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CORDIAL SUSPICION

"Good relations based on mutual suspicion" This was how one senior Nigerian official recently described relations between his country and France and there is every sign that the recent visit to Lagos of André Bettencourt, Minister Delegate in the Foreign Ministry in Paris fell within this framework. For the visit bore every sign of cordiality and goodwill, and passed off in a manner which would hardly have been thought possible at the end of the civil war three years ago, in view of France's support for the secessionists. M. Bettencourt spoke of "cleaning up a lot of misunderstanding and prejudices",

adding that henceforth Franco-Nigerian relations would be "confident".

Nigeria's attitude to France was put comprehensively by Dr Arikpo, the External Affairs Commissioner, in an interview with *Agence France Presse* on the eve of M. Bettencourt's visit. The feeling persisted in Nigeria, he said, that "France did us a wrong" during the war, but there was a desire on both sides for "greater understanding". Dr Arikpo also noted the strong trade links between Lagos and Paris, adding, "it would be unwise to ignore each other. Apart from trading links there is also the fact that we are literally surrounded by French

speaking African countries in which French influence is still strong and which French commercial, economic and technical activities are still going on. We realise it will certainly help our relations with these countries if we bring our relations with France on to an even keel".

Since Nigeria's independence in 1960 suspicion has, for the most part, had the upper hand. Nigeria broke diplomatic relations in 1961 over the French Sahara bomb tests, and only resumed them in 1966. So for five years there was almost no official contact. French suspicion of anglophone Africa at this stage, however, was concentrated on Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana, which was pursuing an active policy of supporting francophone oppositions, of which Nigeria could not have been accused. It was only with the coming of the civil war that French fear of the size of Nigeria, and the threat posed to France's own sphere of influence in Africa, came out into the open, not because of anything Nigeria did herself, but because there seemed to be the possibility of Nigeria breaking up.

To some strategists in Paris this may have seemed to be in the French interest. Even then French policy was not coherent, as the support for the secessionists was concentrated in the African and Malagasy Affairs Secretariat, under M. Foucart, while the Quai D'Orsay took a more conventional view of French relations with Lagos. There was after all important French investment in Nigeria, not to mention the prospect of expanding trade relations. These conflicts led to a certain irresolution in Paris on the Biafra issue which prevented the hoped-for recognition, and ultimately frustrated the secessionists more than it satisfied them. They only succeeded in adding, probably twelve months to the duration of the war.

Yet the maintenance of contact between Lagos and Paris, the fact that diplomatic relations were never again broken, meant that at the war's end it was not necessary to start from scratch. The over-riding reason was Nigeria's belief



King Kofi's death
mask

• Nigeria's oil palms in decay



Kerekou's Dahomey

• Lonrho returns to Zaire

that the key to developing relations with French-speaking Africa lay in good relations with Paris. It had been seen in the war how Gabon, for example, had been used by the French against Nigeria, and, over the first decade of independence, how attempts to put together a West African economic grouping had been inhibited by the continuing powerful French presence. This is not to say that suspicions of giant Nigeria might not exist on the part of smaller francophone states themselves, to some extent France may only have been voicing their fears. The influence of President Houphouët-Boigny, for example, has been strong in Paris on this issue.

Rightly or wrongly, Nigeria has chosen the policy of gentle persuasion and friendship as the best way of overcoming these suspicions, and one of the objectives has been the construction of the West African Grouping. Dr. Arikpo also pointed out in his interview that the present economic ties between France and her former African colonies were "limiting factors" to the "very worthy objectives" of co-ordinated development and efforts at trade among African states. Thus, in the French communiqué issued after M. Bettencourt's visit it was mentioned that "the different projects for regional organisation in West Africa" were discussed, and Dr. Adedeji, the Federal Economic Development Commissioner, was quoted as telling M.

Bettencourt that the proposed West African Economic Community would be a "prosperous trading partner with Europe".

What bearing all this may have on the present manoeuvring between the Nigeria-Togo economic union on the one hand and the projected francophone West African Community (CEAO) meeting now reportedly scheduled for Abidjan in March, it is too early to say. But M. Bettencourt, when asked about this on his departure from Lagos, said "Africa cannot develop without a more direct co-operation between anglophone and francophone countries". France and the EC countries were "fully conscious of this necessity". Up till now France has supported the policy of "unity through stages" advocated by both Presidents Senghor and Houphouët-Boigny, who wish to sort out francophone unity first. Nigeria and others, reasonably enough, take the view that they would prefer to be on the bus from the beginning, rather than get on when it is moving. The difficulties which arose last summer at the CEAO summit in Bamako showed that it is increasingly difficult for the francophones to consider their problems in isolation.

M. Bettencourt also discussed Nigeria's relations with the E.C. These too have been bedevilled by suspicion, relating to Nigeria's former relations, as when the Lagos Treaty associating Nigeria with the E.C. was quietly buried because of French

refusal to ratify it during the Niger-

Since the whole question of association has opened up against British entry, Nigeria's attitude towards the association has been hostile. The result is likely to choose is a trade agreement. Dr. Arikpo, in his AFP interview, said that Nigeria intended to make it clear to France that she did not intend to have her own relations with the EEC within the framework of the Yaoundé Convention since this put limitations on manufacturing and semi-processed goods. "We have plans to process our primary products, and sell either as semi-processed or completely processed goods". The French are maintaining the tone of cordiality, but were perhaps the only people who "honestly, openly oppose" a new appeal last year to develop and phase out their industries for primary African raw materials.

Teaching Nigerians to teach French

On bilateral relations, Dr. Arikpo said that Nigeria preferred trade, adding that it would be difficult to aid from France because of the way in which it was administered, and Lagos had "an entirely different constitutional concept about relations between governments". Franco-Nigerian talks on technological support and development projects had been going on for the last twelve months. "There is a lot of interest on both sides" said Dr. Arikpo. "Their ideas of what projects are supported do not conform with our sense of priorities". The main area in which relations seem likely to develop is in the cultural, such as the training of Nigerian teachers of French, but the area that seems to interest France is economic. They already have investments in, for example, the reduced Satrap concession, which have survived at all) and the aluminium plant at Kaduna, due to be completed in 1974. But they are keen on selling and did not omit to point out that Nigeria sells much more to France than France sells to Nigeria. A mission of French businessmen from the National du Patronat Français is touring Nigeria while M. Bettencourt is there, and in the increasingly friendly mood in France, this is where the interest in Nigeria seems to be.

From this mood, however, it may come to Nigeria too, because it means that France is more likely to establish realistic relationships, even when you look at new trends in the post-colonial sphere of influence. It is at last signs that the francophone Africans themselves are going to France into a reassessment of their "relationship" that marked the dawn of the era. From these changes Nigeria will benefit. Time is undoubtedly on

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KEREKOU'S DAHOMEY: 1

The unstable past

From a correspondent

Dahomey, in its twelve and a half years of independence has acquired a certain notoriety in Africa as the country which has had more *coups* and more changes of government, in its short life as a nation state than any other on the continent. A rough calculation shows at least six *coups*, six constitutions, and eleven governments since 1960, not to mention a number of interregna, abortive *coups* and plots, strikes, scandals, abortive elections and a near civil war. The country has lived constantly on the political margin, and in the budgetary red, with a top-heavy civil service and a demoralised peasantry, a classic instance of unviability and instability. Small wonder that *West Africa* (December 25, 1972) could write that "a *coup* in Dahomey no longer interests anybody".

Was the *coup* of October 26, in which Major Mathieu Kerekou overthrew the three-man civilian Presidential Council, simply another exercise in the musical chairs of the 1960s? It is certainly officially referred to now as "the revolution", but "revolution" has been a word to which Dahomeyans have almost become inured, as it has been used too freely by too many governments knowing it to be a word with potential appeal. The demonstrations which overthrew President Maga in 1963 were referred to as a revolution, but the revolutionary zeal of the Apithy-Ahomadegbe régime which followed soon became submerged in the personal quarrels of the two leaders.

The definitive coming to power of the army in 1965 was sometimes thought of as a military revolution, but it was no such thing, as the middle-ranking officers who overthrew it lost no time in demonstrating. Their own régime (from December 1967 to July 1968) had pretensions to revolution, but became bogged down in army quarrels, and scuttled back to the barracks, saying it wanted to retrieve the damaged prestige of the army. The December 1969 *coup* seemed even less politically oriented, arising mainly from personal vendettas, and resulted in the setting up of the Presidential Council in May 1970, which at the time looked like the final humiliation of the army, and the final triumph of reaction in the shape of the old politicians — MM. Maga, Ahomadegbe and Apithy — whom the younger officers had tried unsuccessfully to exclude.

The Council, with its chairmanship rotating every two years, seemed at least a solution of the problem of the rivalry of the three, each with their regional political fiefs, which had caused the election crisis in March 1970. The argument was that by institutionalising instability, by making the government change automatically every two years,

stability might be introduced. In fact, as the Council's history since 1970 shows, it introduced nothing of the kind.

For months prior to the first rotation in May last year, when M. Ahomadegbe replaced M. Maga, Dahomey was in a state of neurosis, which found expression in the mutiny and attempted *coup* of February. This was a major indication of the deficiencies of the system. Even a pre-arranged transfer of power, it seemed, could take place only with difficulty.

Another obstacle, which eventually caused the Council's collapse, was its own unworkability. Because of checks and balances in the charter setting it up, deadlocks in the Council were manifold, and rapidly led to a loss of credibility. Where two Presidents ganged up on the third, operation proved impossible. This



Major Kerekou on a visit to Porto Novo.

appeared to have happened to M. Ahomadegbe almost as soon as he became President. It can be the only charitable explanation of the contrast between his promises of tough decisive rule and his apparent impotence in power.

The issue on which the crunch came was that of the appointment of ministers (ironically suitable in a régime designed to be a handwagon large enough to accommodate everybody). Following a scandal exposed in a number of local tracts, concerning deals between the Finance Minister, M. Pascal Chabi Kao, and a businessman called Kovacs, who held the monopoly in the supply of stationery to the Dahomey government, M. Ahomadegbe wanted to reshuffle the government, letting M. Chabi Kao go, as well as a number of other ministers. But Chabi Kao was a political ally of M. Maga, who refused to let him go. The story is that the cabinet meeting on October 26 was discussing the prospective reshuffle, and it was only when news was leaked that M. Ahomadegbe had not grasped the nettle and defied M. Maga (M. Apithy, discreetly, was in Paris, that the army decided to act. This explains why

the *coup* took place at the unusual hour of two in the afternoon.

