West Africa

West Africa No. 2702 Saturday March 15 1969

Recommended ... 6d (N) Ghana 22np Sierra Leone 18 cents Liberia 25 cents U.S.A. 25 cents

17 MAR 1969

SERIALS & DOCUMENTS

Harold Wilson's Arms

IF Mr. Harold Wilson ever changed British policy on the supply of arms to Nigeria, he would do so only because of public pressure which he felt it politically dangerous to resist. The merits of the case would remain unchanged, and his expected visit to Lagos (we write before the end of this week's House of Commons debate on Nigeria) could only convince him of that, even if it allowed him to explain personally to General Gowon his difficulties in an articulate democracy.

Most of those who demand the end of British arms supplies to Nigeria do so on humanitarian grounds. They want to minimise the bloodshed. Yet a ban, as we have constantly argued, would only oblige the Nigerians to buy more costly arms elsewhere, and, if it prolonged the war, might increase the bloodshed. The demand is now stronger than ever because of the civilian casualties in air raids on Biafra. We believe that the Federal Government should consider whether use of aircraft, except in close support of ground troops, is now appropriate, since Biafra is so small and congested that even the slightest error or a minor miscalculation can mean many civilian deaths. But to deprive the Federal ground forces of arms would be to make the Federal Government depend more on air power.

Some of the more realistic critics accept the argument that to deny supplies to Nigeria would be actively to assist Biafra. But should there not, they ask, be a general ban? To argue the merits of that case is useless. There is no way of enforcing a general ban, and since Biafra's main supplier, France, denies supplying arms at all, even negotiations about a ban are impossible.

The humanitarians may miscalculate, but they have a clear objective, the saving of life. Those who demand a British ban on political grounds (even when they are not simply getting at Mr. Wilson) often seem to imply that the worth of a cause depends directly on its success. Yes, they say, of course Britain was right to carry on supplying arms to Nigeria after the war began; but now it is clear that no military solution is possible, and the Federal Government should be persuaded to seek "a political solution".

In our view, however, a ban would not persuade the Federal Government to abandon hope of a military victory, would encourage the most intransigent people on the Federal side, and strengthen Federal determination not to yield to international blackmail. In any case, the assertion that there "must be a political solution" tells us nothing. A political solution is available; it is based on the existence of the East-Central, Ibo, State, whose precise powers, like those of all the states of the Federation, can only be worked out in detail after the fighting, but would certainly include a considerable measure of responsibility for internal security. The continual refusal of Col. Ojukwu even to consider this arrangement stands in the way of a political solution.

There is the view that British arms supplied to the Federal forces play a part in "genocide". Yet all who have studied the conduct of these forces in the field—the latest testament comes in a long article by Sir Bernard Fergusson in the London *Times*—agree that, with very few exceptions, their treatment of Biafra civilians cannot be criticised. It is true that land fighting leads to some civilian casualties, and that these could grow as the Federal forces advance into the increasingly crowded Biafra. Yet there is no intention of using British arms against civilians, and those who want to salve their consciences in this regard should study the reports of the international observers invited to Nigeria.

The Federal forces are not deliberately causing disease or starvation, for alleviation of which the Federal Government already accepts the Red Cross air lift and has offered a land route, which Col. Ojukwu rejects. A ban on British arms to Nigeria would do nothing to alter the plight of Biafra civilians.

There are those, too, who allege that the ineffective Federal procurement of arms supplies and the non-productive use of arms already available to the

YENGEMA

Illicit Diamonds Again

OBUASI

Why the Ashanti Strike?

CALABAR

Starting a New State

PATERSON, ZOCHONIS
AND COMPANY LTD. (And Subsidiaries)

OVER 80 YEARS IN WEST AFRICA

DEPARTMENT STORES
MANUFACTURERS
DISTRIBUTIVE SERVICES
INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES

Widely Established Throughout
Sierra Leone . Ghana . Nigeria . Liberia
Republic of Guinee . Cameroun Republic

Head Office **Bridgewater House, 60 Whitworth Street, Manchester 1.**
Paris Office **141 Boulevard Haussmann**

BARBER WEST AFRICAN LINE

Regular Freight, Passenger and Mail Services

between

U.S. Atlantic and Gulf Ports

and

Ports on the West African Coast and the Azores

Madeira, Canary and Cape Verde Islands.

m.s. **"CORNEVILLE"** slg. from New York March 18, Halifax (Nova Scotia) March 21, for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lome, Lagos/Apapa, Victoria, Douala and Takoradi.

m.s. **"FERNWOOD"** slg. from New York April 1, Halifax (Nova Scotia), April 4, for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala and Takoradi.

SHIPS' ITINERARIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

For rates of freight and other information apply to:

AMERICAN—WEST AFRICAN LINES INC., 17 Battery Place, New York N.Y. 10004.

BARBER STEAMSHIP LINES LTD., General European Agents, Salisbury Square House, Salisbury Square, London, E.C.4.

Federal forces would justify a Br refusal to supply any more arms. not really hindering a Federal mi advance, for which not more arms better strategy and stronger resol are needed. Politically this is no anti-Federal case, but it is clearly that cannot be used between government of a country supplying and a recipient government.

Indeed, at the end, this is the pa In one way or another most of t demanding a ban on arms for Ni are in danger of denying the Nige government its sovereignty in the important matters affecting a state. can criticise the air-raids, Federal stra or the lack of it, or those who seek turn the war to their own advantage. all that is the affair of Nigeria: banning of British arms would irrelevant and achieve none of objects of those who advocated it, w profoundly damaging relations betw Britain and Nigeria.

Violence in Kono

ILLICIT mining is now taking pl "on a large and increasing sca within the leases of Sierra Leone Sel tion Trust, says a statement issued by t parent company, Consolidated Afric Selection Trust. The mining, says t statement, is both widespread and ex and as well as affecting the compa present and future operations, aff government revenues. (Two articles the subject appeared in this journal December.)

The unchecked influx of "strange many thousands of whom are illeg present in the "diamond protection ar has created, says the statement, "the W West town of Koidu ". In this, the n centre in the mining district, roads l been dug up, houses flooded and w polluted by the anti-social activitie illicit miners, and "private grudges old scores are now settled by violen The "boastful presence of so-c diamond dealers, many of whom run own gangs of illicit miners, provid ready market for stolen diamonds. tributes in no small way to the flouting of, and contempt for, auth and is directly responsible for the inc ing corruption of all types in the a

To restore the rule of law, the pany claims, it is essential to re from the diamond protection area unauthorised "strangers" and dealers. "The Government of S Leone has ample powers to carry ou task, which it also has a legal and m obligation to do under its agreement the company". But, the company though it has made many representa to the new civilian government an received several "firm assuran those have not been honoured.

Now that the State of Emerger ended, and the country is more pea there should be no delay in dealing a problem which goes far beyond th of a single overseas company.

ROUNDABOUT

Lonrho, Spears and the Strike

Obuasi

What was the background to the miners' strike at Ashanti Goldfields Corporation's mine here? The tragic incident on Monday of last week, when the police fired into a crowd that seemed to be getting out of hand, killing three people, caused considerable concern and interest in Accra; but at the same time not very much information has been available in the capital as to what has been going on here. Even on the spot you soon realise that the committee set up by the Ashanti Regional Administration (if the TUC Secretary, Mr Bentum, has his way there should be a full scale judicial commission of enquiry) will have no easy task analysing the complex of historical, sociological, economic and human factors.

One thing to remember, as General Spears, the game octogenarian Chairman of the Corporation for the last 21 years, stressed to me here, is that in the period since the end of the Second World War, the mine has seen tremendous expansion. Where 21 years ago production was 15,000 tons a month, it is now over 50,000. Gold is now Ghana's second foreign exchange earner after cocoa, and Ashanti alone brought in over £7m. in foreign exchange, as well as £2m. directly into the government kitty through taxation, last year. The Corporation calculate that one week's strike lost Ghana £161,700. When the £1m., 5,000 feet, Spears shaft, now in the course of construction, is completed in two or three years' time, production should reach 80,000 tons a year.

Coping with this increased production has meant recruiting many more workers at the mine—the total has risen by 1,000 to the present labour force of between 6,000 and 7,000 even in the course of a year. Many of these new recruits have come from the state mines and the management seem to feel that their presence may have encouraged more militant activity. There have been strikes at Obuasi before—there was a famous one in 1955—but there has never been any serious violence: "There hasn't been anything like it in the 73 years the mine has been going," Miss Nancy Maurice, for many years secretary to General Spears, told me.

What strikes a visitor to the mine most is the unashamedly paternalistic, almost manorial, atmosphere of the place. General Spears can rightly be proud of the progress it has made in the Spears era, and the amenities with which the mine and all those who work there have been endowed. There is a first-class hospital and a Lady Spears Memorial Clinic for expectant mothers is being built where expatriate wives work as volunteers: "What I am aiming at is that every Ghanaian child born here will have a good start in life," says the General. The mine is self-sufficient in timber and a carpenter's shop builds furniture for all the houses. The Corporation provided the whole of Obuasi with water, subsidised the original railway to Kumasi before the First World War, and has a first class road link with Kumasi. There are magnificently equipped senior and junior staff clubs.

On Africanisation, the General says: "No man has got a job here because he's got a white face, but no man is going to get a job here just because he's got a black face." It is pointed out that many senior staff, including the accounts department, are now Ghanaians. In Obuasi there is no other employer; even the farmers in the countryside around the mine are for the most part also working for the mine in some capacity. At a memorial service I attended for Lady Spears in the Anglican Church here, the Ghanaian clergyman referred to "Our father, General Spears."

General Spears—proud of progress.

The unsettling influence in this idyll has been the takeover of Ashanti Goldfields Corporation by Lonrho, first proposed towards the end of last year and finalised in January this year, when the Chairman and Managing Director of Lonrho, Messrs. Ball and Rowland, came to Ghana to sign the heads of agreement. Under this it was agreed that the Adansi (Colonel Yarboi, Chairman of the Ashanti Committee of Administration, told me "The Adansi are proud people: they had special status in the Ashanti Army and their Chief's footstool is made up of elephants"), in whose land the AGC concession lies, should be paid a substantial sum in royalties, as well as compensation for pollution from smoke for the Adansi Traditional Council.

At the same time Lonrho agreed to invest in a brewery for "native beer" at Tamale. It was obvious from this that here was a company coming into Ghana, anxious to impress people that it was in good faith, and apparently handing out money to help its image. It was public knowledge, too, that Adansihene had been making a great fuss about the takeover, and that he was deemed to have been amply rewarded. Hence the Adansi farmers stepping up their claim for pollution compensation, although it had never occurred to them to ask for it before.

So when Messrs. Ball and Rowland arrived in Obuasi, apparently with the air of new proprietors, to be introduced to the union executives and to ask them if there was anything they wanted to make representations about, it was hardly surprising that the unions should come back in the middle of February and ask the management for three months' severance pay. After all, when in the Nkrumah period the Konongo mine had been taken over by the state on the recommendations of a commission—of which Mr. R. S. Amegashie, now Commissioner for Lands and Mineral Resources, had himself been a member—severance pay had been paid. Although the circumstances were different, and the working of the London Stock Exchange is a little too sophisticated for the average Ghanaian miner, their attitude was fundamentally logical.

The situation was at this point already being aggravated by a certain confusion as to what the takeover actually did mean. Early in February General Spears arrived in Obuasi (there was to have been African wake keeping for Lady Spears, but this was cancelled because of the strike) and also met Union executives to reassure them that AGC was still AGC, that he, General Spears, was still Chairman, and that any fears they might have about the takeover were groundless: in short, although AGC was under new ownership, there was no change in management.

A Chief Destooled?

Union leaders I met, however, and some of the miners themselves who, at a crucial stage, lost confidence in their leaders, told me that they were still uncertain: "When you unstool a chief he doesn't stay sitting on the stool," was how one put it to me. At a press conference after the completion of the takeover, Mr. Amegashie in his eagerness to defend the Ghana Government's wisdom in bringing in Lonrho, almost overemphasised the advantage the new company would bring. Although he, too, subsequently went round to stressing that there would be no change in management, the psychological damage seemed to have been done. Management's rejection of the claim for severance pay, arguably sound on legal grounds, seems to have aroused tremendous feeling and the impulse to strike immediately which the union leaders—although mindful of the fact that this would be illegal under Ghana's labour code, under which such claims must go to arbitration—seem to have been powerless to resist.

I have heard much criticism of the

dilatoriness of the Mine Workers' Union and of the TUC in waking up to the fact that they had a serious and emotionally loaded strike on their hands (it seems the executive were chased away by angry workers at a meeting at Obuasi Mosque on the evening before the strike), but Mr. Benjamin Bentum, TUC Secretary-General, was down here last week and again at the weekend, trying to mend bridges. I spoke to him just before he held a crucial meeting on Sunday with foremen and blastmen here. (After this, strikers began to return to work.) He told me that it seemed more than anything a human problem. There seems to have been no way, when the management finally did decide to offer 15 days' ex gratia payment, to explain this to the workers themselves. The government ultimatum, also unfortunate in that skilled men are irreplaceable, was largely ignored, especially by underground miners (significantly mostly northerners), usually thought more docile. The offer of what General Spears calls "dash" ("There is no such term in the language of industrial disputes," says Mr. Bentum) still seems to be the basis of any settlement, and I have met few people, however forthright their condemnation of the violence and disorderliness (although it seems to have been a grave threat to the mine itself, the damage amounted to broken windows and vehicles, and looting the "Choppe" shop and the house of the Union Branch Secretary), and however much the trouble may have been stirred up by agitators—I have heard it ascribed to Nkrumahists, Biafrans, Oddfellows, Catholics, etc.—who do not join in the admission: "The miners do have a certain logic to their case."

Griot

Ensure regular reading by taking a subscription to West Africa now!

Subscription Rates:

	53 weeks	26 weeks
Nigeria	NG 10 0	NG 5 0
Ghana	NC.11.14	NC.5.57
Liberia	L$11.00	L$5.50
Sierra Leone	Le 9 10	Le 4.55

(Despatched Airmail to above countries)

U.S.A. Canada and Latin America		
Surface	U.S.$13.00	U.S.$ 6.50
Airmail	U.S.$21.00	U.S.$10.50
U.K. and elsewhere in the world		
Surface	£8 4 0	£4 12 0
Airmail	£8 9 0	£4 4 6
(Excluding Far East and Australasia)		
Far East and Australasia		
Airmail	£9 2 0	£4 11 0

13 week subscription is available pro-rata

Residents in Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone write to:

Daily Times of Nigeria Ltd., P.O. Box 139, 3 Kakawa Street, Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa or Overseas Newspapers (Agencies) Ltd., Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, London, W.C.1.

Residents in U.K. and other parts of the world write direct to:

I.N.I. Sales & Distribution Ltd., 40 Bowling Green Lane, London, E.C.1.

West Africa is published by Overseas Newspapers (Agencies) Ltd., at their Editorial, Advertisement and Publishing Office:

Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, London, W.C.1.

Tel.: 01-242 0661. Cables: Weanews London, PS4

Building A New Constitution

NEXT week, Ghana's Constituent Assembly, whose work was due to be finished at the end of this month, will hear the reports of the five committees formed from its members to discuss various proposals on the draft constitution they are considering. Assuming that the whole Assembly, which has been discussing certain matters as a "committee" during the sittings of the five committees, accepts the committees' proposals, the Assembly's work, which at one time seemed likely to last much longer, could finish quickly.

What has been decided so far? The first full discussion took place on January 21, on the "principles of the constitution", although the first controversy affected the Assembly itself—should it, and not the NLC, have full power to "promulgate" a constitution? Mr. Joe Appiah was the main champion of "full power to the Assembly" but in the end a motion asking the NLC for powers of promulgation was passed.

Flute-players at the opening ceremony for the Constituent Assembly, on Dec. 30.

In mid-February the Assembly began discussing the clause of the constitutional proposals one by one. (At that time a suggestion that there should be separate committees to discuss different aspects of the constitution was outvoted.) It adopted article 1 of the Constitutional Proposals, providing for a Supreme Court to interpret the constitution, and continued to adopt the Proposals until a heated argument arose on article 3 of chapter 1, which provided for banning of certain organisations opposed to democracy. There was strong criticism of this on the grounds that it would give the Government too much power to ban opposition movements. A compromise was eventually suggested defining, in a way slightly different from the proposals, the sort of organisations to be outlawed.

Agreement had not been reached on this amendment, however, when the assembly decided to split into five committees. Agreement had been reached however, on some of the clauses with the regions of Ghana, includ clause providing for creation o regions. Under the agreed clause a commission of inquiry may recom creation of a new Region, and a r dum must be held afterwards.

The assembly agreed there shou ceremonial president advised by a c of state, but it rejected a motion to the Attorney-General separate fro Government.

