WEST AFRICA

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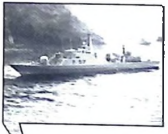

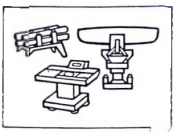

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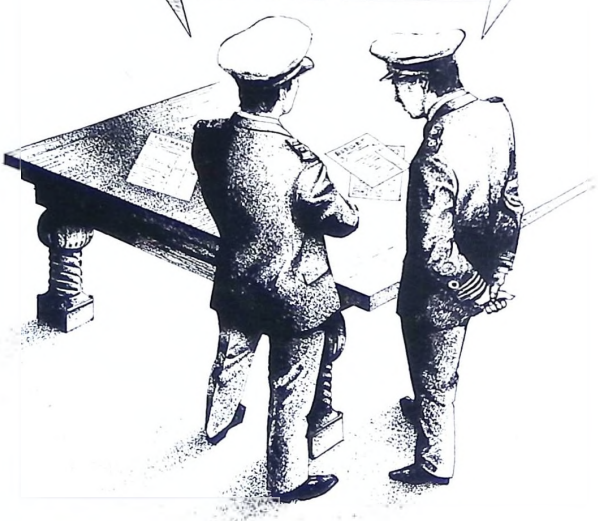

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The French connection

"THE NEW colonial pact is even more severe than the old one," no less a figure than President Senghor announced shortly before the Franco-African Summit in Nice last week. He went on to say: "If, in spite of the world economic crisis and the slowdown in growth, the purchasing power of the developed countries continues to grow, it is because they draw from the pockets of the developing countries." It was an eloquent complaint which added considerable spice to an occasion which symbolises and celebrates a highly specific and controversial relationship between a developed and a group of developing countries — France and its former colonies.

It is a link negotiated in the final stretch of France's period as a colonial ruler which has been sustained for the last two decades. It has had its vicissitudes. Mali, in the last 10 years, has gradually been drawn closer to France; Chad and Mauritania have blown hot and cold; Guinea is only now testing the water. On balance though, it is a testament to the durability of this connection — and a source of some concern for those who believe in the complete liberation of Africa — that France has underpinned, by the maintenance of a linguistic community among the ruling groups of its African partners and the creation of a series of institutional links, the most effectively unified body of states in Africa. It is a body which, because of the apparent willingness of its leaders to bow to France's authority and to depend on France, in some cases, for political and economic survival, is seen to serve France's rather than their individual national purposes.

The first distinction that has to be made when discussing Francophone Africa is that it does not reflect the will of the African populations but of their leaders. They participate in a series of institutional ties which have formalised the sacrifice of a certain degree of sovereignty. The foundation of this is the membership of the franc zone, united in West Africa by the Union Monétaire Ouest Africaine. France guarantees the CFA franc. This foundation has permitted the relatively smooth creation and operation of the West African Economic Community, CEAO, which always seems to be a few steps ahead of the wider-used ECOWAS.

The implications for the latter body, to which so much hope is attached for the eventual integration of West Africa's economies, are considerable.

To add to the monetary integration of the UMOA and the customs union of CEAO, the historical wheel has, in a sense, come full circle with the announcement that a "Francophone Commonwealth" is to be founded. The final decision was taken by the participants of the Nice conference. It is President Senghor's baby and he insists on its cultural importance. It is a fact that should never be overlooked that one can travel from Tangier to Lubumbashi without ever having to speak anything but French.

It would be wrong to see this relationship between France and its African allies as a smoothly operating whole. The two sides may have depended on each other in the past: France offers certain economic guarantees, providing the political and economic line is tied to France's convenience. The Francophone countries often use France to press their collective claims in major international forums. The existence of a Francophone bloc which is sympathetic, in some cases spectacularly so, to France's diplomacy — as in the immediate support from Senegal, Ivory Coast, Togo and Gabon, in the Shaba affair of 1978 — gives France considerable diplomatic leverage.

France, however, has been showing signs that economic reality dictates that it can no longer continue with its exclusive line of help to its former colonies, however profitable. Hence President Giscard d'Estaing goes on at great length about the "trilogue" between Arab money, European technology and expertise and African raw materials. The critics dismiss this as another tactic in Europe's need to secure raw materials from Africa. This is true to a certain extent. The significance though is that France is finding increasingly that its own interests are too closely tied with other Western powers to be able to continue operating independently in Africa, which was an essential element in Gaullist African policy. This extends to the far more delicate area of international strategy, where the differences between the West and Africa in views on communism are becoming wider in spite of the fears of the older generation of politicians like President Senghor and President Houphouet-Boigny.

Similarly in West Africa, the plight of the various national economies — on which President Houphouet-Boigny spoke so forcefully at Lagos — has brought about a realisation that Africa's way out for the future is not only to rethink the present state of political organisation within different countries — Liberia was a stunning example of what can happen when élites become complacent — but also that Africa must co-operate much more closely than ever before. Two decades of territorial sovereignty have also led to growing differences within the member states of the franc zone. Ivory Coast has to bear the burden for the balance of payments deficits of Senegal and Upper Volta. Niger's uranium wealth has given it the means to acquire a degree of diplomatic independence from the triple influence of North Africa, France and northern Nigeria.

1980 is the twentieth anniversary of the independence of all of France's sub-Saharan colonies, except for Guinea's which took place in 1958. One wonders how long the clearest example of the latter day "colonial pact" in Africa can survive, in spite of some of its in-built strengths, as it comes under increasing pressure from all sides.

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Military return to power in Uganda

UGANDA HAS provided the latest of a long series of cases in Africa in which military men claim to know better than elected politicians how a country should be run. Last weekend President Binaisa decided to dismiss Brigadier David Oyite Ojok as Chief of Staff; the reason, according to some reports, was that he suspected the brigadier of planning a coup. The brigadier refused to accept his dismissal and a six-man military council, which includes the former Minister of Labour, Mr. Paul Muwanga, has now taken over the running of the country.

The position is complicated because although military rule is apparently firmly established in the capital, Kampala, and throughout the country, Mr Binaisa remains with several aides under Tanzanian Army guard in State House, Entebbe, about 21 miles from Kampala. Tanzania still has over 10,000 troops in the country, which represents the strongest fighting force available. So President Nyerere, who intervened in Ugandan affairs to overthrow Idi Amin last year, is still in a position to play a decisive part in his neighbour's affairs, should he decide to do so.

Mr. Edward Rugumayo, the chairman of Uganda's National Liberation Council (a sort of interim parliament that was to have led the country to general elections in December), is in Tanzania. He is reported to have been urged by President Nyerere to return to convene a session of the council. However, a Reuters report quotes him as saying: "How can I convene a meeting of the NCC? This is a military regime. They have no appreciation of democratic institutions. It would be impossible to convene a meeting because members would fear for their lives."

A further uncertainty is the position of Mr. Milton Obote, the former President who was ousted by Idi Amin in 1971 and who was to have returned from his exile in Tanzania for the elections. He has denied having any links with the coup. But the fact is that Brigadier Ojok is known to be a supporter and intimate of his.

No doubt the next few days will provide answers to what exactly the intentions of the military are, whether there can still be elections in December or another meeting of the NCC, whether Mr. Obote will be recalled to power and, most important, what President Nyerere intends to do.

In the meantime the people of Uganda, who have had the bitterest experience of military rule of any country in Africa, are once again walking in fear. There are reports of looting by bands of soldiers, of civilians being harassed and assaulted and of families moving out of the cities to the comparative safety of the countryside.

Mr. Rugumayo is quoted as saying that the people of Uganda would never accept another military regime. Guns are difficult things to oppose when it comes down to it. But the professional classes of Ghana did demonstrate during the time of Acheampong that it is possible for civilians, if they are determined and organised, to make life impossible for military rulers. It cannot be said too often that soldiers do not have any God-given right to decide who shall rule a country or even who shall be Chief of Staff.

Editors come to defence of press freedom

STRONG VIEWS on the threats that are posed to the independence of the press by the exercise of pressure by men in power was voiced at a meeting in Calabar, Cross River State, of the Nigerian Guild of Editors. A resolution condemned the politicians who exert pressure and also the editors who bow to such pressure.

"Governors and parties," said a resolution, "ought to appreciate the fact that government-owned media belong to all the people, irrespective of political or other leanings, and that the use of the media as exclusive propaganda organs of incumbent governors and their parties is a serious misuse of power and abuse of office." The editors said some governors were forcing editors to abuse their conscience and professional obligations. The birthdays of governors' children and those of senior officials had to be displayed on front pages or given undue extensive coverage on television.

The editors turned their attention to themselves. "The Guild is dismayed that many editors in both government and private media are throwing professional ethics overboard in an unscrupulous bid to retain their positions. In an effort to correct these dangerous drifts, the Guild is setting up a body to monitor the performances of its members. Any editor found to persist in contravening the Guild's guidelines of professional ethics will be disciplined."

Nigeria's press has a proud tradition of independence. It retained its self-respect during the long period of military rule—at considerable cost to individual journalists—and since the return to civilian rule there has been a burgeoning of new newspapers and of strongly-expressed opinions. There have been instances of lack of balance and of excesses. The Governor of Cross River State, Dr. Clement Isong, spoke for many politicians when he said that for the press to deserve its freedom, gain public respect and confidence, and win the co-operation of any government it must demonstrate a wholesome measure of responsibility.

The threats to the freedom of the press are always there. There is concern in Nigeria about broadcasting (mentioned last week and in an article on page 876). The Guild of Editors also attacked some media owners over "so-called reorganisations" which are "deplorable exercises in political manipulation aimed at frustrating professionalism and undermining freedom of the press".

What is necessary is eternal vigilance.

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FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT NOTEBOOK by ALEX RONDOS

Towards a French Commonwealth

A special report from Nice illustrates how African and French leaders tended to avoid the more controversial political issues to concentrate on economics.

TWENTY YEARS AGO all of France's African colonies (with the exception of Guinea which became independent in 1958) were granted independence. Since then these countries have sought, on the whole, a close link with France. Their desire has been more than amply reciprocated. This relationship is now celebrated annually by the Franco-African summit. This year's in Nice was the seventh.

The independence whose twentieth anniversary is celebrated should, judging from the gloom of some participants, be carefully qualified. President Habyarimana of Rwanda, who hosted last year's summit in Kigali, spoke of an impending catastrophe. President Giscard d'Estaing, however, was more optimistic. His fundamental point was that there was a future for Africa, economically, provided the right financing and techniques could be marshalled for the continent's benefit. So far as France was concerned, it was the "avant-garde" of the strengthening of Europe's relations with Africa, the French leader proclaimed in his opening address to the summit. President Senghor was content to devote much of his address at the final press conference — he represented the delegations in his capacity as the doyen of the conference — to the creation of a "Francophone Commonwealth".

In all, there was an obstinate refusal to commit any of the official conference agenda to controversial "political" matters. The agenda was instead filled with discussion of the North-South dialogue, President Giscard's cherished Euro-Arab-African "trilogue", energy, food self-sufficiency and the Francophone Commonwealth on which President Senghor has been delegated at the Kigali summit to prepare a dossier. Some interesting developments were revealed in some of these areas. However, it rendered a certain air of unreality to a conference which for example, refused to deal with Chad formally — an act which was described by a French colleague as simply indecent.

The overall effect, therefore, was to create three parallel conferences. The first is the official one. President Senghor was its doyen in the absence of President Houphouet-Boigny who was welcoming the Pope and coping with some well concealed but dramatic political events at home. Twenty-six countries attended, of which 11 were represented by Heads of State and the rest by ministers (except Mauritania which was represented by its ambassador in Paris). The second conference was unofficial and was reflected in the composition of the delegations. Mauritania's Lt. Col. Haidalla did not come because he was having to cope with a resurgence of political unrest at home; Liberia (specially invited as host to the OAU last year) did not attend at all — the causes of its absence being remarkably fresh in the minds in a number of delegates; President Houphouet-Boigny has already been accounted for while Chad's illusory Government of National Unity was represented by Lt. Col. Kamougoue, the leader of the remnants of the Force Armées Tchadiennes and otherwise known as the Lion of the South. Meanwhile, Gabon, Zaire, Senegal, Togo, Mali, Niger, Rwanda and Burundi all sent Heads of State. They were all staying at the Hotel Negresco, an extremely elegant hotel turned into a fortress for the occasion, on Nice's famous Promenade des Anglais. Imagine, nevertheless, the conditions this created for facilitating the easy communication of a number of leaders with common interests and who rarely have the opportunity to be within such easy reach of each other. Here, over meals and late into the night, "political" affairs were discussed.

There is a third level at which the conference operates and that consists of the pressure groups who stand to gain something from making their presence felt both to the journalists and to the delegations. The means by which these groups achieve their aims are peculiar. The attitude of most governments towards a group of collected journalists — to put them together in one hotel and supply them with free drink and a regular dose of anodyne "briefings" which amounted to statements of the crashingly obvious — can have a reverse effect. The journalists, for all their efforts, cannot reach the delegations, cocooned in another hotel; they become bored, irritated and happy to listen to the cogent arguments of the politically discriminated against. In this case this consisted largely of Hissen Habre's representative, as well as Dr. Abba Siddock, the founder of FROLINAT many years and permutations ago, and also the representatives of African workers in France. A group of Togolese dissidents were packed off back to Paris shortly after their arrival and their distribution of "wanted" posters bearing President Eyadema's portrait.

Two leading men of the summit: President Senghor of Senegal and President Giscard d'Estaing

The constructive view

A MORE constructive view of the conference is best acquired by assessing it on its own professed terms of reference; it was economic, social and cultural and *not* "political" it was insisted, which left the main question begging.

The most important contribution of the conference will be that it has added itself to the recent and growing list of public occasions where a detailed post mortem is conducted on the economic calamity that has befallen so many African states. However, to add flavour to the occasion — which after all focuses on France and Africa — it also implied that although the details of France's aid policies have on the whole been more generous than most other countries, the picture as a whole has not been one of a successful and mutually profitable economic partnership.

Some major economic resolutions emerged from the conference. France will commit a greater degree of public aid, no matter what economic and financial

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problems she is facing today, towards the development of African countries. It is worth noting that the structure of the relationship is not to be changed. The proportionate role of private investment is to be acknowledged by the continuing importance played by the Caisse Centrale de Co-opération Economique. CCCE, the main aim of which is to provide finance for development projects that are undertaken by private companies. This is in contrast to the Fonds d'Aide et de Co-opération, FAC, which is a solely public financing body.

The CCCE mechanism is such that it naturally favours the award of tenders to those enterprises that are well established in the region; the end result has been a remarkable reinforcement of the private industrial and commercial links that exist between France and it former colonies. M. Galley, the French Minister of Co-operation, noted that since the Kigali summit the French aid budget had been increased by 23 per cent from three billion francs to 4.3 billion.

We were informed that discussions about the North-South Dialogue had taken place with a view to preparing for the forthcoming special summit being organised by the UN. The most interesting thing to emerge was that France had been asked to represent the case of the developing economies, and especially the participants of the summit, at such international meetings. The significance of this can be easily overlooked. But it becomes clear that if anyone is to understand the unusual relationship that exists between France and those parts of Africa it once ruled as a colonial power, then one has to accept a number of nuances. France needs the support of the countries to give it diplomatic clout. They represent a large proportion of those who justify the continued use of French as a diplomatic language. If that is too trivial for some, then it should also be acknowledged that the Gaullist ethos continues to prevail, which was always guided by the notion of French independence in world diplomacy. If this has been somewhat dissipated of late under Giscard d'Estaing, the fact is that France continues to have a large number of allies, or, to be more precise, collaborators, who constitute the ruling elites France created for independence in a continent that many, especially the representatives of the superpowers, see as a future scene of ideological competition, and this makes France a powerful factor in world diplomacy. On the part of these leaders and their supporters, they are only too happy to be represented as a group by France, and they will gladly acknowledge that as Djibouti, Comoros or Gabon, they carry little weight in the major international gatherings. This link, which was celebrated at Nice, is cemented by a very complex set of economic and cultural ties.

President Giscard d'Estaing's hopes for a "trilogue" between the European, Arab and African states moved on a little further. A report presented to the conference made the case for the European recycling of petro-dollars for African economies. An example of what the French President sees as a natural, and almost inevitable link between these three regions, is the fact that of the two billion francs committed to multilateral projects by the CCCE, 800m francs were devoted to projects with mainly Arab partners. The most striking West African example is the Senegal River Development Organisation, OMVS, the projects of which will be largely financed by Arab money.

The next step is to set about the formalistion of such a relationship. It has been reported that late next year, the French will bring together a summit conference of all the states concerned. Obviously in his recent trips to the Middle East President Giscard d'Estaing felt encouraged and he added that the participants at the Nice summit had been receptive to the idea and that it now remained for him to discuss the idea in greater detail with his European partners.

The scheme is not without its critics. Arabs have noted that their own oil resources are limited and that the petro-dollars are in European banks because of the structure of the international economy. They also refer to the fact that some African countries have not responded to IMF requirements on debts, and ask what would they do with a massive investment of petro-dollars. On the European side there are those who feel that the structure of the Lomé Convention is adequate; some Africans have supported this view suggesting that another organisation supplying aid on such a massive scale could only bring more confusion.

Energy and food

ENERGY AND FOOD production were identified by M. Galley at the preparatory ministerial conference in early April as the principal areas where French aid would have to be either intensified or revised. The background to this is indeed bleak. By the year 2000 the continent's population will have doubled and its capacity to meet its food requirements will have been reduced from the current estimate of 80 per cent to 60 per cent. The Ministry of Co-operation in Paris, working on the statistics of the import bills of 12 of its principal African partners (Cameroon — which was not represented at the summit — Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Central African Republic, Senegal, Chad, Togo and Benin) estimate that their oil bill will have more than doubled between 1978 and 1980. It stood at 115.7 bn. CFA francs in 1978 and rose to 157 bn. in 1979. If the price of the barrell of oil remains below $33 in 1980, that bill will rise to 243 bn. and if the barrel goes up to $35 then the import bill will be over 260 bn.

The French now propose that hydro-electric energy should become a priority. Similarly, solar and bio-energy should receive far greater attention than has been the case so far. African forests should be used to make methanol. The essence of

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M. Galley's message was that with careful planning 100,000 hectares of forest would permit, in the best conditions, the annual production of an equivalent of one million tonnes of oil. France, M. Galley said, was already in the process of examining the possibilities in this field and it was quite possible that within the next three years the first stages of the plan could start to materialise.

The official acknowledgement that indiscriminate dishing out of food aid has had a negative effect on the domestic markets of many African economies is one of the significent aspects of this summit. There have been many groups who have advocated a reduction of direct food aid except in emergencies. A document published for the conference by the Ministry of Co-operation puts some of the official French views very bluntly, it states that by 1980 the cereal deficit in the Sahel could reach an annual average of one million tonnes, with Senegal accounting for half of that. Some might dispute the proposition of the ministry that the deficit is largely due to demographic circumstances — the growth of populations, especially their concentration in urban areas, and also the drop in the mortality rate. The report also notes that with the current financial constraints on the world economy it has become much easier for the "Americans to regularise cereal production". As a result, import prices will rise and once again the only solution will be food aid.

Faults in food aid

The end result is scarcely encouraging, as the report puts it: "International food aid has permitted the salvation of lives and has been of great assistance in the last droughts, but one cannot imagine the institutionalisation of such aid. The Sahelian states themselves have begun to appreciate that the repeated recourse to emergency aid is not a good way of solving their food problems. First of all, the international aid supplied rarely reaches those who have the greatest need of it. Then the constant recourse of cereal importation can seriously damage the recovery of national production." The French attitude therefore is one which suggests that a total strategy must be developed to replace the almost anarchic approach to food shortages in the Sahel.

If this may seem obvious to many, it is a rare occasion that a government is prepared to put the facts quite so clearly. They go on to touch on one of the fundamental issues — domestic marketing policies. "For years, the consumer in the Sahel, and especially in the towns, has been favoured by a policy keeping down cereal prices. Perhaps it is time to tilt the balance in the other direction and to practice a price policy that is more attractive for the producer. But it is true that any action on prices is made delicate by the inevitable repercussions that a rise in cereal prices would have on incomes and in particular on incomes in the public service." The state in the Sahel is the largest employer, and any rise on wages has an immediate effect on the State's coffers.

A Francophone Commonwealth

AT LAST YEAR'S Franco-Afric summit in Kigali, President Senghor w delegated to oversee the draughting o report on the possible creation of Francophone Commonwealth. With ob ous pleasure therefore, President Sengh announced at the final press conference th such an organisation has now been agree to. He devoted much of his address at th news conference to just this issue. O November 5 all the states in the world wh use the French language are to meet Dakar. They will discuss a series proposals put forward by commissio which are in the process of bei constituted. However, the main aim of th meeting will be to discuss and expand on document put forward, and endorsed at th Nice summit, for an "organic communit of Francophone states. President Sengh said that its member Heads of State wou meet every two years, and that there wou be ministerial meetings at the sa intervals. There is to be a Secretariat with Secretary General, very much on the line the British Commonwealth. Presid Senghor said he had been in close tou with the Commonwealth Secretariat London. However, he emphasised that t proposal was in no way intended to be se as an opponent of its British counterpa President Giscard d'Estaing, emphasi that this would be a loosely kn organisation. There is some evidence to that the plan did not meet with th wholehearted approval of all th participants at the summit, but that th finally agreed.

At the heart of the entire plan is President Senghor's avowed belief in th unifying qualities of the French culture a language. This is based on his own compli theory of the creation of a univers civilisation in which individuality is to b respected. At the same time, however, (as he spoke of this in his final ne conference), he see the gradual develo ment of a "*métissage culturelle*" — cultur miscegenation would be one way of putt it. The biological side of it is achie "naturally" the President said, while th Commonwealth will achieve the cerebr element.

The document presented to the summ bears all the hallmarks of Senghori inspiration. Above all, the basic assumpti is that all progress and development conditional upon a similar cultural proce For those who tend to be dismissive the Senegalese President's theories — a they are many — it is worth noting e extract from the report: "If the Fren language is intimately linked to the geni and thought of France. *Francophone*, as such, in the eyes of a certain number countries, remains no less associated to recent past which has been characterised b relations of domination. Both as th language of alienation and of liberation many people. French must at present pla

an important role in the diffusion of cultures of the Third World, in the search for new links between national cultures and endogenous development, between socio-cultural development and economic development." The French language, therefore, will play a major role, in the eyes of President Senghor, in the eventual formation of a "culture of the universal."

Undoubtedly, President Senghor is the motivating force for the idea of such a Commonwealth. However, only he seems to appreciate the full implications of his theory, and once he is gone, one wonders whether both his successors and other participants in the project will share his enthusiasm for the commitment to the power of culture.

Chadian views

THE ONLY "POLITICAL" statement made at the summit concerned Chad. Col. Kamougue, representing what is now regarded as merely Chad's nominal Government of National Unity, was allowed to address the summit on the conflict in his country. It was an ambiguous speech. He referred to all the other representatives of Chad's factions who had come to Nice as mere "tourists". He said that he felt there was a confusion between Chadians who are favourable to Libya and the existence of actual Libyan columns in Chad. He also expressed his surprise at France's decision to withdraw from Chad. The withdrawal, he felt, could have been negotiated and put into effect by an agreement. President Giscard d'Estaing meanwhile confirmed that French troops would be withdrawn, thus leaving the way open for the OAU to act.