Those looking for deeper reasons have seen an impulsion towards power on the part of the same group of officers who had moved in 1967 which transcended the immediate crisis. It will be recalled that Major Kerekou, then Captain, commander of the paramilitary Oudah, was one of the single most important element in that *coup*, although his cousin, the then Major Kouandété was its leader. As mentioned above, the aim of the *coup* was revolutionary, aiming to clean up public life; the officers were particularly scornful of those of their seniors who had comport themselves like politicians. However, pressures from above (not least from D. Gaulle's France, which temporarily suspended budgetary aid in protest placed an older soldier, Colonel Alley, a head of state, and whatever revolutionary impulses there were sank out of sight. Although the "young turks" took all the posts in the government, the cleansing inquiry into corruption collapsed in fiasco when the chairman of the tribunal, Major Chasme, was himself implicated in a scandal. The aim of handing over power to untainted civilians by excluding former office holders from standing for election also fizzled out in fiasco, with an election which the old guard effectively boycotted and nonentities gained a non-mandate.

These humiliations, and the subsequent passing of power to Dr. Zinsou, were not forgotten by the officers, as were the 1970 election fiasco, and the similar meek surrendering of power to the triumvirate. In each case the man responsible was the brilliant, erratic Col. Kouandété, Dahomey's star *coup*-maker, whose own personality contributed to the instability of this period. His association with the mysterious affair of February last year, in which a mutiny in Oudah was followed by an attempted assassination of the army commander, Colonel de Souza, finally brought him to trial by special tribunal last May, when he was given the death sentence, along with some of the wilder elements who had been associated with his 1969 *coup*.

Kerekou at this time was de Souza's deputy, and did much to keep the army together in the difficult period after February last year. Although Kouandété was his cousin, his brother-in-arms and his friend, Kerekou had never taken a government job in 1968 and had nothing to do with the 1969 venture (he was actually on a course in Paris). He seemed to be preferring to remain on the sidelines while cousin Kouandété showed his paces. It was only with the army crisis of February last year that the key position he was holding became apparent, and by May it was being said in Cotonou that he was now the key man in the army. His opposition to the death sentence for Kouandété was known, and may have influenced in its non-execution. Significantly, when Kerekou came to power, he amnestied Kouandété and his fellow plotters, and they were released.

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In 1960 Nigeria was Africa's biggest exporter of palm oil, while the Ivory Coast was not an exporter at all. In 1980, however, according to a report on production and export prospects for palm oil and palm kernel oil in West Africa, prepared by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the US Department of Agriculture, Nigeria will become and is likely to remain a net importer of palm oil. She will become an increasingly important exporter of palm kernel oil. What is responsible for these changes, and what are the prospects for other West African producers? A previous article summarised the report's analysis of the Nigerian situation. This article summarises the report's account of developments in the Ivory Coast and of the prospects of Nigeria's palm kernel trade.

Reversal of the Ivory Coast's position, from being a net importer of palm oil in 1969 to becoming Africa's biggest exporter by 1980, is due to an "ambitious and well-managed planting programme". This began in 1964 with the aim of diversifying agricultural exports, dependent on coffee, cocoa and fruit. By the end of 1970 over 67,000 hectares (one hectare = 2.47 acres) had been planted, with plans for 137,000 to be planted by 1980. Up to 1970 production amounted to some 20,000 tons, derived from three small private or experimental plantations, and the harvesting of wild palms. It increased from 21,441 tons in 1969 to 42,463 in 1970 as new plantings came into production. Production is projected to increase to 170,000 tons by 1975 and 250,000 by 1980.

Six mills have been constructed since 1968 with three more to be completed soon. A bulk oil facility now operates at Abidjan port BLOHORN, only industrial user of palm oil in the country, is expanding refining capacity, with a view to supplying the regional West African market with table oil, margarine and soap. By 1975, the company expects to be refining 60,000 tons.

Ivory Coast projects are probably "the best organised and most efficient" in Africa, says the report. The basic structure is a central plantation of about 4,500 hectares, serviced by a mill. In a 20-kilometre radius, "outgrowers" in villages are furnished with seedlings, fertilisers, pesticides, and technical help, and plant on an equal acreage to palms. The mill then sets up a weekly collection schedule for which the small-holder is paid by weight. Expected production of each village is programmed on a computer. When there is a discrepancy an adviser visits the village.

Mills employ modern technology, producing high-quality oil with free fatty acid (FFA) content of about 2.0 per cent. With duty exemption in the EEC and lower freight to Europe, the Ivory Coast expects to be "highly competitive" with Malaysia and Indonesia.

Ivory Coast planting will now be concentrated in the south-west, west of the Sassandra River, whereas the present programme has been developed primarily in the eastern area, around Abidjan.

Because of the growth of the economy domestic requirements for processed oil are expected to rise. Exports would be around 155,000 tons by 1975 and 175,000 by 1980.

Ivory Coast kernel production should reach 54,000 tons by 1975 and 75,000 by 1980. Crushing facilities are expected

to be in operation by 1975, so that kernel production would be exported as oil.

Commercial production of oil in West Africa as a whole is expected to rise to 537,000 tons by 1975 and 655,000 by 1980, from the low level of 286,000 tons in 1970. Domestic utilisation is expected to rise than double as development and rising incomes increase demands. Exports, nevertheless, will expand



Delivering palms

Increase in exports from Africa, added to fast expanding exports from Southeast Asia, will mean a big expansion in world palm oil trade, in direct competition with much U.S. soyabean oil in European markets, particularly for margarines and shortenings. This expansion and competition will bear most heavily on Zaïre, which operates under outdated technology and bears high internal transport costs. The industry is almost wholly European-owned and pays increasing taxes. If the price of oil fell below \$180 per ton, as is highly likely, many smaller plantations would cease operation unless the government changed its policies.

The report's conclusions are summarised in the following table:

African palm oil exports and projections to 1980 (1,000 metric tons)

Country	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980
Nigeria	186	152	9	20	-
Zaïre	169	79	123	100	80
Dahomey	16	13	13	40	60
Ivory Coast	-	-	12	100	170
Other African	-	-	-	-	-
Exports	30	37	16	30	40
Total African exports	401	281	173	290	350

Note: 1975 and 1980 figures are projections.

Palm oil exports from West Africa (except Nigeria) will continue to find their major market in the EEC, primarily because of exemption from import duty

for associated states, and also because of the "historical trade patterns".

Nigeria in the 1970s will continue to be the world's largest exporter of kernel oil with an increasing percentage of exports as palm kernel oil as Nigeria's own crushing capacity increases. There is small industrial demand for palm kernel oil in the country, particularly when palm oil is short. Kernel production should stabilise around 440,000 tons, or export of about 200,000 tons of palm kernel oil by the end of 1980.

Kernel production increased consistently from the early 1930s to the late 1950s. At that time, production stagnated, reaching about 460,000 tons annually. Through the 1960s up to the civil war, kernel production declined moderately, primarily due to a decline in producer purchase prices, and in the Western Region, to an increase in cocoa prices, resulting in a shift of labour. "Stagnating production of palm oil and palm kernels, with a particular drop in commercial supplies of palm oil" indicates that the wild palm groves particularly in the Eastern States probably are being used to the full. Population density in these states is the highest on the African Continent (except for the Nile Basin), averaging over 500 people per square mile, and in some areas reaching over 1,000 people per square mile. Normal production growth of 3 per cent per year results in increasing pressure on the land, particularly for food crops, and could eventually result "in the felling of some palms". The 1970-74 development plan only establishes guidelines for post-war recovery, as opposed to further expansion, particularly in the restoration of small-holder processing.

By 1975 Nigeria's commercial supplies of palm products should be between 50,000 and 90,000 tons and industrial requirements should be about 30,000 tons. This would mean an export potential of between 20,000 and 60,000 tons and the best estimate is probably midway. Between 1975 and 1980, the need for palm planting programs will become more serious. "Significant projects will need to be implemented before 1975 if Nigeria is not to terminate exports altogether by 1980". There seems to be little progress toward revitalising the smallholder programme. There has been interest by the World Bank in financing a small-holder planting scheme, but such a programme is now only under initial study. Therefore, "it seems likely that Nigeria will cease to be an exporter of palm oil by 1980".



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Matchet's Diary

Political science has been a thriving subject in Nigerian universities for some time. Thus it is a little belated, although none the less welcome, that a Nigerian Political Science Association has been established. The inaugural meeting, in Ibadan last month, was attended by the Federal Commissioner for Education, Chief Abdul Eke, who, after recalling his long association with the University of Ibadan (he was a foundation student and later Registrar), said that he was "neither a political scientist by training nor a politician by inclination". But in the present situation political scientists could play an important part, "after our baptism of fire we have to take many important decisions for us and for Nigeria".

Chief Eke appealed to students to follow the debate in a constitutional way, avoiding petty issues and bitterness and violence, thinking of "pragmatic solutions rather than painful and destructive revolution". He also singled out three areas of important study for political scientists: the indigenous political systems prior to independence, the attitudes of the British colonialists in Nigeria in the colonial period, and lastly, post-colonial politics. Nigerian political scientists had devoted their time and energy to foreign political theories and practices "as if the art of government was non-existent in pre-colonial Africa". He would like to ask them to understand the sequences of a society in the early stages of modernisation ("as society modernises it becomes more complex and the complexity creates problems for the political system"), and to consider what types of government might be best in the stages to come.