The five new committees were report back to the Assembly by t of this week. Three were to dea particular subjects such as exe judiciary, and the legislature, wh other two would deal with the inde and miscellaneous subjects. Meas the Assembly itself continued to c certain other parts of the proposals

The Assembly has agreed in pri that a National Assembly of should be responsible for chief affairs, and that there should b Ombudsman. It rejected the idea Presidential Commission to deputi occasion for the President, and, late proposal for a vice-president (sugg instead of a Presidential Commi both were proposed in motions by Justice Samuel Azu Crabbe, repres the judiciary). Members suggested the Chief Justice, the Speaker of National Assembly, or some senior officer of the state might ac the President (Dr. Busia suggested head of the National Council of Ch

Dr G. K. Agama, an NLC nom suggested that Ghana needed a bicam legislature; after a lively debate, Assembly rejected this. It also rej the Constitutional Proposals' pro that candidates for the National As bly must by 25 years old or ove decided to reduce the age of eligi to 21, though it rejected a motion reduce the voting age from 21 to Both these motions, and another (car to make retirement of judges optiona 60 and compulsory at 65, were in duced by Mr. Joe Appiah.

The Western House of Chiefs written to the Assembly calling abolition of the Chieftaincy Secret (established under the Nkrumah re as the main organ for dealing with c taincy affairs, and frequently enti since the coup). It said members o Secretariat were not versed in the cus and traditions of all the regions decisions were not always in the interests of, or welcome to, the pe concerned. Another letter to the Assem has come from the NLC chairman self, who denied that the NLC had planned to change the flag of Gh as alleged by Dr. Kofi Busia in Assembly; Dr. Busia stood by his cl saying the NLC's reference to the Political Committee of a letter (in M calling for removal of the Black Sta the flag seemed to show that the p bility of a change was considered.

"Ghana Airways gives the service that makes you feel 10 feet tall"

Ghana Airways flies direct, quickest and more often to London and Rome than any other airline as well as to the Middle East – all by V.C.10 the most advanced jet airliner. Daily flights to Lagos and the most regular service along the west coast. When you fly Ghana Airways you are not just a passenger you are a V.I.P. It is the service that makes you feel 10 feet tall – and sometimes even taller.

Contact Ghana Airways or your local travel agent now and find out more about the service that makes you feel 10 feet tall.

Ghana Airways

LONDON: 8, New Bond Street, W.1. Tel: 01-493-1291
MANCHESTER: 234, Royal Exchange. Tel: 061-834 7073/4

LONDON · ROME · BEIRUT · LAGOS · ABIDJAN · ROBERTSFIELD · FREETOWN · BATHURST · DAKAR

Try a little VC10derness...

Flying can be a strange experience when you're young. That's why BOAC look after children...tenderly.

Our stewardesses are trained in children's needs - in children's wants. Whether they're with families or no.

Children travelling unaccompanied are our business - on their own but not alone.

BOAC *takes good care of you - and them*
In Association with Nigeria Airways

your armour against fate

*INSURANCE?
first think of

NIGERIAN GENERAL INSURANCE CO. LTD.
1 Nnamdi Azikiwe Street, Lagos, Nigeria
Branches at BENIN • IBADAN • ILORIN • JOS • KANO and MAIDUGURI
* *Marine • Cash-in-Transit • Industrial Risks • Fire Burglary • Workmen's Compensations • Motor Policies • All Risks Cover*

"A New Dawn"

From a correspondent recently in Calabar

TWO weeks ago Griot wrote of the great enthusiasm which has surrounded creation of the South Eastern state as one of the units of the 12-state Nigerian federation. This enthusiasm is clearly one of the assets on which the state government can draw, as life begins to return to normal. Calabar's population has reportedly swollen to well over 100,000 from its former 70,000 (this despite the departure of the Ibos) and there is something of a boom atmosphere noticeable, especially in the market. There are also greater dreams of things to come—there is talk of a new radio station (at the moment local news broadcasts are being put out on a 15-mile radius from the NBC station), a state newspaper is envisaged, and Calabar Town has a "master plan" on which Hungarian planning consultants are advising; and a state lottery is planned to start operations in May. As one local man put it to me: "the people walk with silent whisper of a new dawn."

No one denies that the problems are manifold: starting from scratch, the state has no previous records to work from, and there are many difficulties in the way of collecting revenue, for example; so last year's budget of £7·4m. (an estimated £2·6m. from state sources, £3·8m. from the federal government, and a deficit of £1m.) was something of an approximation. Any shortfall, I was assured, was met with "sympathetic treatment" by Lagos. Of this budget nearly £2m. was allocated to the Agriculture Ministry for rehabilitation of plantations. The former Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation has been split into an Agricultural and an Industrial Development Corporation; the former's plantations near Calabar and the ranch at Obudi have been largely resuscitated, and the Dunlop rubber plantations at Oban may possibly be bought by the government. Of industries, the Calabar cement factory, although initially handicapped by extensive looting, is now only awaiting its own generators before going back into production. The US-owned plywood factory has still not come into production; at the moment its sheds are being used by the Red Cross.

It is pointed out that although there are no assets to divide from the former Eastern Region, other than those physically present in the State, there are plenty of liabilities, such as scholarships and money for grant-aided schools and hospitals. A great many people, too, lost all their private wealth, especially when they were forced to surrender Nigerian currency for Biafran; property in many cases was destroyed or damaged. The currency situation, after earlier teething troubles and cases of profiteering, has apparently now been sorted out. But there are many economic difficulties which have to be overcome.

Geographically the state divides easily into three parts, each extremely inaccessible to the other. In the north there is the former Ogoja Province, with no direct road link as yet to the rest of the state unless you pass through Cameroon, or through the East Central State. To the south, beyond a dense forest belt, lies the hinterland of Calabar itself, cut off from the "mainland" part of the state to the West by the Cross River. The only link to the mainland is the twice-daily ferry to Oron.

New Roads

The whole area was in fact geared to a region centred on Enugu, of which these were the furthest-flung parts. One of the first major priorities of the state, therefore, has been to see that it can become a unit from the point of view of transport. To this end, work restarted last autumn on the major Calabar-Ugep-Ikom road, a project which, ironically, had been finalised under Col. Ojukwu himself; work by an American company had started not long before secession. This road now stretches about 40 miles out of Calabar, but it is not expected to be finished until the end of next year. In the meantime a small spur is being hastily pushed through from Ekang to the Ikom-Mamfe road so that there can be some sort of direct link between Calabar and the northern part of the state. This should be completed in a couple of months.

As far as linking up with the mainland is concerned, nothing definite has been arranged, but there is a road bridging the Cross River from near Itu, coming round to Creek Town, although the Calabar River would still have to be bridged. This would also mean that a link between Ogoja and Port Harcourt would be opened; until Calabar can be developed as a port, this is important for the evacuation of produce. The major irony of the state at the moment is that Ogoja's export produce to the north (cocoa, groundnuts, benniseed) has to be evacuated by road to Makurdi, and then 900 miles by rail to Lagos, which means, one official put it to me, that the "Ogoja cocoa farmer takes home considerably less in his pocket than his Western state counterpart, because of the transport differential." Produce evacuation from the Obubra area is particularly difficult (it has been described as a "nightmare") because of transport conditions within Ogoja province, but it is hard to see that much can be done here until the Calabar-Ikom road reaches Ugep. It would also open up large areas of virgin forest.

Apart from the roads, evacuation of produce has been hindered by lack of transport. The rebels took with them most of the vehicles which had not been destroyed in the fighting, and the risk of requisitioning by the Nigerian Army of the vehicles which remained has been another difficulty, although this situation has improved greatly since last summer

"K" LINE

(KAWASAKI KISEN KAISHA, LTD.) Tokyo & Kobe, Japan

Monthly Direct Express Service

Japan to and from

West Africa

via Hong Kong, Singapore and Cape

Calling at:
MATADI, LAGOS/APAPA, LOME, TEMA, MONROVIA, FREETOWN, ABIDJAN.

Also accepting cargo to/from other West African ports, direct or with transhipment.

Further details and space bookings obtainable through our agents:

PALM LINE AGENCIES OF NIGERIA, LTD., LAGOS.
PALM LINE (AGENCIES) LTD., ACCRA,

or

General Agents in U.K. & continent
KAWASAKI (LONDON) LTD.
17, St. Helen's Place, London, E.C.3.

(one is impressed, in fact, by the good relations now existing between army and civilians in the state). The South-East State Marketing Board now has 18 vehicles operating, with 22 more expected. The Board established itself first in Ogoja, where the military were always very co-operative, and in spite of the difficulties mentioned above, the Board is now buying produce from farmers. It is only recently, however, that much progress has been made in evacuation of reserve stocks from the mainland, which includes the richest oil palm areas in the state, especially around Abak and Ikot Ekpene. The military situation has, until now, prevented any evacuation from the latter district; but the Board's secretary, Mr. Iwara, told me he hoped the army would be able to let vehicles in shortly for produce evacuation. The roads between the oil palm areas and the creek evacuation points at Nwaniba and Oron have been little damaged compared with those in some other areas (the Biafran retreat from Oron through Uyo a year ago was very rapid), but the shortage of lighters has caused some hold-up. Evacuation down the Cross River, after the rains come in May, would only be considered if Biafran control of the west bank in the Arochuku area were ended.

Other problems have included the shortage of jute bags, because of the ban on imports (supplies from Nigerian factories being inadequate or inaccessible); shortage of palm oil drums; frustrating delays in re-opening the bulk oil plants at Calabar and Opobo (controlled by the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company), which has meant so far that no purchase of palm oil can take place; and what is described as the alleged "unco-operative attitude" of licensed buying agents in the Calabar area, who have been asking exorbitant rates, and have been dragging their feet about buying until paid for their existing stocks. All these difficulties are well on the way to being solved, especially now that the National Produce Evacuation Commission has set up a sub-committee for South East State and Rivers.

Once the produce has reached Calabar, lack of storage space (now largely catered for) and unreliability of arrangements to ship the produce to Lagos have created hold-ups. All ports of the former Eastern region are still officially blockaded by Federal forces and what traffic is allowed by special concession. The blockade means that war insurance premiums are still asked, and that a vessel coming from, say, Douala or Matadi would have to go to Lagos for naval and customs clearance before coming to Calabar. Foreign shipowners have also been deterred by the alleged limit of 40 per cent. on the repatriation on freight earnings.

Thus what traffic there has been between Lagos and Calabar has been operated to a considerable extent by Nigerian shipping companies such as Ananse and Imarsel, both owned by prominent South-Easterners. Priority obviously goes to the army, who also control the Calabar-Oron ferry—still operated by Elder Dempsters, who also run a big lighter operation to the mainland (they are a valuable link in the Red Cross operation).

Storage space on Calabar's Marina has been improved, and top officials of the Nigerian Ports Authority, which previously had no cargo handling operation in Calabar, have been in the town recently, with a view to possibly taking over two of the four wharves (leaving the two Palm Line wharves). The NPA General Manager said, while in Calabar, that it should be "made abundantly clear that, to make the port of Calabar really viable, a large sum has to be spent, because you are restricted to the depth of any ship coming in here." But improvement to the port, which had been the hub of Calabar's 19th-century preeminence, and improvement to the infrastructure of the hinterland, are clear preconditions of expansion.

General Gowon at a refugee camp during his recent visit to Calabar. With him is Mr. Michael Ogon, Commissioner for Rehabilitation in the South-East State.

letters to the editor

"NOT WITH A BANG..."

SIR,—The attack by a correspon (March 1) on the Institute of Administra of Ahmadu Bello University is wh unjustified. The conclusion that the In tute will "wheeze quietly on to the s heap" is based on wish, not evidence

Since its establishment as a pion institution with the aim of searching and providing professional and adminis tive training for government and l authority personnel, suitable for the envi ment its graduates would work in, a had few equals in Africa. The later formance of its products more than jus the support given it by the old North Government. This support was ext further when a scheme was undertaken select high calibre graduate administ from the civil service to attend the Part pants Programme at Pittsburg Univers USA. Its aim was to sharpen the acade training with a dose of real, administr field material which participants w impart to students when they returned join the Institute's staff.

Three sets of participants returned the university and their performance c pletely justified the programme. Cri of six states in the old North caused v administrative problems for the progra which proved insurmountable. The par pants resigned with an option to return the university as full members of t leaving the university administration the new states to arrange field experien

All this was taking place against background of a struggle for control influence between the British interests felt they had a lien on the institute co-founders, and the American interest w certainly has a claim to representing newest and most rigorous acade approach to the teaching of administr quite apart from their direct interest the participants' programme. At least department tried to get the administra course transferred to it on the main cam presumably as a means of putting an to the American interest. This move unsuccessful because, as well as trai professional administrative personnel, Institute trains middle grade staff for l authorities, among other bodies. Crea of 12 states and the administrative refo in the Northern States and elsewhere meant a great increase in the need for fessional graduate administrators and porting staff at all levels, and the Insti seemed to provide an ideal organisatio cater for these needs. As far as I kn the new states, too, favoured retention the present arrangement, not for "senti tal reasons" but because they are clear their needs and on the valuable assist which the Institute has given them.

The attempt by the correspondent introduce a conflict of interests between Vice-Chancellor's *assumed but unpro* inclination to give greater weight to needs of The Institute of Health that any of his university's departments distasteful. So far as I know there never been any mention of converting Institute of Administration buildings the accommodation of any other departm

Hostility to the Pittsburgh participants, more especially to the new Acting Director, seem to me to have influenced your correspondent. The attack against the new Acting Director is disgraceful and unjustified. The graduate of a British university who spent several years of meritorious service in the old Northern Government was, to quote a staff of the Pittsburgh programme, "the most outstanding graduate student we have ever had. I don't mean that he was just good, he was exceptional, not just among the overseas students, but of all students we have had." The departure of foreign contractual heads of departments from African universities is nothing new. Of the three African senior members of staff, one was acquired by the department of the university long before the new Acting Director's appointment and so far as I know, the restlessness, like other assertions by your correspondent, is imaginary.

Given the multiplication in the number of new administrative units in Nigeria together with the demands of the new local government reforms, both the old and new states are going to need thousands of new administrators and local authority supporting staff. Clearly, the Institutes of Administration of Ahmadu Bello, Ife and Lagos will find their cups much more than full for a long time. An attack on one is bound to affect the overall capacity of these institutions to cater for our future needs. Over and above that, it reminds me, at any rate, of the problem raised by the Vice-Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University, Dr. Audu, of the effect of the over-dependence of African universities on external aid.

It is time that all the governments of the Nigerian Federation begin to consider seriously how far they can continue to allow foreign imported prejudices, completely non-academic, to hamper the progress of our universities.

IBRAHIM A. TAHIR,
Lecturer,
Department of Sociology,
Ahmadu Bello University

AFRICA'S PREDICAMENT —AND GHANA'S

SIR,—Last Sept. 7 a review appeared in *West Africa* of Stanislav Andreski's *The African Predicament*. If readers have not had a chance of reading the book, I strongly recommend it. It is mostly about the 25 per cent. or so literates in West African countries—the civil servants, the University lecturers, the diplomats, the police, the politicians, the soldiers.

Professor Andreski has done Africa in general and West Africa in particular a great service in writing the book. All the problems and the unmentionably bad practices which have been crippling our individual countries for years have now been preserved for posterity. Our University teachers are called "graduate not intellectuals"; he mentions the unprofessional treatment of patients by our doctors and nurses; "the police are among the worse offenders against the law", he says; and he does not leave out Customs officials either. There is something about diplomats, too: "In no other region . . . do diplomats weigh so heavily on the economy of their countries as in Africa . . ." He also writes about us as individuals, and about the mixed-up state in which most of us find ourselves, a state which has led most of us to imitate Europeans needlessly.

The review alone had a lot of food for thought, and it is rather alarming that West Africans have hardly commented on this book. Are our literates too afraid to speak out against what they know to be evil? If this is so, then we are doing ourselves and our countries more harm than good. 99 per cent. of everything the Professor said applies to Ghana, and as a Ghanaian I am worried. Ghana is entering a new phase of life; what can we do to put her on a solid foundation, devoid of corruption, predation and strife?

(MISS) M. A. KWAKWA.

ZIK'S PEACE PLAN

SIR,—Dr. Azikiwe's speech at Oxford is the latest in a series in which the Ibo leadership, faced with the issue of self-determination for the non-Ibo Easterners, has offered a plebiscite to determine the "true wishes" of these peoples.

Appealing as this idea is to the liberal mind, it deserves closer examination, if only for the importance which its proponents seem to attach to it. First, can and should a fundamental change to the form and character of the Nigerian Federation—in this case, the excision of one of its constituent parts—be made without consulting all Nigerians (including Biafrans)? In other words, why should the plebiscite be confined to the "war zones" when its outcome will bear directly on every Nigerian?