President Senghor confirmed the discussions that took place at Lagos at the end of April when it was decided that the OAU would have one more try at sending in troops from Guinea, Benin and Congo as a peace-keeping force. The means of financing would have to be decided at the Freetown summit of the OAU. If this initiative fails then the UN will be called upon to intervene.

Dr. Abba Siddick, one of the founders of FROLINAT and long-time resident in Tripoli, Algiers and Paris and most recently Minister of Higher Education in the Government of National Unity was also present at Nice. While trying to maintain his independence from all the other factions, he was clearly favourable to Hissen Habre. However, more important, he called on the French not to withdraw, and announced that he regarded the French as the best placed to impose a ceasefire in N'Djamena. Considering that he has spent much of his political career cursing the French, many of the gathered journalists regarded this idea as hypocrisy, he was content to reply that peace is imperative in Chad and that anyway politics is the art of the possible.

There is little doubt that at Nice, just as at Lagos, the dismissal of Hissen Habre as Minister of Defence by President Goukhouni two weeks ago was seen as illegal by most participants. This point was emphasised by Hissen Habre's emissaries who made themselves constantly available for consultation to the press. They made the telling point that the Government of National Unity is *not* one selected by Goukhouni; it is the result of an agreement signed at Lagos which left places open in the government for the representatives of the 11 factions of Chad which were signatories. In effect therefore, one is a minister in Chad by dint of one's allegiance to a recognised faction. Goukhouni's authority, they maintained, was thus carefully circumscribed by the Lagos agreement of last August. The FAN representatives also alleged that three columns of the Islamic Force, consisting of Chadians and other nationals brought together by Libya and trained by Libyans, have advanced well into Chad and that one column had split to go to the assistance of Col. Kamougue. It is also known now that ground to ground SAM missiles have been used against Hissen Habre's men.

Let the last word remain with Dr Siddick, with whom many would choose to disagree: in his opinion the only leader of a faction who can be said to command his forces effectively is Hissen Habre. His second point, in a brief conversation afterwards, was that Nigeria had tried to impose a peace to the extent of sending troops to N'Djamena and had not succeeded, but it was equally unlikely that peace in a conflict as complicated as Chad's can be brought about by a series of one or two day

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conferences. He obviously had the Lancaster House talks in mind.

Plots against Houphouet

IT WAS CONFIRMED privately at the summit that a plan to assassinate President Houphouet-Boigny was unearthed shortly before the Pope's arrival on May 10 at Abidjan. In fact there are two separate incidents, though the details of the first remain somewhat confused. Two weeks ago an anonymous letter written by a number of junior officers, said to have been based at Bouake, was written to ambassadors and senior Ivorian ministers. Associated Press quoted one part of the letter: "Each time that citizens call for their rights they are accused of being revolutionaries. If nothing is done, we soldiers will launch attacks against government leaders because they are dishonest and because a draconian solution is necessary." The authenticity of the letter has not been confirmed, largely because the Ivorian government refuses to make any comment at all on the matter. However arrests have taken place in Bouake.

The second report concerns an attempt to assassinate President Houphouet-Boigny. The plot, as it was reported in *L'Liberation*, was foiled and a certain Lieutenant Oulai was arrested.

There were two alternative plans, the first to kill the Ivorian President as he was being driven with the Pope from Abidjan airport. This would be the signal for the takeover of a number of strategic points in the capital. The plotters, it is alleged, included other junior army officers and civilians said to be close to the Presidency. The alternative plan was to assassinate the President as he laid the foundation stone to the cathedral in Abidjan in the presence of the Pope and of the world's press. It appears that the Presidential security forces were tipped off and a number of arrests ensued. Investigations are continuing.

The overall effect has been to frighten authorities in Abidjan and also the Quai d'Orsay in Paris. The latter's representatives at Nice confirmed, in private, that there had been such a plan. Meanwhile it has been noted that a number of planned political meetings in Abidjan last weekend were postponed for "political reasons".

Introduction to the Plan of Action

In the first of a series of articles publishing textual extracts and summaries from the key document agreed at the special economic summit of the OAU in Lagos last month, "Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa", we publish the full text of the Introduction to that document.

THE EFFECT of untulfilled promises of global development strategies has been more sharply felt in Africa than in the other Continents of the world. Indeed rather than result in an improvement in the economic situation of the continent, successive strategies have made the continent stagnate and become more susceptible than other regions to the economic and social crisis suffered by the industrialised countries. Thus Africa is unable to point to any significant growth rate or satisfactory index of general well-being in the last twenty years. Faced with this situation and determined to undertake measures for the basic restructuring of the economic base of our continent, we resolved to adopt a far-reaching regional approach based primarily on collective self-reliance.

Thus, following a series of in-depth considerations of the economic problems of the Continent by our Ministers and by groups of experts, we adopted at our 16th Ordinary Session, held in Monrovia, Liberia, in July 1979, the "Monrovia Declaration of Commitment of the Heads of State and Government of the OAU on the guidelines and measures for national and collective self-reliance in economic and social development for the establishment of a new international economic order."

In adopting the Declaration we recognised "the need to take urgent action to provide the political support necessary for the success of the measures to achieve the goals of rapid self-reliance and self-sustaining development and economic growth," and declared as follows:

i. We commit ourselves individually and collectively, on behalf of our governments and peoples, to promote the economic and social development and integration of our economies with a view to achieving an increasing measure of self-sufficiency and self-sustainment.

ii. We commit ourselves, individually and collectively on behalf of our governments and peoples, to promote the economic integration of the African region in order to facilitate and reinforce social and economic integration.

iii. We commit ourselves, individually and collectively on behalf of our governments and peoples, to establish national, sub-regional and regional institutions which will facilitate the attainment of objectives of self-reliance and self-sustainment.

iv. More specifically, we commit ourselves, individually and collectively on behalf of our government and peoples, to:

(a) Give an important place to the field

of human resources development by starting to eliminate illiteracy;

(b) Put science and technology in the service of development by reinforcing the autonomous capacity of our countries in this field;

(c) Achieve self-sufficiency in food production and supply;

(d) Implement completely the programmes for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa;

(e) Realise the sub-regional and regional internally located industrial development;

(f) Co-operate in the field of natural resources control, exploration, extraction and use for the development of our economies for the benefit of our peoples and to set up the appropriate institutions to achieve these purposes;

(g) Develop indigenous entrepreneurial, technical manpower and technological abilities to enable our peoples to assume greater responsibility for the achievement of our individual and collective development goals;

(h) Co-operate in the preservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment;

(i) Ensure that our development policies reflect adequately our socio-cultural values in order to reinforce our cultural identity; and

(j) Take into account the dimension of the future in the elaboration of our development plans including studies and measures aimed at achieving a rapid socio-economic transformation of our States.

v. We hold firmly to the view that these commitments will lead to the creation at the national, sub-regional and regional levels of a dynamic interdependent African economy and will thereby pave the way for the eventual establishment of an African Common Market leading to an African Economic Community.

vi. "Resolving to give special attention to the discussion of economic issues at each annual Session of our Assembly, we, hereby, call on the Secretary General in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the United National Economic Commission for Africa, to draw up annually specific programmes and measures for economic co-operation on sub-regional, regional and continental bases in Africa".

In order to consider concrete measures for the implementation of the Monrovia Declaration we resolve to hold this Extra-Ordinary Session in Lagos, Nigeria, to be devoted to the economic problems of our Continent.

In assessing those problems, we are convinced that Africa's underdevelopment in not inevitable. Indeed, it is a paradox when one bears in mind the immense human and natural resources of the Continent. In addition to its reservoir of human resources, our Continent has 97 per cent of world reserve of chrome, 85 per cent of world reserves of platinum, 64 per cent of world reserves of manganese, 25 per cent of world reserves of uranium and 13 per cent of world reserves of copper without mentioning bauxite, nickel and lead, 20 per cent of world hydro-electrical potential, 20 per cent of traded oil in the world (if we exclude the US and the USSR), 70 per cent of world cocoa production, one third of world coffee production, 50 per cent of palm produce, to mention just a few.

Thus, Africa, despite all efforts made by its leaders remains the least developed Continent. It has 20 of the 31 least developed countries of the world. Africa is susceptible to the disastrous effects of natural and endemic diseases of the cruelest type, victim of settler exploitation arising from colonialism, racism and apartheid. Indeed, Africa was directly exploited during the colonial period and for the past two decades this exploitation has been carried out through neo-colonialist external forces which seek to influence the economic policies and directions of African states.

The structural weaknesses of African Agriculture in its globality is well known. Low production and productivity, rudimentary agricultural techniques. This obviously gives rise to insufficient agricultural growth, especially food production, in the face of the rapid population growth. This has led to serious food shortage and malnutrition in the Continent.

We view with distress that our Continent remains the least developed of all the continents, the total Gross Domestic production of our countries being only 2.7 per cent of the world, per capita income averaging $166.

We view with disquiet the over dependence of the economy of our Continent on the export of basic raw materials and minerals. This phenomenon had made African economies highly susceptible to external developments with detrimental effects on the interests of the continent.

Thus, in the 20 years from 1960—1980, the average rate of growth continent-wide has been no more than 4.8 per cent, a figure which hides divergent realities ranging from 7 per cent growth rate for the oil exporting countries down to 2.9 per cent for the least developed countries. Yet if the world economic forecast for the next decade is to be believed, the overall poor performance of African economy over the past 20 years may even be a golden age compared with future growth rate.

This situation has led us at this Extra-Ordinary Session devoted to the economic problems of Africa to an agonising but frank reappraisal of the present situation and the future prospects of African economic conditions. In so doing, we look back at the political constraints on the development of our Continent caused by colonial and racist domination and exploitation. We look forward with the hope that Africa, which has survived the brutalities of imperialism, racism and apartheid has the resilience to pull itself out of the economic malaise in which it finds itself.

The independence of Zimbabwe after

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years of armed struggle waged by the Zimbabwean people under the leadership of the Patriotic Front and with the active support of the Organisation of African Unity marks the final turn in the total liberation of the Continent. This event has ushered in renewed desperate attempts by the Pretoria regime to arrest the tide of history and to perpetuate the *status quo* in Namibia and South Africa itself. South Africa's envisaged "constellation" of Southern States is part of this diabolic design — a scheme which would bring independent states under the same political, economic and military domination by the apartheid regime as the Bantustans. We shall continue to pursue this liberation of the last remaining outposts of exploitation, racism and apartheid with vigour.

The same determination that has virtually rid our continent of political domination is required for our economic liberation. Our success in exploiting our political unity should encourage us to exploit the strength inherent in our economic unity. We, therefore, resolve, in the context of our Organisation to unite our efforts in the economic field. To this end, certain basic guidelines must be borne in mind:

i. Africa's huge resources must be applied principally to meet the needs and purposes of its people;

ii. Africa's almost total reliance on the export of raw materials must change. Rather Africa's development and growth must be based on a combination of Africa's considerable natural resources, her entrepreneurial, managerial and technical resources and her markets (restructured and expanded), to serve her people. Africa, therefore, must map out its own strategy for development and must vigorously pursue its implementation;

iii. Africa must cultivate the virtue of self-reliance. This is not to say that the continent should totally cut itself off from outside contributions. However these outside contributions should only supplement our own efforts, they should not be the main stay of our development;

iv. As a consequence of the need for increased self-reliance, Africa must mobilise her entire human and material resources for her development;

v. Each of our states must pursue a embracing economic, social and cultural activities which will mobilise the strength of the country as a whole and ensure that both the efforts put into and the benefits derived from development are equitably shared

vi. Efforts towards African economic integration must be pursued with renewed determination in order to create continent-wide framework for the much needed economic co-operation for development based on collective self-reliance.

On the basis of these guidelines we the Heads of State and Government meeting in Lagos at the Extra-Ordinary Session devoted to Africa's Economic Problems decided to adopt a Plan of Action as well as a Protocol on an African Economic Community. In so doing, we are conscious of the tremendous effort which will be required of us individually and collectively to attain the goals we have set for ourselves in these documents. We are confident that we have the determination to overcome the obstacles that may lie in our path and that our Organisation and the General Secretariat will be able to enlist the active support of the International Community as well as the relevant International Organisations.

Nigeria's hope of nuclear weapons

Enukora Joe Okoli interviews Professor Iya Abubakar, Nigerian Minister for Defence

Question. What is Nigeria's defence posture today in terms of carrying out aggression or containing aggression?

Answer. Nigeria is a peace-loving nation and does not believe in military aggression except perhaps under provocation. But Nigeria is proud of her nationhood and will jealously guard her territorial integrity and sovereignty against any odds. So the defence posture of Nigeria is to repel any aggression or invasion on her territory and to punish the aggressor to the extent that he will regret his reckless adventure and be deterred from future mistakes. So our primary objective is to ensure that our combat worthiness and combat readiness is such that we can ward off any external aggression or invasion, and retaliate with a devastating punch.

Q. What is the strength of the Nigerian Army, Air Force and Navy and how well are they equipped?

A. The Nigerian Army was around 8,000 men before our civil war, and by the end of the war it had grown to about a quarter of a million. But since the end of the civil war demobilisation exercise has been undertaken and this has succeeded in reducing the size of the Army to a reasonable level. At present we are slowing down the rate of demobilisation and restricting it mainly to cases of voluntary discharges, discharges on medical grounds and disciplinary cases. Our Air Force and Navy are relatively younger and so they are still growing. As for how well equipped the Nigerian armed forces are one can only say that only a few countries in the world, if any, can say that they have all of their defence requirements. However, in all modesty, one can say that Nigeria has a reasonable amount of equipment for its armed forces to enable them to discharge their responsibilities to the nation as defined in the Nigerian Constitution.

Q. Who are Nigeria's arms suppliers and

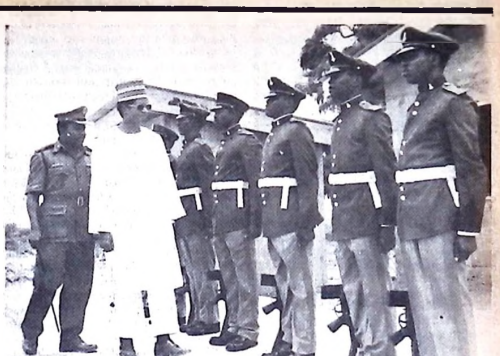
what stage should Nigeria consider producing her own munitions?

A. There are only a few countries which do not have to purchase abroad at least some of the arms and equipment they require for their defence. Regrettably, Nigeria today is not one of them. However, we recognise that it is very necessary for a country like Nigeria not to depend entirely for its defence equipment on foreign countries. So one of the cornerstones of the defence policy of the present civilian government of President Shehu Shagari is to promote and develop our defence industries so that in time to come Nigeria will be able to produce the bulk of her defence requirements.

A start was made several years ago. We are going to expand on that, particularly for small arms. Moreover, Nigeria will soon start assembling armoured vehicles. As to our present suppliers of defence equipment, as you know, Nigeria is a non-aligned country and has friends both in the East as well as in the West. And we have trade relations with various friends.

Q. In view of the recent uranium find in Nigeria, what are the prospects of developing nuclear capability and whose model should be imported?

A. As a scientist, apart from being the Defence Minister, it has always been my fervent hope that Nigeria will develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and that eventually Nigeria should develop into a nuclear power. Nigeria is a great country and it needs a strong, invincible and unassailable defence capability. It is only when she has become a nuclear power that she can boast of that status. Moreover, as long as protagonists of apartheid have access to nuclear capability Nigeria should, as of necessity, endeavour to acquire it at any price. The question of which model and from which country Nigeria will get it cannot be answered now as several factors will have to come into play. All that one can say is that when the time comes Nigeria will go in for the best that is available and on terms that will neither offend nor compromise her independence and sovereignty.



Professor Iya Abubakar inspecting a Quarter Guard

The presence of uranium in Nigeria will guarantee a regular supply of uranium to Nigeria's nuclear industry, provide her with an additional source of funds for acquiring the other components for nuclear technology and facilitate her negotiations with other nuclear powers for co-operation in the

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development of nuclear capability. But whether Nigeria has large deposits of uranium or not Nigeria must work towards developing herself to qualify for membership of the superpower club. We should leave no stone unturned in striving to achieve that goal.

Q. Would you consider the cut in President Shagari's 1980 budget for defence reasonable (a decrease of more than N306m. compared with the 1978/79 fiscal year) in view of the fact that many countries are increasing their defence expenditure?

A. Our President has not really cut down the defence budget in absolute terms. It is true that, as Defence Minister, I would like to see that more funds are pumped into the defence budget. For Nigeria is the largest black nation on Earth and Nigeria is pursuing a dynamic foreign policy. So it is necessary for her to back-up her size and positive foreign policy posture by a powerful defence system. I would like to see that we have strong, virile, mobile, well-equipped armed forces having modern weaponry with sufficient teeth to bite and with adequate fire power to knock out any aggressor. I would like to see that we have officers and men with a high degree of morale, discipline and efficiency without which the equipment and military hardware, however modern and efficient they may be, will be of little use. High morale can only be attained and maintained by ensuring that the welfare of the military personnel is well taken care of — their accommodation, transportation, medical facilities, schools for their children, etc. Both the equipment and the welfare of the men who man the system cost money. So an efficient defence system is expensive. However, one recognises that a civilian government must give attention to the social welfare needs of the generality of the public as well.

Q. Would you say that the army have gone back to the barracks for good?

A. The military have gone back to the barracks. I am not a soothsayer so I cannot say whether or not they have gone back for good. But I hope that it is so because that is the environment in which they can play best the role for which they are trained and contribute most to the national growth and development. There is hardly any valid reason that will legitimise military intervention in government. There is a fallacy that existence of corruption and despotism in government should warrant military intervention. But in many States where such interventions have taken place we have seen that the military as well as the civilians are subject to the same human frailties and weaknesses. Moreover, when law and order break down it is normally the duty of the military to assist the civil authorities in the restoration of law and order, whether they are in government or not.

Q. What are your views on the Pan-African defence force that has been suggested by many people, how should it be organised and structured and what role should Nigeria play in such a force?

A. The idea of a Pan-African defence force, sometimes referred to as African High Command, has been discussed at various times at different forums of OAU meetings. The concept is commendable but it is its practicability that is in question. It would be more practicable perhaps to start something on a regional basis which in time will coalesce into one unified defence arrangement for the whole continent. I say this because the question of defence is a very sensitive and delicate issue, and it should be approached with caution if it is to succeed. The members of such a defence arrangement must have the confidence that the pact will guarantee them security against external aggression and that such a pact will not provide a vehicle which will lead to the surrender or compromise of their independence and sovereignty. Regional groupings may already have common ties, such as economic alliances, which provide a basis for sound mutual confidence and so it would not be too difficult to extend such co-operation to defence matters. For example there is no reason why the ECOWAS countries should not have some mutual defence arrangements and assistance.

If such a defence pact is worked out and agreed to under the auspices of the OAU or the ECOWAS I believe that Nigeria as a signatory to the instruments establishing those organisations would support it in the spirit of its commitment to those bodies. Nigeria would no doubt play a positive role towards the success of such an arrangement. The form which such a pact should take will have to be carefully studied by all the member states concerned. As I stated earlier, ultimately one would like to see a strong unified allied force which will command credibility and respect among member states and guarantee the security of all the member States against external threat. However, because of the problems of implementation of military intervention the initial format should be a flexible type of arrangement of mutual defence assistance out of which may evolve eventually, over a period of incubation, a strong standing armed force under a unified command.

Q. How does it feel being a civilian Minister of Defence surrounded by military men who had tasted and enjoyed your position of power and authority?

A. I was at one time the vice-chancellor of a university and in that capacity I had the privilege of hob-nobbing with people of authority and power. So I do not find my present position entirely difficult nor strange. As a matter of fact sometimes it is easier to administer people who have occupied positions of authority and power because from their own experiences they appreciate your problems better, they know that leadership does not consist entirely of a bed of roses and that there is a wide difference between what is desirable and what is feasible or attainable. Moreover, the Nigerian armed forces consist of disciplined officers and men and by their training and background they readily accept and adjust to changes in leadership. So I have no problems with my officers in spite of the fact that they were previously running the government.

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Matchet's Diary

THE INTERESTING question of whether there should be an African human rights charter is to be discussed at a meeting at the African Centre, London, on Wednesday, May 21, at 6.30. African missions in London, charitable and aid organisations, interested individuals and the press have been invited for what is intended to be a major contribution to the question.

The chairman will be Lord Avebury. The leading speakers will be Mr. Shuiab Uthman Yolah, the Nigerian High Commissioner, Mr. Peter Archer, MP, Mr. Peter Enahoro, editor and publisher of *New African*, and Dr. George Kanyehamba, chairman of the Uganda Group for Human Rights.

The proposal for what was then called an "African convention on human rights" was first put forward in 1961 at a Lagos conference sponsored by the International Commission of Jurists. Conferences on the subject were held in Cairo in 1969, in Addis Ababa in 1971, in Dar es Salaam in 1973 and in Dakar in 1967 and 1978. In December, 1978, the matter was discussed at the United Nations General Assembly, on a Nigerian initiative. And in July last year the OAU summit in Monrovia called for experts to meet in Addis Ababa to draft an "African Charter of Rights". There were some initial problems about assembling these experts, but it is understood that a draft will be available to the Freetown OAU summit in July.

Everyone is in favour of human rights. But there are two major questions that have to be decided, and which will presumably also be discussed on Wednesday. Is a specifically African Charter of Human rights needed? Is not the whole thing adequately covered by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, for instance? Secondly, how is an African Charter of Human Rights to be enforced, and can any compulsion be squared with the sacred OAU doctrine of non-interference in the internal affairs of member states?

Film of resistance

A NEW FILM on the struggle of the South African people has recently been released. Directed by Peter Davis and produced by the United Nations, it is called *Generations of Resistance* and traces the struggle from the Bambata Rebellion of 1906 against colonial encroachment, right through to Soweto and after. The film is an interesting sequence of old newsreel and more up-to-date footage, songs and an often poetic narrative.

You actually see the face of the chief Bambata and his people as the story of his resistance is told. Six years later, the ANC was founded with the slogan "to fight for a united African struggle". Strikes by black workers in the 1920s are described (perhaps, with too little comment on the activities of the Communist Party in those years) as well as the progress of apartheid legislation in that and the next two decades.

The "Generation of 1949" saw the founding of the ANC Youth League under the leadership of Nelson Mandela with the slogan of "Freedom in our lifetime". This organisation led the campaigns of defiance in the 1950s and established the Freedom Charter in 1955. The "Generation of 1960" led the Pass Laws Boycott and the massive strikes after the PAC's Sharpeville demonstration and resulting massacre — it is quite moving to see actual footage (from behind the police lines) the camera directed at the blacks and participating in the "shooting". This section also shows the peasants' revolt in Pondoland in 1960, described as one of the most militant struggles against the puppet Bantu chiefs.

The end of this chapter of the resistance really came with the Rivonia trials in 1963-4 and the imprisonment of leaders of the ANC and PAC. Here, a youthful Nelson Mandela is seen (presumably) on Robben Island with chains on his wrists. Some 13 years later, Soweto explodes on the screen, and the camera looks on from behind the police lines, looks inside a covered Land-Rover full of arrested blacks, and follows a man being led away by police with an Alsatian dog tearing at his wrist. Early shots of the funeral of a militant in Botswana, the funerals of some of the children who died during the Soweto events, blend with Winnie Mandela's conviction that "the struggle will go on".

