that if the CAR-Chad border was still closed at the end of the OCAM conference on January 31, Congo-K would impose a blockade on CAR—"we Congolese will impose a blockade and no boat will be able to go through to supply Bokassa and his people". President Mobutu repeated an earlier accusation he had made at a public meeting in Kinshasa, that bodies of Congolese citizens had been found floating in the Oubangui River. The crisis was now extremely serious; "Bokassa and his inspirers have all these bodies on their consciences. If these are orders he received since his last trip to Paris I regret it very much." President Tomalbaye has said he does not envisage retaliatory measures "unless the Central Africans fire on our population", although there had been border violations by aircraft and troops.

President Hamani Diori of Niger and President Bongo of Gabon are visiting Kinshasa, Brazzaville and Bangui; in an effort to resolve the differences between Congo-K and its two northern neighbours. President Bongo said before leaving he would miss the summit if Congo-B and CAR did, but he later modified his position, after visiting Kinshasa. He also said there would be no official UDEAC boycott of the summit, as had been rumoured. The Diori-Bongo "good offices" mission resulted from a Gabonese initiative (earlier Gabon's Foreign Minister Remy Ayouné had taken a message to Abidjan and Niamey).

● A conference of French-speaking African education ministers opened this week in Kinshasa. This is a routine meeting in line with meetings last year in Gabon and Paris. The question of Quebec's attendance, which caused Canada to suspend relations with Gabon last February, seems to have been neatly avoided by a formula announced by the Quebec Premier Jean-Jacque Bertrand last week, that Quebec would "join with" other Canadian representatives at the conference (the Canadian delegation was led jointly by Mr. Louis Robichaud, Premier of New Brunswick, and M. Jean-Marie Morin, Quebec Education Minister). This, said the Premier, was only a temporary solution. It is likely to apply at the "francophonie" conference of all French-speaking ministers of education and culture, to be held in Niger from February 17.

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GABON

Bongo Warns the Army

President Bongo, speaking at Teh... army camp near Libreville on the occa... of recent army promotions has warned army to stay out of all political "mac... tions"; certain civilians might try to ex... them for political purposes, he told th... He also underlined that in the army he ... account of loyalty, fidelity, devotion ... personal merit, not "favouritism ... reasons of tribe or political influence".

The President, who was dressed in ... uniform of a reserve colonel of the *Ar... de l'Air*, announced that joint Fre... Gabonese aerial manoeuvres aimed at ... viding an aerial umbrella for the coro... would take place shortly; French jet fig... would take part. He asked the soldier ... consider as "brothers" Frenchmen ser... with the Gabonese army as techn... assistants: "they are wearing Gabo... uniform, they are 'Gabonese'," he said.

Lt. Col. Marchadier, head of the Air ... Forces, reaffirmed the forces' loyalty to ... President.

NIGER

President Hamani Diori, following ... sultations with officials and politicians, ... said urgent measures are to be taken ... avert any threat of famine following ... year's drought. The country's food s... tion is described as worrying in view ... the drought and the fact that the peo... had only set aside small stocks of foo...

In a speech on the 10th anniversar... self-government (December 18), the P... dent had said only a modest start had ... made to industrialisation, and nati... revenue had not notably increased. ... level of rainfall was unfavourable, ... Niger's cotton and groundnuts were fe... ing much lower prices on the world ma... than a few years ago.

TOGO

In a radio message on the second ... versary of the coup, President Eya... has promised an early resumption ... political activity, banned since ... 1967. Politicians would be allowed ... set up parties with a view to taking ... in future presidential and legislative ... tions, which would follow a referen... on the newly-completed draft constitu... as yet unpublished. "The process ... returning to a regular political life ... been started," he said, but added, ... army will judge the politicians' true d... mination to transcend internal qu... and build a prosperous Togo."

CHAD

Parliament was dissolved at the en... its five-year life on December 31. A... closing session, President Tombalbaye ... under the constitution a new asse... would be elected shortly.

Prior to dissolution, the assembly p... a budget for 12.570m. CFA fr... (£20·9m.). It was described as an aust... budget.