The meeting discussed a number of papers such as *Transition from Military Rule* by the visiting Professor from the US, Henry S. Bienen, *Political Orientations to the Military Regime in Western State* by Dr. Leo Date, *The Growth of Northern Leadership 1939-51* by Mallam Haroun Adamu. There was of course a paper, *On Leadership*, by Professor Billy J. Dudley of the Department of Political Science at Ibadan, who is to head the seven-man executive of the new association. If the discussions were often stimulating and informative, there was no less stimulation to be had from some of the activities of the Ibadan University Students Week, which was going on at the same time. My correspondent in Ibadan tells me that, apart from a rousing discussion on women's liberation by a panel largely composed of convinced anti-feminists, there was a rambling but ultimately controversial discussion of the "Relevance of Military Rule" by Dr. Obarogie Ohonbamu of the University of Lagos. He took various knocks at the

military, ending up by recommending the retirement of Military Governors by the end of 1973, as a token of the Military Government's intentions on civilian rule.

Return to Kumasi

Following the appeal in London's *Sunday Times* by Dr. Kenneth Hill, the retiring Vice-Chancellor of the University of Benin, for the return to Benin city of works which may have got into the wrong hands, come an appeal in the same newspaper from James Moxon, former Director of Information in Ghana, but now best known as owner of Accra's famous "Black Pot" restaurant, for the return to Kumasi of Ashanti treasures taken 99 years ago when General Sir Garnet Wolseley led his troops into the Ashanti capital. He believes that the return of some of Ashanti's treasures in the centenary year of the greatest of the Ashanti wars would produce invaluable goodwill. I do not myself believe that all works of a particular civilisation, whether from Benin, Ashanti or anywhere else, should be found only in their place of origin. Everywhere in the world, as they try to do in Britain and the US, and many other countries, museums and art galleries should display examples of work from everywhere else in the world. There is no doubt that the widespread display of Benin work in Europe and elsewhere has done much to elevate appreciation of African art, and there are excellent examples in Lagos and Jos, and in Benin. Indeed I would prefer Britain to send to Nigerian museums, which are virtually confined to Nigerian work, examples of sculpture and applied arts from Europe.

While the British and other museums, however, tend to give Benin art a good display, the Ashanti works of which Mr Moxon speaks are not so accessible to the public. Above all there is the golden death mask of King Kofi, (illustrated on the front page) and which spends its time locked up in a safe in the Wallace Collection in London. That, no doubt, is good for security but does nothing for appreciation of Ashanti art. Even in 1874 the great collector Sir Richard Wallace paid 500 guineas for it. Now it is priceless. I remember that some months before Ghana's independence, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr Alan Lennox-Boyd, tried very hard to get the mask returned to Ghana as a gesture. He found that only an Act of Parliament could secure its release from the Wallace Collection and the government could not find time for the drafting and the passing of such an Act. Other Ashanti works were bought in 1874 by the Victoria and Albert Museum from the gold indemnity paid to the Queen by the Asantehene after the Ashanti war, but these, too, although beautifully kept, are seldom seen.



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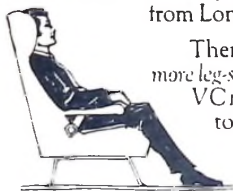
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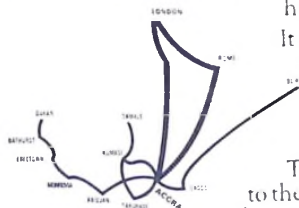


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Letters to the Editor

Portugal's Guinea

SIR—Mr Basil Davidson (Jan. 22 and 29) is, of course, fully entitled to indulge to his heart's content in the deep-rooted wishful thinking to which he is so uncontrollably addicted where Portuguese Guinea, Angola and Mozambique are concerned. I do not, therefore propose to comment on the articles.

I prefer to leave it to your readers to decide to what extent they can share his unlimited and enthusiastic admiration for all that he claims the PAIGC is achieving in the political, military, social, and other fields in the "self-governing country of Guinea-Bissau" which, according to him, "used to be known as Portuguese West Africa".

What I feel does call for comment is the introductory note to his second article in which, referring to the assassination of Amílcar Cabral, leader of the PAIGC, he asserts that "All prima-facie probabilities point to the Portuguese secret police or army as the source of this most recent crime".

It is a pity that when he wrote this he seems not to have had an opportunity to read the UPI and Reuters reports which respectively appeared on January 25 and 26 in *The Guardian*—a newspaper which will not be suspect to him since he wrote in it. Doubtless, had he seen them, he would have refrained from giving them what, after all, is no more than unworthy speculation in support of which he must know he can produce no evidence.

The first report (that of January 25) said that President Sekou Touré had "announced over Radio Conakry that Cabral's assassin was Francisco Camil, a man of pure African blood from northland Portuguese Guinea". Here I may point out that, as is known, Cabral was of mixed blood and of Cape Verdean origin. "*Camil helped Cabral to found the PAIGC*". So it cannot be said that the assassin had been infiltrated into the Party by the Portuguese or that he was their agent.

The second report (January 26) stated that President Sekou Touré called for a complete clearing of the PAIGC "after his announcement yesterday that it was certain leaders of the movement had planned and carried out Cabral's murder". According to the same report the President called for "a salutary reorganisation of the political direction of the PAIGC".

Does it not seem that what all this points to is that, behind the scenes, there was, as indeed the press has lately reported, considerable dissension among the leaders of Cabral's movement and that his ascendancy and prestige were not as solid and unassailable as his foreign admirers. Mr Davidson included "have long been making out".

A. POTTER

Portuguese Embassy, London, Press-Counsellor

Quota debate

SIR—I wholeheartedly support General Gowon and others in coming out against the quota system of allocation of places in educational establishments in Nigeria.

The system of open competition for entry into schools and universities will ensure that Nigeria consistently nurtures the best brains she has. There would also be less waste of talent

than under the quota system. The evils of the quota system are well known by men who are aware of historical facts in Nigeria and who believe in a unified Nigeria.

With open competition there will be at first a preponderance of students from certain states but with the provision of (a) efficient teacher training facilities, (b) free and high standard of primary schooling, the disparity will soon become minimal.

In reply to Mr. Ebiye Sami (January 1) there is only one standard which our educationists should try to give our children—the international standard which means that Nigerians will compete favourably in education at all levels with the best the rest of the world has to offer. This can only be achieved by a system which allows fair competition not by one which lends itself to regional jealousy with its concomitant retrogressive effect.

RODIE ST. MATTHI W DANIEL

Sutton Coldfield

External examiners

SIR—In general, I agree with Mr. Aghoola and Mr. Webb (Jan. 22) about the value of external examiners. There is another point which neither of them made. It should not now be necessary for West African universities to bring examiners from Europe on every occasion; indeed, many universities now use examiners from near at hand as often as possible. The great advantage of this lies in the communication it brings between universities and departments which otherwise have little contact. I know that when I was an external examiner from Ibadan at Nsukka I was glad of the opportunity to see what another department was like, how its students shaped up, and how its examining system compared with our own. I hope that my hosts found a similar advantage in my presence. Distance and pressure of work make for all too little communication among universities; it is all the more important that, especially at critical moments like examinations, every opportunity should be properly used to create and maintain a balance between one and another.

Bristol University W. H. STEVENSON
Mav

Winner takes all

SIR—Mr. Etahene would no doubt be surprised at the attacks he has been receiving from left and right since writing his letter (November 27). Since he is not a Ghanaian someone has to explain to him why it is so. In Ghana everybody backs the winning horse. In other words, it does not matter how one gets to the top, once he is there he can be sure of the loyalty of every Ghanaian.

London O. NKWANJAMBA

OAU and Middle East

SIR—I am sorry to see Mather (January 15) perpetuating the mistake about the OAU Mediation Mission in the Middle East having "achieved little". In fact, the mission led by President Senghor brought the position of Israel and Egypt closer together than anybody else has been able to do in the last 20 years; that was a considerable achievement. The failure lay in not pursuing this opening initiative, for reasons of internal OAU politics.

Documents relevant to this mediation effort will be published for the first time in the 1972-73 volume of the *Africa Contemporary Record*, which will be published by Rex Collings in June.

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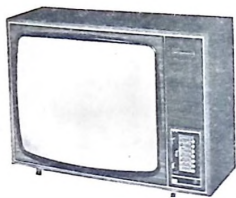
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Truth buried in words

Completion of the Irish U.P. Press set of reprinted and reprinted British Parliamentary Papers nineteenth century was marked by a ceremony last Thursday Lord Maybray-King, former Speaker of the House of Commons, accepted on behalf of both Houses of Parliament a gift from the publishers of the one thousand volume set, the presentation made by the Irish Ambassador Geoffrey Bing, consultant to the University Press, here discussing the importance of the Papers as a study of West African history.

Although only seven per cent of the Papers are classified as dealing with Africa, the event has an importance of African significance. In fact, it is the one thousand volumes which cover nineteenth century Africa and the role of African descent played a major role in British affairs in the century. There are 97 volumes in the set dealing with the Slave Trade and the colonies which appear under the title "Colonies General" but are of African interest. In addition, there are three important volumes which deal with what is euphemistically called "Anthropology" but are entirely original inhabitants of the continent generally described in the nineteenth century as "British settlements" who were more particularly known as "American Indians", "Maori" and "Kaffirs".

If these classifications are taken into account, then some 20 per cent of the volumes in the general African set. What I.U.P. has done is to reorganise 6,000 volumes of the Parliamentary Papers of the nineteenth century, which were arranged in chronological order, divide them into subject heads which have further been divided into that, for example, so far as is concerned, there are four volumes exclusively with Sierra Leone and two with The Gambia, six with Nigeria, as well as general volumes dealing with the whole but which include material on West Africa. As would be expected, Southern Africa is very well represented, eight volumes on Natal.

None of this material is available in any form almost inaccessible. The truth is buried in words. Even as it is reprinted, the I.U.P. series as a

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something which no individual could tackle on his own. It has been calculated by the Guinness *Book of Records* that it would take the ordinary reader who devoted ten hours a day to the job six years to read through the series, and if their pages were to be placed end to end they would stretch for one hundred and thirty four miles. In binding, 34,000 goatskins were used, almost certainly originating from Sokoto stock.

Gold Coast forts

Fortunately, however, the process of selection undertaken by the I.U.P. has resulted in the volumes dealing with Africa being reduced to a reasonable compass. The first African volume deals with the Reports from Select Committees on "The Sierra Leone Company's Petition" on "Papers concerning the African forts", and the "Reports from the Commissioners of African inquiry, 1801-1817". These include the three British Parliamentary Select Committee Reports on the petition of the Court of Directors of the Sierra Leone Company, of which Zachary Macaulay - father of the historian - was then the secretary, and provide the background to British involvement in West Africa. They also include the earliest reports on the conditions of the Gold Coast forts and record the reports from Governors.