Clenched fists of striking workers sitting on a rooftop, shots of ordinary passers-by in the street, are accompanied at the end of the film by a woman's voice saying: "Perhaps the one working in somebody's kitchen there, the cook there, may be a guerrilla. The one in the garden there, may be a guerrilla. There is nothing, not even the delivery of milk or the delivery of a newspaper, there is nothing that the white people can do without the African hand. It is the African people who are everywhere."

(The film is available from the United Nations Information Centre, 14 Stratford Place, London W1.)

Zimbabwe party

THERE is another interesting African Centre date. On Saturday, May 17, Ghanaians are sponsoring a celebration there of the birth of an independent Zimbabwe.

Originally the dance was to honour the wife of the Prime Minister, Mr. Robert Mugabe. Mrs. Mugabe was Sara Hayfron and is a Ghanaian; they met when Robert Mugabe was teaching there.

The organisers, however, were persuaded by Zimbabweans in London that it would be inappropriate to centre a celebration on one person — the cult of personality is frowned on in Salisbury.

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'A glaring example of bad faith'

Stanley Macebuh, in an article reprinted from the *Daily Times* of Nigeria, reflects on the wider implications of journalism of the Vera Ifudu case.

THE MILITARY were at a distinct moral disadvantage in their dealings with the Nigerian Press. They had power, real, naked power. All things were possible for them. But they could never honestly claim to be acting in any specific matter in pursuance of a mandate given them by anyone but themselves.

Soldiers in government were not there by election. Only in grossly sentimental moments could they pretend that the public will was relevant for their purposes. A few confessed to being mystified by the complex ways in which public opinion is formed and manifests itself — but most revelled in being liberated from its constraints.

Strictly speaking, of course, journalists really have no better claim to being custodians of the public will than the soldiers had. But the journalist nevertheless did have a weapon which he frequently used to score moral victories against the men with the guns.

That weapon was the nature of the profession of journalism itself. Soldiering is a secretive and authoritarian business. Journalism is an open, sometimes anarchic one. Efficient soldiering is like a chain whose links do not touch. Journalism thrives on touch and smell and sight and sound. Soldiering prefers the camp and the deserted field. Journalism thrives as much in the market place as in the conspirator's den.

The journalist's claim to knowing the public will thus derive not from election, but from the fact that his very profession feeds on people. People, especially democratic people, are an obstacle to efficient militarism. But a democratic society is the ideal context for the journalist's work.

Moral strength

That was the weapon we had against the soldiers. We persuaded them that though we had no electoral mandate we nevertheless worked among people and could legitimately claim to know how they felt. It did not always work. But almost invariably it gave us a much needed sense of legitimacy and moral strength. We could at least call them imposters with a straight face and not feel we were engaged in self-deceit.

That was before October 1 last year, which glorious date was the beginning and the cause of our present discontent. How can you tell a self-respecting special adviser who holds office by the grace of a president who won a majority of the people's vote that he does not have a mandate to do as he pleases with the rest of us unelected and probably unelectable mortals? Politicians do not have the handicap that the soldiers had. They do not only thrive on people as a matter of professional routine. Those elected have a certificate from FEDECO to prove their lawful possession of the people's mandate. And you can't fault them on that ground.

The joke seems to be on us journalists these days. Now it is the politicians who tell us that we have no business talking about the public will, especially since FEDECO knows nothing about us. And in pursuance of their mandate they choose to throw us around like so many expendable dice, we can no longer seek refuge in our proximity to the people, or in our certainty that the people are not amused.

All of which is by way of saying that we now have to come up with some other grounds for telling Chief Olu Adebanjo that he cannot carry on that way. Mandate or no mandate, there are still those very old-fashioned values called justice and fairplay and, yes, truth in government. And those are values which journalists are still especially qualified to preach.

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Missing tape

What really is the truth about the Vera Ifudu affair? Miss Ifudu was the NTA Senate correspondent until she was redeployed to a supervisory job back at the NTA station. At the time of her redeployment, it did seem as though she was being punished for some unspecified wrongdoing, though her employers certainly had a right to move her wherever they chose.

Then came her suspension on full pay. The House of Representatives committee investigating NNPC operations had asked to see a tape of an interview she did with Senator Saraki. The recording which was actually aired on television was either missing or had been wiped off. Miss Ifudu had made a copy of the unedited tape for herself, and on a tape which she bought with her own money.

That copy was her personal property and belonged to her in much the same way as a copy of this article would belong to me. But because the official copy was missing, Miss Ifudu was *ordered* to produce her own personal copy for submission to the committee. She refused, because she did not believe her employers had any legal authority over her personal property.

Her employers were guilty of arrogance and a surprising lack of prudence. Miss Ifudu was herself guilty of perhaps too literal an insistence on her privileges as a human being and a citizen.

In any event, she went on suspension

though for some mysterious reason she was required to report at her post at 10 a.m. every working day. She had been suspended from work because she was charged with insubordination, and presumably because an inquiry was on to ascertain her guilt or innocence. But since she was not expected to give any oral evidence before any investigator, the requirement that she should report to the office every day was gratuitously punitive and constituted a "prima facie" case of prejudice.

This is apparently the point at which Chief Olu Adebanjo, in his position as sole administrator of NTA came into the picture. Chief Adebanjo says he instructed that Miss Ifudu should be asked to see him. And he believes that this instruction was passed on, but that Miss Ifudu refused to comply. If that is true, Miss Ifudu does deserve to be severely disciplined. But there is reason to suspect that Chief Adebanjo was misled.

Letter refused

On the day in question, Miss Ifudu arrived at NTA and was shown a letter addressed to her, but routed through a senior officer in charge of a department to which she did not belong. Her instincts told her the letter carried bad news. A quick investigation confirmed that it was indeed a letter of termination. If she accepted and signed for it, the matter would be closed. But if she did not, there was hopefully still time to persuade the authorities to change their mind. She decided not to accept the letter.

The news of her termination got to the *Daily Times* soon after the letter was written. We are, after all, in the business of gathering information. This reporter personally phoned a very senior official at NTA to confirm the news. The official said the story could not be true, because he himself would have had to sign such a letter of termination, and he had not done any such thing.

Poor fellow. What he did not know was that the decision to terminate Miss Ifudu's appointment came directly from the sole administrator's office, and that the matter was out of his hands. The presumption is that he did not know, either, of any letter purportedly asking Miss Ifudu to see the sole administrator. He certainly did not write any.

Old tradition

Chief Adebanjo says he decided to dismiss Miss Ifudu for insubordination to him, and that he intervened in the matter of a lowly officer like her because of the interest it had generated in the Press. But what it boils down to is that Chief Adebanjo dismissed a public servant for having disobeyed an instruction he cannot absolutely prove the officer ever received. There is another old fashioned tradition in our courts obliging the prosecution to prove its charges beyond reasonable doubt. But this tradition apparently does not apply here.

We must conclude, I fear, that as prosecutor and judge, Chief Adebanjo has not done nearly all he could to ensure that his verdict reflected the weight of evidence as closely as it ought.

But the real danger is that this is not an isolated case. It may all be a case of genuine misunderstanding and aborted communication in the matter of Miss Ifudu. But there have been other instances where journalists have been far less justifiably dismissed from their posts.

And what it suggests is that the Press cannot hope to be successful if it chooses to joust with politicians with the same weapons it used in jousting with the military. Politicians do have a legitimate mandate from the people. We cannot charge them with usurpation. But we can charge them with bad faith.

And the dismissal of Miss Ifudu is in my view a glaring example of bad faith, if ever there was any.

Trade unionism and development

Ad'Obe Obe considers the recently formed (*West Africa*, March 24) Commonwealth Trades union Council in a wider international context.

THE BRANDT COMMISSION will at least be remembered for succinctly pointing out the dangers of stratification of human societies, especially at the international level. The report argued for peace through elimination of disparities, to the extent that whatever differences may remain are palatable to the people on both sides. The main areas of difference are in wealth and power. The aims of the Commission are close to those of trade union movements, but whereas the Commission more or less pleads the unions are involved in the struggle. It is the spirit of this struggle which is behind the formation of the Commonwealth Trade Union Council.

After many years of informal contacts trade union organisations within the Commonwealth have now established a body, the Commonwealth Trade Union Council (CTUC), to maintain and strengthen their links. The President is Mr. Dennis McDermott, President of the Canadian Labour Congress, the Director is Mr. Carl Wright, former Secretary to the Economic and Social Committee of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

The CTUC, which came into existence on March 1 this year, is based in London, it has a membership of 25 million workers who belong to trade union organisations in 40 Commonwealth countries; it aims, through enhanced co-operation between the

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national trade unions, to promote the interest of workers by influencing the decisions of employers, governments and institutions within the Commonwealth

As the Commonwealth consists of a varied mixture of peoples living in about one third of the world's independent nations with differing economic capabilities — the majority of the nations are ex-British colonies in the South, it is an entity whose economic dynamics is representative of the North-South polarisation. The CTUC is therefore justified in its belief that it is in a position to contribute to the North-South Dialogue and the New International Economic Order, as analysed and prescribed by the recent report of the Brandt Commission. According to Carl Wright the report embraces the main aspirations of international labour movements and the CTUC hopes to use it as a major source of ideas.

The Report notes that "Most Third World countries regard industrialisation as a central objective of their economic policy . . . The drive towards it reflects deeply felt needs for modernisation and economic independence". The recommendations amount to industrial revolution in these countries, and there will be a massive increase of workers in manufacturing from its present low level of perhaps 5 per cent in the poorest countries.

To obtain fair labour standards the workers will have to organise themselves into forces to be reckoned with, they will therefore need every assistance they can get from the more experienced labour movements of the North. The CTUC aims to help to organise trade unions and "promote acceptance of, and respect for, trade unionism".

Since much of the production and trade in manufactures from the Third World countries "takes place within the worldwide operations of multinational corporations", world-wide solidarity of the employees of these companies would certainly increase their bargaining power. Apart from a recent exception by Volkswagen in Germany the multinationals have so far refused to face the international fronts of their workers, their insistence on talking only to workers at individual plants was described by Carl Wright as "the method of divide and rule". The CTUC hopes to be able to bring international pressure to bear on obstinate companies, and perhaps employ the occasional sympathy strike, but they lack (at present) the global muscle to pull off any sustained international industrial action.

Protectionist policy

It, as the Report recommends, the Third World countries are drawn more into world trade their workers' security of employment will become more dependent on how much their manufactures are sold in other countries. The danger here is the possibility of exporting unemployment to the North, hence the argument for protectionism which is often backed by affected unions. Carl Wright says the CTUC's stand on protectionism will be along the lines suggested by the Brandt Commission.

In the Report's view "Imports from the Third World can play a significant part in dampening inflation in the North. Furthermore, to limit the exports of developing countries will reduce their ability to import (to buy), thus both hindering the creation of new, more productive jobs in the North and forcing the developing countries to borrow more. This in turn makes it harder to service their debts, which puts additional strain on an already precarious financial situation".

Instead of protectionism the Report calls on all countries to adapt and adjust, using non-discriminatory and internationally negotiated safeguard measures. The difficulty here, Carl Wright admits, is to convince the workers who regard themselves as victims of 'adjustment' that their lost jobs are a worthwhile sacrifice to create a harmonious world order.

Unions may resist the temptation to ask for protection from competition but they will be opposed to exploitation of the workers, which can be easy in countries where the people are poor and organised labour weak. The Report judges that, "Export that result from working conditions which do not respect minimum social standards relevant to a given society are unfair to the workers directly involved, to workers in competing Third World exporting countries and to workers of importing countries whose welfare is undermined. They are also unfair to business concerns and countries which encourage social progress".

The achievements of trade unions depend on the rights of workers to associate and organise. In many Third World countries these rights are determined by the ruling elite, whose wealth also controls the economy, consequently opposition to union power in these countries often extends beyond the traditional one — a leader is quoted to have said that trade unionism is a luxury which only the rich countries can afford. Carl Wright wants to say to such leaders that their countries' participation in the world economic order internationalises their labour standards, and apart from international pressure which could be brought to bear on them he has one message for them: "Support of organised labour means support of the people".

Such a leader could reply that 'support of the people' is only a figment of the worker's imagination, and he could back this up with the strict monetarist argument that organised labour is not a market force. Why should those with the power worry about support from the people if they have other means of effectively controlling the other forces? The crux of the matter is change. The Brandt Commission says that not only is change inevitable but co-operation is the only method of ensuring its smoothness.

National trade union organisation has used the findings of commission and sociological surveys but experience has shown that more strength is required to bring about any change. It will be a long time before international labour organisation will be able to do more than watch copies of international reports, resolutions and conventions at employers and governments, with the hope of getting them to speak the same language. But it is easy to imagine that those with the advantages must be seeking other ways of propagating their existing multi-lingual set-up.

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BOOKS and Publications

A mystery set forth

The Stone Images of Esie *by Phillips Stevens Jr. (Holmes and Meier Publishers Ltd., Africana Publishing Company, published for Ibadan University Press and the Nigerian Federal Department of Antiquities. £33.25)*

"MYSTERY" is the word inevitably used to describe the 1,000 or so carved soapstone figures, of great antiquity but of uncertain date, and ranging in height from 14 cms to over a metre, whose existence at the Yoruba town of Esie, in the then Ilorin Province, first came to the attention of the outside world only in 1933. Local tradition held that the figures, representing men, women, children and animals — some revelling and laughing, some playing instruments, but others of stern visage, and many armed — were the petrified remains of visitors from a distant place, who had been punished in this way, why or by what agency is not clear. Another tradition makes the figures Esie people who had offended powerful strangers. What seems certain now is that the figures were carved somewhere other than in Esie, to which they were transported, but that they were already there when the Igbomina ancestors of the present Esie people settled there in the 18th century.

Professor Stevens, now at the State University of New York at Buffalo, is an anthropologist who first saw the images in 1964 when he was a Peace Corps teacher. That year he began full-time work in the Federal Department of Antiquities under the late Kenneth Murray, to whom he dedicates his book. Soon he was cataloguing and photographing the entire collection of images — already under the care of the Department, although jealously guarded by their local custodians — and effecting repairs to them. He spent 17 months on the job, but it was not until 1974 that he was able to return to Esie to take more photographs and do more research. Now he offers us both the first complete catalogue of the images, and a summary of all that is known about them, the apparently related figures in the nearby villages of Ijara and Olaro, and the little-known terra-cotta sculptures associated with the stone images, together with his own tentative hypothesis about the origins of the images — an hypothesis guardedly supported by Professor Frank Willett in his stimulating introduction to the book.

An outstanding feature of the figures is the presence among them of what Professor Stevens calls "elements" of most of the great West African artistic traditions. They have consequently been attributed, for example, to the Nupe, to Benin and even (because of the supposed "Amazons" among the female figures) to Abomey. A "Matchet's Diary" from Esie in this Journal, in 1970, suggested that so many Nigerian types and features were represented among them that the figures illustrated a kind of premature "One Nigeria".

Finally Professor Stevens suggests that the figures were carved in or near the cosmopolitan, commercial, Yoruba city of Old Oyo, and produces sound reasons for that suggestion, and for the further one that the images, which had come to represent a "microcosm" of the "internal and external world of the Oyo", had to be preserved by their removal when, in the 15th century, the Nupe of Bida captured the city. Later the still conquering Nupe found the Oyo refugees and their images at Esie and inflicted on the symbolic images the terrible damage which has left few intact. This hypothesis leaves many questions to answer, and much research to be done. But it is a satisfying conclusion to a fascinating discussion.

Stone carving cannot be easily dated, but the Esie terra-cottas have been attributed to the 12th century. Dr. Stevens took the trouble to have Esie and Ijara fragments analysed geologically in the United States. It was concluded, cautiously, that the Esie fragments had one source, but the Ijara fragments another. He discusses the problem of locating the quarry from which so much talc schist could have been taken.

This photograph of an Esie head is taken from Philip Allison's book African Stone Sculpture (Lund Humphries)

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and concludes that it must be between the Upper Ogun Valley and Borgu — perhaps it was taken not from an open quarry but from a tunnel in a hillside.

The greater part of the book, however, as befits a catalogue, is devoted to photographs. Apart from those illustrating the 100 pages of text there is a catalogue of some 300 pages of plates, all black and white, of images and "miscellaneous objects". The images are shown in four categories: complete figures, repaired figures, heads, and torsos. In many cases there are more than one view. Of the complete and repaired figures there are over 600 photographs, of the heads over 750, of the torsos over 180. Professor Stevens himself took the catalogue photographs, and re-photographed most of them when the first products proved inadequate for reproduction in a book. Inevitably the photographs appear small, and sometimes inadequate, when compared with the few carefully-selected photographs of the images produced in a book like Philip Allison's *African Stone Sculpture* or William Fagg's *Nigerian Images*. But this is what Professor Stevens modestly calls "a useful tool" for further research, not an "art book".

Although Professor Stevens expresses his gratitude for the hospitality and help he was given during the many months he worked in Esie, the local people had not originally taken kindly to outside interest in the images, and even to efforts to house them or protect them, or to moving them, since such interference would affect their magical properties. They were led by the ruler of Esie, the Elesie, although he, because of a supposed offence of his ancestor which in turn led to the offence of the later petrified strangers, is not allowed to see the images. They are the objects of an active cult, and while the visitor may admire the archaeological, historical and artistic value of the carvings, this interest is often not understood, or is resented. This conflict between the traditional and the "scientific" approach affects all research of this kind, which can, unintentionally, devitalise the very subject it is seeking to understand; the camera and the tape-recorder are particularly dangerous to a living art, such as the dance, or music, and to ceremonies and paraphernalia.

Professor Stevens avoids judgments about the artistic value of the images. But many are elegant, there is much delicate carving, and many show great strength. His book is a valuable contribution to the growing volume of material illuminating the African past — one of many which, instead of the generalised studies of "African Art" which appeared so frequently a few years ago, offer a detailed examination of a particular subject.

Such a meticulous piece of work, by an author so modest, with its clear and limited objective, deserves respect and attention. Perhaps Professor Stevens might have said a little more about Esie today — he does not even mention that it is in Kwara state. The attachment to education of its enterprising sons and daughters — who have been so successful in commerce in Lagos and Ibadan and have, as Professor Stevens notes, paid for both an Anglican church and a mosque for the town, as well as street lighting — is summed up in the description of Esie as a place where "every compound hopes to have a graduate". Yet they remain — if decreasingly — attached to the cult of the images. Since the book was intended to be published — for technical reasons this was not possible — in conjunction with the 1977 FESTAC, Dr. Stevens, who had no space to do much more than mention the various artistic traditions of Nigeria, might have included in his bibliography, as providing a context for the Esie figures, Professor Thurstan Shaw's *Nigeria*, the best survey for the layman of Nigeria's archaeological heritage.

D.W.

The stone carving above from another area of West Africa, a nomah from Sierra Leone (probably Sembehun) was sold at Sotheby's in London last week for £180.

Filial threnody

The Heritage of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor by *Avril Coleridge-Taylor* (Dennis Dobson, £7.50)

"HONOUR your father and mother." The commandment is absolute, no ifs no buts. This lends a certain inviolability to Avril Coleridge-Taylor's biography of her father. It is true that the book contains a useful anthology of his work, and that it makes some authoritative pronouncements on points of musical interpretation. It is also a useful reminder to a forgetful and musically changed musical world of a great talent. But above all, it is an affirmation of love. It needs no other justification and on that level, nothing more need be said.

In the last third of the book, however, there occurs a startling switch from biography to autobiography. Here she tells a depressing story of a moderate musical career set against the background of a spiteful unloving mother. It includes a period spent passing for a white in South Africa. It is hard to imagine why she included this section. Neither in the mann

of its telling nor in its content is it significant, and autobiography should lay claim to at least one of the two. Unfortunately, the author is no stylist. The section on her father's death is entitled (with awful inevitability) "Death's Sting". Faults that are easy to overlook in her eulogy to her father become obtrusive and irritating in the latter part.

Better then to concentrate on the first part. Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) was born of a Sierra Leonean doctor and an English mother, and himself married an Englishwoman. From the moment of his discovery as a composer, his entire musical training was in the classical music of late Victorian England. Ironically, some critics could not help attaching racial stereotypes to an analysis of his music. In fact, his first acquaintance with black culture came through his reading of Langston Hughes, his meetings with Paul Dunbar, and through his studies of spirituals. If it had been given to him to live longer he would undoubtedly have explored his culture more extensively. An exploration of Sierra Leone music may also have come in its turn. But even then, Coleridge-Taylor would have been doing so from an entirely Victorian perspective. His early success integrated him firmly in the musical establishment of his day. He was swamped with a busy round of commissions, conducting, teaching and travelling.

As a daughter, Avril Coleridge-Taylor might have been expected to go beyond the generalities of his character, such as his kindness, humility and sensitivity, and tried to lay bare the unique psychological bases of his creativity. This would have enriched the very musical analysis she concentrates on. Instead, she offers a regular diet of quotations from admiring contemporaries and famous musicians like Britten and Sargent. Paradoxically this has the effect of dimming Coleridge Taylor's own light. A similar effect is caused by the frequent comparisons with Tchaikovsky and Dvorak. Perhaps words of praise from the great are necessary elements in the story of a fine talent struck down by double pneumonia before his prime.

K B-E

Some centuries further back

Chronology, Migration and Drought in Interlacustrine Africa *edited by J. B. Webster (Longman and Dalhousie University Press: £16)*

BEHIND THIS somewhat clumsy title there is a book to appeal to the general reader as well as to the student of historical method. For, as the editor says, his 11 contributors "unobtrusively demonstrate" their different methods of dating the pre-colonial history of an area for which no documentary sources are available before the mid-19th century, by "weaving" the methods into the history they write. The area is the "inter-lake" region of Eastern Africa, covering parts of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and the Sudan, and Rwanda and Burundi.

Nearly all the chapters were first read as papers at a Canadian Association of African Studies conference held at Dalhousie, and all but two of the authors are associated with the History of Uganda project sponsored by Makerere between 1969 and 1972. They include Dr. Ade Adefuye of the University of Lagos, who writes on the people of Bunyoro in Uganda and the role of the *Iyeze*, or spirits, in illuminating their history. Another contributor, R. A. Sargent, and the editor himself have worked at Ibadan.

Ten distinct dating methods are used in the volume to illustrate the history of various groups — chiefly lists and genealogies, for example. But, as the book's title suggests, prolonged periods of drought are recorded in the traditions of many people, and in this region dates can be given more precision because of the watch kept for millennia in Egypt on the level of the Nile.

Drought traditions are particularly useful for providing a regional chronology, which itself is essential for helping to date the history of some groups who, for example, keep no family genealogies, and for checking individual chronologies. The editor himself enthusiastically uses drought traditions and the "Nilometer" for framing a regional chronology, and Dr. R. S. Herring explains the working of the "Nilometer". Drought, famine and migration are mentioned in other contributions.

As a whole, the contributions represent meticulous and imaginative research. They open a little wider the door to the storehouse of the African past, and, as Professor Webster puts it, "push back the frontiers of history a few more centuries".

W.D.