● Chad has recalled its ambassador ... Sudan, following an investigation on ... from Fort Lamy of the embassy's acti... in Khartoum.

dateline Africa

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

"A DISCUSSION OVER GIN AND TONIC"

AS we go to press, little prospect is reported on a last-minute informal initiative by Mr. Wilson, officially described as "a discussion over gin-and-tonic", to activate new talks between the Nigerians and the Biafrans. The meeting, which lasted about an hour, was held in the Gold Room at Lancaster House. In a communique issued after the news conference, Mr. Wilson said, "I just asked 27 friends for drinks. It had nothing to do with the conference, but the 27 delegations happened to be present. We had a very useful discussion in which Chief Awolowo showed his willingness to meet representatives of Col. Ojukwu in London. I would not like to speculate on whether they will meet . . . The problems are so deep in Nigeria that it would be foolish to raise hopes unduly about even a meeting in London, which so many members of the Commonwealth hope to see as a first step. After this morning's meeting . . . the form is not very hopeful."

Mr. Wilson called the meeting after consultations with Chief Awolowo. A similar meeting had been suggested in a letter to all heads of delegations by Mr. Siaka

Nigerian delegates to the Conference: Dr. Arikpo, Alhaji Aminu Kano and Alhaji Ahmed Joda. (In our list of delegates two weeks ago we named Brig. Hassan, who did not in fact come. Col. Bissala, Military Secretary, was in the delegation.)

Stevens, Sierra Leone Prime Minister, the day before. The two initiatives had the backing of a number of African Commonwealth leaders who felt that they could not go home without having even mentioned the subject. The informal meeting, which satisfied Nigerian insistence that the matter should not be discussed within the conference, may have been agreed to by the Nigerians to forestall such discussion. At the meeting Chief Awolowo outlined the Federal Government's own relief measures, and said he was willing to meet the Biafrans "without preconditions." He has made it clear that the initiative would have to come from them. He told a news conference on Thursday that he had regarded the "drinks party" as "killing 27 birds with one stone."

Mr. I. Kogbara, Biafran representative in London, has said he had twice asked his government for permission to take part in discussions with the Nigerians. On each occasion the indications had been "favourable", but the Nigerians had then come out with remarks which put the Biafrans in "a suppliant position". If talks were to get off the ground, it is understood that a Biafran of sufficient seniority would be made available. Dr. Dike and Mr. Nwokedi left London last week, but it was understood Mr. G. Onyegbula, Secretary to Col. Ojukwu, has also been there. Dr. Okigbo, Economic Adviser is in London recuperating from illness.

Chief Awolowo, at the conference proper, paid tribute to Mr. Wilson for his "understanding approach to our current problem in Nigeria", and for his "steadfastness".

● Mr. Stevens' circular letter suggested a new committee under the chairmanship of the Emperor Haile Selassie or President Tubman, mandated by the Commonwealth Prime Ministers, to call for an immediate ceasefire, to arrange for relief supplies and to bring the two sides to a conference.

In his reply to Mr. Stevens, Chief Awolowo said he was "surprised" that the Sierra Leone Prime Minister had circulated his proposals before seeing him (Awolowo). He referred to the situation in Sierra Leone and said that if its "territorial integrity" were threatened Mr. Stevens would be right to use force against "secessionist forces". On the proposals, he said he could not accept any proposal which put the secessionists on an equal footing with his Government, and the terms of reference of the committee, proposed by Mr. Stevens, (apparently two Nigerians and two Biafrans, with the Emperor of Ethiopia or President Tubman as chairman) were unacceptable to Nigeria, and the committee would in any case only duplicate the OAU Consultative Committee's work. He urged Mr. Stevens to use his influence with the secessionists to persuade them to accept united Nigeria; if they were ready to work for "unity and territorial integrity," he said, "all other issues are negotiable with that framework."

● Deputising for Chief Awolowo at a luncheon for Commonwealth and Diplomatic Writers, Chief Enahoro denied that overtures had been made to the federal government by the Biafrans. He did not see a Commonwealth role at the moment. He also reaffirmed that the federal government would not accept an unconditional ceasefire: "There is no way of dealing with armed rebellion in any country other than with force of arms." He added, "The only way this thing can be brought to an end is if one side or the other should give up. This is putting it bluntly. . . . A ceasefire enabling them to regroup and recover from recent revenge would be completely stupid. We have them on the run." Although they were not running "as fast as we would like", he thought the war would be over this year.

He claimed that deaths from starvation were "nowhere near the figure we've seen". Starvation, he said, was deliberate. Col. Ojukwu could have accepted daylight flights and a land corridor. "But where would be the evidence of genocide then?" he asked. Questioned on "confederation", Chief Enahoro said he personally supported "federation", but the federal government had no position on the future constitution as long as the principle of one Nigeria was retained. Everything else would be for constitutional talks to decide. "One Nigeria has not been defined constitutionally," he said, "It is a feeling you have in you heart."