Second, who will conduct it? The UN? The OAU? Another international body? In any case, for an area in which well over 90 per cent of the population have never had any birth certificates, how would an official from, say, Sweden or Brazil or Uganda distinguish the tribes?

New York H. T. BOZIMO.

SIERRA LEONE ARRESTS

SIR,—I have noted with annoyance the letter (Feb. 15) from A. Margai, who I am sure is Sir Albert Margai, about the detention of certain troublesome elements in Sierra Leone.

If Sir Albert had anything like shame, he would refrain from writing, as all that has happened in Sierra Leone is due to his dictatorial actions when prime minister.

At the last Commonwealth conference Mr. Siaka Stevens was questioned about the detentions, and answered that it was a very unpleasant decision which he had had to take reluctantly to maintain peace and order and bring atrocities to an end. There the question ended. And may I ask Sir Albert whether the alleged detention of listed persons mentioned by him could be compared with the severity of what happened after the introduction of the coup d'etat into our once-peaceful Sierra Leone?

What sufferings have I not withstood? When I was secretary-general of the APC Kenema branch, was I not ruined domestically, financially and professionally? Were not numerous attempts made on my life, and on those of my cousin Mr. Kaitell and others at Blama? Amidst such trials we stood and won in the end. During the last general election, was not the head of the official APC candidate asked to be brought, in return for a prize? C. H. M. GREENE.

Mr. D. T. Musa wishes to point out that he is vice-chairman of the Sierra Leone Students' Union London Branch, and not vice-president of the APC (Great Britain and Ireland Branch) as claimed on p. 190 of "West Africa" on February 15.

Westwind Africa Line

Regular Express Freight Service between
U.S. Gulf Ports and
West African Ports
(Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala, Warri, Luanda, Lobito)

S.S. Westwind	Sails New Orleans Mar. 25, Houston Mar. 30, for Dakar, Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Takoradi, Lagos/Apapa, Warri, Douala, Luanda.
S.S. Sophie C	Sails for Houston Apr. 7, New Orleans Apr. 12, for Freetown, Abidjan, Lagos/Apapa, Douala, Luanda.
S.S. Buena Fortuna	Sails New Orleans Apr. 27, Houston May 1, for Freetown, Abidjan, Lagos/Apapa, Douala, Luanda.

SHIPS' ITINERARIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

For rates of freight, and other information apply to: Southern Star Shipping Co., Inc., 29, Broadway Suite 1925, New York, N.Y. 10006, General Agents.

WEST AFRICAN AGENTS:

General Agents:	SOUTHERN STAR SHIPPING CO. INC P.O. Box 318 Apapa, Nigeria.
Other Agents:	Alraine Ltd. (Freetown, Lagos, Monrovia, Port Harcourt, Tema, Takoradi, Warri) Socopao (Abidjan) Camara & Cia., Ltd. (Luanda) Luic Teixeira Da Silva (Lobito)
UK General Agents:	WAINWRIGHT BROS. & CO. LTD., 15-17 Eldon Street, London, E.C.2, ENGLAND, and 19 James Street, Liverpool 2.

Barclays in SIERRA LEONE

For over fifty years the bank has been associated with the trade and development of Sierra Leone. Today, our thirteen offices there keep us in continual contact with commerce, industry and agriculture, and give us an unrivalled knowledge of local conditions. This knowledge is freely available to all businessmen; if it would be useful to you, write to or telephone R. J. Crankshaw, Business Development and International Division, 54 Lombard Street, London E.C.3 (01-626 5656).

Barclays Bank D.C.O.

Britain's Largest Overseas Bank

books and publications

SELFLESS SAILORS

The Royal Navy and the Slavers *(W. E. F. Ward. Allen & Unwin Ltd.: 40s.).*

LAGOS was occupied by the British because it was a major centre of the slave trade. It was such a centre because of the Yoruba civil wars, which produced the captives. Perhaps the British would have occupied Lagos anyway, and perhaps division among the Yoruba would have continued. But division among them still is the most important division in Nigeria.

This is not the theme of Mr. Ward's book, but one is obliged to refer to it because it is so important. After many years of diligent searching in the Public Records Office in London, Mr. Ward felt that he had—and he was right—material for a valuable book, which did not concern the slave trade in general but looked only to the West African trade. Most of his material is original and, although it is to some extent ill-organised, he has made it very readable.

One is constantly reminded of those European contractors who enticed African politicians into dishonest arrangements. There were always chiefs ready to furnish slaves to European operators, and many current operators would have been at home in West Africa after Britain abolished the slave trade. As Mr. Ward shows, some of the biggest European slave traders were established on the mainland as great "lords," even in hostility to their own governments.

It is extraordinary that this fascinating subject has attracted so little attention. Mr. Ward confines himself to the West African trade. He makes it clear that but for the attitude of the other powers (the Spaniards, for example, were so reluctant to sit on the Freetown mixed Commission that their judges feigned illness), the trade could, indeed, have been abolished in 1807, when the British themselves decreed its end.

The book gives enthralling accounts, derived from original sources, of the Royal Navy's attempts to control the trade, often with little support from London. Mr. Ward analyses the sincerity, or lack of it, among other countries, as well as describing the exploits of the Royal Navy and, in his subdued tone, describes one of the most unselfish operations in which any armed force has ever been engaged.

Speaking of the Royal Navy's West African Squadron, he says that it was not strong enough to blockade the whole of the coast. "As a rule (though there were exceptions to this) the slavers could outsail the warships. On the whole, Spanish and Portuguese judges showed little inclination to condemn slave ships. French and American ships could not be touched, and American skippers (often under Spanish colours) were among the most daring of the slavers. A British naval officer had to be very sure of his ground in capturing a slaver; the financial risks of failure in the mixed courts were very heavy. What Commodore Sir Robert Mends wrote in 1822 remained largely true for many years afterwards: 'The traffic in slaves has not decreased; nor do I see how it can whilst it is supported by European protection in the most open and avowed manner, and defended by force of arms. Were the British ships, employed on this coast for its suppression, allowed to act with freedom, it would in a short time be so cut up and harassed, as not to make it worth the risk, trouble and disappointment which would inevitably follow. But till then, we must submit to the mortification of seeing the anxious hopes of our country on this subject disappointed, and the efforts of our Navy rendered ineffectual.'"

There are few totally unselfish international operations. This was one such. For, as Mr. Ward shows, all commercial interests were opposed to British abolition of the trade and the theoretical (though in fact very real) advantages of abolition were not advanced at the time when it was advocated. Abolition was a moral matter; one wishes that there could be another issue so treated now.

P. D.

Ethiopia and the Bible *by Edward Ullendorff (Oxford University Press, 42s.).*

In her rural areas and smaller towns Ethiopia remains a biblical land, where priests "dance before the ark"; she is also a bridge between Africa and Asia. Professor Ullendorff, first holder of the only Chair of Ethiopian Studies in Britain, investigates the relationship of Ethiopia to the Bible, considers the

AGENCE MARITIME INTERNATIONALE S.A.

Managing Agents of :

COMPAGNIE MARITIME BELGE s.a.

"BELGIAN LINE"

Regular and fast sailings

from ANTWERP

to CONGO via Canary Islands

from NEW YORK, BALTIMORE and Outports

to CONGO and ANGOLA

from U.S. PORTS of the GULF of MEXICO

to CONGO and ANGOLA via North Atlantic Ports

Agents in Antwerp for :

ELDER DEMPSTER LINES Ltd.

PALM LINE Ltd.

THE GUINEA GULF LINE Ltd.

Regular and fast sailings

from ANTWERP

to WEST AFRICA

ANTWERP

Telegram : AGENMARIN 61 St. Katelijnevest **Telex : AN31366**

UNITED WEST AFRICA SERVICE

jointly

POLISH STEAMSHIP COMPANY SZCZECIN

VEB DEUTSCHE SEEREEDEREI ROSTOCK G.D.R.

A fleet of modern vessels

Refrigerated cargo

Multipurpose deeptanks

Passengers accommodation

Weekly departures from the Baltic and Western Continent to Morocco, Canary Islands West Africa and v.v.

MITSUI O.S.K. LINES LTD.

JAPAN / WEST AFRICA / JAPAN

FORTNIGHTLY EXPRESS SERVICE
CALLING LAGOS (APAPA), LOME, TEMA,
TAKORADI, ABIDJAN, FREETOWN

m.s. KASUGASAN MARU* SAILED KOBE February 21, due LAGOS March 24.

m.s. HONOLULU MARU† SAILED KOBE March 4, due LAGOS April 6.

m.s. ARIZONA MARU* SAILS KOBE March 20, due LAGOS April 20.

m.s. HODAKASAN MARU† SAILS KOBE April 4, due LAGOS May 7.

*Vessels also call at DOUALA and MONROVIA and return to Japan via MEDITERRANEAN.

†Vessels return to JAPAN via SOUTH AFRICA.

U.K. AGENTS AND FREIGHT BROKERS

BURNESS MACLAINE LTD.
ST. MARY AXE, LONDON, E.C.3.

ST. MARY AXE HOUSE
Telephone AVE 8030

LIVERPOOL AGENTS:
JAMES BURNESS & SONS LTD.
CASTLE CHAMBERS
41 CASTLE STREET
LIVERPOOL 2
TEL: MARITIME 1131

MANCHESTER AGENTS:
JAMES BURNESS & SONS LTD.
26 BROWN STREET
MANCHESTER 2
TEL: BLACKFRIARS 5842

LONDON BRANCH OFFICE:
MITSUI O.S.K. LINES LTD.
KEMPSON HOUSE
CAMOMILE STREET
LONDON, E.C.3
TEL: AVE 7081

LAGOS REPRESENTATIVE:
T. AMI
MITSUI O.S.K. LINES LTD.
c/o PALM LINE AGENCIES LTD.
P.O. BOX 531
LAGOS, NIGERIA

historical background, translations of Bible into Ethiopian languages, the impact of the Old Testament on country's religion and life, which is greater than in any other Christ society.

The book concludes with an examin tion of the story of the Queen of She legendary ancestress of Ethiopi emperors, based on the Biblical accou of the Queen's visit to King Solom but greatly elaborated by many outs influences.

Of particular interest is a care "excursus" on the theory that Falasha, a small group living to north of Lake Tana, really are "B Jews." Professor Ullendorff conclu that they are not basically any differ from many other Ethiopians "... religious pattern of the Falashas—ev though it will have undergone so change in the past 1,600 years—may mirror to a considerable extent religious syncretism of the pre-Christi Aksumite kingdom. It is in their liv testimony to the Judaised civilisation the South Arabian immigrants, and th wellnigh complete cultural ascenden over the Cushitic and other strata of original African population of Ethio that we must seek the value and gr interest of the Falashas today—and i in their rehabilitation as a lone lo tribe of Israel (which is historically ou unwarranted). Like their Christ fellow Ethiopians, the Falashas stubborn adherents to fossilised Hebra Jewish beliefs, practices, and custo which were transplanted from So Arabia into the Horn of Africa which may here be studied in authentic surroundings and atmosph of a semitised country."

P. R

The Year Book of the Commonwea 1969 *(HMSO. £3 7s. 6d.).*

The merger of the Foreign Commonwealth Offices last year na ally means a new title for what formerly called the *Commonwe Office Year Book*. But it is still same thick and useful volume. dealing with the Commonwealth al One thing missing from this volum the list of officers in charge of var departments at the office in Lond which was usefully provided in year's *Commonwealth Office Year B* But this is a minor omission, and ot wise the sections on various territo the list of Commonwealth societies committees, and other parts of Annual are full of up-to-date detai before. The section on Nigeria giv very brief summary of the recent eve its references to the military situa naturally cannot be quite up-to-d but the military governors and mem of the Federal executive council are listed, together with the provinces each state and major Nigerian diplon Relatively speaking, however, Nigerian section has less econo information than that on Sierra Le

for example, and there is a similar gap in the Ghana section as well. But one cannot expect everything; there are nearly 800 pages of assorted information, with a map at the end, which make this a welcome reference book now as in past years. **J.D.**

Economic Devolution in Eastern Europe *by L. Sirc (Longmans, 35s.).*

As an exile from Yugoslavia who is now a university lecturer in economics at the University of Glasgow, Dr. Sirc analyses the dilemma facing Communist economists as they find it necessary, in view of consumer demand in their own countries, gradually to abandon both Marxist-Leninist economic theory and devotion to rigid central planning. He describes the limited reforms which, following the Yugoslav example, are being undertaken in the Soviet Union and elsewhere. Eastern European economies, Dr. Sirc maintains, must find a method of achieving decentralisation in decisions if they are to produce saleable and acceptable goods.

Much of the book is important for newly independent countries faced with the problem of reconciling state intervention in the economy with economic efficiency and consumer needs (quite apart from the experience some of them have had of Communist consumer goods). The "economic machine," Dr. Sirc maintains, was deliberately destroyed in Communist countries but now has to be reconstructed in view of the failure of rigid centralised planning. An economy can function smoothly only if "millions of human beings" can exert themselves without waiting for orders. This does not mean that the old economic machine was perfect, but it is likely to produce better results than centralised decisions. Individual organisational talent is far more important than centralised control. "Perfectionism is the enemy of the good."

An appendix on the "Western malaise" is topical and perceptive. For laymen the number of references may seem excessive, but Dr. Sirc is determined to make his case authoritative. **P.N.**

The Growth of Literature (Vol. III) *by Chadwick & Chadwick (Cambridge University Press, £6 10s.).*

Continuing their search for general principles in the growth of literature, Dr. and Mrs. Chadwick, after dealing in earlier volumes with the ancient literature of Europe and Russia, Yugoslavia, early India and early Hebrew literature, turned in this volume to the Tatars, Polynesians, and some African peoples, including the Yoruba. The volume, first published in 1940 and now reprinted, ends with a general survey.

Africa does not offer a significant field for literary research, but the authors could select certain areas for comparative study. In Eastern Africa the literature of Abyssinia and the Galla, and of the Northern Bantu were considered. In these the interesting development is that of the chronicles relating primarily to reigning kings and dynasties. The evidence as a whole, Dr. and Mrs. Chadwick considered, leads to the belief that "among the more highly developed of the African peoples several bodies of historical and antiquarian traditions were carefully preserved in various milieus—the 'official' text by the 'bards' or chanters at the royal courts, a variant series representing a more sacerdotal point of view by the temple priests, while yet another series seems to have been current among the chiefs."

Among the Tuareg all men and women "are poets," more practised in the art of extempore composition than any other people discussed. In West Africa, however, there is a written history of the Yoruba compiled by two Yoruba, S. and O. Johnson, from their own traditions. The book persuaded Dr. and Mrs. Chadwick that a brief examination of Yoruba literature would be of interest.

They discussed the *babalawo* or diviners, one class of the priests of Ifa. An important part of the education of such priests consists of learning traditional stories associated with the divinities subordinate to Ifa—there are said to be 1,680 stories attached to each. A pupil is nominally expected to commit all these to memory in addition to stories associated with other divinities, and from them, in combination with a divining bowl, he delivers oracular responses.

Extempore topical poetry, widely used among the Yoruba was also discussed. Extempore poetry, said the authors, is sung in the streets in recognition and celebration of any important event. They added, which was not true even when they wrote, that "while the Yoruba are without a printing press or representative government," extempore poetry served to express "popular opinion of the more important political events." In the absence of written records, too, the usual way of estimating the impression that a person or event has left on a given generation is "to turn to the popular songs."

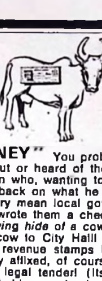
Dr. and Mrs. Chadwick's complete lack of first-hand knowledge of Yorubaland is shown by their statement that the Yoruba were "totally heathen"; such ignorance, however, does not affect their literary judgment. **N.P.**

Africa in Search of Democracy *by K. A. Busia (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 8s. 6d.):* paperback version of Dr. Busia's statement of his democratic views (reviewed in *West Africa*, No. 18, 1967.)

Correction

In the review of the first issue of the "Ghana Journal of Agricultural Science" (February 22, p. 213) it was mistakenly stated that the journal was sponsored by the Cocoa Research Institute. In fact it was sponsored by the Crops Research Institute, with headquarters at Kwadaso-Kumasi.

c



"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 all*

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, nuts, 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.

Quite apart from the slight inconvenience to all concerned—of leading an unwilling cow through the traffic to the bank—though National Bank of Nigeria Limited would much rather you used more conventional cheques—like in the National Bank cheque book you get when you open your current account at any of National Bank's branches in Nigeria and abroad!

What's more you'll find that National do know about money—money's their business. Savings, transfers, foreign exchange—you name it! If it's money you are talking about you should talk to National Bank of Nigeria Limited—the Bank You Can Trust.

NATIONAL BANK OF NIGERIA LTD.