Graham Greene of Africa at 75

Doctor Fischer of Geneva or the Bomb Party *by Graham Greene (Bodley Head, London, 1980)*

The Pleasure Dome *(film criticism by Graham Greene) J. R. Taylor (Oxford, 1980)*

The Human Factor *(film produced by Otto Preminger, 1979)*

For Whom the Bell Chimes *(play by Graham Greene, 1980)*

GRAHAM GREENE is of course well-known for his novels, travel books and articles on Africa — including Liberia, Dakar, Sierra Leone, Central Africa, Zaire and the People's Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and South Africa.

Ten years or so ago, Geneva would still have been a strange country for Africans, but by now most of the places mentioned in

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and around Geneva — Versoix, Vevey and Lake Leman — are known to hundreds of Africans who attend international conferences, study languages, international law and political science, work in international organisations or the diplomatic corps or come in for short periods to deposit large sums of money acquired illegally.

It has been a prolific year so far for Graham Greene. His new book, or novella, *Dr. Fischer of Geneva or the Bomb Party*, has been accompanied by *For Whom the Bell Chimes* in England, also the film of *The Human Factor* (set in Africa, London and Moscow) and a collection of his essays on film criticism brought together and edited by John Russell Taylor under the title *The Pleasure Dome* (Oxford Press). Such prolificity in a young writer of seventy-five is commendable and has put him quite above the Nobel Prize, an award which has so far — it is said because of the hostility of a prominent Swedish critic — eluded him. But another prestigious prize, the John Dos Passos, has recently been awarded him in the face of very high-level competition. For millions to whom the English language is a source of beauty, the Nobel award will gain added credit and validity when it is offered to Greene.

Philosophic shift

Most of the works of Graham Greene have been said to consist of the same characters. This is not true. But, in many of them, certain stereotypes occur. The narrator in recent novels is usually an educated, middle-aged man with upper middle-class connections who has had a former wife (either dead, divorced, estranged or frigid) a middle-aged man seeking comfort with a wise, sharp, young woman; a man who is imbued with a vague male pre-menopausal philosophy. He is usually in a cul-de-sac occupation with little social prospects, restlessly searching for God, constantly questioning and half-believing. Greene's characters usually fight their spiritual battles in alien locales; as his work progresses there has been a steady growth of spiritual development in the twenty or so books that he has published, a subtle but steady shift in philosophy from St. Augustine to Kant, and from there onwards occasionally to the reverence of the agnosticism of relativity of the Einsteinian $E=mc^2$. His novels contain restless symbolic dreams. His Christian philosophy, when it is present, thrives on danger and doubt.

Dr. Fischer of Geneva in the present book, a wealthy multimillionaire who has made his wealth by inventing and marketing a famous toothpaste, gives small dinner parties to which he invites wealthy guests. He humiliates them during dinner, sometimes serving them live lobsters and boiling water to dip them in and cook and he sometimes serves cold porridge alone. At the end of the party, they are given very expensive presents — 18-carat gold cigarette lighters, emerald necklaces, Mercedes-Benz cars and at his final dinner cheques for two million francs each. The narrator, Alfred Jones — with only a single hand (the other was lost during the 1939 war) — is a translator of commercial letters at a chocolate factory, who falls in love and marries Dr. Fischer's daughter, Anna Louise. Anna Louise warns him against contacting her father and going to his famous parties. But he does go, and comes face-to-face with Dr. Fischer. Alfred later confuses Dr. Fischer with either God or Satan, a confusion compounded after the tragic and sudden death of Anna Louise in a skiing accident.

The main theme of the book now revolves between the discussions of Jones and Fischer. "I like to think that my greed is a little more like God's," exclaims Fischer. "Is God greedy?" asked Jones. "Oh, I don't think for a moment that I believe in him anymore than I believe in the Devil, but I have always found theology an amusing intellectual game. The believers and the sentimentalists say that he is greedy for our love. I prefer to think he can only be greedy for our humiliation, which is bottomless, and the world grows more and more miserable whilst he twists the endless screw. God keeps us alive and gives us presents to alleviate the humiliations we suffer, as a cancer of the rectum, a streaming cold or incontinence." "They say," Dr. Fischer continued, "that God mirrors us in his image and perhaps he found himself a rather bad craftsman became disappointed in the result and threw it in the dustbin."

But it is within the embrace of his young wife, in her early pregnancy, that Jones, first humorously and then seriously, discusses the soul. "I think souls develop from an embryo just as we do. Our own embryo is not a human being yet, is still has something of a fish about it, and the embryo soul is not yet a soul. I doubt if small children have souls anymore than dogs do; perhaps that is why the Roman Catholic Church invented limbo." They continued to discuss souls. People who have suffered have souls. A soul requires a private life and there needs to be unhappiness for a soul to exist. If one has a soul one cannot be satisfied. Dr. Fischer has a soul, but probably a damned one. Greene's catholicism is convoluted and the anti-abortionist lobby will not be pleased.

Final dinner

Jones tries to commit suicide after Anna Louise's death and bungles it. He finds some comfort in Steiner, his late mother-in-law's platonic lover, whom Dr. Fischer hates. Dr. Fischer remains unmoved by his daughter's death, and invites Jones to the final dinner. It is at the final dinner that cheques for two million francs are hidden in crackers, one of which contains a bomb. The greed and humiliation of the very rich are exposed, and in the end these are turned to naked fear. It is at the dinner that Jones faces Fischer and discusses the difference between hatred and despicability. "One dislikes one's equals," said Fischer, "but I despise these." "Forgiveness?" Fischer asks. "That's Christian term. To despise comes out of great disappointment." "I wonder how one would revenge oneself on God: I suppose Christians would say by hurting the son,

So Jones and Fischer continue their philosophising until the final dramatic end, handled with great skill. "Hate is not contagious and does not spread," said Jones, "but when you begin to despise like Dr Fischer you end by despising all the world. But in the end love wins — love or the memory of love and hate, hatred and despise die with the mortal body." Jones walks sadly away from the lakeshore back to his empty house to sleep through his Jungian dreams of love for his departed "junge frau" Anna Louise in the country of the Jungefrau.

Addressing God

In his novels, Graham Greene addresses God like the German poet, Rainer Maria Rilke, and converses with him in the manner of the great Ashanti drums beating out their salutation greetings and questions to the ancestral deities. Only in the end will Greene receive his answer when, as he mentioned to his friends Anthony Burgess in a recent interview in *The Observer*, he wins the final prize of Death.

Dr Fischer, like the others, is bound to be filmed, but how successful it will be, is open to doubt. *The Human Factor*, as a film now showing in the United States and Europe, is a gem of English life projected into international wasteland of espionage, the nuclear bomb, apartheid and the salt and pepper syndrome of the struggle for the opportunity for love between white and black. The film is restrained and subtle in the English manner, and has been appreciated more by the intelligensia than by the general public. Perhaps the explicit matrimonial bedroom scenes of an African wife and an Englishman were too much for some local susceptibilities. Morris, the Russian agent, explains in Moscow to Castle, the principal character, that the latter had to be brought over to Moscow because his final transmitted secret information on an alliance between South Africa, Britain and the United States to form a nuclear *cordon sanitaire* between white South Africa and the rest of Africa with such a great scoop that Castle's presence at a Moscow press conference was needed. All his previous reports had been intentionally leaked from Moscow back to London with other false information and had caused the death of Castle's friend wrongly suspected and murdered by the British Secret Service (is this possible?)

Nicol Williamson, the superb English Shakespearian actor, has the part of Castle, and the Somalian model Oman (daughter of an Ambassador and not a peasant as publicity would have it) acts the major part of his black South African wife, with a subdued tone and with her Nefertiti-like profile. There is an all-too-brief appearance of the talented Sierra Leonean actress Glenda Foster Jones, emerging from the bedroom of the South African police agent in London.

In the end Castle's mother (Ann Todd) in England denounced her son after his defection to Moscow, but holds on to Castle's stepson (the little black African boy, Sam) with grim and determined affection away from his black mother who wanted to take him to join her white husband Castle in Moscow. "He will remain with me," she said, "as he is my grandson, and he is a British subject." Do we see in the ending some symbolism of Greene's final love for the African in the victory of the British upper class widow insisting on holding to the young African against the call of communism with the principled affection of a West freed from the growing racial prejudice of Britain? Ali and Scobie in the *Heart of the Matter* in their master-servant relationship; and Christopher Wordsworth, the fictional former Sierra Leonean chorister, in *Travels with my Aunt*, attending to the necessary and understandable bodily comforts of an ageing Englishwoman, now Sam, anglicised with his fondness for his dog Buller and picnics in the park and bedtime stories. Is this progression from the servants' quarters to the secret bedroom to the drawing room the final official acceptance of black-white affection? It will be for those like Dillibe Onyeama and others who study the subject to tell us whether there is still a generation in Britain which will continue to love Sam and his kind.

Outstanding critic

The film, as the stage, has always been an alternative but not always a commercially successful media for Graham Greene. His plays have not regularly been successful and the critics have not been too kind to the current one, *For Whom the Bell Chimes*, now playing at Leicester in the British provinces; perhaps he crowds in too many statements or perhaps he is too subtle for them. Nevertheless, his films and his film criticism have always been outstanding to some of literary admirers.

The Pleasure Dome has a great deal to teach our modern film critics. It is ironic for Africa that it was a critical essay on Shirley Temple which temporarily ended his career as a film critic when he was sued for damages. Shirley Temple was later Mrs Shirley Temple Black, one of the more successful American Ambassadors in Ghana and, briefly, Chief Protocol Officer in Washington.

Graham Greene's remarkable film in black and white, more than thirty years ago, *The Heart of the Matter*, with Trevor Howard as Scobie and a talented Nigerian actor as the black priest still remains memorable in my mind. The sound of the cicadas in the tropical evening, the darkening sky, the ferry on the flowing river, the dusty laterite road and the simple nobility in the faces of the Africans had such poignancy that when I left the Everyman's Cinema in Hampstead that evening in London in 1958 I started packing to return home to Africa.

Davidson Nicol

● *Davidson Nicol has reviewed books by Graham Greene for* West Africa *and the* West African Review *and has published critical essays on him in* On Not Being West African *(Ibadan University Press, Nigeria) and in* Africa: A Subjective View *(Longman's, London).*

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LETTERS to the Editor

Crime and criminality in Nigeria

SIR: I have meticulously been following several issues, positions, suggestions, reactions, theories, causes or purported causes of crime in Nigeria; as well as its attendant cure in your journal. There seems to be a universal agreement among these various writers that crime is a cankerous social problem which the Nigerian society can no longer turn a deat ear to. Aaron T. Gana (*West Africa*, January 7) pointed out that capitalism is the cause of crime in Nigeria, and socialism, its cure.

This was echoed by H. K. E. Ileke in the April 21 issue of *West Africa*.

While it seems that Mr Gana may have read a little bit of Marxist criminology, I strongly doubt if he understood the background of Marxist criminology, or read other Marxists like Adrian Bonger and Frank Tannenbaum. I must state that it is a gross misrepresentation to attribute capitalism as the cause of crime in Nigeria and even more folly to prescribe socialism as its cure. Such Marxist approach has been rejected by many criminologists, including this writer, and its unpopularity in criminological theory prompted opponents and particularly psychiatrists and psychologists to argue that psychological and pathological causes had their influence, too. Marx's dialectics — doctrine of the opposites, or method of the contrary case which proceed from thesis to antithesis and finally to synthesis — is a propaganda used by the Marxists to explain what they call the "defeat of capitalism by socialism."

Before a meaningful conclusion could be reached as to the causal factors of crime in Nigeria, a meticulous consideration of all pertinent factors should be reviewed rather than such a hasty theoretical deduction like capitalism. Some of the factors that may elucidate this point include: the profile of the criminal in question, his family background, number and length of incarcerations, association with other criminals, his case and mental history, recidivism rate, employment background, educational level and so on. Institutional factors such as rehabilitative programmes in prisons, effects of incarceration and deincarceration, disparity of sentences, selective law enforcement, a look at crime statistics in Nigeria, patterns of reported and unreported crimes, probation/parole, after-care services, and a host of other variables will at least show the crime picture in Nigeria, and may be some of its causes.

Crime in Nigeria results from several factors. Multiple causative factors as opposed to single causative factors explain crime and criminality both objectively and subjectively in Nigeria, as well as in any other place. Edwin Sutherland, a distinguished scholar of criminology, realised this after much criticism, when he propounded his theory of differential association. This is further illustrated by the causal factors of two leading schools of criminology — the classical and positivist. By way of example, both Cesare Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham belong to the classical school of criminology. Beccaria's criminological and penological syllogism centred on the social contract theory of the state, while Bentham proceeded with his pseudo-mathematical concept of felicity calculus — the principle of utilitarianism. On the positivist side, Cesare Lombroso's explanation was on his unilateral theory of atavism or the "born" criminal type, while Raffaele Garofalo proceeded with the concept of natural crime — offences to the sentiment of pity and offences to the sentiment of probity. Enrico Ferri, still of the positivist, postulated his law of Criminal Saturation in his efforts to explain the causes of crime and criminality.

My question to Mr Aaron Gana and H. K. E. Ileke are as follows: If the cause of crime in Nigeria is capitalism, what of the anomie theory, the concept of differential association or differential opportunity theory, the gang theory, the concept of middle-class measuring rod, the theory of delinquency and drift, the concept of neutralisation techniques, Tarde's laws of imitation and the labelling theory? What of physiological, psychiatric, and psychological theories of crime causation that are evident in phrenological and endocnological studies? What of heredity theories, body-type theories, biopsychosocial theories and sociopathic personality? Does it mean that these theories have no influence on crime and criminality in Nigeria?

In conclusion, I respectfully refuse to subscribe to their sophomoric approach, or to their hasty theoretical deduction that capitalism is the cause of crime in Nigeria and socialism, its attendant cure.

Huntsville, Texas CHUKWUEMEKA AGU

Ghanaian sailor thrown overboard

SIR: As reported in the *Ghanaian Times* (January 14) Oheneba Tachie escaped death after being thrown overboard into the sea off the Nigeria's Eastern Coast on the orders of a Dutch freighter Captain after taking his name and passport number.

According to Tachie, he stowed away with five other Ghanaians who were thrown overboard under similar circumstances. Tachie was saved by some Nigerian fishermen after swimming for six hours. As a result of Tachie's evidence, the Rotterdam court gaoled the Captain of the freighter for 3½ years on April 10.

Now that this has come to light, it should be possible for the Ghana Government to study the true evidence of Oheneba Tachie to establish the identity of the other five Ghanaians who met the same fate. Having done this the Government of Ghana could investigate the possibilities of claiming compensation for the bereaved families.

London J. Y. KURANKY
General Secretary
Ghana Overseas Citizen's Association

Objectivity and sound reporting

SIR: In your effort at reporting recent events in Liberia according to "international standards" you must not forget that you owe a moral duty to Africans, in particular to the people of Liberia. You are, of course, entitled to your personal views, but your professional position demands a greater degree of relative objectivity and sound reasoning.

After reading your editorials and comments on Liberia (*West Africa*, April 21 & 28, May 5) I have the impression that you somehow regard your readership as being either totally ignorant of the Liberian situation, especially before Master Doe's *coup*, or incapable of analysing the issues involved, much less of comprehending politico-economic power and ethnic relationships. I may be wrong, perhaps. It is fantastically unsettling that some issues of your journal carry letters from some on-the-spot observers (Liberian nationals who attested to the existence of undesirable conditions which allegedly justified the military take-over.

It is alright for those who "have made it" (by fair or foul means) or who are in power or even connected to powers-that-be, to write or talk

about human suffering only as an academic subject while ignoring those who endure the suffering, but it is quite a different matter for the victims of political oppression and suppression, economic exploitation and deprivation and socio-ethnic injustice and discrimination whether in Liberia or elsewhere.

For how long should the common people bear the burden? In our part of the globe, countries are not poor, it is the common people, the silent majority, who are poor in the midst of wealth and wasteful extravagance by the few. Certainly there is more than enough to go round without impoverishing the rich, and we could all work to enrich the poor but not to impoverish the rich — one is noble, the other is destructive.

Your attitude to the alleged catalogue of ills under Tolbert's regime was, "This *may* be true" (*West Africa*, April 28). Evidence available to you and to most of us indicate that "That was true. That is why it is a matter of great concern to all of us, Africans, and more so, to the Liberian people. I am sure you are capable of posing in a broader perspective the "question of military *coups* and moral rights" in Africa, rather than telling us that Master Doe's right resided in his possession of the gun (*West Africa*, April 21). What is the alternative to the barrel of gun? It is the ballot box, but it rarely works with us! And why? I think we all know the stories, we have the facts, and so let us be honest.

If the press, radio and television plus personalities and organisations, both in Africa and elsewhere in the world, joined in exposing corrupt and oppressive regimes, in conveying the enormity of the sufferings of a majority of the African populations, we would have fewer oppressive regimes and a continent of relatively happy people, not a slogan-chanting and dancing people. Really, don't there more credit for exposing socio-economic injustices and human sufferings than for conveying the horror of 13 executions? (*West Africa*, May 5).

The Liberian executions certainly were intended to eliminate corrupt elements, not to eliminate corruption; to discourage corruption, yes! What has existed in Liberia all along is sectional/ethnic hatred generated by uneven ethnic division of political power and economic wealth. You ought to emphasize the positive aspect: the struggle for a fairer distribution of income, rather than telling us that the executions will encourage an indiscriminate hatred for the rich and the successful (*West Africa*, April 28).

Furthermore, Liberian economic crisis has co-existed for some time with "all the high talent of men", and foreign confidence and capital, and international good-will have always been there. But the crisis was not resolved. It does not help to pretend not to understand how a given system operates and how certain relationships are maintained. If the True Whig Party failed to solve Liberia's economic problems after several years in power the new military regime might not succeed. Of course, Master Doe did make that clear. The entire people of Liberia have to work together for solutions. We have held erroneously for too long, the hypothesis that African military regimes can solve the problems bequeathed by their civilian predecessors. Now we ought to know better, and let us stop sturning up popular expectations that an in-coming military regime would solve inherited problems, such messages, often indirectly put across, amounts to building future crises. It doesn't pay in the long-run.

Liverpool O. CHEGWE

Letters to the Editor MUST bear the writer's full name and address though this is not normally published. Writers are advised to keep the letters succinct and to type them where possible.

Thoughtlessness among Ghanaians

SIR: I spent two days, Thursday (27/3/80) and Friday (28/3/80) in Tilbury as a guest on Ghana Black Star Lines *Nassi River*, watching the loading of this ship with a huge consignment of spirits — emphasis on Black Label and Dimple — destined for The Castle, Osu, Accra. It took three cranes, nos. 10, 11 and 12, two whole days to drop this watery export into the holes of *Nassi River*. To the best of my knowledge and belief, not a single bottle of aspirin was added to this load for the benefit of Ghana's poor and suffering masses. Callous, wicked, unfeeling, and wrong! Long live Ghana's Poor. God loves them. That's why He creates so many of them.

I am watching with interest the progress of Captain Boakye Djan. A spokesman for the AFRC, instead of speaking the English language, he mangled it. Now, as spokesman for Ghana's millionaire exiles in the UK, sufficiently flushed with money to be able to pay the return fare to Ghana just for the purpose of giving a press conference, he is waxing with eloquence. In one of the most indecent about-turns in our history, the object of his attacks is Jerry Rawlings whose towering personality dwarfed his bitputian image, whose tremendous intellectual capacity out-shone his dim flickers, and whose purity and honesty of purpose beat his comprehension. Perfidious, traitorous, treacherous and wrong. Long live Rawlings! He'll stand by Ghana's poor, and they by him.

I read Dr. Glah's sermon (*West Africa*, February 11). I heard him cry: "Give us electricity and water, and we'll see the promised land!" I shut my eyes and prayed: "Oh God, deliver us from the simplicity, thoughtlessness, and ignorance of mere lawyers." Naive, unsophisticated, childlike, and wrong. Long live Ghana in spite of some of her educated children.

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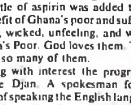

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ECONOMIC and Business NEWS

The missing men of oil

from a correspondent

THE INTERNATIONAL Labour Organisation recently published a report prepared for discussion by its Petroleum Committee. The report has a title which could only have been devised by a committee, *"The training of nationals as technicians in the petroleum industry of developing countries, including continuation training and retraining in the light of technological progress"*. All that can be said for such a title is that the authors can hardly help but improve upon it with the contents. In this case they certainly do, to such a degree that the price of £2.50 asked for a 40-page booklet does not in the end seem to be a typical example of bureaucratic overcharging but excellent value for money.

The report concerns itself, succinctly, with the need for people, trained to various levels of knowledge and skill, who are able to work usefully in the exploration, drilling, production and refining arms of the oil industry. These levels may range from university educated scientists to maintenance mechanics with experience of the equipment used in oil-work; some categories can only be attained after practical experience as well as off-site training and the report emphasises the need for supervisory staff as one of the major bottlenecks in the oil industry round the world.

Operations on these practical, hardware, sides of the oil industry are usually so patently expensive or dangerous that it is rare for operating authorities to risk lowering standards. A project will either be delayed until adequate staff is available (having been specially trained if need be) or if delay cannot be accepted then qualified outsiders will be taken on, often with the additional requirement of doing a little "apprentice" training in addition to their basic task. Actual numbers involved in a project need not be very high — the cost of manpower in most oil projects is usually a small element in the total overheads and the OPEC price rises have lowered the wage bill to an even smaller fraction, though at the same time making the cost of a mistake by under-skilled staff yet more expensive. The Nigerian Government has estimated the basic staffing needs of the Warri refinery at 160 technicians trained in specifically oil industry skills, 16 months of instruction at Nigeria's Petroleum Training Institute ... and these men are ordinary staff, not foremen.

The ILO's report makes plain that much of the oil industry is using and introducing fairly advanced technology and that even when it is applying what has become more widely diffused knowledge it is often under circumstances which require above-average skills of performance and levels of understanding. There is virtually no site way to by-pass the world-wide shortage of men whose special skills (in many, many fields) are up to the standards of the petroleum industry — not least the safety standards.

The report was specifically directed to the problem of training physically-skilled technicians — though they need to have a good general education as well — therefore it did not comment directly on the "technical" needs of routine management operations or the distribution of products. It is to be hoped that the specific disclaimer "this is outside the scope of the present report" presages another report on those topics.

Consequences of shortage

Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation has shown a worrying shortage of "technicians" in this area: accountants, for example, not just with diplomas and letters after their names but people who can reliably keep a properly documented account of business transactions as they happen and who have the necessary experience to accept responsibility for the work that they should do rather than seeking the protection of some superior. On the oil-winning side of the business there can be little doubt that the NNPC would never have ventured into any activity with an estimated price tag of even ₦200m. without making very sure that the necessary skilled and experienced man-power was available, even if non-Nigerians had to be employed for a while.

The ILO report emphasises that one of the major problems, (admittedly worse in developing countries than in the developed world's oil fields), is the lack of supervisory staff, that is people who know the job through experience and have the ability to guide and control other people at their work. The following quotation from the report speaks of engineers but its message would be equally valid if instead of engineer it had cited commercial accountant, or bank official or civil servant, etc. "As for engineers in the developing countries they receive training comparable with that of their counterparts in the industrialised countries but, unlike them, they do not find a structured, organised professional environment which enables them to adapt their theoretical knowledge to industrial realities. Consequently it frequently happens that an engineer in a developing country either has to work at a level for which he is over-qualified in order to make up for the shortage of foremen or else finds himself thrust into a position of responsibility without having first been able to acquire the authority which experience alone can give."