NIGERIA

Red Cross Fuel Crisis

The Red Cross airlift from Fernando Po to Biafran territory, suspended on January 7, had still not been resumed at the time of going to press, because no agreement between the International Red Cross and the Equatorial Guinea Government had been reached on the transport of fuel. The Government in Santa Isabel apparently banned the carrying of oil on the grounds that some of the fuel was being used by the Biafran army; the Red Cross strongly denies this. The Red Cross reportedly appealed to Caritas, whose relief flights from São Tomé have continued, to bring in fuel for the Red Cross relief distribution by 60 trucks; M. Roger Gallopin, executive director of the Red Cross, said that if this was agreed the flights would be resumed.

There were unconfirmed suggestions that the Federal Government, which recently opened full diplomatic relations with the former Spanish Guinea, might have applied pressure to stop the taking of fuel on the Red Cross aircraft; fuel is said to be needed for electricity generators for the Uli airstrip landing system and field hospitals, as well as for transport. The Red Cross was even quoted as threatening to stop its extensive relief operations in Nigerian-held territory if the ban on fuel were not lifted (both the Red Cross and the Churches have done relief work on a large scale on both sides). Before the halting of the airlift nearly 7,000 tons of food and medical supplies had been flown in by the Red Cross, compared with over 10,000 tons by the larger Churches' airlift from São Tomé. The Red Cross's financial position has reportedly improved.

Equatorial Guinea is now reported to have banned all Red Cross night flights from Santa Isabel, while apparently indicating that this could be used as a transit landing place. The Red Cross in Federal-held territory is reported to be having problems over unloading of supplies, and has been accused by press and radio of being partisan.

● Reports from Lagos this week suggest that the Federal 2nd Division at Onitsha has been reinforced for an advance on high ground north of Nsewi, where the Biafrans have so far held their positions and defend the approaches to the Uli airstrip, about 12 miles south of the high ground. Capture of this ground would, it is suggested, allow an easy descent for federal forces into the valley where the airstrip is situated. Nigerian military sources have denied Biafran claims to be encircling Owerri, and claimed that Federal forces "control the flanks around the town."

● A report in *The Economist* of January 11 from Umuahia quotes Col. Ojukwu as saying "the next 30 days will be merry hell, but after that I think we can start to win back." The report says the Biafrans were expecting a Federal push before January 16.

● The President of Dahomey, Dr. Emile Zinsou, promised on a visit to Lagos that if he had an audience with President de Gaulle, he would tell him that he (Zinsou) stood by peace and unity in Nigeria. He also said that although it was a good thing

NIGERIA—*continued*

to respect the convention of non-interference in the affairs of other states, yet "it is also good for us in Africa to retain our traditions . . . In Africa, when two brothers are quarrelling, we don't say that it is an internal affair, neither do we say that one or the other is guilty. This is why I think that the internal affairs of Nigeria are also the affairs of Dahomey." Nigeria, he said, was a blessing to Africa, and "this is why the unity of Nigeria should be the concern of all of us."

- The committee appointed by the Federal Government into the allocation of revenue under the 12-state system has concluded its business. Members of the committee are Professor T. M. Yesufu, Chief P. O. A. Dada, Malam Ahmed Talib, Malam Ibrahim Tahir, Mr. F. M. C. Obi, and Mr. Ekukinam, and, as chairman, Chief L. O. Dina.

- The Administrator for reconquered areas of Central Eastern State, Mr. Ukpabi Asika, has set up a Rehabilitation Commission for the state. Members are the Secretary to the Central Eastern State Administration (chairman); a representative of the First Division, Nigerian Army, Enugu; and the heads of the state's Ministries of Works and Health, Enugu. The commission's secretary is Mr. G. Ofodile, now the state's chief relief officer.

Mr. Asika estimated that about two million people had returned to their homes in the area administered by him, but many were short of food and medicine.

- General Gowon has called on all members of the Armed Forces to point out "the bad eggs among you." Addressing NCOs and warrant officers, he recalled public criticisms and accusation of corruption and other ills against army officers and noted: "Honestly speaking, there is some justification in what these people say . . . some of us truly go below the level expected of good officers."

- There is no shortage of fighting men on the Federal side of the war fronts, says the Federal Information Commissioner, Chief Enahoro. Any mobilisation will be related to civil defence and resistance to possible external intervention.