Head Office: 82/86 Broad Street, Lagos, Nigeria

Branches throughout the Country
London Branch: Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C.2. Tel. 4303
New York correspondents: French American Banking Corporation
J. Henry Schroeder Banking Corporation

NOPAL
WEST AFRICA LINE

Regular service between U.S. GULF ports and WEST-AFRICAN ports —DAKAR/LOBITO range.

Agents :

Dakar-Abidjan-Douala-Delmas-Vieljeux	
Freetown-Monrovia Takoradi-Tema	-Hoeks Limited
Lagos/Apapa-Port Harcourt-Sapele	-John Holt Shipping Services Ltd.
Warri	-Holt's Transport Ltd.
Matadi	-Van Ommeren (Congo)
Luanda-Lobito	-Luid-Afrikaansch Handelshuis
London, E.C.3.	-Holt Maritime Enterprises Ltd.

Oivind Lorentzen Inc.
New York
General agents for U.S.A.

WIGS!
BARGAIN

LIKE NATURAL HAIR

LONG ..... **9 gns.**
SHORT ..... **6 gns.**

Half-Wig with Alice band at only £5 . 10 . 0

Hair-piece with comb £3 . 10 . 0
Postage & Packing—5/0.

KILPASPLAN
82, St. Paul's Road
Tottenham, London, N.17
Tel:-01-808 0566

MATCHET'S DIARY

NOW that the *New Statesman* has succumbed to the "no arms for Nigeria" lobby, no political journal in London now supports the British Government's line on Nigeria. Among the daily newspapers, too, *The Times* has come out flatly against the supply of arms to the Federal Government and, apart from an excellent analysis by Mr. Woodrow Wyatt, MP, in the *Daily Mirror* (firmly supporting both the British and the Federal Government), Nigerians can find little satisfaction in the London daily newspapers. The *Sunday Times* does not follow its daily companion's opinions, but the Sunday newspapers, too, last week-end were full of reports of air raids on Biafra—and of Brigadier Ogundipe's statement at his Saturday news conference that, although the Federal Government would investigate allegations of indiscriminate attacks on civilians, he could give no guarantee that air raids would stop, and they might even be increased.

●

In all this little space was found for the story of Chief Okafor, the Ibo businessman, who is now visiting Britain. He told a news conference of his difficulties in escaping from Biafra and of the welcome he and his family received at Udi, near Enugu, when he met the Federal soldiers. He was confident that it was only intimidation by the police and troops which kept the civilians in Biafra in order, although he agreed that until some people had returned to Biafra with the truth, it was universally believed that the Federal forces were intent on genocide. Chief Okafor also produced a novel argument for condemning Colonel Ojukwu, although it is not an unexpected one from an Ibo. Secession and the war, he said, had virtually ended education in Biafra, and if the war continued much longer, there would be an illiterate generation once again. To him this seemed a monstrous crime, and he appeared almost as pleased that the six children he took with him to Udi were now receiving education as at his own escape.

●

Agreeing with the statement in a recent editorial in this journal that the Ghanaian Constituent Assembly was the most heartening sight in Africa at the moment, a correspondent reminds me of something easily forgotten. The leaders of the old National Liberation Movement, including Dr. Busia himself, who before Ghana's independence were demanding a federal form of government and actually succeeded in winning on paper quasi-Federal status, are now advancing no such claims, although they are perfectly free to do so. All they ask for is decentralisation. There were some, too, in the days of the NLM, who wanted complete separation for the north and, in some cases, Ashanti. No su demand is now made, whatever feeli there may be about the proper divisi of Ghana's financial and economic cak All this means that the politicians an independent African country whi has experienced separatist movemen now accept that, for better or wor they must make the best job they c of the country they have inherited with its present borders. One must ma reservations about the Ewe; but mu improved relations between Ghana a Togo compared to the days of Nkrum also affect the demand for the unific tion of the Ewes of Ghana and To which at the moment does not appe to be a live issue.

●

Of approximately 4,000 headmast in primary schools in Western Niger fewer than five per cent. have any tra ing specifically for the job. The Institu of Education at the University of Ife providing special training in administr tion and supervision for a number headmasters over the next three yea together with refresher courses for tutc who teach in training colleges. To pr vide staff the Institute proposes emplo ing experienced officers of the Weste State Ministry of Education who, ex existing regulations, would shortly b retiring at the age of 55. Impressed b the wisdom of this move, the Carneg Corporation of New York is providi funds to assist it, and also to help t Institute to establish a curriculu development research and training un About $1 in every 14 that the corpor tion spends goes to education in t Commonwealth (India is not include and since 1954 the Foundation has be particularly interested in strengthenc the new university colleges in Africa grant of $16,000 to Ife for training h headmasters is an example, and last ye it also gave $27,000 to the Associati of Commonwealth Universities. For years the Foundation has been maki grants to Commonwealth scholars a administrators to visit North Ameri last year grants were made to th Ghanaians. No further grants of t kind are to be made, however, althou a Carnegie grant to the African-Americ Institute to operate a similar program will allow African university staff a teachers to continue to visit the Uni States.

●

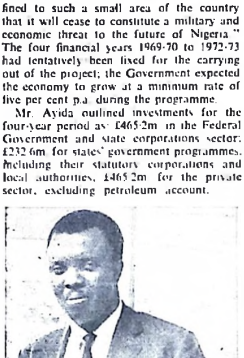
During the celebrations inaugurat the University of Sierra Leone month, Dr. Werner Seldis, the Germ Ambassador, recalled that during 19th century about 50 members of staff at Fourah Bay came from Germ speaking countries. They were parti larly prominent in linguistic studi Family names like Metzger, Renner others, said the Ambassador, "are a vivid testimony of a truly cosmopoli character of the oldest University of W Africa."

commercial news

Nigeria's New Development Plan

NIGERIA will have a £1,163m. four-year reconstruction and development programme. The permanent secretary in the Federal Ministry of Economic Development, Mr. Allison Ayida, said the programme would be put in operation at the end of the war "or when the armed rebellion is confined to such a small area of the country that it will cease to constitute a military and economic threat to the future of Nigeria." The four financial years 1969-70 to 1972-73 had tentatively been fixed for the carrying out of the project; the Government expected the economy to grow at a minimum rate of five per cent p.a. during the programme.

Mr. Ayida outlined investments for the four-year period as: £465·2m. in the Federal Government and state corporations sector; £232·6m. for states' government programmes, including their statutory corporations and local authorities; £465·2m. for the private sector, excluding petroleum account.



Ayida—outline for post-war Plan.

The Federal Military Government, Mr. Ayida said, was spending less than a third of its monthly foreign exchange earnings on the war. Foreign exchange earnings were expected to improve after the war, but difficulties might remain over foreign exchange.

The state government programmes would concentrate on agriculture, water supplies, feeder roads, and social services such as health and education, while the Federal programme on the other hand would treat as priorities post-war rehabilitation, reconstruction and the development of infrastructures, particularly transport, training of manpower, and an Industrial Plan.

Nigeria's Development Plan started in 1962 officially ended last year. Its main project, the Kainji Dam, was opened last month.

● Great Britain exported £57·7m. worth of goods to Nigeria in 1968, and imported £N70·2m. Major British exports were iron and steel, non-electrical and electrical machinery, metal manufactures, and medicinal and pharmaceutical products.

● The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria will pay the Niger Dams Authority about £6m. for supply of power from the Kainji power station between April this year and March next year. ECN's general manager, Mr. Cheng-Fong Hsu, said the figures represented an increase of about 25 per cent. in the cost to the ECN of obtaining electricity for 4m. consumers. ECN would spend 4s. 5d. for each unit of electricity from Kainji, as against 3s. 7d. per unit supplied hitherto from other sources. This includes transmission and distribution.

Mr. Hsu, in an interview with the *Daily Times*, did not say if the increase in cost would result in increased charges to ECN consumers.

Kainji now supplies between 100 and 120 mW to the ECN, a tenth of the full capacity of the station. "We are in effect paying for the 12 proposed turbines of the station even though only two are working at the moment," Mr. Hsu said, adding that the hydro-electric power from the Kainji dam was, however, more refined and stable "than our former source of supply."

Ghana Cocoa Cut Off

ABOUT 15,000 tons of cocoa are stranded in some villages of Ghana's Central Region, cut off by damage to roads in last year's floods, the chairman of the Cocoa Marketing Board, Mr. F. R. Kankam-Boadu, has said. Ways are being discussed of using the 1m. cedis allocated for repair of this Region's feeder roads.

About 2,000 tons of cocoa are stranded in the Botodwena, Manpong and Adansi areas of the Ashanti Region, also because of the floods, says a *Daily Graphic* report.

● The Cocoa Division of Ghana's Ministry of Agriculture is negotiating with the World Bank for a loan to assist the country's cocoa rehabilitation scheme, Mr. S. O. Nicholas, deputy chief cocoa officer of the division, has stated. The size of the loan would determine the acreage for rehabilitation. The division's information on cocoa, collected in 1962, was outmoded, and the division would examine incidence of swollen shoot and trees that should be destroyed.

The new rehabilitation scheme would be tried out in Eastern Ghana and later extended to other areas, said Mr. Nicholas. (There has been a plan for a World Bank cocoa loan to Nigeria also.)

● Nigerian cocoa purchases to the end of February are estimated at over 180,000 tons by Overseas Buyer, who expect a total crop of perhaps about 210,000 tons.

Despite its previous announcement, the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board has announced a new purchase figure. This raised the total to about 315,000 tons.

● The US Department of Agriculture has estimated that the world cocoa crop this season will be 1,187,000 metric tons. Its earlier estimate was 1,301,000.

Woermann-Linie
Hamburg

Regular Service from
Hamburg/Antwerp range Dunkirk, Rouen, Leixoes/Lisbon
to
West Africa (Dakar/Lobito range)
and vice versa

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE APPLY TO:
WOERMANN-LINIE HAMBURG, PALMAILLE 45
Teleprinter: 3 91 61 *Telegraphic Address: Westlinie*

Wm. H. MULLER & CO. (LONDON) LTD.,
LOWER THAMES STREET LONDON E.C.3.
Teleprinter: BATAVIER 28111 *Telegraphic Address: Batavier*

WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

ELDER DEMPSTER LINES
OUTBOUND—From Liverpool:—AUREOL sig. Liverpool Mar. 20; DONGA sig. Glasgow Mar. 17; KABALA sig. Liverpool Mar. 14; OBUASI due Matadi Mar. 18.
From London:—BHAMO sig. London Mar. 14; EGORI sig. London Mar. 18; DEGEMA due Apapa Mar. 12; KUMBA due Takoradi Mar. 17; ONITSHA due Pointe Noire Mar. 18.
From Hull:—OWERRI sig. Hull Mar. 14
From Continent:—FULANI sig. Hamburg Mar. 21; FORCADOS due Takoradi Mar. 15.
NORTHBOUND—To Liverpool:—DARU due Liverpool Mar. 15; DUNKWA due Glasgow FOURAH BAY due Liverpool Mar. 21; PERANG due Bathurst Mar. 19.
To Avonmouth:—NAIRNBANK due Abidjan Mar. 19.
To Hull:—SCHUTTING sig. Takoradi Mar. 15.
To London:—FALABA due London Mar. 16; EBRANI due Madeira Mar. 16; EBOE due Takoradi Mar. 15; KADUNA due Takoradi Mar. 20; KOHIMA due Lagos Mar. 20; PATANI due Freetown Mar. 19.
To Continent:—ELIAN due Rotterdam Mar 18.
EASTBOUND—From USA/Canada:—DUMBAIA due Pointe Noire Mar. 15; FREETOWN sig. Halifax Mar. 19; DEIDO sig. New York Mar. 28.
WESTBOUND—To USA/Canada:—DALLA due Fall River Mar. 17; DIXCOVE due Abidjan Mar. 18.
From India/Pakistan/Burma:—TWEEDBANK due Freetown Mar. 17; INVERBANK sld. Madras Feb. 27.

BARBER WEST AFRICAN LINE
OUTWARDS—TEMA due Monrovia Mar. 21, thence Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema, Lagos/Apapa; CORNEVILLE due sail New York Mar. 18, Halifax (NS) Mar. 21 for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lome, Lagos/Apapa, Victoria, Douala and Takoradi; FERDINAND due sail New York Apr. 1, Halifax (NS) Apr. 4 for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala and Takoradi.
JAPAN "K" LINE
WESTBOUND—From Japan (via Hong Kong and Cape) to Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown etc.—DENMARK MARU sld. Japan Mar. 2, due Lagos Apr. 16.
EASTBOUND—From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown etc. to Japan (via Cape and Singapore):—NORWAY MARU sig. Lagos Mar. 22, Tema Mar. 25, Freetown Mar. 29, due Japan May 12.

PALM LINE
SOUTHBOUND—From Glasgow and Newport:—AFRICA PALM due Lagos Mar. 18.
From Liverpool:—ENUGU PALM sig. Lagos Mar. 20.
From Liverpool:—LAGOS PALM due Tema Mar. 18.
From Continent:—BADAGRY PALM due Tenerife Mar. 19.
NORTHBOUND—To Liverpool:—IKEJA PALM due Takoradi Mar. 21.
To Avonmouth:—STEPHANIE due Lagos Mar.
To Continent:—ILESHA PALM sig. Lagos Mar. 16.

WOERMANN LINE
MAILAND sld. Antwerp Mar. 7, due Dakar Mar. 17. Matadi-Boma Mar. 26, Pointe Noire Mar. 29, Lobito Apr. 1, Luanda Apr. 3.
HELENE DELMAS sld. Antwerp Mar. 7, due Dakar Mar. 24, Abidjan Mar. 28, Douala Apr. 2, Libreville Apr. 4, Port Gentil Apr. 5, Pointe Noire Apr. 7.
NOPAL WEST AFRICA LINE
EASTBOUND—NOPAL TELLUS sld. New Orleans Mar. 15, Takoradi Apr. 7, Lagos Apr. 10, due Warri Apr. 13; **NOPAL LUNA** sig. New Orleans Apr. 17, Takoradi May 7, Lagos May 10, due Warri May 14.
WESTBOUND—NOPAL LUNA sld. Luanda Mar. 1, New Orleans Apr. 2, due Houston Apr. 7. **NOPAL SUN** sig. Luanda Apr. 3, Takoradi Apr. 16, New Orleans May 5, due Houston May 10.

HOLLAND WEST AFRICA LINE
SOUTHBOUND—From Continent:—OLDEKERK due Lagos Mar. 18; **DAHOMEYKUST** due Dakar Mar. 22; **KATSEDIJK** due Freetown Mar. 26.
NORTHBOUND—To Continent:—SENEGALKUST due Rotterdam Mar. 18, Amsterdam Mar. 22, Bremen Mar. 25, Hamburg Mar. 27; **CONGOKUST** due Rotterdam Mar. 25, Amsterdam Mar. 27, Bremen Mar. 31, Hamburg Apr. 1.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINES
INWARDS—STRAAT VAN DIEMEN from China and Hong Kong sld. Hong Kong Feb. 16, due Lagos/Apapa Mar. 19; Colombo Mar. 24, Lome Mar. 28, Tema not calling, Abidjan Mar. 31, Monrovia Apr. 4, Freetown Apr. 5, Dakar Apr. 8, Conakry Apr. 12; **STRAAT FREETOWN** from Japan sig. Kobe, due Lagos/Apapa, not calling Tema Mar. 30, Monrovia Apr. 3, Freetown Apr. 5, Abidjan Apr. 9, Takoradi Apr. 12.
OUTWARDS—STRAAT VAN DIEMEN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong and China second half Mar.; **STRAAT FREETOWN** from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan second half Mar. first half Apr.

GOLD STAR LINE
NOGAH sig. Matadi Mar. 18/19, Duala Mar. 20, Victoria Mar. 21/22, Lagos/Apapa Mar. 23/24, Tema Mar. 25/26, Takoradi Mar. 27/28, Abidjan Mar. 30/31, Monrovia Mar. 31/Apr. 1, Freetown Apr. 2/3.
BLACK STAR LINE/SEVEN STAR LINE/USNI/WEST AFRICA
WESTBOUND—ORLE LAGOON:—Ghana Mar. 22, Philadelphia Apr. 2, Boston Apr. 4.
BLACK STAR LINE UK/CONTINENT/WEST AFRICA
SOUTHBOUND—LAKE BOSOMTWE Hamburg Mar. 9, Antwerp Mar. 12, Rotterdam Mar. 13, Dunkirk Mar. 16; **BENYA RIVER** Liverpool Mar. 21.
NORTHBOUND—BIRIM RIVER Amsterdam Mar. 18, Rotterdam Mar. 21, Hamburg Mar. 23; **BIA RIVER** Avonmouth Mar. 20.
NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE
SOUTHBOUND—ERIN OGUN sig. Liverpool Mar. 15; **RIVER BENUE** sig. London Mar. 28.
NORTHBOUND—AHMADU BELLO due Liverpool Mar. 17; **HERBERT MACAULEY** due London Mar. 23.