One direct consequence of employing people who lack experience, even when they may have the theoretical training relevant to their position, is that they tend to refer minor problems to higher authority who is thus deflected from carrying out his or her own proper duties while sorting out the affairs of over-promoted underlings. The consequent clogging of the chain of delegation means that senior men are having to work at tasks below their worth and the country may be deprived of the best efforts of top managers and civil servants because they are not being properly supported by an adequately skilled hierarchy below them. In the offices of oil companies the dangers of depriving workers of working alongside skilled men and of promoting them before they are sufficiently experienced are not so suddenly apparent as they can be in the oil-fields but they can be quite as embarrassing and apparently expensive.

The ILO's report ostensibly limits itself to a fairly specialised field of industry but in fact the underlying message, and it is not very deeply hidden, is beneficially applicable to almost any commercial or managerial activity and deserves to be studied far beyond the oil industry and those politicians and civil servants who have responsibility for the industry, at commercial as well as policy levels.

● Nigeria was the only member of OPEC not present at the recent conference in Taif, Saudi Arabia, to discuss OPEC's long-term strategy.

Last IMF gold sale

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has ended four years of monthly gold sales after earning a total of $4,600m. for a special fund to lend money to the world's poorest countries.

At the final auction in Washington earlier this month, the average price was $504.90 an ounce, substantially lower than the record $712.12 an ounce in February when gold prices were much higher.

The IMF sold a total of 2 million ounces at the auctions and still holds 104 million ounces. A meeting in Hamburg last month failed to agree on a plan to continue the sales and the remaining gold might lie dormant indefinitely.

Less than half the money from the trust fund for poorer countries has been lent so far.

Although gold buyers will be deprived of this steady source of supply, market analysts said the end of the auctions should have little impact on gold prices.

The IMF has been selling about 444,000 ounces a month for the past year, whereas South Africa adds about 24 million ounces a year to world gold supplies.

Tin talks end

Delegates to the conference of General trying to negotiate the sixth International Tin Agreement decided to end the conference two days ahead of schedule when it became apparent that talks were deadlocked over producers' demands that export controls must be included in the next ITA the present, fifth, ITA, which does include export controls, is due to expire on July 1 next year but can be extended.

The US has been opposed to export controls. The Common Market, which had been criticised for failing to make its position clear, has now said that it favours a buffer stock with an additional reserve and then, if these fail to keep prices within the agreed range, some form of producers' export controls subject to strict conditions.

● A study by Chase Econometrics Associates is said to have forecast that tin supply is likely to exceed demand over the next few years.

Cocoa recovers

Cocoa prices have recovered from the lows recently touched, with all this year's contracts again above £1,200 and next year above £1,300. This was probably because the market had become oversold though there are also reports of some tightness in nearby physical supplies.

It has been reported that the Ivory Coast is to send some 50,000 tonnes of beans to Brazil for processing, which would ease the pressure on storage facilities in the Ivory Coast.

● The International Monetary Fund's price index for primary commodities, other than gold and oil, which fell by 4.9 per cent in March (a greater fall than the preliminary figure of 4.2 per cent mentioned in *West Africa*, April 28) fell again in April, by 2.3 per cent on early estimates. The IMF noted that this coincided with statistics showing the beginning of economic downturn in the US.

The Cocoa index declined by 5.7 per cent during April.

Shows at Lagos Trade Fair site

More than 350 companies and other bodies from 20 countries have expressed interest in the series of trade exhibitions to be held at the Trade Fair Complex in Lagos.

The organisers, Expo System International Marketing AG — a subsidiary of the Glahé International Group, with over 30 years experience in exhibition organising, design and construction in various countries throughout the world — are expanding their world wide activities to meet the demand from industry for the exhibitions being organised.

The exhibitions are as follows: International Trade Exhibition for the building and construction industries, January 19—24, 1981; International trade exhibition for the wood and paper industries, January 19—24, 1981; International trade exhibition for Transportation and Traffic, January 19—24, 1981; International trade exhibition for chemical processing industries, February 23—28, 1981 International trade exhibition for agriculture and food processing industries, February 23—28, 1981; International trade exhibition for telecommunications, electrical and electronics industries, March 23—28, 1981

Bank of the North lifts profits

The Bank of the North recorded an after-tax profit of ₦9,400,333 last year. The bank's Chairman, Alhaji Aliko Mohammed, told the 20th annual general meeting of the bank at the Daula Hotel in Kano.

Profit before tax was ₦17,125,482, 1 7 per cent over the 1978 figures while this year's after-tax profit was 44 6 per cent better.

Alhaji Aliko Mohammed said that 1979 was a very difficult year for all kinds of businesses in view of the worsened balance of payment situation, world-wide recession and the stringent fiscal and monetary measures. These and other factors, such as the intense political activities, resulted in slowing down the pace of economic activities, hence a sharp decline in business activities and profits.

Total deposits had increased by 18 1 per cent, which the chairman said indicated the confidence reposed in the bank by its customers.

Total loans and advances amounted to ₦304,717,567 and about 71 5 per cent of them were in the agriculture, mining, manufacturing, construction and service sectors, he said. Lending to the agricultural sub-sector was, however, still slightly short of the six per cent minimum set under the Central Bank guidelines, he added, and hoped that the target would be met this year.

● The trading profits of Standard Chartered Bank and its subsidiaries for the year ended December 31, 1979, were £148 9m and the Bank's share of associated companies' profits amounted to £20 9m., giving total profits before taxation and extraordinary items of £169 8m This compares with 1978 profits, (annualised) of £146 3m.

At the end of 1979 Group assets had increased by 38 9 per cent to stand at £13,010m.

FAO to step up tsetse battle

A commission of the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has called for increased steps to combat animal trypanosomiasis in Africa — a usually fatal animal disease spread by the Tsetse fly.

The Commission on African Animal Trypanosomiasis in its first meeting at FAO headquarters in Rome urged close co-operation among member governments to implement FAO's long-term programme for control of the disease

The Commission said that the programme was essentially a comprehensive rural development programme for the areas infested by the tsetse fly and could be considered the largest small farmer development programme in the world today.

FAO deputy Director-General, Dr. Ralph Phillips, told the meeting that in Africa 10 per cent less food was available per person now than 10 years ago In many countries, particularly in West Africa, the tsetse-infested areas have suddenly assumed a new importance. "They offer a unique opportunity for planned agricultural development which could constitute the basis for a significant contribution to future food supplies," he said.

Technology talks get nowhere

Two and a half weeks of negotiations on a code of conduct for the transfer of technology ended in Geneva with no agreement reached on key issues. The 96-nation talks, conducted under the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), will probably resume later this year

The proposed code is part of a UN effort to work out non-binding guidelines on the behaviour of governments and private enterprise in the field. Developing nations say that efforts are often made to keep technology and market control under their existing ownership

One major obstacle to agreement was whether certain transactions between Western-based parent firms and their Third World subsidiaries should be regarded as restrictive practices.

Developing nations listed 20 practices such as price-fixing, exclusive dealing, restrictions on exports or employment which, they claim, hinder the flow of technology between suppliers and recipients.

Industrialised countries said that the parent-subsidiary deals should be seen as normal business behaviour unless shown to have adverse effects

Patently slow

Revising the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (the Patents Convention), which is seen as essential if the transfer of technology between the industrialised countries and the Third World is to become more equitable, looks like being a slow and painful business *(comes Peter Cullen)*. At UNCSTD in Vienna last year, it was held out as a palliative while the whole technology transfer system is being rethought, and there were high hopes that some rapid results might be seen. But after arguing for a whole month earlier this year in Geneva, the Diplomatic Conference convened to carry out the revision got no further than agreeing on what to do next, namely to reconvene itself "at the earliest possible date in 1981"

Any firm decision even on this point, however, must await the meeting of the relevant governing bodies to be held by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), towards the end of September. This United Nations specialised agency is, so to speak, the guardian of the many conventions and treaties relevant to patents, copyrights and similar agreements in this field at the international level. So it is the September meeting that should decide what to do next, "which", as one international servant put it "of course has budgetary implications", now more than ever an excuse for doing nothing!

For those who are really concerned to move ahead with liberalising the system, it must be particularly infuriating that the disagreement in Geneva recently was apparently on procedure to be precise, on the matter of voting Hitherto, this has always been by consensus and the contracting parties, where the Paris (patents) Convention is concerned (but not as regards the Berne (copyright) and some other Conventions)

Now, the "Group of 77", whose spokesman was Mr. Vanderpouye of Ghana's Mission to the UN in Geneva, want decisions to be taken by a two-thirds majority, while others, the United States in particular, refuse to move from the old position Many observers, however, believe that what worries the Americans is not so much the attitude of the "77" as that of the Soviet bloc, "Group D", who have not had much to say in public on the points at issue so far But whatever the reason for the stalemate, it looks like being another year before anything meaningful happens in liberalising the protection afforded by the Paris Convention to those patents and processes to which Third World countries need freer access if the New International Economic Order is to be anything more than a phrase in the mouths of politicians.

Common Market protectionism

The European Common Market has agreed to consult its trade partners among developing countries before bringing in import safeguards to protect domestic production, delegates to a meeting of the two sides in Nairobi said.

The two-day ministerial meeting of the EEC and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states had been discussing the implementation later this year of the second Lome Convention governing their trade and aid relations

Delegates said that the Common Market Ministers had agreed to an ACP request that consultations should be held before European countries brought in protectionist measures which might affect imports from the developing nations.

The conference also held a general debate in preparation for a new round of global talks on closing the gap between rich and poor countries which will be launched at the United Nations this autumn.

Common Market Development Commissioner, Claude Cheysson, said that when the full trade figures for 1979 were released they would show the ACP countries had a surplus in their trade with the European Community While several ACP nations had complained about terms of trade, he said The problem was actually one of the shape of their trade, not access to Europe which is guaranteed by Lomé II

EEC growth worries ACP

During the EEC-ACP meeting at the Lomé II Convention the African, Caribbean and Pacific states expressed concern over the serious effects of their European trade of the admission of Greece, Spain and Portugal into the EEC.

A document before the meeting said the accession of these countries to the EEC "will pose serious competition for ACP exports of similar agricultural and industrial products"

An examination of the effects of the enlargement of the Community on the ACP states shows that it will not increase the size of the market open to them, the conference was told.

Greece, for instance, trades more with the industrialised than the developing countries. It imports mainly coffee, cocoa, oil, timber and could not expand to allow more ACP exports. Portugal's imports from the ACP as a whole account for only 2 8 per cent of its total imports.

How EEC figures out Lomé I

With the first Lomé Convention having come to an end (on March 1) the European Common market Commission in Brussels has issued some figures about its operation (trade arrangements applied from July 1975).

Generally speaking the EEC, as a group, had a deficit in its trade with the ACP countries. This was mainly due to the trade with a number of raw materials exporting countries, especially Nigeria with its exports of oil. The tables below are in millions of European Units of Account:

	1975	*1976*	*1977*	*1978*	*1979*
					Jan–June
EEC IMPORTS	8,697	10,474	12,465	11,863	7,118
Annual growth rate	−17%	+20%	+19%	−5%	+20%
EXPORTS TO ACP	8,079	9,841	12,503	12,707	5,315
Annual growth rate	+33%	+22%	+21%	+2%	+18%
TRADE BALANCE	−618	−633	+38	+844	−1,803

The Stabex agreement in the first Lomé Convention covered 19 products and their sub-products, the only non-agricultural product being iron ore. The available funds amounted to 380 million EUA:

	TOTAL	GRANTS	LOANS
1975	80.0	41.5	38.5
1976	37.1	28.3	8.8
1977	32.4	32.4	–
1978	159.9	88.8	71.1
1979	6.2*	3.7	2.5
TOTAL	315.6	194.7	120.9

*Advances

The new Convention now covers most of the agricultural commodities of significant importance for the economies of the ACP countries, with a list of 44 products or sub-products. Funds available are 550m EUA.

Under the Convention certain financial resources were made available to the ACP countries. They were as follows, in millions of EUA:

	Available	*Commitments*
Fourth European Development Fund of which:	3,067.8	1,928.8
grants	1,995.2	1,510.2
Special loans	445.6	
risk capital	97.0	
Stabex	380.0	315.6
exceptional aid	150.0	103.0
European Investment Bank	390	347.6
TOTAL LOMÉ I	3,457.8	2,276.4
% of TOTAL	100%	66%

Aid "programmed" under the indicative programmes drawn up for each ACP State totals 2,235 million EUA of which 1,653 million EUA, i.e. 74 per cent, has been committed. The percentage of commitments varies considerably: 100 per cent 6 countries; over 70 per cent 32 countries; between 40 per cent and 70 per cent 11 countries; less than 40 per cent 7 countries.

The low percentage recorded for the last group is due either to the fact that the countries in question only recently acceded to the first Lomé Convention or to special political circumstances.

The 35 least developed countries, which account for 42 per cent of the total population of the ACP states were allocated 68 per cent of the aid for projects and programmes (88 per cent as grants); 60 per cent of the regional aid; received 39 per cent of the amounts transferred under Stabex and received 68 per cent of the exceptional aid.

Of the financial resources available for regional aid (300m EUA), 10 per cent was earmarked for regional co-operation projects. A total of 195m. EUA has been committed, i.e. 65 per cent of the appropriation.

Of the 20m. EUA available for microprojects, 15.3m. EUA (75 per cent) was commited to finance 49 programmes covering about 2,300 microprojects.

About 40 per cent of the total amount committed for projects and programmes was earmarked for rural development.

The EDF has committed about 466m. EUA for 47 co-financing operations with other sources of aid, notably Arab (591m. EUA), representing a total cost of 3,200m. EUA (of which member states are providing 476m. EUA on a bilateral basis.

The EEC also contributed 5385m. to the CIEC Special Action of $1,000m. decided on in Paris in 1977 (as a result of exchange rate movements, this contribution represented $419m in January 1980). Of this amount, which is administered by the World Bank, ACP countries have received 42 per cent, i.e. 5176m. (about 125m. EUA).

SHIPPING News

BARBER LINES
EASTBOUND — TEXAS due sail Apapa Apr. 27, Douala, Tema, Abidjan and Monrovia. TAMPA due Abidjan Apr. 27, then Tema, Apapa and Douala
WESTBOUND — TEXAS due load West African ports Apr. 23-30, for Norfolk, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. TAMPA loading West African ports as above May 11-18, for Norfolk, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York.

E.A.C. LINES
SOUTHBOUND — BORINGIA Oslo/Moss May 15, Copenhagen May 20, Aarhus May 25, Hamburg May 29, Bremerhaven May 29, Rotterdam May 31, Antwerp/Zeebrugge May 31, Rouen/Le Havre June 1, Tenerife June 5, Dakar June 7, Freetown June 8, Monrovia June 9, Abidjan June 18, Tema July 4, Lome July 3, Lagos/Apapa June 12, Douala June 16
NORTHBOUND — FIONIA Port Harcourt May 25, Lagos/Apapa May 26, Cotonou May 26, Lome May 29, Tema May 30, Abidjan May 31, Monrovia June 3, Freetown May 21, Dakar June 4, Tenerife June 7, Amsterdam June 10, Antwerp June 10, Rotterdam June 10, Bremen June 16, Hamburg June 15, Aarhus June 12, Copenhagen June 17, Oslo/Moss June 19, Le Havre June 19

ELDER DEMPSTER LINES
SOUTHBOUND — SAPELE due Port Harcourt May 19 SOKOTO sig London May 19
NORTHBOUND — DUMBAIA due Freetown May 20 PEGU due Takoradi May 21 SEKONDI due Liverpool May 19
EASTBOUND — SEKI ROKAKO sig Port Harcourt May 19
WESTBOUND — BLUE AKEISHI due New Orleans May 20.

FARRELL LINES
EASTBOUND — EXPORT BANNER New York May 2 arrives Matadi May 25, Douala Jun. 4 (if sufficient inducement)
WESTBOUND — EXPORT BANNER arrives Lagos/Apapa May 2, Matadi May 7, Douala May 12 (if sufficient inducement)

K LINE
WESTBOUND — CHAI VAREE from Japan via Hong Kong and Singapore, to Abidjan, Lome, Apapa/Lagos, Port Harcourt, Douala, Matadi, sailed Japan May 3 due Apapa/Lagos June 10

MEDAFRICA GOLDEN EAGLE/NIGERIA LINE
MEDITERRANEAN / WA — SOUTHBOUND — JESAMINE, Marseilles Apr. 19-21, Barcelona Apr. 22-23, Valencia Apr. 26, Agde May 2-3, Lagos May 8-12
NORTH EUROPE / WA — CAP BRETON Dunkerque Apr. 22-23, Rotterdam, Apr. 24-26, Lagos May 8, Port Harcourt May 12
USA/WA — HEKTORFF Lagos May 9, Port Harcourt May 13.

FAR EAST/WA — ZIRIA Kobe Apr. 18-19, Keelung Apr. 23-24, Hong Kong Apr. 25-26, Singapore May 1-2, Lagos May 22-31, Port Harcourt Jun 1-4.

MITSUI O.S.K. LINE
WESTBOUND — BRAVE PIONEER Kobe Apr 10, Hong Kong Apr. 2, Singapore Apr. 21, for Monrovia June 1, Apapa May 22, Port Harcourt June 1, Douala June 15. AFRICA MARU the Japanese Port Apr. 5, Singapore Apr. 16, for Abidjan May 9, Apapa/Lagos May 14. HEROINE sig Japan mid April, calling Hong Kong, Keelung, Singapore for West African ports mid May.

NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE
SOUTHBOUND — RIVER GO Liverpool May 12, Lome May 2, Apapa May 25. RIVER MADA — Hamburg May 2, Bremen May 3, Antwerp May 6, Rotterdam May 8, Apapa May 19

OT AFRICA LINE AB
SOUTHBOUND — KAPRIFOL Grangemouth May 23, Le Havre May 27, Felixstowe May 28, Waltamo May 28, Zeebrugge May 30, Rotterdam May 30, Lagos/Apapa June 12, Tema June 13, Abidjan June 14, Dakar June 17, Monrovia June 10

PALM LINE
SOUTHBOUND — APAPA PALM Abidjan May 4-6, Tema May 8-15, Port Harcourt May 17-28.

S.C.A.D.O.A.
SOUTHBOUND — SAINT-MATHIEU Dunkirk May 17, Rouen May 20, Le Havre May 21, Bordeaux May 24, Cotonou June 4, Port Gentil June 10, Pointe Noire June 11
SAINT-LUC Dunkirk May 20, Rouen May 24, Le Havre May 22, Bordeaux May 27, Dakar June 2, Abidjan June 3, Lome June 8, Apapa June 9 (containers only), Port Harcourt June 11 (containers only), Douala June 14, Libreville June 12
NORTHBOUND — SAINT-LIA June 13, Douala June 16, Abidjan June 19, San Pedro June 20, Nantes June 30, Le Havre July 9, Dunkirk July 3

SCANDINAVIA WEST AFRICA LINE
SOUTHBOUND — LYCAON Aarhus June 2, Copenhagen June 3, Norrkoping June 5-6, Banjul Dakar May 23-24, Freetown May 26-27, Monrovia May 29-June 1, Abidjan June 3-7, Tema June 8-11, Cotonou June 12-16, Port Harcourt June 18-23, Douala June 26-29.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE
DESSERT WIND ETA Houston May 2, ETS Houston May 7, ETA Abidjan May 22, ETA Lagos May 26. BUNNA FORTUNA ETA Houston May 10, ETS Houston May 15, ETA Abidjan May 30, ETA Lagos June 4.

UNITED KINGDOM WEST AFRICA LINE
SOUTHBOUND — MARON Middlesbrough May 9, London May 10, Lome May 26, Apapa May 27.

SITUATIONS VACANT

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN TEACHING HOSPITAL
P.M.B. 1111
BENIN CITY
VACANCIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS.**

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE
A University degree or Associate Membership of the Institute of Health Services Administrators (A.H.A.). Further training in specific areas of Hospital Administration will be an advantage.

SALARIES
G.L. 09 — G.L. 10 depending on experience.
Senior Assistant Secretary G.L. 10 ₦5,764 — ₦6,732
Assistant Secretary I G.L. 09 ₦4,668 — ₦5,640

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following posts in the Hospital —

A. **DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY**
(a) Consultants in the following areas:
(i) Microbiology
(ii) Morbid Anatomy
(iii) Haematology and Blood Transfusion
(iv) Chemical Pathology
(b) Senior Registrars I/II
(c) Registrars

CASUALTY DEPARTMENT
Consultants in the following areas:
(a) Orthopaedic Surgery
(b) General Surgery

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
(a) Senior Registrars I/II
(b) Registrars
(c) Electro-Encephalography (E.E.G.) Technician

GENERAL OUT-PATIENTS DEPARTMENT
Senior Medical Officers

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICES
Principal Medical Social Worker Grade II/I

B. **QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE**

(a) **CONSULTANTS**
Candidates must possess the appropriate post-graduate qualification registrable with the Nigeria Medical Council in any of the above-listed Clinical Departments and must have had not less than 5 years experience in the specialty, two of which must have been in a Senior Registrar grade.
Salary — G.L. 14 ₦9,168 — ₦10,128

(b) **SENIOR REGISTRAR I**
Candidates must possess appropriate post-graduate qualifications in the particular specialty registrable with the Nigeria Medical Council plus a minimum of four years experience in the relevant specialty.
Salary — G.L. 13 ₦8,064 — ₦9,024.

(c) **SENIOR REGISTRAR II**
Candidates must possess appropriate post-graduate qualifications in the particular specialty registrable with the Nigeria Medical Council and a minimum of three years experience in the relevant specialty.
Salary — G.L. 12 ₦7,404 — ₦8,052.

(d) **REGISTRARS**
Candidates must hold medical qualifications registrable with the Nigeria Medical Council and must have had at least one year post-registration experience in the relevant specialty.
Salary — G.L. 10 ₦5760 — ₦6732.

(e) **SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER**
Candidates must possess medical qualification registrable with the Nigeria Medical Council and in addition have wide clinical experience (not less than six years) as the duties include the supervision and training of junior medical staff and teaching of medical students.
Salary — G.L. 12 ₦7,404 — ₦8,052.

(f) **PRINCIPAL MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER I/II**
Candidates must possess a degree in Social work from a recognised University and a postgraduate qualification in advanced social work plus seven years experience. Preference will be given to candidates who have interest in Psychiatric Social Work.
Salary — G.L. 10 ₦5,760 — ₦6,732.

(g) **ELECTRO ENCEPHALOGRAPHY (E.E.G.) TECHNICIAN**
Candidates must possess Technician certificate in Electro-encephalography of the Electro-Encephalography and Clinical Neuro-Physiology Education Board or other comparable training and qualification.
Salary — G.L. 07 ₦2,832 — ₦3,552.

Expatriate Officers appointed on contract will be eligible for a gratuity on final termination of the period of their engagement to 15% of the above stated salary for each completed period of three months service.

D. **METHOD OF APPLICATION**
Application forms are obtainable from the office of the London Representative, University of Benin Teaching Hospital, 56/60 Hallam Street, London W1N 5LH. Application forms duly completed should be returned not later than 31st May 1980.