The last volume in the Africa series brings the story down to 1899, dealing with the history of Uganda. It contains one of the early documentations in British official records of the activities of Lord Lugard, then Captain Frederick Lugard, who was successful commander of the Protestant forces in the religious civil war in which the pro-Catholic French missionaries were defeated.

The volumes which fill the intervening period contain a mass of material on West African history. There is a report made by Dr. Richard Madden, who was in some ways a fore-runner of Roger Casement in that he was by origin a British Civil Servant, famous in his own day as an exposé of slavery in the Americas and in Africa, but remembered today only in Ireland and as an Irish patriot for his history of the 1798 rebellion. His indictment of the Gold Coast administration of the 1830s and 1840s, and in particular of the conduct of Captain George Maclean, was examined by a Select Committee which acquitted Maclean of his charges. Their verdict and the evidence which they heard are reproduced in Volumes 2 and 3 which contain four coloured maps illustrating how little was known of the African interior at the time.

Volume 5, which again has five coloured maps, contains a report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons of 1875 with Minutes of evidence "On the state of British establishments on the Western Coast of Africa". Among the witnesses called was Dr David Livingstone.

The Gambia papers (which comprise

Volume 56) cover the period from 1843, when the settlement was granted a Legislative Council, and include the documents dealing with the abortive 1867 negotiations between Britain and France for the exchange of Gambia for a part of the Ivory Coast.

The exclusively Ghana papers consist of six volumes, beginning in 1850, and they contain among other material the whole history of the Ashanti wars as seen through British eyes.

Volume 57 covers the period from the cessation of the Danish possessions in 1850 until 1873 where the final documents of the volume include correspondence relating to the Fanti Confederation. Among the other papers in this volume are those dealing with the deportation of King Aggrey of Cape Coast and the activities of the Governor, Sir John Pope Hennessy, to whom the Dutch solemnly handed over the ivory baton which had belonged to Admiral de Ruyter when Governor of Elmina.

The other Ghana volumes, which bring the story down to 1896, are mainly concerned with Ashanti. They contain the despatches of General Sir Garnet Wolseley and details of the activities of Captain J. H. Glover, the naval officer who was the real founder of the military and police systems in British West Africa.

The Nigerian papers are less voluminous since an effective British presence took place at a later date, Lagos not having been occupied until 1851.

Mission to "Yorabas"

In the first of the volumes dealing with Nigeria (Volume 63), which cover the period 1840-1847, possibly the most interesting item is the report of H. Huggins and Oliver Smith on their mission to the "Yorabas" and on the rivalry that then existed between Ibadan and "Abeoketa". The second Nigerian volume (Volume 64) is particularly interesting in that it deals with King Ja Ja and the punitive expedition against Benin. It is noticeable as containing the first reference in British Government Papers to Sir Roger Casement who in the next century was to make his name as the exposé of slavery and oppression in South America and the Congo. Governor Macdonald wrote:

"Mr. Casement has considerable experience with natives, having served for many years on the Congo, it would be difficult to find anyone in every way more suited to the work of exploration".

The real charm of the Papers, however, must be for those who have some knowledge of African history in the 19th century because of the casual glimpses they give of individuals and situations. For example, in one of the early Papers on Ghana there is a map showing the Volta region. It is annotated "Copied by Gen. E. Ferguson, Christiansborg Castle, 8th July 1882". Perhaps this is the first recorded appearance in history of Dr. Robert Gardiner's famous surveyor uncle.

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Books and Publications

Nigeria's radical era

The Second World War and Politics in Nigeria 1939-1953 by G. O. Oluksanya *Evans Brothers (Books), £1.25, limp, £2.50, case*

If there had been no 1939-45 World War, would Nigerian politics have still taken the course which they did? Dr. Oluksanya, Lecturer at Lagos University, is satisfied that it was the war which changed the nature of the Nigerian nationalist movement. Before 1939 that movement was extremely limited, confined to the South, and even there to a few big towns and to the tiny group of educated people. This was the time of the "politics of complaint" when it was the way that the colonial government ruled rather than the fact that it ruled at all that was the issue.

Nigeria, now rightly regarded as perhaps Africa's political leader, was not only politically backward. As late as 1944 there were fewer children at school proportionately even than in Tanganyika. Indeed the figures of school attendance per 10,000 of the population Dr. Oluksanya quotes from a Nigerian Sessional Paper of 1944 are illuminating:

Nyasaland	568	Uganda	109
Northern Rhodesia	196	Gambia	105
Gold Coast	134	Sierra Leone	88
Kenya	118	Tanganyika	50
Zanzibar	110	Nigeria	40

But by 1944 tens of thousands of Nigerians had been recruited to the army and many of them had been abroad. Both these and their fellow citizens had had an opportunity of seeing the rank and file of European troops, so that the "whiteman's myth" was broken. Allied propaganda, with its emphasis on self-determination, the establishment of the UN and the advent of a Labour Government in Britain all had their effect. Internally the war and the following years saw a great increase in prosperity and in wage employment, although the soaring cost of living and the impossibility of enforcing price control led to Nigeria's first general strike, the 44 day stoppage of 1945, out of which the nationalists sought and to some extent they succeeded to make capital.

The immediate effect of the outbreak of war was the fervent declaration of loyalty to Britain even from the nationalist politicians of the day. Dr. Azikiwe's *West African Pilot*, for

example, carried editorials promising unflinching loyalty, and throughout the country Hitler was seen as some sort of strange beast who must be defeated if the world was to be tolerable. Not, as Dr. Oluksanya says, were the expressions of loyalty manipulated by the British. For people like H. O. Davies, Ernest Ikohi or Dr. Azikiwe himself were not open to such manipulation. Dr. Oluksanya dates from 1943 a re-birth of nationalist feeling, and at the end of 1944 came the establishment of the NCNC. But it was in 1944, too, that Lord Milverton, then Sir Arthur Richards, put forward proposals for a constitution which would bring the North fully into the national administration and would provide wider representation for the people as a whole. Criticisms of the shortcomings of these proposals was manna for the newly awakened nationalists. Dr. Oluksanya, however, while agreeing that there had

been insufficient consultations, strongly defends Lord Milverton against accusations that he was attempting to keep Nigeria divided. And in answer to those who blame Britain itself, who complain that Britain "forced" a federal form of government on Nigeria, he describes the 1951 constitution as "Nigerian-made" and says that from 1950 onward Nigerians were involved in "constitutional making" with "little time left for agitation".

Looking back, Dr. Oluksanya sees the period from 1944 to 1950 as the period of "radical politics". Then even service in the "National Church" (of which the book gives an interesting account) would include readings from the works of Dr. Azikiwe. Dr. Oluksanya naturally devotes much space to the Zikist movement. This flowered briefly from 1946, unprofitably, considerably from the shooting of the miners in Enugu in 1949. Yet partly because Dr. Azikiwe himself declined to lend support to the movement, it soon withered away. Its philosophy, Dr. Oluksanya says, was "nebulous" and it was always in danger of advocating action for its own sake. But it kept a flame alight and contributed greatly to the atmosphere which made the colonial administration and the Colonial Office feel that further constitutional change was essential. After that, Dr. Oluksanya sees little cause for satisfaction in the course of Nigerian politics.

Nationalist forces were completely disorganised "instead of the nationalist

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combining to attack imperialism, they spent most of their time attacking one another. They could not even agree on a date for independence, as there was a great deal of wrangling between the North and the South as to when freedom should be achieved. The situation was so bad that the Northern Region of Nigeria was contemplating secession. As a result of these new developments, the radical forces disappeared from the political scene.

"The period after 1950 which witnessed the entrenchment of ethnic politics in Nigeria was, therefore, the most uninspiring in the history of the nationalist movement in the country. And were it not for the fact that there had already been a substantial movement towards freedom and that the complexities of international politics forced Britain to push forward with the policy of decolonisation, it is doubtful whether Nigeria could have achieved her independence in 1960.

"Unfortunately, the inability to transcend ethnic loyalties in politics has continued in the post-independence period. This factor, combined with corruption, selfishness, lack of idealism and the absence of a sound, dynamic and disciplined leadership, was responsible for plunging the country into civil war."

This, then, is a book which is not solely concerned with politics during and immediately after the Second World War. Indeed one wonders whether Dr. Oluksanya has not over-emphasised the effects of the war on Nigerian politics. For example, he does not give us statistics of Nigerian enlistment in the forces nor does he tell us which were the areas from which the men came. Without such information it is difficult to know exactly the importance of ex-servicemen in post-war politics. Certainly only one or two of the political leaders were themselves ex-servicemen. Again Dr. Oluksanya tells us that our soldiers, when they went abroad, felt that conditions they saw compared very favourably with those in Nigeria. This reviewer's experience is rather different: some Nigerians certainly felt that the poverty of Ethiopia or India and the physical conditions of Somalia or Burma made Nigeria a more attractive place.

One or two names are misspelt. Those unfamiliar with Nigeria may be a little confused by Dr. Oluksanya's use of the term Colony both to describe the whole country and the area around Lagos which technically was so called. Perhaps Dr. Oluksanya's main achievement is to have used a mass of material, much of it already available in standard works, to produce a coherent narrative with "a beginning, a middle and an end", leaving a clear impression.

It is surprising that in the full bibliography two of the most valuable works dealing with Northern Nigeria those of Billy Dudley and Syl Whitaker are omitted.

How the Leopard got his Collar
Chinua Achebe and John Iroagan
Collings 95p, Feb 28.

This fable, with numerous black and white illustrations by Per Christensen, beautifully produced, and with a wide age-range of children, is printed in Norway, but the original artists are Swamite of Enugu.

Chinua Achebe is one of the best known writers from Nigeria, and a well known. He was born in Anambra, in East Central State (now part of Imo State) of Nigeria. He has published earlier works in English.

The fable includes a poem "Lament of the Deer" by Christopher Okigbo.