HUGO STINNES TRANSOZEAN SCHIFFAHRT GMBH
OUTWARDS—JOHANN HUGO STINNES sig. Bordeaux Mar. 20; **ABIDJAN** sig. Dunkirk Mar. 20, Rouen Mar. 24.
HOMBURG—KOHOLYT HUGO STINNES sig. Gabon Mar. 19, due Bremen Apr. 8, Hamburg Apr 10.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE
WESTWIND sig. New Orleans Mar. 25, Houston Mar. 30, due Dakar, Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Takoradi, Lagos/Apapa, Warri, Douala, Luanda; **SOPHIE C** sig. Houston Apr. 1, New Orleans Apr. 12, for Freetown, Abidjan, Lagos/Apapa, Douala, Luanda.

CHARGEURS REUNIS
KERGUELEN sig. Kobe Mar. 26, **TANAGRA** due Lagos/Apapa Apr. 10, Tema Apr. 15, Freetown Apr. 22.

MITSUI OSK LINE
KASUGASAN MARU sld. Kobe Feb. 21, due Kobe Mar. 4, due Lagos Apr. 8; **ARIZONA MARU** sig. Kobe Mar. 20, due Lagos Apr. 19.

MAERSK LINE
TORBEN MAERSK sig. Freetown Mar. 18, arr. Bathurst Mar. 19; **JESPER MAERSK** sig. Matadi Mar. 17, arr. Douala Mar. 19.

FARRELL LINES
HOMEWARDS—AUSTRALIAN REEF sig. Luanda Apr. 1, for Lobito and US ports; **AUSTRALIAN GALAXY** sig. Luanda Apr. 15, for Lobito and US ports.
OUTWARDS—AUSTRALIAN REEF due Monrovia Mar. 21, for Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema, Luanda; **AUSTRALIAN GALAXY** due Monrovia Apr. 1, for Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema, Douala, Matadi, Luanda, Lobito.
EDWARD NASSAR LINES
EMIR BECHIR sig. Gibraltar Mar. 21, due Tema Apr. 3, Takoradi Apr. 5, Lagos Apr. 7, Monrovia Apr. 10, Freetown Apr. 15.
SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE
SOUTHBOUND—BULLAREN ldg. Scandinavia and Bordeaux mid Mar.; **INDIANA** ldg. Scandinavia and Bordeaux during second half Mar.; **VIKAREN** ldg. Scandinavia and Bordeaux during second half Finland and Bordeaux during second half Mar./ early Apr.
NORTHBOUND—INNAREN ldg. West Africa second half Mar.; **HOEGH BISCAY** ldg. West Africa (5 range) mid-second half Mar.; **HJELMAREN** ldg. West Africa during late Mar.; **BULLAREN** ldg. West Africa during late Mar./early May.
HOEGH LINES
HOEGH BELLE sld. Liverpool Mar. 14, due Bathurst Mar. 23, Abidjan Mar. 25, Takoradi Mar. 27, Tema Mar. 29; **HOEGH DENIN** sig. Bremen Mar. 19, Hamburg Mar. 21, Antwerp Mar. 25, due Freetown Apr. 4, Abidjan Apr. 7.

commercial news

Last Year's Cotton

NIGERIAN cotton had a "poor ye in 1967-68, says the annual report the British Cotton Growing Associa which has cotton ginneries in Northern States. This was due partly bad weather, and partly to difficulties primary marketing in the previous seas The crop was 152,000 bales, little m than half the previous season's and smallest for eleven years, and it was d cult to maintain supplies for local m The current crop, however, is expected be "a near-record one," and it seems t "gross earnings will be more normal 1968-69."

The quality of lint produced in Nig in 1967-68 was exceptionally good, s the BCGA report. Seed issued for plant in the Northern States—where nearly Nigeria's cotton is grown—totalled ab 21,000 tons, all of the Allen 26-1 varie its derivatives. New chemical dressing plr are being established in those states f cotton seeds, at Zaria, Gombe, Kuru n Gusau. Growing conditions were good the season under review. Seed cotton w bought by the Northern States Marke Board's agents at 354 markets, includi 116 in North Central and 103 in Nor Eastern. Seed purchases totalled 76, tons (North Eastern, 28,639, North Centr 25,540); this was turned into 151,834 b in 13 ginneries (a few hundred bales w added from the West and Mid-West

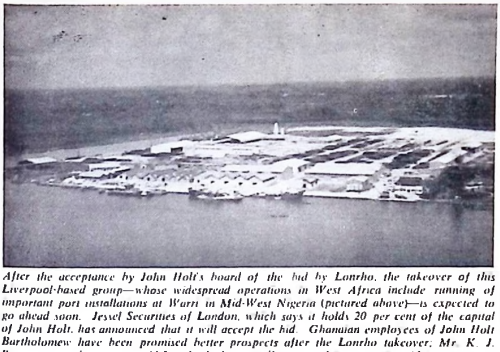
The BCGA examined the low cr on behalf of the Marketing Board, and *ad hoc* committee was set up to reco mend measures. The lesson has be learned that the entire industry is dep dent on the co-operation of the peasa farmer, who will only plant cotton if h receives a fair price and is able to man his produce without difficulty," says t report. The new states arrangement has le agriculture without the former Regio central authority, but the BCGA is wa experienced in cotton, says the report has worked in Nigeria for 66 years).

The Cotton Growing Association is continue its operations in accordance wi the Companies Decree of last October. will therefore form a subsidiary company take over the Nigerian business, as is down in that Decree.

The Nigerian Manager, Mr. J. Scot Barrett, and an Accountant, Mr. C. I Morley, were killed in a car crash Nigeria in July 1968. Mr. I. M. R. S. Blai is now Nigeria Manager.

It was reported in our issue of Jan. (p. 15) that the Nigerian cotton crop 1968-69 was expected to be possibly abo "140,000 tons of cotton lint." This shou have read "140,000 tons of cotton."

● The Nigerian Timber Association h urged the Federal Government to insist o the use of Nigerian timbers instead of ste wherever possible. Its President, Mr. I Brisbourne, pointed out that Nigeri timber exports had fallen since 1964; th war damaged them further, and in 1967-6 Nigerian timber exports to the UK fe 50 per cent., while Ghana's and Ivor Coast's rose.



After the acceptance by John Holt's board of the bid by Lonrho, the takeover of this Liverpool-based group—whose widespread operations in West Africa include running of important port installations at Warri in Mid-West Nigeria (pictured above)—is expected to go ahead soon. Jessel Securities of London, which says it holds 20 per cent of the capital of John Holt, has announced that it will accept the bid. Ghanaian employees of John Holt Bartholomew have been promised better prospects after the Lonrho takeover. Mr. K. J. Putney, general manager, said Lonrho had an excellent record in promoting African management in their enterprises.

Kingsway and the Cedi

At the second Annual General Meeting of Kingsway Stores of Ghana last week, a gross dividend of Np 40 per share was declared, an increase of 25 per cent on the dividend paid the previous year. The improvement in results for 1968, said the chairman, Mr. A. R. Wood, was partly due to fortuitous changes in exchange rates but also to other reasons, including establishment of a successful hire-purchase department. But devaluation of the cedi affected both the cost price of merchandise and expenses incurred by the company.

The company had intensified its search for locally made goods of the quality expected by customers, Mr. Wood said, and a manager had been specially appointed for this task. These goods represented 37 per cent of turnover in 1968 (32 per cent the previous year) and the company paid well over NC 2m. to Ghanaian manufacturers. Import licences were required for goods not available locally to meet customers' requirements. A new Kingsway Stores has been opened at Kaneshie, Accra.

● Ghana's Gross Domestic Product achieved a real growth of 3·5 per cent last year; the money supply increased by 6·5 per cent. Giving these figures, the Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Mr. J. H. Frimpong-Ansah, said that whereas it was envisaged last year that banks should expand their credit to "priority sectors" of the economy by up to 50 per cent, they were only able to expand such credit by 23 per cent. Credit to the Government, however, exceeded the envisaged limit by 160 per cent.

Mr. Frimpong-Ansah said the reason why credit to the private sector did not increase as much as anticipated was presumably that the level of economic activity did not pick up to the extent envisaged and because large foreign companies had substantial liquid funds of their own.

The rise in net credit to the Government was due to the fact that import duty receipts during the first half of the present fiscal year have been below the budgeted level: this is because there has been a shift in imports from finished goods to semi-finished ones and raw materials.

Hope for IDA Funds?

The US Secretary of the Treasury, David Kennedy, has endorsed strongly the bill for replenishing the funds of the IDA affiliated of the World Bank. His intervention before the House Banking and Currency Committee is taken as showing the support of the new administration for this Bill, which is to ratify the US share of the new funds for IDA, and which failed to pass through Congress under the democratic administration. So far eleven countries have contributed $427m. towards the replenishment; the US contribution, if agreed by Congress, will be $480m.

● At the 88th session of the UN Trade and Development Board, permanent organ of Unctad, decision on Unctad's contribution to the Second Development Decade was deferred to a later meeting of the same session (now adjourned) before the next Ecosoc meeting. It adopted the report of the commission on raw materials, which recommended regulating stocks for commodity agreements and measures to aid diversification of crops. It also agreed on a study of restrictive commercial practices by private firms, and their effects on developing countries' exports; and it called for a meeting to carry out the Unctad II resolution on trade expansion. The meeting examined a preliminary report of a study of the special problems of landlocked states, and requested the secretary-general of Unctad to call meetings of experts on these.

The Board called for more efforts to spread information on development problems, and for a further study, by experts, of the relevance of the world monetary situation to aid.

● The World Bank will need an estimated $750m. of new funds a year "over the next several years," according to its president, Mr. Robert McNamara. This is over and above refunding of maturing issues. The bank raised $800m. (about £333m.) in the US, Europe and Kuwait in the six months to the end of December, 1968. Mr. McNamara added that the trebling of the loan rate to Africa, already announced, would depend on countries there deciding on suitable fix measures, and accepting advice from outside experts.

More commercial information on p. 306.

Delta Line

THE DELTA STEAMSHIP LINES INC

Direct Regular Service between

U.S. GULF AND WEST AFRICA

DAKAR, CONAKRY, FREETOWN, MONROVIA, ABIDJAN, LAGOS/APAPA, TEMA, TAKORADI, PORT GENTIL, POINTE NOIRE, MATADI, LUANDA & LOBITO

Other West African ports served by Delta Line's feeder service, for which cargo accepted on through Bills of Lading.

For all information and rates apply to:

BROWN, JENKINSON & CO. LTD.

17-19 Mark Lane, London, E.C.3.

Tel: 01-623 7555 Telex: GB-LN-26 2872.3
Grams: Brown London EC3

Union Maritime et Commerciale Lagos Nigeria

WEST AFRICAN RECORDS

FROM LONDON'S LARGEST AND MOST MODERN WEST AFRICAN RECORD CENTRE

NEW YEAR 1969
Order Now—New L.P.'s
I. K. Dairo and his Blue Spots
Adeniyi
Ramblers first and latest release
Victor Uwaifo
Tunde Nightingale
Ayinde Bakare etc.
Dark City Sisters Starsime Vols. 1, 2, 3 and just arrived Vol. 4 (now only 37/6d.)
Hundreds of new Ghana Records
African Bros., Kakaiku's and, Akwaboa etc.
Also all the latest by Dele Ojo, Ebenezer Obey, I. K. Dairo, Huruna Ishola, Tunde Nightingale, etc.

FLASH ANNOUNCEMENT!
African Bros.—Ebi Te Yie only 10/9d.
Order Now and avoid disappointment.
Don't forget the latest British and American recordings from stock.

ELECTRODISC LTD
353, KILBURN HIGH ROAD
LONDON, N.W.6.

Next to Brondesbury Station
Nearest Underground—Kilburn
Tel.: 01-624 7341
Open Monday to Saturday
Please note late nights
Friday-Saturday: 8 p.m

commercial news

Ibadan Water Loan

The USA will make a new, 40-year loan to Nigeria, worth £1·8m., for completion of the new water supply system for Ibadan, whose total cost is estimated at £10m. The new system will raise supply to 18m. gallons per day, three times the present supply; it will use a new source of supply from the Oshun river, with the 2,800 ft. Assipre Dam now being built 15 miles from the city and pipes and pumping and treatment facilities. Ibadan—the largest city in West Africa, with over a million inhabitants—has been short of water in recent months because of inadequate supply from the existing source at Eleiyele.

● Total Oil is reported to be contemplating construction of an oil refinery in mid-westNigeria. The BP-Shell Port Harcourt refinery is still out of action. It supplied all Nigeria's domestic requirements before the war. Total Oil (Nigeria) is one of the subsidiaries (many also called "Total") of the French Compagnie Française des Petroles; it is an importer and distributor, with tanks at Apapa.

● Industries in Kano have suffered losses totalling well over £1m. owing to power cuts, the big oil mills in Maiduguri (North-East State) was forced to close down last month for lack of power. The Kano cuts have been thought likely to affect groundnut oil and cake exports.

Arewa Textiles, Nortex, Norspin (Nigeria), and Northern Nigeria Textiles in Kaduna suffered losses totalling over £250,000 from a fortnight's power cuts a few weeks ago.

● Nigeria is one of the first countries to participate in an eight-week course on satellite earth station communications organised by the British Post Office. Two technicians, Mr. A. O. Soetan and Mr. J. A. Olaniyi of Lagos, are among 16 students taking part in the current programme at Leafield, near Oxford. Two other Nigerians have completed their studies and two more are to follow. When their studies are complete students return to train staff in Nigeria, which intends to set up an earth station.

● The Ughelli natural gas power station in Nigeria's Mid-West State has been commissioned, after completion with the aid of a £60,000 loan from ECN.

● The Ghana-French textile development agreement negotiated last year has been signed in Accra. France will co-operate with the Ghana Government in development of cotton in Tamale, Wa, Walewale and Yendi, all in the north; the French Government will also provide cotton experts and train Ghanaians. (Ghana already grows some cotton, but far less than its needs; the textile mam factories use imported cotton.)

● Six doctors, including a Nigerian, have been awarded Smith & Nephew Medical Fellowships for this year, to enable them to pursue specialist studies in the UK. The fellowships have been awarded by Smith & Nephew Associated Companies, the British medical and textile group, for six years. The Nigerian Fellow this year is Dr. Adebowale B. Lipede, Registrar in Pathology at the University College Hospital, Ibadan.

MEETINGS

THE AFRICAN SOLIDARITY UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

THE INAUGURAL MEETING

of the above Union will take place on

Saturday, 29th March, 1969
at 20/22 Inverness Terrace,
London, W.2,
at 2 p.m. prompt.

AGENDA:

1. The Inaugural speech, and address by Prominent African Personalities.
2. Official Inauguration of the Union.
3. Election of Officers.
4. Union Activities and Finance.
5. Other Business.

All citizens are cordially invited.

Underground: Bayswater and Queensway.

Buses: 85, 96, 35.

The Organiser, A.S.U.

THE NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS (U.K. BRANCH)

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

There will be a special meeting of the above society

on Sunday, 30th March 1969
at the Nigeria Centre and Hostel
20-22 Inverness Terrace, London W.2
Time: 1 p.m. prompt

Nearest Underground: Queensway
Buses: 12 and 88 to Queensway

Agenda:—

1. Membership year book will be finally compiled in the meeting together with the annual subscriptions and all forwarded to Headquarters Lagos
2. Technical affairs
3. Finance
4. General

Golden opportunity for members seeking practical training. It is essential that you attend this meeting punctually

Membership forms N.S.E.I obtainable from General Secretary

G. O. Omonisan, General Secretary
2 Willoughby Lane, London N.17

MIDWESTERN NIGERIA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO ALL MIDWESTERNERS IN THE U.K.

The Midwestern Nigeria Emergency Committee, invites all Midwesterners in the United Kingdom to a Mass Meeting to be addressed by **E. K. CLARK ESQ., COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION IN THE MIDWEST STATE OF NIGERIA,** who is on Educational tour in the U.K. The place of meeting is **HOLBORN ASSEMBLY HALL,** which is behind Holborn Central Library, Theobalds Road, London, W.C.1.

Date and time of meeting . . . SATURDAY, 15th MARCH, 1969, at 1 p.m. prompt.

This is an opportunity you cannot afford to miss as a student from the Midwest State.

Buses: 172, 171, 30, 38, 14, 170
Underground Station: Holborn

A. E. AMROVHE ESQ
General Secretary

GHANA STUDENTS UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Following the publication in West Africa on the 25th January, 1969 The National Secretariat of the above Union invites all Ghanaians to a General Meeting on the 23rd March 1969 at 3 p.m. at 3 Collingham Gardens, London, S.W.5.