Alhaji L. B. Giwa
Director of Administration.

SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill vacancies in the undermentioned Posts in the Nigerian Ports Authority:

(1) Assistant Controller of Audit
(2) Principal Marine Engineer
(3) Principal Mechanical Engineer
(4) Senior Marine Engineer
(5) Senior Internal Auditor
(6) Senior Hydrographic Surveyor
(7) Pilot Grade II
(8) Internal Auditor Grade I
(9) Hydrographic Survey Grade I
(10) Hydrographic Survey Grade II
(11) Pupil Hydrographic Surveyor

2 QUALIFICATIONS/EXPERIENCE

POST (1)

Candidates must be a member of one of the following Professional Bodies:

(i) Association of Certified Accountants
(ii) Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria
(iii) Institute of Chartered Accountants of England, and Wales, Scotland or Ireland
(iv) Institute of Cost and Management Accountants, plus two years post qualification experience.

POST (2)

First Class D.T.I. in Motor or Combined Motor and Steam (Britain) OR

First Class M.O.T. in Motor or Combined Motor and Steam issued in any of the following Commonwealth Countries:

(a) Canada
(b) India
(c) Australia
(d) Pakistan OR

Equivalent qualifications from any European Countries. Candidates must be between the ages of 25—45 years and must have sailed as Chief Engineer for at least two years on vessels of not less than 3000kW power.

Position (4) same as in post (2) above but candidates must have sailed as Chief Engineer for not less than one year on board vessels of 3000kW power or above.

Candidates with Dockyard experience in addition to the above with particular emphasis in Dredging and Buoyaging Operations will be at an advantage.

POST (3)

Candidates must have a recognised and appropriate University Degree or equivalent. Preference will be given to candidates possessing qualifications registrable by the Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria. Minimum post qualification experience normally expected is for six years.

POST (5)

Qualifications as for Post (1). Newly qualified Accountants can be considered.

POST (6)

B.Sc. (Surveying); B.Sc. (Maths), B.Sc. (Geography), B.Sc. (Physics), Institute of Chartered Surveyors or its equivalent. Diploma in Hydrographic Surveying; Master Marine Certificate of Competency (F.G.) with at least four years working experience in Hydrographic Surveying.

POST (7)

Master (Foreign-Going) Certificate of Competency. OR First Mate, Second Mate Certificate, in addition to Pilotage experience under local conditions with at least 12 months experience in the Pilotage service. Experience of ship handling and piloting ships of various sizes. Must be desirous of accepting responsibility.

POST (8)

A good University Degree in Accountancy, Business Administration, Business Studies, Economics or a recognised professional qualification in Accountancy. Students in the final stage of their examination can be considered.

POSTS (9), (10) and (11)

The same qualification as for POST (6). At least three years and one year working experience respectively is required for POSTS (9) and (10). No experience is required for POST (11).

3. SALARY

(a) Assistant Controller of Audit — Grade Level 13: ₦8,064 x 320 — ₦9,024
(b) Principal Marine Engineer, Principal Mechanical Engineer — Grade Level 12: ₦7,404 x 216 — ₦8,052
(c) Senior Marine Engineer, Senior Internal Auditor, Senior Hydrographic Surveyor, Pilot Grade II — Grade Level 10: ₦5,760 x 162 — ₦6,732
(d) Internal Auditor Grade I, Hydrographic Surveyor Grade I — Grade Level 09: ₦4,668 x 162 — ₦5,640
(e) Hydrographic Surveyor Grade II — Grade Level 08: ₦3,564 x 150 — ₦4,464
(f) Pupil Hydrographic Surveyor — Step 2 of Grade Level 08: ₦3,564 x 150 — ₦4,464

4. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

(a) Furnished accommodation may be provided where possible at the rate of 8½ per cent of salary up to a maximum of ₦300 per annum or subsidised rent for Nigerians living outside the Authority's quarters.
(b) Successful candidates will be appointed on Contract; successful Nigerians will be offered appointment on probation in a pensionable post but those opting for Contract Service will not be so considered.
(c) Contract Officers are entitled to 15 per cent Contract Addition and Terminal gratuity of 15 per cent of substantive salary.

5. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Completed application forms with photostat copies of Credentials and two recent passport photographs of the applicant duly signed at the back by the applicant must be submitted to:

London Representative,
Nigerian Ports Authority,
Manfield House,
376/379 Strand,
LONDON WC2

6. Application forms are obtainable from the office of the London representative.

7. Closing date for submission of applications: **31st May 1980.**

Nigerian Oilfield Supervisors

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited invites applications from suitably qualified Nigerian nationals for positions in the company's production operations and maintenance departments based in Port Harcourt and Warri.

Production Operations Supervisor

This work covers the operation of oil field installations, pipe line transport and crude oil storage and shipment. HNC/HND in mechanical engineering is required along with practical aptitude. Previous oilfield industrial experience would be an advantage.

Production Maintenance Supervisor

Responsibility is for maintenance and servicing of turbines, diesel engines, compressors, pumps and other mechanical equipment in oilfield installations and workshops. HNC/HND in mechanical engineering backed up by experience in engine and plant maintenance is required. Experienced marine engineers are also suitable for this position.

Instrument Supervisor

Responsibility is for the installation, operation and maintenance of both electronic and pneumatic instruments and instrumentation systems in oilfield areas. HNC/HND in electrical/electronic/mechanical engineering required with experience in electronic/pneumatic instrument control in process industry.

These are senior staff positions carrying attractive salaries, conditions of service and fringe benefits.

If you are a Nigerian national intending to return to Nigeria this year and are interested in one of these positions, please write giving details of age, qualifications and experience to:

Mrs. P. W. Frise,
(W1), PNEL/41, Shell International Petroleum Company Limited,
Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA. Telephone 01-934 2493.

Candidates in Nigeria should write to:

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited,
PERL/7 (Nigerian Oil Field Supervisors),
40 Marina PMB 2418, Lagos.

SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, CALABAR
CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

STAFF VACANCIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following posts in the College of Technology, Calabar, Nigeria:

(1) ACADEMIC POSTS
Chief Lecturers, Principal Lecturers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I/II in:

(a) **Business Studies**
- (i) Accountancy — Management Accounting, Financial Management, Taxation and Auditing, Law
- (ii) Business Management
- (iii) Secretarial Studies

(b) **Science and Technology**
- (i) Physics — Electronics
- (ii) Biochemistry
- (iii) Fermentation Science
- (iv) Brewing Technology

(c) **Environmental Studies**
- (i) Building
- (ii) Land Surveying
- (iii) Architecture
- (iv) Town Planning
- (v) Quantity Surveying
- (vi) Law

(d) **Engineering (Civil)**
- (i) Water Resources and Public Health Technology
- (ii) Soil Mechanics and Foundations

(e) **Engineering (Wood and Paper Technology)**
- (i) Wood and Paper Processing
- (ii) Wood Technology

(f) **Engineering (Electrical and Electronics)**
- (i) Control
- (ii) Telecommunications
- (iii) Computer Techniques
- (iv) High Voltage Techniques
- (v) Electrical Power and Transmission

(g) **Engineering (Mechanical)**
- (i) Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
- (ii) Heavy Duty Machinery
- (iii) Materials Technology
- (iv) Automobile Engineering
- (v) Plant Engineering
- (vi) Instrumentation and Control
- (vii) Building Services

(h) **Agriculture**
- (i) Agricultural Mechanisation
- (ii) Fisheries
- (iii) Poultry Science and Management

(i) **Mass Communications**
- (i) Public Relations/Advertising
- (ii) Print Journalism (Newspapers/Magazines)

(j) **Education**
- (i) Business Education
- (ii) Technical Education

(2) Chief Instructors, Principal Instructors, Senior Instructors:
Engineering (Electrical and Electronics)
All fields of specialisation in (f)

Engineering (Mechanical)
All fields of specialisation in (g)

(3) Chief Technologist, Principal Technologist, Senior Technologist:

Engineering (Wood and Paper Technology)
All fields of specialisation in (e)

Engineering (Civil)
Water Resources and Public Health Technology

QUALIFICATIONS

(1) (i) Candidates for the posts of Chief Lecturers and Principal Lecturers must be distinguished scholars with appropriate teaching, research and professional experience of several years at the Polytechnic level or institution of similar standing.

Successful candidates will be expected to teach a variety of courses in the appropriate disciplines, initiate and supervise projects and research work and provide leadership and direction in the building up of the Department.

(ii) Candidates for the posts of Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I/II should possess a good honours degree or equivalent qualification in relevant disciplines from a recognised University or Polytechnic or Corporate Membership of relevant Professional Bodies. Post-graduate qualifications will be an advantage. Candidates should, in addition, possess appropriate teaching, research and professional experience of several years at the Polytechnic level or institution of similar standing.

Successful candidates will be expected to teach a variety of courses, initiate and supervise projects in the appropriate disciplines.

(2 & 3) Candidates for (2) and (3) must possess the HND/HNC or GCE with FTC (Technician) or CGLI in relevant fields. Other equivalent qualifications are acceptable. Candidates must possess relevant industrial/practical and professional post-qualification experience of several years. The level of appointment will be commensurate with proven experience.

CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

Expatriate staff will be appointed on Contract, the terms of which attract a contract addition of 10 per cent and terminal gratuity of 15 per cent.

Other conditions include part-furnished housing, passages, biennial home leave, and leave allowance.

SALARY GRADES

Position	Grade	N Commencing Salary	N Incremental Rate	N Upper Level
Chief Lecturer	GL15	10,296	516	11,328
Principal Lecturer	GL 14	9,168	320	10,128
Senior Lecturer / Chief Technologist / Chief Instructor	GL 13	8,064	320	9,024
Lecturer I / Principal Technologist / Principal Instructor	GL 12	7,484	216	8,052
Senior Technologist / Senior Instructor	GL 11	6,744	180	7,284
Lecturer II	GL 10	5,760	162	6,732

Further details and application forms should be obtained by telephone, telegram or urgent mail from:

KENFORD ASSOCIATES, The Shellings, The Street, WONERSH, Guildford, Surrey GU5 0PE. Tel: Guildford (0483) 898478. Telegrams: KENFORD GUILDFORD. Telex: 21120 Ref. 1480.

Completed application forms must be received by 7 JUNE 1980. Interviews will take place during the 4th week of June 1980.

SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS (1979/80)

V. MEDICINE (contd.)
(t) OPHTHALMOLOGY

No	Name	Course and level for which award is made	Country where award is tenable
1.	Asiegbu (Miss), Patience Ogugua	Diploma in Ophthalmic Nursing	UK
2	Nwogu, Jonathan O. E.	Diploma in Ophthalmic Nursing	UK
3.	Ajisafe, Ganiyu Oladejo	Diploma in Ophthalmic Nursing	UK
4.	Dr. (Mrs.) Garba, Olu-Anwan (nde Bassey)	DO/FRCS Ophthalmology	UK
5.	Dr (Miss) Ukpong, Umo Bassey	DO/FRCS Ophthalmology	UK
6	Dr. Nwosu, Frank Freedom	DO/FRCS Ophthalmology	UK
7	Dr. (Mrs.) Merenu Irene Adanta	DO/FRCS Ophthalmology	UK
8.	Dr. Alanamu, Rasheed Adebisi	DO/FRCS Ophthalmology	UK
9	Dr. Adido, Jaiye	Complete Nigerian Fellowship (FMC)	Nigeria
10	Dr. Ibechukwu, Brendan I.	DO/FRCS Ophthalmology	France (Paris)
11.	Dr. (Mrs.) Ejikeme, Ifeoma Felicia (nde Agwuma)	DO/FRCS Ophthalmology	UK
12.	Dr. (Mrs.) Azubuike, Constance C. (nde Nwankwo)	DO/FRCS Ophthalmology	UK
13.	Dr. Okuonghae, Louis Idahara	DO Ophthalmology	UK
14.	Dr. Onwochei Benjamin Chukwudi	DO/FRCS Ophthalmology	UK
15.	Dr. Audu, Momoh J'Gbadamosi	M.Sc. Ophthalmology	Egypt (Cairo)
16.	Dr. (Mrs.) Pam, Victoria Awawu	DO/FRCS Ophthalmology	UK
17.	Dr. Soetan, Ezekiel Olufemi	DO/FRCS Ophthalmology	UK
18.	Dr. Olubiyi O. Adeola	Complete Nigerian Fellowship (FMC)	Nigeria
19.	Dr. Oguntesi, Olusanya Adeola	DO/FRCS Ophthalmology	UK
20.	Dr. Ibrahim, Muritala Adeleke	Full DO/FRCS Ophthalmology training	Germany
21.	Dr. (Miss) Babalola, Omofolasade	DO Ophthalmology	UK

Permanent Secretary
Federal Ministry of Education
Lagos

APRIL, 1980

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SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

Nigerian Marine Officers

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited invites applications from qualified Nigerian nationals for employment in its Petroleum Export and Water Transport Operations.

Petroleum Export Terminals

The company operates marine terminals at Bonny and Forcados where marine officers are engaged in the planning, organisation and administration of oil tanker loading and handling, liaising with Port and Custom Authorities, agents, and berthing masters.

Water Transport

In Warri and Port Harcourt, marine officers are involved in the planning, operation and administration of the company's fleet of supply vessels, tugs, launchers and barges. The moving of rigs and heavy equipment from one drilling location to another constitutes an important element in this work.

Marine Officers with Master's Foreign Going Certificates are invited to apply for these positions. Experience in command of cargo vessels tankers is an advantage although training of the job will be given to successful candidates.

Attractive salaries and conditions of service are offered with considerable job satisfaction and security of employment.

If you are a Nigerian national intending to return to Nigeria this year and are interested in one of these appointments, please write giving details of age, qualifications and experience to:-

Mrs. P. W. Frise (M26) (PNEL 41),
Shell International Petroleum Company Limited,
Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA. Telephone 01-934 2493.

Candidates in Nigeria should write to:

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited,
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40 Marina, PMB 2418, Lagos.

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52 weeks	—	US$45.00	US$65.00
26 weeks	—	US$25.00	US$35.00
OTHER COUNTRIES (not specified)			
52 weeks	—	£22.00	£32.00
26 weeks	—	£11.50	£17.00

Dateline AFRICA

GHANA

Secret court-martial of eight

West Africa has received unofficial information from Accra that the seven soldiers undergoing court-martial for conspiracy to cause mutiny (see our 28 April issue) consist of one lieutenant, one sergeant, three corporals, and two leading aircraftsmen. The other accused person is a civilian, and ordinarily should not be subject to military law. Notable secrecy has been maintained as to the names of the accused, and the trial has been taking place inside Nsawam medium security prison. According to our information, not even relatives of the accused have been allowed to attend the trial which began on April 28. The accused are said to have been held in the condemned cells at Nsawam since their arrest on March 29. The president of the general court martial is said to be a Naval Captain Boateng, with four other officers on the panel. The Judge-Advocate first nominated, Justice Boison of the High Court, is said to have been rejected by the government and replaced by a Mr. Amarteifio, a lawyer in the Armed Forces Legal Directorate. Some procedural rules such as access for defence counsel to the statement of witnesses and of the accused are said to have been waived due to "exigencies of the service".

Our information makes particular mention of the case of Pilot Officer Ebenezer Odoi who was the only person arrested to have his name released officially (see *West Africa*, 14 April), but who was not charged subsequently and has not been on trial. Our information said there was "no evidence whatsoever connecting him with the plot except that the accused had planned to arrest him on D-Day and force him to fly a plane in support". A suggestion is then made that the motive for his arrest was to try and implicate Flight-Lt. Rawlings. Pilot Officer Odoi is also said to have been severely beaten at one stage of his detention at Nsawam by some people convicted by the AFRC People's Courts. Pilot Officer Odoi was a member of the AFRC Pre-Trial Investigation Team.

Allegations against AFRC

by *Palaver*

Mr. Chris Asher, Ghana's notorious "junketing journalist" and "Chief of [the] Investigation Bureau" of his own newspaper, *The Palaver*, has alleged that former AFRC chairman, Flight-Lieutenant J. J. Rawlings received "an ex-gratia award of ₵100,000 or $275,000, a white Peugeot [504 estate car] which he is currently using and a house at North Kaneshie . . . which is awaiting a choice of furnishing and occupation by Flt-Lt. Rawlings". According to Mr. Asher's investigations "which were analogous to the 'Hawain Five-O' modus operandi", this was part of the resettlement following the former AFRC chairman's alleged choice of voluntary retirement from the Armed Forces. According to Mr. Asher's "unimpeachable Inside Track" source of information, the two other options offered to AFRC members on the eve of the handover last September were either to remain in the Armed Forces and go overseas on military courses, or to proceed on extended leave before rejoining their units.

Mr. Asher further alleged that ₵50,000 (or $137,500) and one house each were given to Lt. Baah Acheamfour, Warrant Officers Grade II Oheng and Adjei, Corporals Owusu Boateng, Owusu Adu, Sheikh Tetteh, and Lance Corporals Gatsiko, Ansah Attemoh and Sarkodie-Addo. Mr. Asher said that Major Mensah Poku and the recently-promoted Major Boakye Djan were the only two who refused the cash awards and "rather chose to pursue further studies overseas in order to improve upon their intellectual capacity and professional competency" (sic). This information was on the front page of the May 5 *Palaver*. Inside, Mr. Asher said "Lance Corporal Owusu Adu" and Lance Corporal Tasiri were left out of the resettlement plan.

Strong denials by Rawlings

The following day, an irate Flt.-Lt. Rawlings toured the press houses to make strong denials of the allegations. Explaining that his patience was wearing out because "these lies have been going on for too long", he told the *Daily Graphic* that it appeared that certain people had not yet realised the factors that led to the June 4 Revolution and "were rather using 'prostitute' journalists and guilty members of the AFRC to propagate false news about innocent people". He called on the masses and the soldiers to demand the execution of any AFRC members found to have been rewarded with various sums of money by the Government. On the other hand, if the allegations were found to be untrue, then the "vicious liars" should rather be executed. He then called on the government to issue a statement or be considered as being a party to the allegations and condoning them.

House or car against principles

Flt.-Lt. Rawlings told the *Ghanaian Times* that those publishing the allegations were only using his name to sell their papers. On the Peugeot estate car, he said it had been allocated to him until his own car came back on the road. He said he had recently received a letter from the Castle informing him that the car had been allocated to him as part of his resettlement as a former head of state. "It is against my principles to receive a pesewa, house or car", he added. He said he was living in his wife's rented flat in a compound house, that he had not yet received his gratuity and that he was living on borrowed money. Countering an older allegation that he and his wife had left the country, Flt.-Lt. Rawlings explained that his BBC interview earlier this year had been recorded at Aburi, and that since the handover last September, he and his wife had not stepped out of Ghana.

Official reaction

On May 7, a statement by the government said that "in view of the fact that the AFRC did not give the in-coming government a statement of account, Government is not in a position to confirm or deny whether any sums of money were paid to the AFRC members as alleged. Flt.-Lt. J. J. Rawlings, as the chairman of the AFRC, is the man best qualified to enlighten the public on the matter. He should be positive and unambiguous on this issue".

The government statement recalled that President Limann had told a meeting with civil servants "some time last year" that the out-going AFRC had given no account of moneys collected during the AFRC period. "It was after this statement that the Government was informed that a sum of ₵23m. had been transferred by the AFRC to the outfit of the Special Tribunal. The amount has since then been transferred to the National Consolidated Fund".

On Flt.-Lt. Rawlings' retirement benefit, the government said it had consulted the Council of State on the matter and that the form AFRC chairman "has not bee unaware of the arrangements" then mentioned the car and police guard which Rawlings himself mentioned in his denial the cash award. "Governme wishes to confirm the fa publicised by Rawlings to the effe that a letter was issued some s months ago allocating a Peuge caravan to him. The fact of t matter is that J. J. Rawlings w keeping the said car pend allocation of a much mo saloon car to him. It was als Rawlings had expressed the desi to keep to the Peugeot caravan th Government decided to officia allocate it to him. As to th allegation that he has not yet bee paid his gratuity and that he h been living on "borrowed money the Government is informed th Ministry of Defence that since h retirement on November 27, 19 until February 12 this year whe his terminal leave ended, Flt-Lt Rawlings was receiving regular his monthly salary from th Defence Ministry".

A *correspondent writes*: Th Government statement avoid clear comment on an important aspect of the allegation made b Mr. Asher, namely that it was th PNP that made the alleged offer and payments. That the AFR made no statement of account i the PNP Government is mistaken since the transactions alleged her were between the same PNP an some AFRC members. It is also interesting that Majors Boakye Djan and Mensah Poku appear a the "clean" ones. Their trip t Ghana earlier this year calling for probe into the AFRC was mad allegedly orchestrated by Military Intelligence.

● Air Commodore O. Bamor ha been appointed Chief of Defence Staff. An official statement adde that he has also been promoted t Air Vice-Marshal. He replace Major-General Edwin Sam wh was appointed last November bu did not take up the post.

New Democratic Movement launched

A mass organisation has been inaugurated in Accra with the aim of serving as a forum for the ordinary Ghanaian to participate in discussions on national issues. Explaining the reasons for the formation of the New Democratic Movement, the chairman, Mr. Abraham Dodoo, observed that despite the various problems that had faced Ghana over the years "the ordinary Ghanaian has never been afforded the opportunity for influencing the affairs of the nation to his benefit." Mr. Dodoo, a civil servant, said past political organisations had paid lip-service to democracy, and that it was high time the masses felt concerned about the "hopelessness o

national life" instead of leaving the solution of the country's problems in the hands of lawyers, rich businessmen, priests and intellectuals.

"All we are seeking to do," he said, "is to mobilise all those who love Mother Ghana, irrespective of party affiliation, religion or creed, to join us to pool our resources and energies together to discuss the issues facing Ghana and suggest solutions for them." Mr. Dodoo said to achieve this aim, the New Democratic Movement hoped to organise lectures, symposia, civic education, community work, demonstrations, film shows, group discussions, and to provide legal aid. He therefore invited all Ghanaians who shared the concern that led to the formation of the movement to join it so it could attain its objectives.

At the meeting, Dr. Ebo Hutchful, a political science lecturer at the University of Ghana, Legon, spoke on "Foreign debts and national development". He called on the government to be wary of loans from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. He said such loans not only killed Ghana's initiative, but also enabled the two bodies to dictate, monitor and police the country's economic policy. Dr. Hutchful pointed out that Ghana's debt problems were not peculiar to her alone. Such problems were shared by all third world countries through no fault of their own but through the machinations of international capitalism, he said.

Autonomy granted GIHOC

The 16 divisions of the Ghana Industrial Holding Corporation (GIHOC) are to be autonomous in administrative and operational matters from this month. Each is to be a holding company. According to the GIHOC public relations manager, Mr Wilbe Ansah, the aim was to maximise efficiency and thereby increase production in all the divisions to make them self-supporting. He told the *Ghanaian Times* that the move was in accordance with the 1979-80 development programme which advocated the establishment of holding companies within GIHOC and other such corporations. Mr. Ansah said the general managers of the various divisions would assume the positions of chief executives and would be responsible for the administration and operation of their companies. They would be supervised by boards of directors whose selection would be done within the locality of the company. This manner of appointment, Mr. Ansah said, was to give the chief executives more room to take policy decisions in consultation with the local board without necessarily having to wait for assent from the head office. The chief executives would be responsible for procurement of raw materials, marketing and production. The head office would continue to maintain some form of control over the affairs of the divisions, but would only take policy decisions in relation to the control and operation of the divisions.