English Teaching in The Primary Schools
by D. J. Williams (Evans Brothers)

English is widely spoken in Nigeria where it is not the mother tongue. The language of higher education, commerce and central government in these countries educated people speak English fluently. So in Nigeria and Asia English as a language is taught in primary schools. In many, English is also the medium of primary education. The initial learning of the language in primary schools assumes very great importance. Williams, writing from the Teacher's College of the State Mission in Northern Nigeria, describes the language in primary schools as equally important.

His small book, he says, is intended to do something to fill a gap in learned works and the needs of teachers. It is based largely on his experience over many years being a student. There are two introductory chapters on theoretical matters followed by practical guidance on how to teach English in the primary school.

One reason for preparing the book was the production of a new English syllabus for teachers' colleges in the northern states of Nigeria. Dr. Williams has endeavoured to make the syllabus. But it is not the "official" syllabus of the syllabus committee.

Statistical Year Book Part I
Commission for Africa

This booklet, which covers the African countries, constitutes a part of a new edition of *ICA's Yearbook for Africa*. Previous statistical information of this kind is arranged on a subject basis. In duplication with statistics issued from Headquarters, those issued by regional Commissions will in future be on a country basis. Copies are available from the usual UN agents, but also from the Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa.

Commercial News

Lonrho returns to Zaire

Zaire has relinquished control of 18 companies formerly operated by Comiere, Belgian subsidiary of Lonrho. A formal letter was handed over in London by the Zaire Ambassador to Mr. Alan Ball, deputy chairman of Lonrho and Mr. "Tony" Rowland, chief executive.

Value of the assets being returned is put by Lonrho at £20m. Remittance of dividends has been frozen since the companies were put under state "supervision" in 1970. The backlog of dividends owed to Comiere is some £288,000. The decision to return the companies was made by the council of ministers presided over by President Mobutu.

One Comiere company is excluded, Comiectrik, which supplies power to Kinshasa. The government believes that energy should be under state control, and a complete takeover of Comiectrik by the National Electricity Authority will be negotiated.

After the handover Mr. Rowland said, according to the *Financial Times*, "The action they took was fully understandable. We appreciate very much that they have fully investigated the background to this business." He thought it was the first time an African state had returned foreign-owned companies in this way.

The companies were taken over after a dispute between Lonrho and M. Martin Theves, president of Comiere, over an agreement between the two groups laying down terms of association. The Zaire Government took over because it feared that collaboration between Lonrho and Comiere would pose "serious threats" to economic security. The companies are engaged in motor dealing, agricultural

equipment and timber supply, insurance and travel agencies. M. Theves died about a year ago. Lonrho now hopes for a new expansion in Zaire. The company leads a consortium which, until the takeover, was surveying routes for the new \$300-\$400m rail link between Katanga and the Atlantic port of Banana.

Comiere and a Japanese group, Nishio Iwai, belong to the consortium, which hopes to compete for construction of the 1,000-mile railway, in spite of opposition from French and Italian interests.

Mr. Duncan Sandys MP, former Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, became Lonrho chairman last year. Mr. Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton and head of merchant bankers, Keyser Ullman, has also joined the board, as has Sir Basil Smallpeice, chairman of Cunard until its takeover. Lonrho now has interests in Ashanti Goldfields, John Holt, William Whiteheads, Mandrides in Kono, and various enterprises in the Ivory Coast and Dahomey.

Fruit in the EEC

Ambassadors in Brussels from African states associated with the Common Market have postponed a decision on whether to approve EEC commission proposals about conditions under which their fruit and vegetables will be allowed into the Common Market. The ambassadors said they would have to wait for the policy which is expected to be announced after a meeting of the association's Council of Ministers next June.

The commission proposals concern arrangements eventually to allow African exports of fruit and vegetables to enter the Common Market

duty free. Britain's Common Market ambassador told delegates that Britain would make all efforts to develop links between the African states and the Common Market.

The Africans are said to be dissatisfied with the proposed timetable for cuts on fruit and vegetable tariffs. Other points discussed included African objections to trade concessions proposed by the Common Market for imports from Brazil of soluble coffee and cocoa butter. The Africans also asked the commission to keep them informed about moves in negotiations between the Common Market and Mediterranean states, with which agreements must be finalised by the end of this year.

Timber takeovers

Ghana has announced that it has taken 55 per cent shares each in two more foreign timber companies - International Hardwoods and African Veneer Mahogany. Participation takes retrospective effect from October 1. The Government has already announced its decision to acquire 55 per cent shares each in Giksten (West Africa), Takoradi Veneer and Lumber, the timber division of R.T. Briscoe, Ghana, and African Timber and Plywood (Ghana). International Hardwoods is a Giksten subsidiary and African Veneer Mahogany is a non-operating subsidiary of UAC's African Timber and Plywood.

Foreign timber firms have been ordered by Ghana's Timber Marketing Board to produce records of local

purchase made from January 8 to January 27 or face the consequences. It also stated that any logging firm which had failed to transfer working capital of 300,000 cedis from its country of origin since January 23 would not be allowed to operate this year. Investigations had revealed that certain foreign logging firms paid low prices to producers thereby "fabulously enriching themselves overseas", the General Manager of the Board, Mr. P. Boateng, told a meeting of exporters. He claimed that the board had documents to substantiate allegations that many exporters had deliberately slowed down local log purchases and others had refused to buy. Only a small number had complied with the directive to transfer 300,000 cedis working capital by January 23, he added.

• The Timber Marketing Board has cancelled the export registration of Messrs Pynhout (Ghana) Ltd a Dutch firm which had been operating in Ghana for 21 years, following the discovery of alleged malpractices. Lt. Col. Odaty-Welington, executive chairman of the TMB claimed that the malpractices included the preparation of fictitious documents and the smuggling of timber through manipulation of documents. He said that the Board had directed that a subsidiary of the TMB, Ghana Timbers Ltd, should take over the assets of the company and its operations in Ghana and that any logs or timber already purchased by Pynhout should be taken over by Ghana Timbers. In January alone, said the chairman, Ghana had lost about 8,000 cedis foreign



Nigeria's Rivers State Commissioner for Finance, Dr. L. B. Ekpeke, cuts the tape to declare open the sixth branch of the Pan African Bank, the state-owned commercial bank, at Abiodun town. With him is Chief S. A. J. Wachuku, representing the bank's directors.

exchange through such malpractices, and the TMB had ordered the company to repatriate forthwith all losses due to Ghana. He described it as a "clear case of sabotage against Ghana's economy". Investigations he said, were still underway and he warned the company not to hide facts or frustrate his orders.

Mr. Paul Woltering, shipping manager of the company said, "We respect what the chairman has said because the accusations are very serious".

Nigeria's policy for coal

Powell Duffryn Technical Services, international consultants in mining, engineering and management, have been engaged by the Nigerian Coal Corporation to undertake studies for determining an overall policy for the coal reserves. Feasibility studies will have three stages, provided the first two have favourable conclusions. The first — a management and technical audit — will combine a review of present operations and data and an assessment including manage-

ment, administration, services and mining operations for opencast and underground mining.

The second stage will deal with the utilisation of coal and export handling, the third stage would concern the overall feasibility of the operation based on technical, financial and marketing factors. Studies are expected to be completed in about 18 months.

The contract for the studies represents part of a drive by the Nigerian Coal Corporation to develop markets for Nigerian coal products. Association between Nigeria and Powell Duffryn Technical Services dates back to 1947 when the company provided advice on mining activities.

- Nigeria's Federal Commissioner for Economic Development and Reconstruction, Dr. Adebayo Adedeji, has said in Lagos that irregularity of electricity supply by NEPA was hampering implementation of the current four-year development plan in some areas. Dr. Adedeji pointed out that enough electricity was being generated at Kainji Dam for the country's needs.

but NEPA's problem was one of distribution. The Federal Government had embarked on construction of a national grid for effective distribution to all parts of the country.

Speaking of his tour of the Mid-West, the Commissioner observed that the rate of progress in all sectors of the state's economy was high. "The indications are that the Mid-West State had maintained its position in implementing the four-year development plan since publication of the first progress reports early last year".

Africa in the air

Returning from the fifth African Regional Air Navigation conference in Rome, Ghana's Director of Civil Aviation, Mr. Edward Dwemoh, said that the conference amended the air navigation plans for various services and facilities. It had urged member states to implement new ones to ensure proper administration of such facilities in Africa.

The conference stressed the need for co-ordination

among member periodical visits standardisation of equipment, at Dwemoh.

The conference, led by delegates African states of the members of the Civil Aviation C

- The Gambia given a grant of the Commonwealth Technical (CFTC) to meet training agriculture N'jala University, Sierra Leone and Bello University. agreed to consider Gambia for training agriculture Sierra Leone during 1973-1975 forwarded to the details of training requirements veterinary 1973-78 for consideration.

- Philips celebrated their factory's incandescent bulb

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UAC in Europe

A "wide brief" to expand in Britain and Europe, as a manufacturer as well as a merchant is to be given by Unilever to its subsidiary, UAC, according to the London *Times*. UAC may even be given a new name. The report is prompted by the offer by Unilever to acquire Robert B Massey, motor distributors and engineers, for £3.8m. Three years ago UAC bought the Leverton Group, which holds important franchises for Caterpillar earthmoving equipment.

UAC funds says *The Times*, assuming the deal goes through, will be put into Massey, which has invested in Belgium to make refrigerated vehicles. But this is only one of a number of possibilities.

UAC already has widely used importing, exporting, warehousing, vehicle assembly, and brewing expertise. While it has developed rapidly throughout Africa since the diversification away from produce dealing there has long been a desire to expand in Europe but without duplication of the business "outside Unilever interests". It was UAC which helped Unilever five years ago to set up a brewery in Spain in partnership with Heineken.

After internal study of Unilever's general corporate development says *The Times*, it has apparently been agreed "that UAC's management has yet to be stretched in exploiting its marketing and other skills. Much growth is foreseen outside the traditional food and grocery supplies sector of industry". UAC already has substantial London and European offices.