- The rift between the Orimolosu of Ijebu Igbo, Oba Adetayo Sami, and his people is reported to have been settled after a peace meeting where Chief Bisi Onabanjo, West Commissioner for Health, was among the mediators. The unrest broke out over tax grievances last month. The inquiry into these and other Western State tax riots has begun its hearings.

- The heads of state of Nigeria, Chad and Sudan, are to meet soon in Fort Lamy to discuss a trans-Africa rail link from Maiduguri in Nigeria through Fort Lamy to Sudan, says a *Daily Times* report, quoting the Chad Ambassador in Nigeria, M. Baba Hassane. He said the meeting would discuss the possibility of the rail link. (This idea was mooted during discussions on the Maiduguri railway extension: it was thought the possibility of a Lagos-Port Sudan railway link would encourage the World Bank to finance the extension, as it did. M. Hassane said the World Bank was not being approached now.)

- Following a film about Biafra on the BBC-TV programme "24-Hours," Chief Enahoro said that Nigeria was considering banning the BBC and cancelling its facilities. His complaint specifically was that he had

Chief Enahoro chats with a stu meeting of Nigerians in London

only been allowed six minutes i a 50-minute pro-Biafran film. Tees Desk near Middlesbrough load arms for Nigeria on to the *ramwen* after seeing the film: the to be loaded by a later shift.

- The Emir of Daura, Alhaj madu Bashar, has been officially by the Governor of North Centra Col. Abba Kyari. Among the present were guests from neigh countries, including nearby Niger

- Brig. M. R. Varma, Command the Nigerian Defence Academy at K has relinquished the post after fi to return to his home country, Ind

- Nigeria has apologised to US a for damage caused to their consul Ibadan during recent demonstrations "foreign meddling."

- Mr. Hans Egli of Liebefeld/Berne of section at the General Director the Postal and Telegraph Service h been appointed head of the Intern Red Cross delegation in Nigeria, cession to Mr. Gerhart Schwerdt returning to Berne on terminatio contract.

- All primary and nursery schools Western State, private and public, been ordered to teach at leas Nigerian language this month. (Th be an innovation chiefly in the schools, catering for relatively numbers).

DAHOMEY

In his New Year message, Pr Zinsou said Dahomey's finances wer in difficulties. In the budget for 19 figure for expenditure is 8,336m. CFA (£6·7m.) but the deficit would be h that incurred in 1968. Currently ex ture on administration is much greate that on development. The Presiden announced in 1969 the "solidarity criticised so heavily under the regi Ahomadegbe and Soglo, will be cut 25 to 20 per cent., but 5,779m. CFA (about £5m.) was still being spent to p salaries of civil servants. "No sta remain viable if it continues on t perilous pattern," he said, calling privileged class to make a special the coming year. "The fact tha been able to survive financiall of the year we owe largely to our of France," he said.

This week President Zinsou has Paris for official talks.

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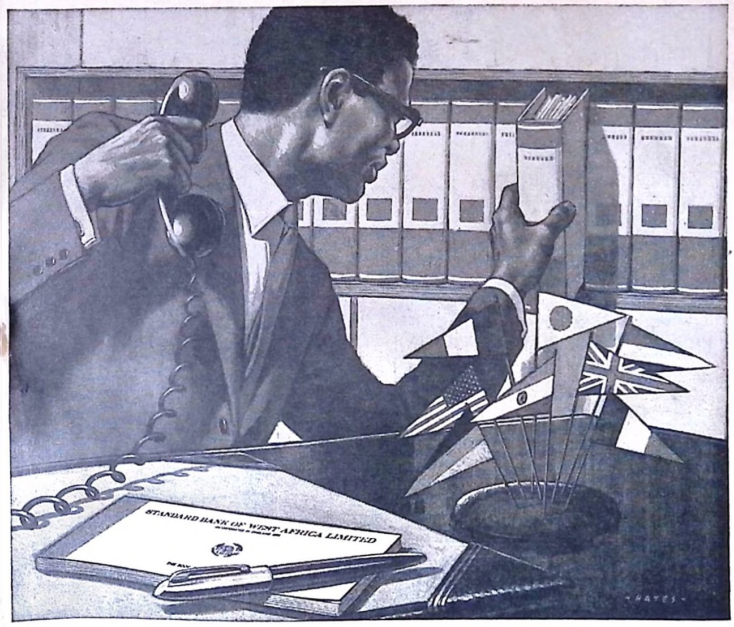

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