Huge welcome for Pope in Accra

Pope John Paul arrived in Accra to a huge welcome at the airport where enthusiastic crowds broke through police cordons and surrounded the podium on which the Pope stood. After descending the aircraft's steps, the Pope knelt down and kissed the tarmac. In his arrival speech, delivered in English, the Pope said "At the beginning of my visit of friendship and peace to Ghana, I smoke on this land and its people abundant blessing from Almighty God." He was later driven through the streets to hold an open-air mass. The Pope met President Hilla Limann and, later, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie. He then went to Kumasi where he met the Asantehene, Otumfuo Opoku Ware II, as well as an assembly of bishops.

During his meeting with President Limann, the Pope expressed hope that "all citizens will loyally work together without letting barriers arise between individuals and groups". He said: "You have your cities with ever-increasing concentrations of people where problems of housing, education and employment arise and demand bold action. But there are also the rural areas where most of the people live and where there exists a real potential for contributing to the national effort freed for development. Society should regard agricultural labour as ennobling, and the status and dignity of the rural population should be constantly improved."

On the international economic scene, the Pope said: "Too often the relations between states are seen in terms of mere self-interest in strengthening already dominant positions and of pressure applied through aid. The result is that older and economically more advanced nations fail to see that the young countries have much more to offer than simply a share of their natural resources or being a market for the products of industrialised nations". He felt that the third world had to offer included a strong sense of family, of community and of spirituality.

Meeting of two giants

Pope John Paul met Dr. Robert Runcie, the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, for the first time in the papal nunciature in Accra. An official statement on the 45-minute meeting said: "... the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury have established a personal friendship and trust upon which they intend to build in a fuller meeting in the future. They look forward to working together to achieve unity."

When the Pope addressed Ghana's bishops in Kumasi, he called for a consolidation of living and dynamic African Christian traditions. Pope John Paul took a cautious stand on moves to Africanise the Catholic Mass. He said services should "preserve unaltered the content of the Catholic faith".

Armed interventions criticised

Mr S. Riley-Poku, Minister of Defence, has said that armed interventions against constitutional governments are social evils which must be resisted and eradicated from the thinking of society. He said national armies are created to ward off external aggression and to undertake roles in aid of civil authority for the maintenance of peace and stability. The impression created by military interventions in Ghana, he said, is the effect that the armed forces stand as judges of the performance of civil rulers was therefore totally wrong and unacceptable.

Mr Riley-Poku was addressing 26 Ghanaian and two Nigerian officers graduating from the Ghana Armed Forces Staff College at Teshie. He said coups were an unacceptable way of approaching national problems because coups made the civilian population less vigilant about their civil liberties to be able to fight against such military encroachment. The Minister said Ghanaians must not be denied the civil methods by which they could deal with regimes they did not want. He said that unless Ghanaians helped to get the economy to support the things they so eagerly clamour for, they had no right to expect them. He advised the officers not to place themselves in positions where their loyalty to the state, to the Constitution and to the authorities would be questionable.

Foreign firm to run Black Star

A foreign shipping firm is to be invited to manage the Black Star Line for at least two years.

Such a firm is expected to bring along its own qualified top management personnel. This is contained in the recommendations of the report of the committee of inquiry into the Black Star Line which have been accepted by the Government.

According to the report, the Government is currently negotiating with reputable shipping lines for assistance in the administration, superintendency, traffic and financial control of the Black Star Line.

One of the firms has already submitted its proposals to the Government after brief face-finding discussions with officials of the Line.

The report stated that the firm had agreed to second its experts to fill the posts of managing director, financial controller, chief superintendent, nautical, technical and traffic manager.

It further explained that the firm had identified some of the problems of the Line in connection with deplorable financial situation, inadequate operational control as well as financial control by the corporation over its operations and the non-existent budgeting and cost control mechanisms.

Other problems cover overstaffing ashore and afloat, need for review of the organisational structure, need for stern measures in respect of discipline of staff afloat, improvement of customer contracts and sales efforts at home and abroad as well as the need to adapt the existing fleet of the corporation to the country's ocean-borne trade.

● The managing director, Captain Tachie-Menson, and three other top officials of the state shipping line, Black Star Line, have been dismissed with immediate effect. The three officials are Mr A. K. Quarshie, deputy Managing Director, Mr B. K. Ackerson, Financial Controller and Mr F. N. Arthur, Traffic Manager. In addition the assets of Captain Tachie-Menson have been frozen until such time that all losses recoverable from him have been met and a debt of ₵7,573.36 paid.

This was contained in a Government White Paper released in Accra recently on the report of the committee of enquiry into the affairs of the Black Star Line. The report, the statement said, should be studied by the Attorney-General and appropriate action taken to prosecute all those who had committed crimes against the State.

On Captain Tachie-Menson, the Government said it viewed the cumulative effects of his lapses, negligence, indecision, inefficiency, ineffectiveness and unauthorised actions which demanded something more than mere reprimand as recommended by the committee.

The statement said Mr A. K. Quarshie was also recommended to be reprimanded for not discouraging Mr J. K. Saw, chairman and managing director of Tata Brewery, after his request that the law be bent in favour of his company (Tata Brewery) to enable it to pay freight charges in local currency. However, the Government has decided that Mr Quarshie be relieved of his post and that "steps must be taken to collect an amount of ₵26,106.90 he owed the BSL."

The White Paper noted that Mr Ackerson was very weak in his accounting duties and this reflected adversely on his performance and efficiency and accordingly ordered his dismissal.

NIGERIA

New census planned

The Council of State, comprising the President, the 19 governors, former heads of state, former chief justices of the federation and key traditional rulers in the country, has met to discuss plans for a new census. The Council agreed to a census panel being set up, four men of "undoubtful integrity, loyalty and character" are to be selected from each of the 19 states. No date was fixed either for the appointment of the panel or the census itself but the speculation is that the machinery could be set on the rails before the end of the year. *A correspondent writes:* Nigeria's last official census was carried out in November 1963 and the figures were released the following February, when the total (revised from 60.5m) of 55.6m made Nigeria the tenth most populous country in the world. The census was the second in two years: the 1962 census became a political farce and was cancelled without the figures being published; it was generally accepted at the time that the results would have showed a greater population in the South than in the then Northern Region.

Even the results of the 1963 count were widely rejected, especially by southerners. These figures indicated that almost 30m Nigerians lived in the Northern Region. However, the 1962 and 1963 counts were the first attempted comprehensive head counts of Nigeria's population. The previous censuses (1911, 1921, 1931 and 1951-53) were only group counts enumerating heads of families and estimating family size.

The 1973 census was even more controversial, with serious allegations about rigging. The exercise, which had cost millions of naira and consumed many thousands of man hours, was struck off and was never used by anybody for any meaningful purpose.

A prompt, accurate and non-controversial census result (Nigeria's population is estimated by some to be as high as 100m) will allow the Federal Government to determine more accurately the distribution and allocation of the federal funds, housing, transport, employment, schools and other social services.

The Irikefe Panel in London

The Crude Oil Sales Tribunal of Inquiry investigating the alleged "missing" N2.8bn from the funds of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation has visited the Midland Bank in London, where the money was alleged to have been paid into a private account. The Judicial Commission, headed by Mr Justice Irikefe also visited the Bank of England; it was expected to visit New York in its bid to find out, according to its terms of reference, whether "any proceeds from the oil sales had been paid into a private bank account anywhere in the world". A spokesman for the panel said their overseas trip was made urgent by certain issues raised in some of the 15 memoranda the panel had received from the Nigerian public. The panel is expected to hold public hearing sessions before submitting its report on June 16.

CBN investigations

In another development, top police detectives investigating an alleged theft of N22m from the Central Bank have carried their investigations to some overseas countries, supposedly Britain and the United States. The Central Bank investigations started after the management discovered that unofficial telex messages had been sent to some Central Bank beneficiaries abroad. Subsequently some "vital files" of the bank were noticed missing from their appropriate cabinets. An official of the bank said they had received information that part of the missing money allegedly paid into a private account in London was withdrawn shortly after the theft was discovered. He stated that officials and the junior staff of the security section of the bank are believed to be connected with the theft.

● The Nigerian National Petroleum (NNPC) has been sued by some villages near Warri, Bendel State, over an alleged unlawful destruction of fish ponds and economic crops last January. The plaintiffs are claiming N300,000 in damages. The NNPC was not in court for the commital hearings and the case was adjourned until May 30.

Dr. Ekwueme gives guidelines

The National Economic Council (NEC) has directed all state governments to abide by the new guidelines on minimum pay and fringe benefits for the workers. The Vice-President, Dr Alex Ekwueme, who is also chairman of the Council, explained after the fourth meeting of the NEC that the guidelines were intended to create uniformity in the working conditions of workers throughout the country. He stated that the whole country constituted one labour market, and should have a co-ordinated labour policy.

The Council has also been looking into the question of car loans, car up-keep allowances, producer prices and ways of easing state government's access to the international capital markets and external loans.

● The House of Representative Committee on Education has recommended a new policy for admission into Federal Government secondary schools, Federal Polytechnics and Federal Advanced Teachers Colleges.

The committee recommended that places at the 39 Federal secondary schools be allocated as follows: 40 per cent for the state in which the school is located, 40 per cent to be shared out equally amongst all states, and 20 per cent on national merit.

Forty per cent of the places at the seven Federal Polytechnics are to be given to the educationally disadvantaged states, 50 per cent to be shared equally among states, and 10 per cent on national merit.

Admissions to the Advanced Teachers Colleges are to be based on equality between states.

Erring officers disciplined

Nine officers of the Nigerian Army have been disciplined for offences ranging from stealing, forgery and disgraceful conduct. The officers are: Captain J. Ogunbamigbegbin, found guilty of offences relating to public service property, making false documents and scandalous conduct, gets one year imprisonment with hard labour. Second Lieutenant J. A. Ladejobi, found guilty of the same offences, probably to a lesser degree, gets six months with hard labour. Major Ivaye, found guilty of stealing public property, disgraceful conduct and a civil offence, has been compulsorily retired together with Capt. A. Agid, Lt. H. M. Bamshika, Lt. S. A. Gbadebo and Lt. O. O. Olugbile. Major Ivaye is to forfeit N900 from his retirement benefits while Lt. Gbadebo is to lose N500 from his benefits.

Major Y. S. Adejo and Lt. Saka Bankole were both reprimanded for disobedience to an order and conduct inimical to military discipline. A Federal Government Gazette just published in Lagos has warned members of the armed forces to desist from scandalous practices or face disciplinary actions.

Another Government notice announced the voluntary retirement of the following five senior officers: Col. D. S. Abubakar, former military administrator of Anambra State, Major S. O. Olawoyin, Major D. O. Sunmola, Lt.-Col. R. A. Sanyaolu and Major P. I. Henacho.

Discharges and promotions

The following officers have been discharged from the army: Captains R. Adebesoke, A. Giwa, M. Ogbah, I. Mohammed and Lieutenants A. Tum, J. Abunga and C. Esegie, while the following 2nd Lieutenants have been promoted full Lieutenants: M. I. Gana, G. D. Mamman, J. O. Agboola, Y. Abdullahi, F. S. Osokugu, D. H. Stephen, A. Muhammed, M. Alh. G. G. Umoh, W. O. Apata, W. A. Yusuff, D. Okoboh, K. A. Ogwu, M. Lwarms, C. O. Omoh, M. Tuduwada, A. U. Danbatta, I. Onyenta, N. E. Ekwale, E. Nwaguma, J. B. Egbelule, S. Oyegbe, Y. G. Yahaya, T. Darmbahasluwaya, M. Komon, D. P. Grado, A. Olaiunji, M. Woji, S. S. Bazo, M. A. Aromo, A. O. Kaja, S. H. Shok, F. A. Jeb, E. B. Enetak, I. E. Nyang, S. I. Mutu, A. Amao, P. P. Akem, S. Damdatta, B. I. Unge-Kole, A. Babangida, E. D. Ahegbu, A. Omeiza, O. Akinyemi, A. O. Ogunaike, C. T. Arowojole, S. Mumodu, R. Abel, D. Kumbi, I. Ibrahim, L. S. Abubakar, O. Adesuni, I. O. Gbadamosi and L. Bello.

● The Ministry of Defence has recalled 600 civilian workers whose appointments were terminated during a retrenchment exercise under the military administration last year. The workers are to be reinstated in the various army installations where they had worked before, without loss of pay. The Ministry has also taken over the payment of salaries of all civilian workers with the army who hitherto drew their salaries from other Government agencies.

Legislation on contraband soon

The National Assembly wants to determine whether or not the customs and excise department should continue to burn some contrabands seized from smugglers. The decree which empowered the department to burn all smuggled items instead of the previous practice of auctioning them was promulgated in 1974. The decree also put an end to the option fine against any culprit. Apart from auctioning contrabands, items were also distributed to various deserving charity homes.

The Area Administrator of Ikeja Zone of the Customs and Excise Department, Mr. Eyo Effiong Eyo, said between February and April this year, goods worth over N785,000 were burnt by the customs officers.

Mr. Eyo said the Murtala Muhammed Airport area within its first year of operation had recorded 200 arrests with 14 prosecutions and 20 convictions while about N500,000 worth of accompanied goods were impounded. Contraband items range from shoes, ready-made dresses, expensive lace and other printed materials.

● A senior delegation of South Korea led by their Minister for Energy and Resources, Mr Yang Yoon-Sae has been paying a seven-day visit to Nigeria to seek alternative oil supplies and new market opportunities. The two countries have agreed to co-operate in the construction of refineries but the details have not been worked out.

Chief Akinjide at legal conference

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Chief Richard Akinjide, has been elected Vice-President of the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee. The President of the Committee is the Attorney General of Indonesia, who hosted the committee's conference held in Jakarta recently.

The committee sprang from the Bandung conference sponsored by the late President Tito and other non-aligned nations some 25 years ago. The conference recommended that a centre for the settlement of international commercial disputes be sited in Nigeria.

Chief Akinjide flew from Indonesia to attend the Commonwealth Law Ministers Conference in Barbados at which the Commonwealth scheme for the return of fugitive offenders, international abduction of children by parents or guardians, contempt of court, freedom of information and the transfer of convicted offenders were discussed.

Ogunsanya pledges support for accord

Chief Adeniran Ogunsanya, the newly-elected NPP chairman, has said that he would stick to the accord between his party and the NPN. He dispelled rumours that the accord was simply to share public offices and appointments with the government party. Instead, he explained, the NPP was motivated by concern for the peace and stability of the nation. He stated that his party would not mind if the NPN took up all the available positions in Government, apparently referring to allegations by members of his party that the NPN was completely disregarding the terms of the accord in respect of sharing of offices between the two parties.

The chairman denied rumours that the party had mandated their three governors (Anambra, Plateau and Imo) to explore wider associations with the other political parties. Chief Ogunsanya, who defeated the former chairman, Chief Olu Awokoya, on the basis of his organisational skills, stated that he was prepared to straighten out the party tottering from its many problems.

Black Maria investigations completed

The Chief Justice Ganiyu Agbaje Commission of Inquiry that investigated the Black Maria incident in which 50 people died, has submitted its report to President Shagari. The Commission was expected to find out how and why the men died and to suggest ways to avoid a similar tragedy in the future.

The incident occurred on March 3, between the St Anna Chief Magistrate's Court in central Lagos and Ikoyi Prison when 68 people charged with "wandering" were being taken back to jail on remand.

Boxers for Moscow Games

Twelve Nigerian amateur boxers have begun their last preparations for this year's Olympic Games in Moscow. The boxers, M. Nana (bantamweight), Blessing Uranta (feather), C. Ossai (light), A. Haruna (light), R. Ayodele (light-welter), Martins Omoabe (light-welter), Rolland Omoruyi (welter), A. Adeoye (light-middleweight), J. Oke (light-middle), John Martin (middle), Isiaku Adamu (light-heavy) and heavyweight Solomon Ataga. They left Lagos last week for Europe, under the leadership of Nigeria's Chief Coach, Hogan Bassey, one-time professional featherweight champion of the world, and three other officials — Abiodun Adeyemi (assistant coach), international referee and judge, Olu Oguntokun and the secretary of the Nigeria Amateur Boxing Association, Mr M. A. Alabi, who will be the team manager. The boxers will take part in international boxing tournaments both in Romania and West Germany before returning home on May 22.

Next month, the Nigerian women's basketball team will be in Bulgaria for the final qualifying tournament against China. Bulgaria and West Germany. If they win, they will undertake many other playing tours in Europe before returning home for their final preparations to go to Moscow.

● The Leeds Unit of the UK Branch of the United Party of Nigeria (UPN) has launched a £1,000 "unit project". The fund is aimed at providing interest-free bridging loans for Nigerian students who may experience delays with their bursary awards. An initial sum of £400 was raised at a recent meeting held at Leeds Universals.

Archbishop sues Lagos State

The Catholic Archbishop of Lagos, Dr Olubunmi Okogie, and representatives of some private schools have taken the Lagos State Government to court over the abolition of fee-paying primary schools in the state. The Governor of Lagos State, Alhaji Lateef Jakande, had announced plans to phase out private primary schools from October this year by declaring that payment or collection of school fees from such institutions should be illegal.

Dr Okogie and his followers are seeking a court injunction to

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restrain the state government from going ahead with its plans. A motion filed at Ikeja High Court on behalf of the applicants by Chief Rotimi Williams asks the court to declare that the proprietor of such schools have a right to run them and that parents and guardians also have the right to send their children to those schools. The hearing has been fixed for May 19.

FROM THE STATES

Imo

A motion adopted by Imo State House of Assembly called on the President "to curb the alleged excesses of the UPN" — Unity Party of Nigeria — in purchasing certain commodities, including Guinea corn, beans, maize and stock fish, with the "idea of creating artificial scarcity". The Deputy Speaker of the House, had announced that the UPN leader, Chief Awolowo, had "engaged middlemen to purchase some commodities for hoarding as a political weapon".

Plateau

The Nigerian air force base in Jos is to become operational as from October this year. This was made known by the officer in charge of the station, Group Capt. Raymond Omeiko, when he paid a courtesy call on the Plateau State Governor. He stated that the air force base will consist of three units. These include a combatant training school, and a military school. Initially, about 120 officers are expected to commence studies at the base next academic session.

● The Governor, Solomon Daushep Lar, has approved the substantive appointment of four permanent secretaries.

The officers are: Mr. I. R. Abubakar, Permanent Secretary, Social Welfare, Youth, Sports and Culture; Mr. P. D. Rwang, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Housing and Environment; Mr. G. G. Golu, Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Mr. S. E. Alu, Permanent Secretary, Department of Lands and Survey.

The Governor also approved the appointment of five acting permanent secretaries. All the appointments took effect from April 15.

Kano

Contract for the initial supply of four standard printing units for the proposed Kano State Newspaper has been awarded to Messrs Spicers Nigeria Limited, with headquarters in Lagos, at a cost of more than one million Naira.

The contract was signed by the State Commissioner for Home Affairs and Information, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Gumel, on behalf of the Kano State Government, while the managing director of the company, Mr Theodore Adesanya Doherty, and his marketing manager, Mr G. S. C. Weston, signed on behalf of the Spicers. The ceremony, which took place at the commissioner's office, was witnessed by the State Deputy Solicitor General, Alhaji Sanusi Ciroma Yusuf. Delivery of the units is expected to be taken in seven months time.

Sokoto

The Governor of Sokoto State, Alhaji Muhammadu Kangiwa, has called on the Government to consider the introduction of a lingua franca in the country to foster unity among the people. He had said that the continued use of a foreign language did not conform to the country's cultural and political aspirations. He had suggested that the use of the English language should be restricted to official matters pending the introduction of a lingua franca.

LIBERIA

Counter-coup foiled

The Minister of Commerce, Major Joseph Douglas, and some other army officers are reported to have been arrested after the discovery of plans for a counter-coup against the military government of Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe.

The Defence Minister, Mr. Bennie Pearson, said that he would give details later. Journalists said they had witnessed the arrests of at least 15 people at the Barclay Training Centre, Monrovia.

Major Jerbo shot dead

Major Wilham Jerbo has been shot dead while trying to escape into Sierra Leone in a canoe. Major Jerbo had led over 30 soldiers in what was officially described as an attack on military installations in Balata, Bong County, as a result of which Colonel Isaac Jurwah, artillery commander of the PRC, was killed soon after the April 12 uprising. Military officials said a corporal spotted Major Jerbo in civilian clothes trying to cross the river, and shot him. The major jumped into the river before being finally killed.

Concern of the PRC

The Head of State, Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, has said the concern of the People's Redemption Council was not to disorganise the country but to see that the affairs of state were well managed. He said it was for this reason that the present government was composed of both civilian and military personnel. Addressing a group of concerned Christian women who presented him with an *aide-memoire*, Sergeant Doe stressed that he and the PRC did not believe in discrimination, and pointed out that the Minister of Public Works, Mr Gabriel Tucker, had been permitted to participate in the PRC government because he had not taken part in the corruption of previous governments.

● President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia has told Zambian reporters that a decision on whether to reorganise the People's Redemption Council would be taken during a special session of the central committee of his United National Independence Party. President Kaunda was on his way back from Belgrade where he shed tears at the funeral of President Tito.

Military tribunal forges ahead

The five-man military tribunal set up to try officials of the Tolbert Administration ended a five-day break for administrative work last Monday. It has so far tried a total of 35 officials including the 13 who were executed.

ELWA radio reported that one of the most recent officials to appear before the tribunal was the former Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs, Mr. Samuel Green. He pleaded not guilty to charges of high treason, rampant corruption and misuse of public office. Mr. Green said the Liberian economy was flagrantly mismanaged and needed total restructuring. He said there was a marked level of indiscipline throughout the economy. Mr. Wilfrid Clarke, former Deputy Minister of National Security, also appeared before the tribunal. Pleading not guilty, he said he took an oath of office to protect the President of Liberia, an oath that was binding no matter who was president. This, he said, was why he reported to the People's Redemption Council when it came to power. Mr. Clarke said he was aware that the Liberian political structure had been monopolised to the exclusion of the vast majority of the Liberian people, and that the coup was therefore necessary to bring about change.

Tax collection stepped-up

Major Perry Zulu, Minister of Finance, has said the tax burden would not rest on the poor people alone. He said his Ministry intends to vigorously enforce tax collection, irrespective of the status of the taxpayer. Major Zulu also urged delinquent tax payers to make immediate settlement of their tax obligations. The names of such people would be immediately forwarded to the Ministry of Justice for enforcement and collection.

Major Zulu reaffirmed the confidence of the People's Redemption Council in Liberia's banking system. This follows reports that some businessmen were refusing cheque payments for goods and services and were demanding cash instead. In a new release from the Ministry of Finance, Major Zulu assured the public of the PRC's commitment to restoring normalcy as well as improving the general welfare of Liberians and residents. He said the Ministry would adopt and implement policies to increase productivity and employment and lessen the existing income inequality.