• A world shortage of coffee in the next few years is not likely, according to Mr. Alexandre Beltrao, executive director of the International Coffee Organisation. Mr. Beltrao said estimates of carry-over stocks in producing countries at the end of the crop year 1972-73 amounted to 50m bags. He warned that publicity for fears of a shortage, combined with attractive prices, might persuade growers to expand production and generate a new surplus. Mr. Beltrao

thought that the Coffee Agreement should be renewed. He had found a large degree of acceptance among governments of both producing and consuming countries.

• The 71-nation committee meeting preparing for September's multilateral trade negotiations ended with only a series of discussion points for its next meeting on May 16-18. Among points mentioned by M. Olivier Long, director-general of GATT, was the participation of developing countries. M. Long is said to have tried to help bridge the gap between these countries and the principal western powers.

• Experts on food storage in developing countries have met in London to discuss methods of assessing grain losses during storage. The experts, members of the Group for Assistance on the Storage of Grain in Africa (GASGA), which includes the Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, met at the Tropical Products Institute (part of the Overseas Development Administration). During discussion special consideration was given to the Sahelian zone, the thorn scrub country on the southern borders of the Sahara in West Africa, where GASGA hopes to stimulate a regional grain storage project.

• The North-Central State Government has embarked on a plan for mass production of a variety of foreign trees for the proposed paper industry as well as other uses. The state Ministry of Annual Resources has cleared 500,000 acres of land at Burelu, near Kaduna where planting of pines and other trees needed for production of paper has begun. The state Commissioner in charge of the industry, Alhan Nuhu Ibrahim, has said that the plantation was the result of research carried out at the Akpaka research station, near Kaduna. There it was proved that pine and other varieties of trees usually grown in temperate countries could be grown in the tropics.

• A 2m. naira expansion programme is being planned by Nigerian Bottling Company. The programme includes construction of

Shipping News

ELDER DEAMPSTER LINES

SOUTHBOUND — From Liverpool. FIAN slg Feb 15, DEIDO slg Feb 14, DEGEMA sld Tema Feb 9.

From London: FABALA due Appapa Feb 19, SYLVIA CORD slg Feb 22, EBOF slg Feb 13. From Manchester: DFNKWSA slg Feb 21.

From Dublin: EGORI slg Feb 12.

From N. Continent: MACHAON slg Antwerp Feb 9, DIGNEM-FUS slg Hamburg Feb 13.

From Southampton: AUREOL due Lagos Feb 12.

NORTHBOUND — To Liverpool: FOURAH BAY due Feb 18.

To London: FULANI slg Appapa Feb 11, MANO due Sapele Feb 14, PEGU due Sapele Feb 9.

To Avonmouth: BHAAOI due Feb 11.

To N. Continent: KAHALA due Bournemouth Feb 10, KADUNA due Rotterdam Feb 24.

To Poole: CLEARWAY due Feb 13.

EASTBOUND — To USA: FENJA DONGA due Freetown Feb 9.

WESTBOUND — From USA/Canada: DARU due Cotonou Feb 9.

Eastern Service to W.A.: BEECH BANK due Appapa Feb 10, PHANAK due Freetown Feb 9.

HARBOR LINES

OUTWARDS — BARBERGATE (2), St. John Nk Feb 13 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Cotonou, Lagos/Appapa, Douala; FERNLAND slg New York Mar 9.

For Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Appapa, Douala.

HOMEWARDS — FERNLAND (2) Lagos 8 Bound Mar 5, Sapele Mar 8, Douala Mar 10, Ghana Mar 12, Abidjan/Monrovia mid Mar.

KALINI — From Japan (via Hong Kong) to Lohito, Luanda, Matadi, Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown. Abidjan, MISSISSIPPI MARU sld Japan Feb 5 due Lagos Mar 22.

OASISBOUND — From Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown, etc.

SHISHIMA MARU slg Lagos Feb 17, Tema Feb 18, Freetown Feb 23, Abidjan Mar 3, due Hong Kong Apr 3, Japan Apr 9.

BLACK STAR LINE (USNH) W.A. SERVICE

WESTBOUND — OTI RIVER Ghana Feb 11, Phidacofa Feb 26.

BLACK STAR LINE (UK) CONTINENTAL/WEST AFRICA

SOUTHBOUND — SAKIMO (2) AGOON Dunkard Feb 8, Rouen Feb 8, Bordeaux Feb 10, ALBAM RIVER Middlesbrough Feb 2.

NORTHBOUND — BRIM RIVER Rotterdam Feb 9, Antwerp Feb 4, LONDON RIVER Avonmouth Feb 4, London Feb 5, Middlesbrough Feb 19.

DAIRA LINES

EASTBOUND — FRANKIG due Monrovia Feb 8, Abidjan Feb 12, Lagos/Appapa Feb 13.

WESTBOUND — NIGERIA due Charleston Feb 9, Houston Feb 14, New Orleans Feb 19.

PALM LINE

SOUTHBOUND — LAGOS PALM due Dakar Feb 18.

NORTHBOUND — ANDONI PALM due Lokofo Feb 18.

WESTBOUND — SAIKYO MARU (Lagos/Appapa Feb 2/7, Tema Feb

8/9, Takoradi Feb 10/11, Douala Feb 13/14, Abidjan Feb 27/28).

MITSUI O.S. LINE

NORTHKOL MARU sld Kofe Feb 4 due Lagos Mar 10.

KINKANSAN MARU slg Kofe Feb 19 due Lagos Mar 2.

KASUGASAN MARU slg Kofe Mar 4 due Lagos Apr 8.

MAERSK LINE

INWARDS — From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Abidjan: HESPER MAERSK slg Kofe Mar 5 due Luanda Apr.

OUTWARDS — From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi: SUSAN MAERSK slg Tema Feb 7.

NETLLOYD — SWAL JOIN SERVICES

BALONG due Boma/Matadi Feb 17, Pointe Noire Feb 19, Luanda Feb 22.

AMSTELHEER slg Boma/Freetown Feb 19, Lagos Mar 2.

Pointe Noire Mar 4, Luanda Mar 7.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE

NORTHBOUND — VIKAREN slg W.A. Mar. for discharge Scan. Apr.

INWARDS — SARA slg W.A. Mar. for discharge Scan. Mar.

ROYAL INTERCOASTAL LINES

INWARDS — STRAAT FRIMANTLE sld Japan Jan 18 due Luanda Feb 16, Freetown Feb 21, Port Harcourt Feb 28, Lagos/Appapa Mar 3, Takoradi Mar 9, Abidjan Mar 12, STRAAT MAGELAEN sld Hong Kong Jan 5 due Cotonou Feb 16, Lome Feb 18, Tema Feb 19, Abidjan Feb 21, Monrovia Feb 24, Freetown Feb 26, Dakar Mar 2, Cotonou Mar 7, Takoradi Mar 11, Luanda Mar 23 opt.

OUTWARDS — STRAAT FRIMANTLE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong, Japan early Mar.

STRAAT MAGELAEN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong, Shanghai opt., Japan mid Feb.

FARRELL LINES

HOMEWARDS — AFRICAN SUN sld Matadi Feb 10 for Sao Paulo Feb 12, Lagos/Appapa Feb 16, Abidjan, Monrovia, US Ports, AFRICAN MERCURY slg Lagos/Appapa Feb 21 for Port Harcourt, Abidjan, Monrovia, US Ports.

OUTWARDS — AFRICAN STAR due Monrovia Feb 27 for Buchanan, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Mar 8, Matadi, Luanda, Lohito; AFRICAN PLANET due Dakar Mar 12 for Freetown, Monrovia Mar 16, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Mar 23, Lagos/Appapa Mar 25, Douala.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

WESTWIND slg New Orleans Feb 18 for Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire, Luanda, Freetown.

SOUTHBOUND slg New Orleans Feb 27, Houston Mar 4 for Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire, Abidjan, Freetown.

THE I.A.C. LINES

SOUTHBOUND — SARAGODHA Hamburg Feb 7, Antwerp Feb 10, Rotterdam Feb 12, ROBEF Feb 15 due Dakar Feb 22, Monrovia Feb 25, Abidjan Feb 27, Lagos/Appapa Mar 2, Cotonou Mar 16.

NORTHBOUND — SARGODHA Cotonou Mar 7, Abidjan Mar 10, Monrovia Mar 13 due Amsterdam Mar 21, Hamburg Mar 24, Copenhagen Mar 26, Aarhus Mar 28, Bremen Apr 1, Antwerp Apr 9, Rotterdam Apr 11.

plants in more states. The Jos plant, now under construction, will start producing early next year.

• A new chairman for the Nigerian Tobacco Company has arrived in Nigeria. He is Mr. Noel Woodward Goddard, formerly chairman of Pakistan Tobacco Company.

ECC and CEAC

The European Economic Community has announced a \$220,000 grant for technical assistance for the West African Economic Community (CEAC) of Francophone states. The European Development Fund also approved grants totalling \$6.6m. for six projects in African states and Madagascar. A mission of four experts will in 1973 provide technical assistance to CEAC, expected to be launched at a meeting of leaders of the seven member states next March in Abidjan. CEAO was initially set up last May in Bamako, but political difficulties prevented it from coming into immediate operation. The EEC Fund spent \$338,000 on technical assistance to CEAO last year.

Grants will also finance construction of a high tension line and extension of tea plantations in Rwanda, ranching in Mali, airport extensions in Mauritania, and air transport of meat and purchase of equipment for the upkeep of 640 wells in Togo.

• The UN World Food Programme (WFP) is to rush emergency food aid worth nearly £600,000 to Mauritania and Senegal because of almost catastrophic drought conditions. The drought, in the Sahelian zone stretching from Mauritania to Chad and including Upper Volta, Mali and Niger, has gradually worsened over the last two months and total WFP emergency aid to the region already amounts to £1.72m.

A WFP report said many parts of the region would "come close to catastrophe". Livestock, on which large sections of the population depend for a livelihood, is dying and "will be dying in great numbers before the next rains", the report said. "Very little, if anything, can apparently be done to prevent this", it added.

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MAURITANIA

Agreements annulled

President Moktar Ould Daddah has said in an interview with *Le Monde* that the economic and military co-operation agreements which Mauritania concluded with France shortly after independence in 1960 are null and void. Negotiations to re-define the agreements started in Paris early in January and were suspended for eight days on February 1.