Tube: Gloucester Road, Earls Court or South Kensington.

Buses: 30, 49, 74.

Ghanaians who have not received their copies of the Agenda, may obtain copies from 38 Queens Gate or 13 Belgrave Square.

A. OPONG-PEPRAH
General Secretary

DANCES

DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!

THE IBADAN DESCENDANTS UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

cordially invites you to its

ANNUAL OKE-BADAN DANCE

at the

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY HALL

16-20, Craven Street, W.C.2.

(The narrow street between STRAND and CHARING CROSS Tube Stations.)

on **SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1969.**

Under the distinguished Chairmanship of AYO SALAMI, Esq.

Time: 7 p.m. to 12 midnight.

Music supplied by

Fred Coker and the ADVANTAGE

(The Fabulous and Fantastic High Life King from Nigeria).

Gate Fees: 7/6 Single; 12/6 Double.

Come and taste the traditional Oke-Ibadan Menu: Moimoin, Akara, Ewa and Ekuru.

Nearest Tube Stations:
STRAND and CHARING CROSS

Buses: 1, 13, 15, 60, 77, 77A, 3, 39, 53.

There will also be a lecture on **"OKE-BADAN"** and a talk on the late Alhaji Adegoke Adelabu by Mr. J. Akinfolarin at No. 1 South Villas, Camden Square, N.W.1, on **SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1969,** at 4 p.m.

Gbonju Akinola, President,
54, Meeting House Lane, London, S.E.15.
Tel.: 01-639 1591.

Remi Oladeju, Publicity/Social Secretary,
6, Stonenest Street, London, N.4.

ALL ARE WELCOME

PROPERTY

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

NIGERIA

REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS AND ESTATE AGENTS

VALUATIONS FOR COMPANY AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

47, MARINA, P.O. BOX 221, LAGOS TEL: 23

PHOTOGRAPHY

YOUR WEDDING

Complete Coverage at the Church and Reception.

Choice of Service:—

1. **Photographed (Wedding albums supplied).**
2. **Filmed—in colour.**
3. **Recorded—on tape.**

Write or telephone now:—

JULIAN BROWN

15 St. Loo Mansions, St. Loo Avenue, Chelsea, S.W.3. Tel: 01-352 8850.

EDUCATIONAL

THE SURE WAY TO EXAM SUCCESS

fast Airmail Service to overseas students

You can pass exams quickly and easily with The Rapid Results College. Thousands of West African Students highly recommend the "Rapid Results" way to examination passes—and with over 155,000 passes, it's not surprising! You receive first-class postal tuition by Airmail, and learn swiftly in the comfort of your own home. No text books are required. Every course is complete in itself . . . you are guided step-by-step to early examination successes for: G.C.E., Law, Accountancy, Banking, Secretaryship and many other examinations. To help you choose we will send you an application our FREE prospectus.

Write today to: Careers Adviser,

THE RAPID RESULTS COLLEGE

Dept. J.M.3, Tuition House, London, S.W.19, or call at 235 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2. Telephone: 01-930 5546.

Member of the Association of British Correspondence Colleges.

BENNETT AIRMAIL COLLEGE (Established 1900) will train you by airmail direct from England, for quick promotion and better pay. Full airmail service at no extra cost. G.C.E. and Cambridge Certificates. Practical English, Book-keeping, Accountancy, Commerce, Engineering, etc. All books supplied, moderate instalment fees. State subject of interest and send now for your airmailed copy of "Plan for Success"—FREE. Bennett Airmail College, Dept. 75/F, Aldermaston Court, Aldermaston, Reading, Berkshire, England.

STUDY AT HOME

for YOUR

G.C.E. 'O', or 'A', R.S.A. I, II, III

CORPORATION OF SECS, BANKERS, BAR, STATISTICIANS or other PROFESSIONAL EXAMS.

LONDON UNIVERSITY DEGREES

B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc.Econ., LL.B., B.D., also DIPLOMAS and CERTIFICATES

Low fees, by instalments if desired.

WRITE for FREE PROSPECTUS:—

If you live in

NIGERIA

to Frances Ademola, B.A. Director of Studies, Dept. AW2, WOLSEY HALL, P.M.B. 5242 IBADAN,

First lessons by AIR from Oxford.

If you live in any other country, write to Wyndham Milligan, M.B.E., M.A., Dept. KC2.

Wolsey Hall

OXFORD · ENGLAND

EDUCATIONAL—Continued

CAREERS for OFFICE MEN

The School of Accountancy—the Commonwealth's Great Highway to Successful Careers—has for over 50 years guided and helped ambitious men in the achievement of success. Expert tuition is provided for examinations in:—

ACCOUNTANCY · SECRETARYSHIP · ENGLISH · BOOK-KEEPING

ALL COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS · G.C.E. EXAMINATIONS

School of Accountancy training is CORRESPONDENCE TUITION AT ITS BEST, and to this and its incomparable Examination Success Record, is due The School's outstanding reputation throughout the English-speaking world.

A valuable book of Career Guidance will be sent to those who, when applying, provide brief details of age, education and occupation.

The School of Accountancy

16 REGENT HOUSE, 2 NORFOLK STREET, LONDON, W.C.2 & at Glasgow

Member of the Association of British Correspondence Colleges

RECORDS AND EQUIPMENT

LONDON'S WEST AFRICAN RECORD CENTRE

STERN'S RADIO

126 TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, W1.

Telephone: 01-387 1539 and 5553

TOP HITS FROM NIGERIA!!

FOUR NEW CONGO L.P.s AND FORTY NEW CONGO SINGLES

Titles	Artiste	Price
I.K. Dairo New L.P.	...	£1 17s. 6d.
New Nightingale L.P.	...	19s. 11d.
Victor Uwaifo L.P.	...	£1 0s. 0d.
Christiana/Albanjie Enia	Dele Ojo	11s. 6d.
Orl Sezere Sun mi/wa Lowa	Dele Ojo	11s. 6d.
Mura Si Ise	Dele Ojo	10s. 0d.
Startime Vol. 1, 2, 3 & 4	Dark City Sisters	£1 17s. 6d.
Eni Mayi Wura/To Keep Nigeria One	Ogundare	12s. 6d.
Jaiiy Papa/Ama Inye	Rex Lawson	12s. 6d.
Ija Saul/Enia Lokstin Lore	Orlando Julius	12s. 6d.
New L.P. by Dele Ojo		£1 15s. 6d.
Olemi Gbo Temi/Maria Odeko	Ebenezer Obey	8s. 6d.
Col. Ben Adekunle/Orl Bayemi	Ebenezer Obey	8s. 6d.
Lolade Wilkey/Aditunji Adeyi	Ebenezer Obey	8s. 6d.

Second New L.P. by the Ramblers, £1 17s. 6d.

Three new E.P.s by Ojo Olawale, Ilgali Mukaiba, Ebenezer Obey—Price 13s. 6d.

New L.P.s by Adeolu's Western Toppers Band. Price £1 17s. 6d.

New L.P. Juju & Sakara—Price 19/11d.

Postage in England and Home Counties—1s. 6d. per record. Air Postage U.S.A. 12s. per lb. Records posted all over the world.

EBI TE YIE by the AFRICAN BROTHERS, 10/9d.

On receipt of 2s. 6d., together with a large, stamped, addressed envelope, our new comprehensive list will be forwarded.

A few doors from Warren St. Tube Station and bus services 14, 24, 32, 73, 134, 253, 289 pass door.

NOTICES

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM 149 UPPER STREET, ISLINGTON, N.1.

If creativeness, promptitude and photographs of high quality are your desire on your wedding day, why not get in touch NOW with **Johnson & Victor Photographers** and ask to speak to our own Mr. Popoola at 01-359 2335.

READY FOR EXPORT

Large Quantities of Shear Nuts and Yam Flour.

Please ask for offer and samples from

ETUPE AND SONS,

66a Great Bridge Street, Lagos, Nigeria

SITUATIONS VACANT

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL STUDIES

Applications are invited for the following appointments tenable from September, 1969, or soonest thereafter:—

(a) **SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER AND ASSISTANT LECTURER IN ECONOMICS.** Applicants should have received postgraduate qualifications or training in one or more of the following fields:—Industrial and Labour Economics; Mathematical Economics; Statistics or Econometrics.

(b) **LECTURER AND ASSISTANT LECTURER IN SOCIOLOGY.** Preference given to candidates specializing in one or more of the following fields:—Social Welfare and Administration; Comparative Social Systems; Urban Sociology or Sociological Theories.

(c) **LECTURER AND ASSISTANT LECTURER IN PSYCHOLOGY.** Candidates should have specialised preferably at postgraduate level in one or more of the following fields:—Industrial Psychology; Comparative Psychology or Educational Psychology.

Salary scales: Senior Lecturer £N2,375—£N2,575 p.a. Lecturer £N1,200–£N2,175 p.a. Assistant Lecturer £N950–£N1,150 p.a. (£N1=£1 3s. 4d. sterling). Salary scales supplemented in appropriate cases in range £190–£515 p.a (sterling) under British Expatriates Supplementation Scheme. Family passages; various allowances; superannuation scheme; regular overseas leave. Detailed applications (6 copies) naming 3 referees by 25th April, 1969 to Inter-University Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0DT, from whom particulars are available.

SITUATIONS VACANT—Continued

CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

VACANCY FOR

MEDICAL OFFICER

1. Applications are invited from registered Medical Practitioners for appointment in the Medical Division of the Cameroons Development Corporation which provides a medical service for its employees (expatriate and indigenous) and their dependants, on its plantation estates in the coastal parts of West Cameroon in the Federal Republic of Cameroon.

2. *Position:* General Duty Medical Officer under the direction of the Corporation's Chief Medical Officer.
Duties: Primarily those of the General Practitioner. Experience in surgery and tropical medicine would be an advantage.

3. The Corporation has one main hospital in each of its four administrative areas with a total bed capacity of about 500 and a number of dispensaries and clinics in the estates. The main hospital situation in the seaport town of Tiko is reasonably equipped including X-Ray facilities.

4. Basic salary will be negotiated and will depend upon applicant's qualifications and experience. A Medical Allowance of £250 per annum and Children's Allowance at the rate of £75 per annum up to two children will in addition be paid.

5. Free partly furnished accommodation will be available plus free electricity and fuel up to a reasonable standard. Initial tour of 12–18 months to be renewed by mutual agreement. A Provident Fund Scheme exists.

6. Applications, which should give full details of experience, age, qualifications and marital status should be submitted to:—

Commonwealth Development Corporation, P.O. Box 2012, 5 Custom Street, Lagos.

An expanding packaging organisation in Apapa, Nigeria, invites applications from suitably qualified

NIGERIAN ENGINEERS

The successful applicant who will be accountable to the Chief Executive will be directly responsible, after a familiarisation and training period of at least six months, for the maintenance of the whole plant including supervision and control of the engineering workshop and a small staff.

Applicants must have completed an engineering apprenticeship successfully, possess a final City and Guilds Certificate or Higher National Certificate in mechanical engineering and preferably have at least five years experience of printing and packaging machinery.

The salary will be not less than £1,500 per annum and there are excellent prospects.

Applications with copies only of certificates and references should be sent to: **Box No. X 1247, "West Africa", Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, London, W.C.1.**

SIERRA LEONE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD.

Applications are invited from qualified Sierra Leonean Nurses (S.R.N. S.C.M.) for the position of

WARD SISTER

at the company's health centres in Sierra Leone.
Salary according to qualifications and experience (minimum Le 1250 p.a.)

Apply by letter with full particulars to:
SIERRA LEONE DEVELOPMENT CO. LTD., (DEPT. WS), City Gate House, Finsbury Square, London, E.C.2

SITUATIONS VACANT

Also on pages 307 & 309.

Advertise your VACANCIES in this special feature at 35s. per single column inch.—Send to Advertisement Manager, **West Africa,** Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, London, W.C.1

NJALA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SIERRA LEONE

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Lecturer in the Department of Animal Science of the Faculty of Agriculture. Salary Scale: Le4,500 × 200—Le5,350; Le5,400.

Entry point according to qualifications and experience. Superannuation Scheme or Contract terms. Family allowance Le200 per annum per child (maximum Le600); car allowance Le300 per annum. Installation grant Le120. Family passages on biennial leave and normal termination. Car purchase loans negotiated. Part-furnished accommodation at reasonable rent.

Detailed application (6 copies) naming 3 referees by **4th April 1969** to **Secretary, Inter-University Council, 90-91 Tottenham Court Road,** and in the case of West African Candidates, to **Registrar, Njala University College, Private Mail Bag, Freetown,** from both of whom further particulars may be obtained.

SITUATIONS VACANT—Continued

SIERRA LEONE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced

SIERRA LEONEANS

for appointment as

MATRON

in the medical establishment of

SIERRA LEONE SELECTION TRUST LTD.

Applicants must already hold the post of Assistant Matron or Sister Tutor and possess strong leadership qualities. They must also be qualified S.R.N. and S.C.M. Administrative experience and knowledge is essential.

Please send particulars of age, marital status and experience to:—

The Appointments Officer, 912C,
Sierra Leone Selection Trust Limited,
Selection Trust Building,
Mason's Avenue,
London, E.C.2.

Applications are invited by a Nigerian public company from

NIGERIAN ENGINEERS

for a middle management vacancy in one of their divisions in central Lagos.

The successful applicant will be responsible after one year's training by the Group Mechanical Engineer for the maintenance of all plant including supervision and control of the engineering workshop. He will have a small staff to lead and direct and will be responsible to the Chief Executive of his division.

Applicants should have served an engineering apprenticeship and possess the final City and Guilds Certificate, an Ordinary or preferably Higher National Certificate in mechanical engineering. Practical knowledge of printing presses and associated equipment would be an advantage. Long hours and weekend working may be necessary therefore applicants must pass a medical examination to prove that they are physically fit. The company offers attractive conditions of service and the salary will not be less than £1,000 per annum. There are excellent prospects for a worthwhile career.

All applications, with photocopies of certificates and testimonials, to:

Box No. X 1248, "West Africa", Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, London, W.C.1.

Owing to continued expansion there are some vacancies for

BANKING TRAINEES

IN THE NATIONAL BANK OF NIGERIA LIMITED

The training will be comprehensive and competitive and further specialised training in United Kingdom or Europe may be arranged for trainees showing special skills and capacity to respond to continuous training. Generous allowance will be paid during the period of training.

Qualifications:—

Candidates must:

(a) be between the ages of 25 and 35

(b) be an Associate of any of the following bodies:-

Institute of Bankers

Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants

Institute of Chartered Accountants

Institute of Cost and Works Accountants

Chartered Institute of Secretaries

Corporation of Secretaries

OR

possess a degree in: **Economics, Law or Accountancy.**

There are excellent prospects of early advancement to posts commanding considerable responsibility and good remuneration in Nigeria to candidates showing drive and readiness to accept responsibility.

Applications, in writing, stating age, qualifications and experience should be addressed to:

Dr. L. Delgado,
P.O. Box 540,
LONDON E.C.2.

to reach him not later than **31st March, 1969.**

dateline Africa

GHANA

Goldfields Strike Over?

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS workers were reported to have gone back to work this week after the strike during which three workers were killed by police in a riot on March 3. The day after the shooting the Government ordered the 6,000 employees of Ashanti at the Obuasi mine to return to work in 48 hours, and promised full support for the Corporation in efforts to keep production at the mine in full if workers did not return. It said the strike was "uncalled for" as the management had made an offer of 15 days' pay before the strike.

Before the statement was issued, a three-man committee was set up, with Mr. D. K. Okyere, District Magistrate of Obuasi, as chairman. Col. G. K. Yarboi, chairman of the Ashanti Committee of Administration, said a thorough investigation was expected by the Government; but he blamed the miners for striking while his administration was making efforts to meet their grievances.

The death toll in the goldmine shooting rose to three when a shot miner died of wounds. Thirty-eight people, rioters and policemen, were wounded in the fighting on March 3; three were railwaymen, reportedly hit by stray bullets. The Government's first statement on the riot said it took place during the night of March 2/3 and led to an attack on police barracks, with police firing in self-defence.

Mr. Benjamin Bentum, secretary-general of the TUC, blamed the strikers, saying "violent demonstrations and causing damage to property" would not solve workers' grievances. He said the TUC had assured miners that Lonrho (which has taken over nearly all the shares of Ashanti Goldfields) had agreed to continuation of service for all workers.

A second Government statement gave an assurance of safety for all Ashanti Goldfields employees returning to work, and urged workers to accept the 15 days' pay offer, which it said had been accepted by the Mine Workers' Union. This Union, however, criticised the Government allegation that workers had attacked the police barracks, saying it had worsened the situation and all efforts to bring strikers back to work had been in vain. The police, it said, had not been attacked in their barracks, and had fired on strikers nowhere near the police station. The *Pioneer* says miners began demonstrating while talks were going on, and threw stones at police when they arrived; the police shot back, and were reinforced. The mines' 15,000-cedi "chopper" shop was looted.