Financial status improving

Major Perry Zulu, Minister of Finance, has said that Liberia would strive to continue as the world's leading maritime nation. Major Zulu told a news conference that because of its contribution to government revenue, the maritime programme would be continued and supported by the People's Redemption Council. He said the government's financial status was improving steadily, and that a net $25m. overdraft with the Bank of Liberia had been reduced to $12m. The Minister called for more efficient and forceful tax collection and urged businessmen to file their income tax returns.

Courts reconstituted

Mr. Chea Cheapoo, Minister of Justice, has announced that Liberia's courts have been reconstituted and were to begin normal operations immediately. Mr Cheapoo told a news conference that the People's Redemption Council was convinced that no country could survive without law, order and justice. In an attempt to ensure this, the Liberian people enjoyed their civil liberty and protection, the Minister said the PRC has therefore decided to reconstitute the courts. Under the new provisions, these would be known as People's Courts. The highest court — the People's Supreme Court — will comprise seven members who have already been appointed to replace the former Supreme Court.

Soldiers warned against armed robbery

The Minister of Defence, Samuel Pearson, has said one of the duties of the PRC Government was to ensure intelligent security measures within Liberia's borders. Meanwhile, reported ELWA radio, a statement from the Ministry of Defence has urged soldiers who are armed to refrain from the habit of harassing the homes of innocent citizens as well as foreigners "in the form of armed robbery".

WESTERN SAHARA
Hostilities intensified

Morocco's two crack strike forces have gone on to the offensive in South Morocco to try and dislodge Polisario fighters from the Ouarkziz region, south of Oued Draa.

Fighting erupted in the area ten days ago after two months of calm, with units from the specially-created Ouhoud and Zellaka mobile forces meeting up with other units from Zag and crushing several pockets of "rebel" resistance, a Moroccan communique said in Rabat.

Morocco's first offensive in this region last March ran into unexpected resistance from the Polisario forces.

The Polisario front stated later in Algiers that 1,357 Moroccan military had been put out of action, a claim repeated by Morocco. King Hassan II put his forces' losses at 82.

Rabat said its troops in the latest fighting also took some Polisario positions and captured a considerable amount of equipment.

The Moroccan royal armed forces appeared this time to have succeeded, after a two-month pause and preparation, in the operation which failed in March, it is felt in Rabat.

The speed with which Rabat had announced the operation — contrasting with the normal discretion of official circles — was a strong indication that the Moroccan forces had scored a real success.

The official Moroccan communique said the "general clean-up operation in Ouarkziz" was continuing, indicating that the current offensive was only the first stage of a wider campaign.

This will enable the relief of the Zag garrison which has been under strong pressure for several months.

MAURITANIA
French troops to withdraw

Mauritania has reportedly asked France to withdraw its garrison of some 200 troops from the port of Nouadhibou, on the border with Western Sahara.

Official sources in Dakar said the demand had come after a cooling of relations between Mauritania and France. The troops were posted there last December after a request by Mauritanian Head of State Lt-Col. Khouna Ould Haidalla, who visited Paris in September.

The withdrawal demand did not concer the 60-odd French military advisers training the Mauritanian Army, the sources said.

There are several hundred French citizens working in Nouadhibou, which is the shipping point for the rich iron ore deposits at Zouerate, Mauritania's chief natural resource.

MALI
Workers want State companies

The Malian Workers Union, UNTM, has demonstrated in favour of the retention of State companies. This follows rumours that the state was considering selling off a number of the enterprises.

At the same time President Traore had earlier denied reports that Mali planned to "sell off at a discount" its state-owned companies. He said they "remain the framework of our national economy."

In an apparent reference to recent critiques of Mali's state sector he added "The best response that we can give to detractors be they at home or abroad is our serious approach to work and our high sense of duty and national interest."

In March, President Traore had said that Mali would open some of its state enterprises to the private capital. The state enterprises employ over 15,000 people and are the mainstay of the economy, though many are considered to be extremely ill managed and therefore indebted.

● Agricultural production in Mali is falling because of drought, Rural Development Minister Nfagnanama Kone said while opening a meeting of the National Agricultural Research Committee in Bamako.

He said that this year's production of sorghum, millet and maize was estimated at 950,000 tons against an average of 1,900,000 in 1970-1979. Groundnut production was estimated at 109,000 tons against 125,000 and rice at 185,000 against 250,000.

However, the Minister said that production of cotton — planted in well-watered districts under more controlled conditions — was continuing to grow.

NIGER

A tarred road from Niamey to Zinder along the border with Nigeria and linking the districts of Zinder, Dosso and Maradi has been officially opened. The 902 kms road took 13 years to build. The total cost of the project, some 585m. was met by the EEC Development Fund.

SENEGAL
Rural development strategy

The structures of the rural economy, for long an object of severe criticism in Senegal, have been reformed. The law was adopted by the National Assembly in April.

The main objective of the reform which had been announced last

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December by the Prime Minister, M. Abdou Diouf, as part of the measures aimed at reviving the Senegalese economy, consist mainly of a decentralisation and rationalisation of the marketing bodies, notably, ONCAD, the Office Nationale de Co-opération et d'Assistance au Développement.

Final resolution

The final resolution at the Assembly said the reform was made necessary by the enormous difficulties in the Senegalese rural sector after years of drought and inefficiency and lack of co-ordination in the organisational structures.

The reforms are intended, according to the law, to put an end to the deficit in food production, to stop the rural exodus and to increase the rural population with a view to creating an agro-industry. To this end, the regional organisations, of which there are ten, will be responsible henceforth for the organisation of production in their relevant areas.

At the same time, the reform indicates that ONCAD's responsibility for the marketing of production and for the co-operatives is to be reduced.

This organisation, which some had referred to as a state within a state and which last year, it was revealed, had embezzled funds to the value of one billion CFA francs will now be only responsible for the marketing of groundnuts. Private companies and traders will take on the marketing responsibilities for outer products. Furthermore, domestic sales of groundnuts to local pressing plants by co-operatives will now be done directly and not through ONCAD. Similarly, these co-operatives will handle the organisation for the distribution of their seeds and fertiliser. Regional development organisations are now made responsible for co-operatives at the expense of ONCAD.

Rural Development Fund

It is also envisaged that a Fund for participation in rural development is to be created. Its aim will be to promote rural development. The financing for the fund will be from taxes on agricultural products and from contributions from the agricultural transformation industry.

M. Djibril Sene said, in presenting his report, to the Assembly that the eventual aim, and criterion for the reforms, is that more responsibility should devolve to the rural population with a view to and eventual suppression of many of the existing organisations which undertake that role.

A correspondent writes: One of the battleries of the opposition in Senegal in the last few years has been the reform of the agricultural sector. The last two years have provided ample justification for their campaign. Essentially, it has been felt that the initial plans for a co-operative structure to agricultural production which had been introduced at independence and was very much supported by the original Prime Minister, M. Mamadou Dia, had gradually been eroded as the State interfered in growing proportions. As a result, the initiative was taken away from the peasants with striking consequences; peasants recently refused to repay their debts to the government, and in this action they were supported by their traditional and religious authorities.

It now remains to be seen to what extent the peasant will take up the responsibilities that are meant to be returned to him by the reform.

CHAD

Resumption of violence

Troops loyal to Hissene Habre have gone on to the offensive in N'Djamena.

Some of the fiercest exchanges in the two-month war erupted on May 7, and brought a resumption of violent clashes on the front line cutting the city in two between Mr. Habre's Armed Forces of the North (FAN) and those backing President Goukouni Weddeye.

More than 200 shells had exploded in fighting concentrated round the Habre-held April 13 camp and to the north of the town near the airport.

FAN soldiers appeared to be trying to push towards the French base in the airport, from which France is scheduled to pull its troops out by mid-May.

Earlier M. Habre accused France of "folding its arms" while Libya perpetuates the evil.

In an interview with Agence *France-Presse*, he rejected statements by his adversaries that he was responsible for the fighting.

Over the last few months, he said, Libya had caused the incidents that eventually led to the failure of the agreements on national reconciliation in Chad that were signed in Lagos last August by the 11 major armed parties.

Mr. Habré said that his Armed Forces of the North had the upper hand in the fighting that broke out in Ndjamena on March 22, "contrary to the calculations of the coalition of Goukouni Weddeye, Acyl Ahmat, Mahamat Abba [Said] and Kamougue and their Libyan protectors".

Mr. Habré said that most of N'Djamena was under his men's control, and that the only reason M. Goukouni's forces still held the European quarter and the Farcha suburb was because of the presence of the military base, where 1,100 French troops are stationed.

Fighting was going on in Central Chad as well, said Mr. Habré, who was sacked on April 25 as Defence Minister by a Cabinet decision that he says was invalid because not all factions in Government were at the meeting.

Libyan reinforcement

He said that "a Libyan column" was routed after it had tried to attack the towns of Ati, 400 kilometres (250 miles) east of N'Djamena, and Haum Adjer, near the border with Sudan. There also have been reports of recent arrivals in N'Djamena of reinforcements for Mr. Goukouni from Northern Chad and Libya.

"The war has been, in its origin and development, led by Libya", Mr. Habré said. He added that it was not in the interest of Chad that the fighting go on and that a realistic solution should be found to end it by peaceful means.

He saluted efforts — so far unsuccessful — by the Organisation of African Unity and Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema to bring about a ceasefire in N'Djamena.

Mr. Habré said that the decision to withdraw the French troops was France's right, but that "this decision was taken in a unilateral manner without consulting all the parties concerned".

He said that he did not reject the idea of a French presence in Chad in the future, but said that "as long as France folds its arms before the perpetuation of the war in Libya ... we do not see how the French presence can help us".

He said that, from the military standpoint, the French soldiers constituted "an obstacle to the movement of (our) troops into pockets still held by Goukouni's" and that the base provided the Goukouni fighters with "an incontestable logistical support".

ANGOLA

Western press criticised

The Angolan government has rejected a number of allegations which have appeared in the western press: "The Western information agencies have never accepted Angola's good fortune, for this reason the British *Reuter* and the French *AFP* have more than once spread lies about Angola, thus playing the official spokesman of puppet organisations, in an attempt to mislead world opinion into believing that the Angolan Government would not alone be able to guide the destiny of this great nation.

"The PRA has never at any time made a secret of the invaluable internationalist support it receives, mainly from the socialist community, in the fields of industry, agriculture, education, health and so on. Likewise we have never hidden the fact that Cuba gives us military support and will continue to do so for as long as South Africa remains a threat to our country by training, arming, equipping UNITA puppets and gangsters and sending them to southern Angola.

"Recently the greatest flights of fancy have come from London where the so-called FNLA has an office. And as recently as April AFP carried a communique from this Western capital and puppet organisation saying, among other things, Angolan President, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, visited Moscow last December to try and muster Kremlin support to persuade the Cubans to resume their abandoned efforts in northern Angola, and adding that the Angolan President was also in Havana to send considerable reinforcements to the 36,000 Cubans already in Angola. In addition to this — from London this time — the FNLA used Reuter on 7th May to try to tell people (much to the surprise of the Angolan Government), that 50,000 Nicaraguans had joined the Cuban forces in Angola.

Discrediting lies

"Taking into account the fact that these lies are aimed solely at discrediting the assistance given by the heroic Cuban people, the Department of political and ideological education of the MPLA Workers' Party Central Committee hereby categorically denies the arrival of Nicaraguan troops in Angola to fight alongside the FAPLA.

"To conclude we would like to recall the words of the late lamented Comrade President Dr. Antonio Agostinho Neto 'According to the imperialists Angola should have been a compliant toy in its hands, an instrument ready to fulfil imperialist desires. But Angola did not follow this path. Angola followed the path of independence, revolution and the building of socialism. This being the case it clearly cannot in any way align itself with the forces of reaction, be they internal or external'".

Export boss fired

President José Eduardo dos Santos has sacked the head of the State Export Board EXPORTANG), Jose Manuel Cerqueira, the Government News Agency reported.

The Exportang chief was dismissed for negligence after because the company's handling of exports was "extensively sluggish".

Exportang was blamed for the rotting of 2,000 tons of crushed peanut residue which would have been worth some $364,000. The President noted. He warned against too high a rate of spending from the country's financial reserves.

IN BRIEF

The creation of an African defence force is an "imperative necessity" for the maintenance of peace and security and the safeguarding of the independence of African states, a top Organisation of African Unity (OAU) official has said in Addis Ababa.

Africans would not be the target of the major powers, nor kill each other as in Chad if such a machinery existed, acting OAU Secretary-General Peter Onu told the opening session of a meeting of experts mandated to study the implications of establishing such a force.

"We often find ourselves impotent in the face of many acts of aggression and foreign interventions in Africa and repeated attacks perpetrated with impunity against front-line states by minority racist regimes of Southern Africa", Mr. Onu said.

Such attacks had occurred against Angola, Mozambique and Zambia. There were also conflicts between independent African states, he added, that sometimes had been settled with the use of force, very often with the support of extra-African powers.

The meeting of experts originally postponed for lack of a quorum, proceeded later with a simple majority of 23 delegates present. Its task, cut out by the OAU Monrovia summit last year, is to undertake a detailed study of the legal and financial implications for the creation of an OAU defence force. Its establishment in principle has been approved by the Heads of State. Following their eight-day meeting, the experts are expected to come up with a draft protocol or convention which will go before the next OAU Summit in Freetown.

SIERRA LEONE

Inquest on Sam Bangurah

According to the bi-weekly newspaper *The Tablet*, an inquest into the mysterious death of Mr Sam Bangurah, Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone, is to open in Freetown shortly. The paper says that the terms of reference of the specially appointed inquest are to look into whether the late Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone was a victim of foul play, or whether he met his death by misadventure.

Mr Serry Kamal, a prominent lawyer will represent the interest of the family of Mr Bangurah at the inquest, and he will appear up with another legal academic, Dr Joko Smart.

Soon after Mr Bangurah's death, the Government issued a statement in which it asked for anyone having any information about the mysterious death should come forward and help in the investigation which the CID was then carrying on.

Russian gift

The Russian Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Mr Alexander Voroitsov, has presented to the Minister of Social Welfare and Rural Development, Mr. Thamu Bangurah, who is also responsible for sport, with 40 boxing protection shells, 50 football shirts, 50 Tee shirts, 30 pairs of football boots and 40 pairs of boxing gloves for use by Sierra Leone's team to the Olympic Games in Moscow.

● Qatar has agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with Sierra Leone.

● The Foreign Minister, Dr Abdulai Conteh, met East German Prime Minister Willi Stoph for talks last week in East Berlin on developing ties between the two countries. They also discussed the international situation.

East Germany and Sierra Leone developed close ties in the 1960s but relations subsequently cooled when the Freetown government complained that East Germany had failed to honour agreements to help to develop Sierra Leone's economy and industry.

Ritual murder acquittals

All 20 people accused in a sensational ritual murder case were acquitted and discharged in the High Court in Freetown. The 20 accused, including Paramount Chief Bayoh, had been charged with killing one Samuel Muyagba, a dispenser of Kailahun District, for ritual purposes in November 1978.

Thirteen of the accused released earlier in the trial on a no-case submission put forward by defence counsel, led by Dr. Gershon Collier. The 12-man jury gave a verdict in favour of the remaining seven and they were acquitted and discharged.

Others in the defence team included Mr A. B. Yillah, Mr Blyden Jenkins-Johnston and Mr Berthan Macauley jr. The State prosecution was led by Mr Edmund Cowan.

OAU preparations

With only a few weeks to the start of the OAU Ministerial Conference in Freetown, the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs has stepped up its campaign to secure more accommodation and transport for the many guests and observers expected in Freetown for the meeting. Recently the Minister, Mr D. F. Sheare visited various hotels in the city in order to assess facilities available.

The Ministry is also contacting citizens in the Freetown area who had said they would be able to accommodate visitors for the duration of the summit, and radio announcements are being made asking people with cars and other vehicles for hire to get in touch with the Motor Drivers Union, which will be responsible for organising the fleet of cars and other vehicles needed to transport people from place to place.

. . . and portraits

Dutch artist, Mrs Teja Banks, has been commissioned to paint the portraits of all the African Heads of State for the OAU Summit in Freetown in July. Already ten of the portraits have been completed and have arrived in Freetown from Holland.

Last year Mrs. Banks painted a portrait of President Stevens, which she presented to him in March; it now hangs in State House. She has also been commissioned to paint the portrait of Vice-President, S. I. Koroma, in his capacity as Chairman of the local OAU Secretariat. All the remaining portraits will be sent to Freetown before the summit.

● Mr Timothy Perry, Overseas Field Officer of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, has been in Sierra Leone on a two week visit, to talk with members of the Presidential Award Scheme about expanding the scheme in the provinces.

Mr. Perry addressed training conferences in Kambia, Bo, Port Loko, Makeni, Kenema and Freetown, and held discussions with educational and tribal authorities.

Lomé II prospects

Sierra Leone will receive up to Le78m from the European Economic Community under the Lome II Agreement, to finance national development projects and programmes, according to Mr Erich Wirsing, leader of a seven-man EEC Programming Mission which has been in Sierra Leone discussing financial and technical co-operation for the next five years, with the government.

In addition to the Le78m., 90 per cent of which is non-reimbursable, the European Investment Bank has indicated that it would consider providing assistance to mining, industrial and tourist projects submitted by Sierra Leone.

Records at Standard Bank

Standard Bank Sierra Leone Limited made a profit of Le1,507,194 for the year ended December 1979, the highest profits since the bank went public nine years ago. The bank also paid record tax of Le1,331,444.

Presenting his annual report to shareholders in Freetown, the chairman, Mr J. H. Smythe, said that a total dividend of ninety cents per share will be paid to shareholders, with Le882,000 being added to the unappropriated profits brought forward from 1978 to give a carry forward figure of Le2,580,475.

In his report, Mr. Smythe said that he envisages a slowing down in the bank's performance during the current year, as a result of the severe credit control imposed on commercial banks by government's pre-OAU year stabilisation programme. He was confident, however, that the bank would achieve figures that would ensure a useful dividend for shareholders.

Boosting trade and health checks

The Government has given trade inspectors powers to enter commercial houses, and search and even arrest businessmen so as to ensure that price control is enforced.

The minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. S. A. J. Pratt, told price inspectors that consumers will in addition be appointed shortly to carry out surveillance of the activities of trade inspectors in various part of the country. He said that a comprehensive list of essential goods is being compiled to be circulated to commercial concerns. He warned the trade inspectors to expect frequent transfers from one area to another to discourage corruption.

● Police and public health officers are to be given wider powers to arrest without a warrant any person found committing an offence under the Public Health Amendment Act.

German move

The possibility of transferring the African Bureau of the German Adult Education Association from Accra, Ghana, to Freetown has been discussed by Mr. Werner Kewelsh, head of the bureau, and Mr Jacob Horn with the Extra Mural Studies Department of the Fourah Bay College.

● Sierra Leone Brewery Limited, has given a cheque for Le1,000 to the Principal of Fourah Bay College to cover the expenses and fees for a student to be selected from the Engineering Department by the college authorities.

● Abdul Salam Zainu-Deen, LLB., University of Leeds, of Savage Square, Fourah Bay, Freetown, is to be called to the Bar by Gray's Inn.

Bible commentary

Plans for the publication of the first Bible commentary in an African language are well under way, according to Professor the Rev Edward Fashole Luke, Head of the Department of Theology at Fourah Bay College. Professor Luke, who is Chairman of the West African Association of Theological Institutions, says that the first of several volumes of the commentary will be published in January, 1981.

So far the Association has received five completed commentaries, those on James, Hebrews, Job, Psalms and Ephesians, as well as some introductory articles, and each will be produced separately in booklets. There are plans to

eventually publish them in larger volumes.

The project started in 1975, and more and more African Biblical scholars have become involved in trying to interpret the Bible in the various cultural, political and social milieu of Africa, so that it would become more meaningful and relevant to the people of Africa.

THE GAMBIA

Tourist trade

A total of 4,920 charter tourists to The Gambia in February, represents a decline of 6.2 per cent over the previous month and of 16.8 per cent compared with the corresponding month of last year.

The February air charter tourists who numbered 4,087, represents a decline of 5.7 per cent in comparison to the corresponding month of last year.

The number of charter tourists arriving by sea and land during the month under review was 833 compared with 911 during February last year. For February, British tourists formed the biggest single group of tourists, closely followed by German and Swedish tourists.

Charter tourists thus far this season (October 1979 to February 1980) totalled 19,779 compared to 21,469 for the same period of last year, representing a decline of 7.9 per cent.

● Tourists and visitors to Basse can now enjoy the facilities of a modern hotel. Located on the main road between Basse and Santa Su suburb the Apollo Hotel is expected to take over the traffic formerly handled by the Chiefs' Rest House. Mr. B. E. Jobarteh, the commissioner, said at the opening the availability of hotels would be good to draw tourists to the area.

● The Gambia will be host to a meeting next month of African jurists who would put final touches to the OAU Charter on Human Rights.

Help from FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organisation, FAO, has provided the Government with D200,000 to finance food aid, groundnuts seeds, and vitamin-packed "licking stones" for livestock.

Dr. Edouard Saouma, director general of the FAO said he had discussed technical assistance with Sir Dawda, part of which was the provision of D54,000 worth of the "licking stones" — an improvisation which will provide much needed vitamins whenever the animals would like it.

He asked for Government help to transport the 5,000 10-kilogramme tablets from Senegal. He promised a D138,000 subsidy to help in the sale of seednuts to farmers who suffered severe harvest shortfalls in the 1979 season.

Dr. Saouma also said that his office had agreed to give 3,000 tonnes of cereal food-aid now with an additional 1,000 tonnes to follow shortly.

● A total of 75,071 tonnes of groundnuts have been bought by licensed buying agents in The Gambia during the 1979-80 Trade Season up to the week ending 11th April, as against 128,981 tonnes for the 1978-79 season.

Property deal

The Minister of Finance and Trade, Alhaji Muhammadou Cham, told parliament that the former Gambia High Commission premises, at 28 Kensington Court, in London had been sold for £200,000. The Gambia government had paid a price of £80,000.

Exam results

Out of the 323 Gambian candidates who sat the Ordinary Level General Certificate of Education, GCE, 44.9 per cent were awarded certificates for the May-June and November-December School Certificate GCE, the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) has reported.

Of the 39 candidates who sat to the Advanced Level Examination, 61.5 per cent obtained between one and four passes, 11.6 per cent obtained subsidiary passes and 7.9 per cent failed.

The total number of candidates from The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria and Liberia who took the Ordinary and Advanced Level School Certificate and GCE examinations was 430,290 this year, an increase of 9.5 per cent over the 1978 figure.

New MD for NTC

The Board of Directors of the National Trading Corporation, NTC, has appointed Mr. Alieu M. Mboge as managing director. He moves from the State Pressure Board which he inaugurated as managing director, a post to which he was appointed when he was accountant and deputy managing director with The Gambia Ports Authority.

Mr. Mboge, began his career in accounting with the Elder Dempster Shipping Agency as accountant-manager. He succeeds Mr. Hatib Janneh.

Bishop retiring

The Right Reverend Bishop Michael Maloney of the Roman Catholic Mission in The Gambia has resigned on grounds of ill health after nearly 42 years in The Gambia.

● The Mayor of Banjul, Alhaji Saihou B. Foon, returned home recently from the ninth conference of Mayors of the World's Major Cities, held in Milan and Turin. The theme of conference was "The Future of the City — the City of the Future, and topics included resources and urban development, food and water supply, and energy and urban development.

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