Pompidou in a letter last June, but he had made difficulties over receiving the Mauritanian Foreign Minister and had sent no written reply. On August 14 another verbal note had been sent and in September M. Billecocq (French Co-operation Minister) had visited Nouakchott. But it was clear that the French were above all trying to gain time, said the President. Mauritania had wished the negotiations to end by December 1972, or even by November 28, the national day. However we accepted a delay, while making it clear that the agreements expired on December 31. France then sent a delegation to "seek means of starting negotiation", and these finally began on January 8. Mauritania agreed to maintain the *status quo* as long as the talks did not go on beyond the end of January. "We will now see in what manner we will translate into deeds this new state of affairs. Perhaps it is better this way, that decolonisation should express itself by a break, even if this break is not definitive". He did not underestimate the inconvenience which would follow from the break, but said that Mauritania had been used to austerity.

In a leader on the subject *Le Monde* said it was not surprising that the first to challenge the "co-operation" policy of France were those whose national characteristics had led them to be the most rebellious against "assimilation" such as Madagascar and Mauritania. But for other francophone countries, too, the day will come, warns the paper when "the men for whom France is a second fatherland" will no longer be in power. Should not France show that she takes the word independence seriously, asks *Le Monde*.



President Ould Daddah

The President told *Le Monde* that Mauritania had been willing to maintain the agreements in force during the negotiations provided they did not extend beyond the end of January. As the talks had failed to reach a conclusion by this date, "our denunciation becomes effective", he said.

President Ould Daddah described the agreements as "a neo-colonialist system", adding "we want to recover our full sovereignty and we are ready to pay the price". The matter was not new, he added. The French had provided vital aid when Morocco had threatened the independence of Mauritania. "But we do not want to survive at any price, and we do not accept the idea that France, because she feels we need her, should impose her views on us". The decision was not an improvised one. He had warned President

SENEGAL Dakar university fracas

About a dozen students have been seriously injured in clashes at Dakar University. Nine students have been definitively expelled from the university, and twenty others have been excluded from the university for the rest of the academic year. Five students from other African countries have been deported. The nine expelled are to face trial in connection with the incidents of January 26 and 29.

Education Minister Assane Seck said that the students had asked for permission to hold a meeting in connection with the assassination of Amilcar Cabral, which had been granted. In fact little had been said at the meeting about Cabral, said the minister. Instead speakers dwelt on Senegalese politics and abused the government, threatening one student who tried to put an opposing viewpoint. M. Seck said militant groups formed into 10 and 20-strong commandos and roved about seeking to attack opponents in their rooms and lecture halls. He said they distributed tracts supporting urban guerrilla activities and attacking student supporters of the ruling UPS as "our enemies".

Two units of the gendarmerie were posted to the university "to assure the safety of students", but were withdrawn a couple of days later when the situation had returned to calm.

• Since 1966 the World Bank had given nearly £25m. (115m. francs CFA) for various development projects in Senegal said the leaders of a World Bank delegation touring eight African countries.

CENTRAFRIKAN REPUBLIC

Two Martines wed

President Bokassa gave away his real and adopted half-Vietnamese daughters at a double wedding attended by President Bongo of Gabon and official delegations from other African countries.

The president is reported

to have selected husbands for the two girls and declared their wedding day a national holiday.

The girls, both named Martine, were born while Bokassa was a sergeant in the French Army during the Indochina war. Several years ago he started a search for a daughter he had had in Saigon.

Officials found a girl whose mother claimed to have known Gen. Bokassa. The girl was received with honour in Bangui, but was later exposed as a fraud when the real daughter presented unquestionable proof of her parentage. President Bokassa adopted both Martines as members of his family.

Martine No. 1 was married to army Capt. Fidele Obrou and her adopted sister, Martine No. 2, to medical student Jean-Bruno Dedeavode.

THE GAMBIA

Sir Dauda on Guinea's stability

Answering a question on the stability of the Guinea government, Sir Dauda Jawara emphasised that he was satisfied that President Sekou Touré's administration was very popular and stable. He emphasised that the people in Guinea were highly disciplined and the People's Militia was a force to be reckoned with.

Asked to comment on the 38 Guinean prisoners handed over to Guinea by The Gambia, Sir Dauda stated that some were produced during the course of his State Visit to Guinea and they all appeared to be in good condition, and looked very unlike people who were maltreated. He was satisfied that President Touré has carried out the agreement made with The Gambia before the prisoners were handed over, protecting them from capital punishment.

• Rice crops have been affected by the lack of rain which has resulted in imports of rice, especially from Burma. The Gambia's biggest supplier.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Message to Gaddafi

Libyan radio said that Colonel Gaddafi had received a message from President Nguema of Equatorial Guinea informing him of 'possible foreign aggression against Equatorial Guinea by a group of mercenaries financed by imperialist interests' and asking for Libya's support. The embassy of Equatorial Guinea in Cameroon had issued a communiqué stating, "according to reliable sources, imperialists intended to use armed mercenaries to overthrow the democratic system in Equatorial Guinea".

Yaoundé Radio reported the arrival of a delegation from Equatorial Guinea with a message from President Nguema to President Ahidjo.

• The New China News Agency has said that, according to reports from Santa Isabel, about 15,000 people demonstrated there on January 29 in protest at "attempts by imperialism and colonialism to intrude into Equatorial Guinea."

TOGO

Chiefs conference

An extraordinary congress of chiefs in Lomé called on the government to institute land reform. Nobody had the right to acquire land without intending to put it to use, because it belonged to the nation, they said. They asked the government to take over land which had not been put to use and to guarantee permanent ownership to those who cultivated their land.

• Lomé has been chosen as headquarters for the Organisation for the Development of Tourism in Africa, the Togolese Commissioner for Tourism has announced.

An organ of the African, Malagasy and Mauritanian Common Organisation (OCAM), it has been based in Paris since it was created several years ago. The transfer should be completed by March. It will be the first

OCAM organisation to be based in Lomé.

• North Korea and Togo have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level it was announced after a visit by a North Korean delegation, led by the ambassador to Mali.

• Britain has presented Togo with four vehicles equipped with cinema projectors for use in rural areas. Togolese Information Minister Dermane-Ali said that the rural population would now be less isolated and would be able to appreciate government efforts for their future.

ZAIRE

Taiwan breaks

Taiwan has suspended diplomatic relations with Zaire following the latter's recognition of Peking, it was announced in Taipei.

Zaire recognised the Peking régime on November 24 and closed its embassy in Taipei last December. President Mobutu Sese Seko has since paid a \$100m loan. Taiwan has ordered the closure of its embassy in Kinshasa and the withdrawal of a farm demonstration team.

• Eight Chinese agricultural experts have arrived to begin a first study of projects which China is undertaking in Zaire.

• North Korea's Foreign Minister, Ho Nam, is scheduled to visit Zaire later this month.

NIGER

MP's salary cut

The National Assembly has voted a month's 10 per cent salary cut for all MPs.

The money will be used to help people facing starvation caused by crop failures in various parts of Niger following the drought in the Sahelian zone of Africa. National Assembly Speaker Bouhou Hama agreed to give up to 20 per cent of his salary.

SIERRA LEONE

President on election

Speaking at Moyamba on the forthcoming general election, the President said that it was understood that some people who had been outside the country for some time were making arrangements to return for the election. He assured their friends that a very "warm welcome" was being prepared for them. The President urged university people and political historians to think seriously of devising ways of select parliamentary representatives according to local conditions. "Otherwise", he said, "we shall run into very serious difficulties, as we cannot afford the type of election expenses incurred in developed countries".

The President declared that the government was examining the position of people who migrated to look for jobs in Freetown and big provincial towns and who eventually found themselves in prison, where the government had to spend large sums to maintain them. He said that the government was examining the prison system it inherited from the colonial régime, since it was "aiding and abetting them in their crimes". Such criminals would have to be sent to work on farms.

Dr. Stevens also recalled that Moyamba was the centre of the southern province in the old days and that many Creoles living there were very helpful to local people. He mentioned this because it pained him to hear some people trying to cause dissimilarity by talking against Creoles simply out of hate and jealousy.

• The opposition Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) has launched a newspaper, *Unity*. The four-page tabloid is similar in appearance to its predecessor of the same name, which disappeared in August 1971, giving way to *The Nation*. *Unity* was founded by former Prime Minister Sir Albert Margai.

Unity appeared with an announcement that the former Cabinet minister, Mr. Sanusi Mustapha who is an MP, would lead the opposition into the forthcoming general election, while Mr. Salia Jusu-Sheriff

would continue party in Parliament dissolution. In a *Unity* spoke of "a is fast moving Communist fold starved of criticism and examination ... a nation whose media is almost Government-owned therefore gagged that has known liberty for quite a ... *Unity* w cajoled into the State nor brow-beat now familiar pat pardonable violence

• A delegation Vice-President S.I has had talks with government officials operation. The Vice has separate talks Nigerian Communist Economic Development Reconstruction, Abebayo Adedun Koroma at them. Mr. Solomon Prater of External Affairs Gandi-Capio, Miss Development. The delegation has states starting at En

The Vice-President reporters that Sir would be able to advanced research animal husbandry, posed West African Community sports Nigeria and Togo. Yaoundé Convention discussed Mr. Kor expressed support of the old institutions which in West African together before a ence. He would such bodies as African Currency West African Airways

• A Brazilian Law was given a suspended prison pouring petrol over of the Sierra Leone Commission in Lomé setting light to a "political protest prosecution said He Pinto Bergwak, 24 London, bought prison November and set around the High Commission's door. Damm slight.

Bergwak pleaded damaging the building said he was protesting "methods used by Sierra Leone".

• In Washington Sierra Leone's Ambassador, Mr. Phillip Palmer, has reminded students of their responsibility in a foreign country. Speaking to more than 200 he said their business was to study and return home. If they worked in the US after their studies they deprived Sierra Leone of skill needed for development and even created an unemployment problem for the US. The government could not be financially responsible for all Sierra Leonean students in the US as there were many elsewhere. The Ambassador stressed the importance of studying in recognised colleges and undergoing courses for which there would be employment after graduation.