At a meeting on March 6 leaders of the miners decided not to resume work until all their demands had been met; they considered that a speech to them by an army officer amounted to a threat, and criticised the NLC for condemning their action. Next day it was reported that only about 500 of the miners had returned to work, and as these were not of the underground staff, the mines stayed closed.

(A report from Obuasi appears on p. 291.)

● The Amissah Commission (enquiring into the possibility that Air Marshal Otu and his ADC, Lt. Kwapong, were involved in subversion) has begun hearing evidence from the captains of the two Soviet trawlers detained at Takoradi from Oct. 10 to last week. The questioning of Capt. Boris Chernokolov was stopped because of poor interpretation (after his replies had seemed to say that his trawler was deliberately taken into Ghanaian waters for necessary repairs).

Earlier, a handwriting expert, said the writing of two letters allegedly written by Air Marshal Otu in March and April 1967 could only be that of the Air Marshal's former ADC (before Lt. Kwapong), Flight Officer E. D. Kyeremeh.

● Independence Day awards have been conferred on seven people, including Mr. Jacob Ayayee Adjavon, Director of Prisons (Distinguished Service Order); Mr. Nadolina Yenli, Regional Agricultural Officer, Northern Region (Grand Medal); and Dr. Albert Joseph Hawe, expatriate Senior Medical Officer (Contract), who also received the Grand Medal.

There were big parades in cities to mark the twelfth anniversary of independence. At Obuasi celebrations were restrained out of respect for the shot miners.

● The anniversary of the shooting of three ex-servicemen at Christiansborg Crossroads in Accra on Feb. 28 1948 has been marked by big ceremonies, as in previous years.

● Mr. J. A. Braimah, a prominent former M.P., and Mr. J. Y. Ghann, former Minister of Internal Trade, have appeared before the Sowah Assets Commission.

● Mr. E. N. Omaboe, Economic Affairs Commissioner, has said he will call a meeting of political leaders after the ban on party politics is lifted, to brief them on the state of the economy.

● Dr. E. V. C. de Graft Johnson, a member of the Constituent Assembly, has called for repeal of the decree disqualifying 152 people from public office for ten years.

The *Pioneer* has said the disqualification is now too generous, for "a large body of propaganda personnel . . . have had their political licences renewed. They have been put back in business!" The NLC, it says, "has only pruned the boughs and left the tree standing," and should reconsider Decree 332.

● Dr. Kofi Busia has given one of the annual Danquah Memorial Lectures, saying that if the veteran statesman had been alive the work of the Constituent Assembly would have been easier.

Inaugurating a branch of the Centre for Civic Education for the Dunkwa-on-Offin district, Dr. Busia said future governments would not have things so easy as the Nkrumah regime, and could discard any idea of enriching themselves.

TOGO

A "dialogue" between the state the private sector is necessary in Tog chairman of the economic and Social C cil—M. Gervais Djondo—told the Cou first annual meeting. The "liberal opin our development" seemed firmly establ now, he said, though there must b *laissez-faire*, but close co-operation by private sector in planning.

World Bank aid had been sought fo Sio-Habo project for irrigation, exte cultivation, and water supplies (and a hydroelectric station), M. Djondo There had been many difficulties in way of industrialisation, he added; wi proper studies the plan had been "an i tory of industries to be built rather a true industrialisation plan," and "open door" policy had hampered se dary-sector development.

DAHOMEY

£1.6 m. French Aid

France is giving another 899 4m. C francs in aid to Dahomey, to help rest of the economic and financial situa The new aid will be used for develop of the Djou, Borgou and Atabora econo regions, where French agricultural rese institutes and French specialised compa for training of cadres are working. opening up of new economic regions in t the north and the south, notably thro cotton production research; and for re of a Cotonou bridge, new railway mate and other infrastructure work.

Dahomey will also receive 59 2m. f the IDA and FAC for a major pro intended to provide 4,000 families w food for their own needs and some marketing, and—eventually—export pa cotton seed and groundnut oils worth 52 per year. The latest loans are for a p of the project to be carried out in southern region of Hinvi. There will 6,000 hectares of maize, groundnuts, oil and other crops and 6,000 under oil pa a palm oil mill with a capacity of up 70,000 tons a year, and maize storage fa 300 head of cattle will be bought, and w breaks and firebreaks will be planted. well as trees for firewood and savanna The National Company for Rural Devel ment in Dahomey (SONADER) will c out the project, employing only Dahome it has already organised a 13,000-hec oil palm co-operative plantation, and set up ten co-operatives in the area of new project.

The loan is divided equally between IDA (World Bank affiliate) and the FAC

● After a week's visit to West C many President Zinsou went to the U where he met President Nixon and was announced, agreed with him on problem of relief for Nigerian victims.

During his visit to Germany, where was accompanied by the Minister Economy and Finance (M. Stani Kpognon), talks were held on a 125m. C loan from the Kreditanstaldt für Weider bau of Frankfurt, for financing of sm and medium enterprises. Aid for Dahor radio was promised, while German exp will study plans for extension of rice cu vation and electricity for Abomey.

President Zinsou's visit to the USA a private one, at the invitation of the c mittee of the African American Institut

SIERRA LEONE

Amnesty and the Officers

In a report on a visit she made to Sierra Leone in November last year on behalf of Amnesty International, Miss Stella Joyce says that the Government allowed her to carry out her programme in spite of the disturbed conditions, and that she was able to see everybody she wanted. She had interviews with the Prime Minister and with many senior officials, judges, etc.

The report says that Miss Joyce raised with the Prime Minister and officials the very unsatisfactory prison conditions for all those then detained in Pademda Road Prison, including those who were to face treason charges and the army and police officers still detained at the time of her visit (all those jailed by their men when the NRC was overthrown in March last year have since been released). She also discussed with Mr. Stevens the question of detentions without trial when there was no state of emergency, the mandatory death sentence for persons convicted of treason, and the impartiality of the trials.

The report alleges that law and order had "to some degree broken down" in November and that the police were then unable to control crowds, particularly of Government supporters. Miss Joyce alleges that, at the time of her visit, those detained were treated worse than ordinary convicts; the soldiers who had imprisoned the officers were, in fact, acting as their warders.

A correspondent writes:

Miss Joyce's report describes conditions which now, happily, are a thing of the past. Those now appearing on treason charges make no complaint of their conditions or of lack of access of their lawyers. The army and police officers have been released and are mostly back at their posts. The problem for the Government was that soldiers, angry both at their own conditions and at their officers' apparent indifference to them, took it on themselves to overthrow the military regime.

Normal prison administration did not operate for the officers. Less stress was laid on attempts to improve their conditions, since these might have implied that the Government expected that their imprisonment would be prolonged.

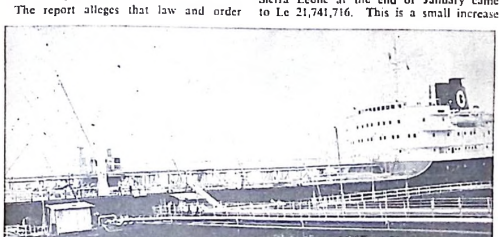
Miss Joyce says that she was assured that one guarantee against any injustice to those accused of treason was the possibility of appeal to the Privy Council, but that this has since been removed by introduction of a republic constitution. In fact, the constitution has not been introduced, and is still under discussion. In any case, it seems likely that appeals will still go to the Privy Council in cases which started before the new constitution.

● During his first press conference in New York after presenting his credentials to U Thant, Dr. Davidson Nicol, Sierra Leone Ambassador to the UN, said that he knew top men in Biafra and Nigeria were willing to work towards peace, even if this willingness was not publicised. He said he was a firm believer in the Commonwealth, which was united by one language, and was no obstacle to other groupings. Even if the Commonwealth entered the Common Market it would not be destroyed.

● Total external reserves of the Bank of Sierra Leone at the end of January came to Le 21,741,716. This is a small increase on the previous month. During 1968 the reserve doubled.

● Thirty-nine Sierre Leone citizens held diamond dealing licences in January, and 90 non-citizens, most of them Lebanese.

● UAC has appointed its first Sierra Leone woman manager. She is Miss Cole, who is to administer the company's pension fund.



A giant oil tanker discharging crude from Gabon for Freetown's new oil refinery, which is now in production.

LIBERIA

President Tubman has paid a week-long visit to Mauritania, whose president toasted him as the "symbol and determined builder of African unity." His tour included Zouerate (where the big Miferma iron ore mine is situated) and the iron ore port of Carisado near Port Etienne.

● Several diamond prospectors have been arrested for seeking diamonds near Kakat, about 80 miles north of Monrovia, without Government permission.

There has been a rush to the area after a big deposit of industrial diamonds was discovered there last November, emptying nearby farms and rubber plantations.

● An industrial technician and a textile marketing expert provided by the UN Industrial Development Organisation have completed a study of textile industry projects and related licensing problems in Liberia.

GUINEA

Three "counter-revolutionary soldiers" are said to have been arrested in Labe on Feb. 26, while being flown to Conakry for trial, says an official report, they managed to strangle their escort, threw him out of the aircraft, and ordered the pilot to fly to a neighbouring country. The pilot made a forced landing in the Siguiri region; the three soldiers were detained and sent on to Conakry, where they now awaited trial by the revolutionary tribunal, says the report. The PDG's National Political Bureau "appeals to the leaders and militants of the political committee to redouble their revolutionary vigilance in order to uncover, denounce and arrest all imperialist agents" in the army.

● The two trawlers arrested off the Guinea coast last month have been allowed to return to Ivory Coast, because of the Government's "concern . . . to keep and maintain the best relations of brotherhood and friendship with all neighbour states."

● Grängesberg, the Swedish mining company which has the major share in Lamco —miners of Mount Nimba iron ore in Liberia— has had talks with the Guinea Government on mining of iron ore on the Guinea side of the same mountain.

THE GAMBIA

School enrolment in The Gambia last year was 20,242 and there are 485 qualified teachers and 248 unqualified. The latest Education Department statistics show also that 1,925 pupils are registered in the Government Secondary School and just over 2,000 in non-Government Secondary Schools. Just over a quarter of school places are held by girls. 4,479 Primary School pupils were enrolled in Bathurst, and another 1,863 in Kombo St. Mary, in the former Colony.

Current national expenditure by the Government and voluntary agencies in education is just over £1m., out of which primary schools take £122,000. In all secondary schools the average size of classes is just over 33, but the average for primary schools ranges from 41 in Bathurst to 21 in the Upper River Division.

The Government is attempting to consolidate primary schools so only three new ones were opened last year. In association with Oxfordshire County Council an annual in-service training course was held for primary teachers, as well as courses run by local teachers. There is also Canadian assistance for in-service training, and France is providing teachers of French. Co-operation with Oxfordshire has resulted in provision of two experienced head teachers as lecturers at Yundum Teacher Training College, as well as visits to Oxfordshire from The Gambia.

"Extreme pressure" for places at senior secondary classes is also reported.

● The Gambia's exports to the UK in 1968 were worth £3,492,000, compared with £3,533,000 the year before.

dateline Africa

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Ndongo Coup Attempt

A coup d'etat was attempted in Equatorial Guinea on March 5, two days after the situation had begun to return to normal following the Spanish intervention. It was reported that Dr. Atanasio Ndongo, foreign minister, went to President Macias in Bata, capital of Rio Muni, to try to stop him making what he (Ndongo) thought were inflammatory broadcasts. Then, said the report, when Macias refused, Ndongo rallied forces, blew up the Bata radio station, and attacked the Government house where the President was staying; but forces loyal to the President counter-attacked, and Dr. Ndongo was hurt jumping out of a window at Government house. One report said he was later killed, but another said he was taken to hospital with leg injuries, and two days later Señor Macias, addressing foreign correspondents in Bata, said the minister was "in agony". He also said Señor Saturnino Ibongo, former ambassador to the UN (who took part in the rising), had committed suicide after arrest.

After the attempted coup bands of youths were seen in the streets of Santa Isabel, the capital, apparently called the "Macias Youth". Some people threatened or ill-treated Europeans in the capital and elsewhere, and the exodus of these, which had begun before March 5, continued apace. Spanish ships and aircraft evacuated thousands of people, mostly Spaniards. Some 200 were reported to be in the barracks of the Spanish Civil Guard in Bata (those forces remained in barracks throughout this crisis), and 100 others in the bush in Rio Muni. Meanwhile alleged supporters of the rising were arrested, and at least one was lynched in Bata.

On March 8 U Thant agreed to send a three-man mission to Equatorial Guinea, which remained under a state of emergency. Spain appealed to the UN mission to guarantee the lives of Europeans. Just before the mission arrived, President Macias —who had assured U Thant that he was in control—appealed for an end to the anarchy.

(Fuller report next week)

● The Movement for Self-Determination and Independence of the Canarian Archipelago (MPAIAC) has protested against the invitation extended to all African states by the Spanish Government to participate in the Trade Fair, due to be held in Las Palmas in the Canary Islands last month.

SENEGAL

Groundnut prices for farmers fell 25 per cent. after the end of France's *surprix* for the crop, President Senghor said in an interview with *Le Figaro* (Paris). Fertiliser prices went up, he added, and the Government had to subsidise them. Industrial production had, however, gone up in 1968. Referring to French left wing critics of Senegal, he said "the only socialist problem is that of the deterioration in terms of trade" and inequalities among nations in wealth; he added, "Many men of the left are neo-colonialists, one might almost say racialists." Senegal, he said, was training more and more technicians, and hoped to enter the industrial world by the year 2000. On the university, he said the students had been perfectly loyal since the agreement of last September.

● M. Hubert Argod has been appointed French ambassador in succession to M. Jean Yves de Lagarde, to whom President Senghor said at a farewell dinner, "You have been able, whenever it was necessary, to convince us to defend, at France's side, the franc, French culture and a certain view of man—which is what *la francophonie* means." M. Argod was formerly deputy director for Africa and the Middle East at the Quai d'Orsay, and envoy to Chad.

● President Senghor has toured the southern province of Casamanace, beginning at Kolda (whose mayor spoke of the region's economic development, including rice development with the aid of Formosan experts and forest conservation), and taking in Medina-Gourasse and Velingara—where he spoke of current and planned developments (including roads and more cotton growing) in this relatively undeveloped area.

● Sir Dauda Jawara, prime minister of The Gambia, will visit Senegal on April 10 for the regular meeting between the two countries' heads of Government.

CAMEROON

Cameroon's cocoa crop is expected to be 100,000 tons this season, the Federal Finance Minister, M. Bidias, told the recent meeting of franc-zone finance ministers. He also said there would be a coffee crop of 50,000 tons of Rubusta and 18,500 of Arabica—the market for coffee would be affected, he added, by reduction of West Germany's import quota—and a cotton crop of 66,000 tons. "Technical difficulties" had reduced aluminium production at Edea, but the Transcameroon railway was now in use to 169 km. from Yaounde, and the Douala-Tiko railway was nearly complete.

● M. Julien le-Cerf, a French magistrate serving as technical adviser to the Supreme Court of East Cameroon since 1967, has been shot and seriously injured by persons unknown in Yaounde, where he lives. He had headed the special criminal court dealing with embezzlement of public funds, and it was thought some people condemned by him might have been seeking revenge.

● The temporary military court at Douala has been dissolved, and cases pending before it transferred to other military courts.

The UNC, the ruling party, began its first Congress this week, at Garoua. Report next week.

MALI

The provisional consultative committee of the Mali National Workers' Union (UNTM), with 17 members, has held its first meeting. It replaces the bureau of the Union, dissolved after the coup of last November.

● A trade fair has been held on the Algeria-Mali frontier, at Kidal, where soldiers and civilians have created a new settlement out of the desert, growing wheat, potatoes and green vegetables. Touareg works of art were among the wares at the fair, which was a gathering of nomads from several countries. (This was once an area of fierce fighting with Touareg). The Mali state enterprise SOMIEX, which organises supplies for Kidal, had one of the bigger stands (M. Louis Nègre, Minister of Finance, referred to this in his recent speech about state enterprises).

● Captain Mamadou Cissoko, assi chief of staff and member of the Mali National Liberation Committee, has killed in a road accident. National mo ing was decreed for his funeral on Marc

● Captain Yoro Diakite, head of provisional government, has visited Fran the first member of the military regim do so—with a delegation including finance minister, M. Negre.

CENTRAFRICA

President Bokassa has taken over Ministry of the Interior in addition to t of Defence and Information, and has g up the Ministries of Justice and Ex-Ser men. MM. Maurice Gamama Leggot Jeremy Ikoly have left the Government new Minister of Justice is M. François G and MM. Bernard Christian Ayandjo Louis Kpado have also entered the Gov ment.

CHAD

● Chad and Libya, which share a l Saharan frontier, are to increase aerial postal links and exchanges of manpo There will be a direct telephone and t graph links and a road across the de through the two countries; Chad ex will be exported to Libya, and Chad w have free zone at Libya's port of Tri (this is expected to mean that Chad eventually have an ocean fleet).

● Two police inspectors and six stables have been dismissed and charg in connection with the murder of the c curator of the Republic, the French M. Emmanuel Verges, last month. T charges appear to be of negligence.

● M. Jacques Foccart, secretary-general the French Presidency in charge of Afr affairs, has had talks with President Tc balbaye in Fort Lamy.

CONGO-K

M. Henri Fayat, Belgium's min of foreign trade, signed an empire Belgo-Congolese trade agreement at end of a tour of the Congo (by a dele tion including Prince Albert of Le brother of King Baudouin and the fi member of the Belgian royal family visit the Congo since 1960). A Mix Commission, appointed by the two Gove ments, is to be set up to develop t the convention does not lay down d details of new exchanges.

The Federation of Belgian Industri has established a representative in Kins M. Malengreau.

VISITS

Pope Paul is to go on a visit to Af this year, and it is thought that American prelate, Mgr. Paul Paraci (who has organised other major jour by the Pope) may be preparing for Papal trip during his own coming tour Africa. It is also reported, however, t the monument to the Uganda martyrs the late 19th century, whose opening Pope is expected to attend, will not finished until November or December.

Pope Paul toured West Africa when was still Cardinal Montini, not long bef he became Pope.

● President Mobutu will begin a five- visit to West Germany next week.

NIGERIA

The Air Raids and the Commons

BRITISH policy towards Nigeria was debated in the House of Commons on March 13, after increasing criticism of Federal air raids on Biafra. Sir Denis Greenhill, head of the Diplomatic Service, visited Lagos before the debate and said in Lagos there would be no change in the policy of support for Nigeria, including arms supplies.

The Government's agreement to the Commons debate, demanded insistently by many M.Ps. after the latest reports of air raids, was announced on March 10.

On March 8 the High Commissioner to the UK, Brig. Ogundipe, had called a press conference to explain his government's line on the air raids. He said the Government rejected allegations of deliberate bombing of hospitals, but action would be taken against pilots who were shown to be at fault; he agreed that bombs had fallen accidentally on non-military targets, and said, "It should be borne in mind that with

Brig. Ogundipe (left) at his press conference, with the Mid-West Commissioner for Education, Mr. Edwin Clark, who is on an official visit to the UK.

comparatively small areas now left in the hands of the rebels, all communications are strategic targets." One instance of this, he claimed, was the bombing of Umuohiagu, where the market was near an important crossroads [several hundred people were killed in an air raid on the market there recently.] He strongly criticised Winston Churchill, whose reports from Biafra in *The Times* have led to much criticism of air raids, accusing him of bias and distortion.

The State Department announced the previous day that the USA had expressed officially its "deep concern" over bombing of market places, hospitals and clinics. In London Brig. Ogundipe was invited to call on Mr. Stewart, Foreign Secretary, this week.

Sir Denis Greenhill, who is Permanent Undersecretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, flew to Lagos on March 10, and met Gen. Gowon the next day for 50 minutes. After another meeting he returned before the debate in the Commons. Before the debate the question of support for Nigeria was raised in the House; Mr. James Davidson (Liberal) tabled a question about small arms and ammunition allegedly supplied by a London firm and invoiced "Hamburg to Lagos", apparently to go to Nigeria through West Germany. Sir Alec Douglas-Home, shadow Foreign Secretary, said on television that efforts should be concentrated on a cease-fire which, he suggested, could best be policed by the OAU. He also proposed that the leaders on both sides should agree to air drops of food in designated places which could be inspected. Stopping UK arms supplies, he said, would not end the fighting, and the USSR would fill the gap.

● The international observer team said on March 10 that it was not in a position to rule on the accuracy of reports of indiscriminate air raids. It had been told by Col. Alao, Air Force commander, that the reports were "greatly exaggerated", and that the Biafrans should remove military targets away from populated areas. The team had also received assurances that civilian casualties and damage to property would be "cut to a minimum" in the bombing. The next day Gen. Gowon told Norman Kirkham of the *Daily Telegraph* that the Federal forces would not "bulldoze" their way through Biafran territory and the air force would try not to kill civilians, though most military targets were the said) near civilian areas. He said a halt to British arms supplies would be a "disappointment", and added that he had done all he could to avoid bloodshed; "We have the will to fight", he said, though he was ready to talk to Ojukwu at any time. (Ojukwu, however, had once told him, "Only a bloody fool goes to the conference table without making preconditions.")

Ojukwu Truce Offer

On March 12 Col. Ojukwu proposed a month-long truce, to be followed by a cease-fire and unconditional talks. In a message to member states of the EEC, thanking them for food (*see below*), he said arrangements for a cease-fire could be made during the truce, and a "neutral" body could hold a plebiscite in disputed areas, to decide whether the people wanted to join the Federation or Biafra. He urged the EEC countries to press the UK to stop arms supplies, and to obtain a total arms embargo.

● Col. Ojukwu has told Mr. Frank Allaun that a cease-fire would have to be declared before negotiations; but he repeated his offer to meet the federal Government for talks without preconditions.

● Several M.P.s who declared their sympathy for Nigeria, including Messrs. James Johnson (Labour) and John Cordle (Conservative), have addressed a letter to Brig. Ogundipe, saying they are "desperately anxious to help end the killing on the battlefield and the agony of innocent deaths," but expressing "grave misgivings" over recent air raids. They said these were "wholly at variance" with Federal policy and were "unfortunate accidents", and added that the Second World War showed attacks on civilians to be "barbarous" and likely to fortify the enemy's spirit; they urged the Nigerian Government to avoid "indiscriminate aerial bombardment."

● Biafra radio claimed that 98 people including some refugees were killed in an air raid on three villages on March 8; 62 were injured. The Nigerian Air Force commander denied knowledge of this.

An air raid on the only market in Umuahia was reported on March 11; it killed at least 35 people, including women and children, and wounded 80.

Mr. Frank Allaun, a Labour MP, said during a tour of Biafra that he had visited twenty bomb sites and seen evidence of the bombing of civilians. "It is unforgivable," he said. He also said—claiming to speak for the Labour Party executive, of which he is a member—that a confederation with close ties between an autonomous Biafra and Nigeria was the best solution.

● The Federal Army's three divisions have been given final plans for their assault on Biafra and can be expected to move forward soon, Brig. Hassan Usman Katsina, Chief of Staff of the Forces, said in a broadcast during a visit to the western region. He said the end of the war was near, but all three divisions had faced the problems of Biafran infiltration behind their lines, and there had been logistic difficulties.

● A Biafran attack on Federal positions at Oko-Egbele and Abara-Osimili Islands in the Mid-West has been beaten by the Federal troops. A statement by the Second Division said that the rebels came in a fleet of gunboats and motorised canoes, after their defeat, during mopping-up operations, 95 dead Biafrans were found and many were captured alive. The Federal troops, the statement added, had consolidated their positions on the island bordering secessionist territory. The Biafran attack came from Atani, where their brigade headquarters was based, and moved south down the Niger to Okwokwo from where they shelled positions on the island.

The Second Division attacked Biafran locations at the Anambra basin; in this encounter "the rebels lost 102 men".

The Biafrans claim more small victories around Owerri.

New OAU Meeting?

Gen. Gowon has, in a note to Emperor Haile Selassie, said he is willing to attend a new meeting of the OAU Consultative Committee on Nigeria. The Commissioner for External Affairs, Dr. Arikpo, has confirmed that arrangements are being made for a meeting of the Committee.

● The Federal Government has told Scandinavian Governments that an armistice in the war in Biafra should be preceded by negotiations. In a reply to the joint appeal by the Governments for a cease-fire, it regretted that it has not been possible to persuade the Biafrans to accept the most effective methods of bringing in relief consignments on a large scale to the breakaway area, and appealed to the Nordic Governments to use their influence to persuade relief organisations to allow use of the Obilago airfield (as offered by Nigeria).

● *The Times*, in an editorial entitled "Arms and Starvation," says the time had come for a new British policy on Nigeria, as both sides have lost the war. All sides should stop arms supplies and speed the supply of food, it says, and even if this is impossible, British arms should stop.

The *Guardian* also says a change in British policy is needed. The war "can only be stopped from outside—by the concerted action of all involved—with the threat of withholding supplies," it says, adding that despite all the difficulties involved in any settlement, there is no reason for going on with the present war.

● In a long leading article, the London *Daily Mirror* criticises the air raids on Biafra but says that the British Government is right to continue to support the Nigerian Federal Government.

NIGERIA—*continued*

● Radio Biafra has quoted M. Raymond Offroy, head of the French Committee for Action for Biafra, as saying that France wants a ceasefire in the Nigerian Civil war, and self-determination for Biafra. M. Raymond Offroy, a former French ambassador to Nigeria who has been visiting the secessionist state, said they were seeing neither a rebellion, nor secession, but a struggle for self-determination.

● France's National Biafra Relief Week started on March 10, with the French committee for the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and the French Red Cross taking responsibility for the appeal for relief funds. Ten million "Biafra Relief" cards are being sold all over France, many in post offices and tobacconists' shops.

French Arms and Gabon

In Gabon "official circles" deny that Gabonese arms have been supplied to Biafra, AFP reports, adding that the statement by M. Pierre Messmer, French minister of the Armed Forces, has caused strong feelings in Libreville (he said that Gabon and Ivory Coast, which had recognised Biafra and were supplied with French arms, had a right to pass on arms to Biafra).

● The Central Bank reports that external reserves on Feb. 28 totalled £43,646,000—over £4m. more than a fortnight before. The reason for the increase is believed to be seasonal.

● A group of 106 Nigerians evacuated from Gabon to Dahomey have arrived in Lagos. They went to Dahomey on board a French mailboat, *General Mungin*, and will be handed over to the Rehabilitation Commission for resettlement.

● Traffic entering Nigeria from Dahomey was restricted last week in an attempt to stop smuggling. It is now believed that many thousand bags of cocoa and several hundred of palm kernels have been smuggled to Dahomey.

● The EEC has agreed in principle to send 25,000 tons of food aid for "the Biafran populations." Formal approval by the Foreign Ministers of the Six was expected this week.

● During the week Feb. 26-March 5, the aircraft of the International Red Cross made sixty-five flights to Biafra, carrying 663 tons of food, medicaments and other relief supplies. The nightly average was 9 flights and 95 tons. There are at present seven aircraft in service: three Douglas DC-6s chartered by the ICRC, 3 Douglas DC-7s provided by the Swedish Red Cross and one Transall from the West German Red Cross.

● An article in the London *Observer* has accused the Biafrans of ensuring that relief organisations are forced to spend foreign currency in Biafra, to make this available for their own purposes. It says that, as there is no equitable rationing system in Biafra, refugees depend for food on the relief agencies, who buy some food from Biafran farmers who will only take foreign currency. It alleges that Sir Francis Ibiam, adviser to Col. Ojukwu, was sent to Switzerland to ask that money for local Biafran food should be paid directly into a Biafran account in Zurich. The Churches, the article says, spend hard currency on purchases in both Federal and Biafran territory, but the Red Cross says it has spent hardly any money in the latter.

● The threat of a measles epidem Biafra, with the large-scale child mor has made necessary a new and u national fund-raising campaign, C announces; £52,500 must be found to the cost of 300,000 doses of anti-m vaccine that Oxfam is contributing t current immunisation programme in B

Oxfam says funds for Biafra relief coming in more slowly now, perhaps be people are "exhausted" by the crisis there.

● A Russian sailor escaped from warship *Boiky*, one of four vessels a goodwill mission to Lagos (which enthusiastically received) and swam British ship. He left there in the com of Nigerian police, and was later ha back to his ship. One report said he asked for political asylum, but an said he had gone back willingly.

The four Russian ships which paid four-day goodwill visit were, be *Boiky* (a 3,650-ton guided missile destro the F-class submarine No. 59 (2,000 t the fleet oiler *Olekma* (1,769); and a guided missile destroyer, *Neulovimy* (2,

● Two Netherlands M.P.s who rece completed a tour of Nigeria said they w impressed with feeding arrangements of refugees in reconquered areas. They said there was "no genocide" in Bia and that they thought Nigeria's cause legitimate.

● Nigeria was one of the subjects House of Commons questions w President Nixon visited the Hou question time during his stay in the UK.

President Nixon was reported to h discussed Nigeria with Mr. Wilson

Hospital Plan Changed

The Western State Government decided to review its stand on the ove versial £2 million cottage hospital pro A joint statement by the West Coa sioners for Finance, Health and Wo said the project was originally to executed on contractor-finance basis. this was now out of the question in of subsequent developments. Governm contribution to the project up to d amounts to £160,000; the Ministry of W and Transport has assessed the amount work done by the contractor to be £[illegible] including cost of equipment on site val at £15,000. Negotiation, says the state is underway between government and contractor on the 10 hospitals alre started. The state cabinet says that w should continue on the four hospitals al completed and that the six others alre started should be finished after compl of the negotiation with the contr construction of the remaining 15 sh be put to open competitive tender.

● Nigeria may establish its own agency in the next financial year, if s cient funds are provided, said Al Ahmed Joda, Permanent Secretary to Ministry of Information, at a confere of Information Officers. He said efforts employ public relations agents in the USA and other countries had been rew ing. He also announced that the governm had appointed an expert to advise on t nical aspects of broadcasting.

● New Nigerian bank notes are now tender in all the Rivers State and all South-East except Ikot Ekpene Divi following withdrawal of the old notes.

SWAL

REGULAR SERVICE
mail and freight

SCANDINAVIA & CONTINENT
WEST AFRICA

NORTHERN ROUTE
SOUTHBOUND: SCANDINAVIA & BORDEAUX TO PORTS WITHIN DAKAR/PORT GENTIL RANGE
NORTHBOUND: DOUALA/DAKAR RANGE TO SCANDINAVIA

SOUTHERN ROUTE
SOUTHBOUND: SCANDINAVIA—ANTWERP—BORDEAUX TO POINTE NOIRE/LOBITO RANGE
NORTHBOUND: CONGO/ANGOLA, POINTE NOIRE, SAO THOME, PRINCIPE TO CONTINENT & SCANDINAVIA

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION APPLY:—
LONDON—J. E. HYDE & CO., 27, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3
Tel: 01-481 2040
ANTWERP—COMPT. ALEX M. PETERSEN S.A., 15 Klipperstraat
Tel: 32 9902
BORDEAUX—STE D'EXPLOITATION DE L'AGENCE S.W.A.L.
24 Cours Xavier Arnozan. Tel: 521304

THE SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE
GÖTEBORG

'International' people bank with S·B·W·A

Business today is *international*. And business men need to be internationally-minded. That's why it is so important that the Bank *you* deal through operates on an international basis, too.

S.B.W.A. is just such a Bank. As part of the Standard Bank Group, S.B.W.A. and its customers can call upon the services of a network of 1,200 Branches in 17 African countries as well as Offices in the U.K., America, Europe and the Far East. These Branches and Offices are there to serve *you* and *your* business interests. A friendly Bank in a country which may be quite unknown to you is a safeguard and a support.

So let S.B.W.A. give you the benefit of its *international* connections: just ask the manager of your local branch for details.

STANDARD BANK OF WEST AFRICA LTD

The Bank that builds Business

THE STANDARD BANK

** S.B.W.A. also has unique facilities for fostering international business through its close connections with Chase Manhattan Bank N.A. of New York, and the Midland, National Provincial and Westminster Banks of London, who are now associated with the Group through their important shareholdings in Standard Bank Limited.*

people who enjoy life go E.D.

If you like a gay life full of action and interest or if your idea of heaven is a comfortable chair, an ice-cold drink and wonderful weather, try an E.D. Voyage.

Elder Dempster's shipboard service looks after your every need. Enjoy the fine cuisine, a dip in the ship's swimming pool, take in a film, a carnival or just laze about enjoying a leisurely acclimatization and the famous E.D. Service.

E.D. the free and easy way of going places!

HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR RETURN VOYAGE YET ?

GENEROUS! BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

E D ELDER DEMPSTER LINES

HEAD OFFICE: INDIA BUILDINGS, WATER STREET, LIVERPOOL 2. ELDER DEMPSTER AGENCIES LTD. THROUGHOUT WEST AFRI

Printed in Great Britain by Fleetway Printers, 17 Sumner Street, London, S.E.1. and in Nigeria by Times Press Ltd., Apapa. Published by the Proprietors, Overseas Newspa (Agencies) Ltd., at their Editorial, Advertisements and Publishing Offices, Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, London, W.C.1. Telephone: 01-242 0661. Cables: Wesnews London Registered at the G.P.O. as a newspaper.