Answering questions Mr. Palmer said that no negotiation had been contemplated between the APC Government and Guinea to merge the two countries. The Defence Pact between the two republics was a natural response between neighbours.

• The Sierra Leone Labour Congress has criticised the charter on trade union rights prepared by the OAU Secretary. Mr. Marcus Grant, Congress President, declared that some charter provisions contravened vital trade union rights. Nearly all OAU members had ratified Convention 87 of the ILO which states, "workers and employees, without distinction whatsoever, shall have the right to establish and, subject only to the rules of the organisation concerned, join organisations of their own choosing without previous authorisation". Mr. Grant said his congress had expressed concern over the provision in the OAU charter that under no circumstances should African unions be affiliated to international trade unions of their choice.

• Opening the new pipe-borne water system at Goderich, in the Western Area, the Minister of Works, Mr. D. F. Shears, said that the government could not satisfy the needs of all sections of the community at the same time. Speaking on the shortage of sugar and rice, Mr. Shears said that the rise in price and scarcity of sugar was due to the rise in world prices and was not an intentional act of the government. He attributed the rice

shortage to the rush to diamond areas. He promised that the rice problem would be solved as a large consignment was expected soon. Mr. Shears said that if the APC was returned in the next election they would seriously think of embarking on free primary education.

Expatriates deported

Five Indians and a Lebanese have been deported for allegedly flouting Business Immigration Quota Committee regulations. The Indians were found working for a firm other than the firms indicated in their permits to enter Sierra Leone. The Lebanese, a businessman, was reported to have been managing a hotel without the committee's approval. The deportations followed extensive checks on expatriate employees. According to the Immigration Department the checks were not meant to embarrass expatriates whose residence and employment are legal.

• The Sierra Leone High Commissioner in Ghana Mr. Henry Lynch-Shyllon, has called for development of coastal shipping services among African countries. Speaking in Takoradi at the end of his tour of industrial establishments, the High Commissioner noted that the main obstacle to the growth of trade among West African countries was the absence of shipping.

• An agreement to carry out rutile mining in the Bonthle and Moyamba Districts has been concluded with the Bayer Preussag Mining Company. Mr. S. B. Kawusu-Konteh who signed on behalf of Government said that since 1970 the company had been engaged in prospecting for rutile and the government had been looking forward to a successful result. Rutile mining is already carried out by an American consortium in the Bonthle area.

• Mr. Tommy Hope, General Manager and Engineer-in-charge of the Gumia Valley Water Company, has been unanimously re-elected President of the Chamber of Commerce.

• A five-man delegation from the Guinea Embassy, led by the Press Attaché, has called on the Resident Minister, Northern Province, to inform him of the Embassy's intention of organising a Committee for Guineans in Makeni, Magburaka, Kabala and other towns to carry out a census.

• The President has announced that the USSR has agreed to build a 300-bed hospital in Sierra Leone, with a loan of some Le2½m. at three and a half per cent over 12 years.

• Sierra Leone's Ambassador to Guinea, Mr. Koyo Randle, is a member of the committee investigating the death of Amílcar Cabral.

• Lady Ramage, widow of Sir Richard Ramage, Colonial Secretary, Sierra Leone, 1942-51, whom she married in 1932 and who died in 1971, has died in Devon.

• The President told a large group of Alhajs and Alhajas that the government would do anything possible to reduce the cost and increase the number of pilgrims going to Mecca.

GHANA Export percentage

Major Felli, Ghana's Commissioner for Trade and Tourism, addressing the Manufacturers' Association in Accra, said that to ensure that manufacturers engaged in "serious" export business, every industrial concern capable of exporting should set aside a certain percentage of production for export. He would like them to send to his ministry a schedule indicating production targets for 1973 and the percentage they could export without disrupting the local market. "After all, most of the manufactured goods you pump on to the local market are exported unofficially by unofficial exporters from our country without repatriating the relevant foreign exchange".

Major Felli said he wanted to discuss with the manufacturers the maximisation of foreign exchange earnings which, until lately, had accrued mainly from gold.

diamonds, cocoa and timber. "We have tried this year to interest farmers in the export of non-traditional crops such as yams, cassava chips, pineapples and the various spices including pepper and ginger".

The National Export Company, Major Felli said, had been charged with responsibility for ensuring that export of yams and spices earned 2m. cedis in foreign exchange. The Commissioner said tourism in 1972 earned at least 7 million cedis; it was hoped that this year it would bring in 10 million cedis if present plans succeed.

• Regional military tribunals are to try employees of the Produce Buying Agency, mostly produce clerks, who are in military custody accused of embezzling or misappropriating cocoa funds. The Managing Director of the PBA, Cdr. A. A. Anatsui, said that the parents of those in custody had been given the chance to refund the amounts involved, but the response had not been encouraging. Some culprits were still at large, others had fled the country, he said.

It has been estimated that since 1966 misappropriations, embezzlements and frauds in the cocoa trade amounted to nearly 60m cedis. This covers offences committed by employees of the various buying agencies of the Cocoa Marketing Board.

Cdr. Anatsui said that henceforth all PBA employees, both old and new, would be "screened" by the Armed Forces and Police. He also ruled out any possibility of automatic employment by the PBA of redundant employees of those buying agencies whose licences have been withdrawn because of their debts to the CMB. However, the PBA board would meet to decide on how best to solve the issue of redundant employees.

• Mr. J. H. Frimpong-Ansah, Governor of the Bank of Ghana, is chairman of the 11-member board of the Ashanti Goldfields (Ghana) Corporation, in which the government has taken 55 per cent of the equity.

Government members on the board of Ghana Consolidated Diamonds, which, with 55 per cent government participation, takes over C&S

operations include Mr. Albert Adomako, former Governor of the Bank of Ghana (Chairman); Col. P. M. Agyekum, Director of the Ghana Armed Forces Legal Directorate, and Mr. H. A. Dodoo, the chartered accountant.

Col. Acheampong urged members of the two boards to maintain and improve the present level of production. Ghana would not tolerate any drop in productivity. Board members were reminded that in recent years "the production of gold and diamonds by the previous companies has reflected steady increases and the relations between labour and management have been good".

Col. Acheampong emphasised that technical management of the AGC remained the responsibility of Lonrho and that of GCD the responsibility of CAST.

• Ghana's trade surplus from January to November 1972 stood at 158.8m. cedis. Total imports for the period were worth 366.7m. cedis and exports 525.5m. cedis. Comparative figures from January to November 1971 were imports 416m. cedis and exports 343.9m. cedis.

Nikoi for bank

Dr. Amon Nikoi, Senior Principal Secretary of the Finance Ministry, has been appointed Governor of the Bank of Ghana. He succeeds Mr. Joseph Frimpong-Ansah who has been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee of 20 on International Monetary Reform by the International Monetary Fund. An official statement said Dr. Nikoi's appointment takes effect from March 1. The new governor, 43, was educated in the United States and has served in Ghana's diplomatic missions in the US and the UN and was once an executive director of the IMF.

• Maj.-Gen. Addo, the retiring Commissioner for Agriculture, has been presented with a bunch of cassava stalks, a machele, and an empty cocoa sack as a memento of the agricultural revolution, at a farewell party organised by the staff of his Ministry.

Mr P. E. Pentsil, the principal secretary, described General Addo as a great

Ghanaian who had helped in "one of our difficult moments to start a new revolution in agriculture with 'Operation Feed Yourself'".

Col. Bernasko, former Central Regional Commissioner has been sworn in as Commissioner for Agriculture.

• The prices of some made-in-Ghana goods are expected to come down considerably in price by June to help reduce the high cost of living. Col. Agyekum, Western Region Commissioner, has announced. He said that at Present about 80 per cent of Ghana's requirements were being produced locally and the government could therefore reduce the prices of some items.

• The 3m. cedi Saltpond ceramic factory is expected to begin production in a few weeks time after over a years delay, the project manager told the outgoing Central Region Commissioner, Col. Bernasko. The factory, a joint state-private enterprise, should have started production in November 1971, but there was a delay in shipping the machinery from abroad. Last December it was able to begin the manufacture of kaolin for its own use and for sale.

• Ghana and Guinea have formally restored diplomatic relations. The NRC has named Accra's Ambassador in Sierra Leone, Alhaji Yakubu Tali, as non-resident envoy to Conakry.

Relations were severed in 1966 by the National Liberation Council following the overthrow of President Nkrumah, who was granted asylum in Guinea.

• All market women are to be registered as from March by the Income Tax Department in a bid to assess them for taxation.

During the campaign, which will embrace all eligible taxpayers, the department hopes to collect about 78m. cedis. A similar figure was realised during 1971/72.

• All the impounded cars that were used by Ministers and Ministerial Secretaries in Dr. Busia's government, have been sold and the money realised paid into government coffers.

• Two scrap dealers from Tema were sentenced on February 1 to death by firing squad in Accra for stealing underground telephone cables. They were charged on two counts, conspiracy to commit subversion and subversion by stealing underground cables valued at 800 cedis. They were found guilty of subversion by stealing but not guilty on the first count.

• The Trade and Tourism Ministry has been reorganised and the import licensing division has moved to new offices at the Trade Fair site. An official statement said the separation of the import licensing division from the Ministry was in line with a decision by the NRC to restructure the Ministry to ensure greater efficiency.

• The C15m. Pwalugu Tomato Factory, which has been idle for seven years, is to restart production. Funds have been made available to the Upper Region Agricultural Planning Committee to assist production of tomatoes to feed the factory.

• Ghana is to increase its equity of 40 per cent in the Firestone Tyre Factory at Bonsaso.

• The second conference of Ministers of the Economic Community for Africa will be held in Accra from February 19.

LIBERIA

Steel plant prospect

A Rumanian delegation is holding talks with the Liberian Government on the possibility of establishing the country's first steel plant. A preliminary survey will be followed by "high level discussions". A team from the Rumanian Ministry of Mining, Petroleum and Geology had earlier visited the Wologisi Mountains, about 125 miles north of Monrovia, to evaluate the iron ore deposits.

Liberia has four iron ore concessions in operation. A Japanese consortium had been expected to develop the Wologisi deposits, and the President has declared that this time development of deposits should be accompanied by establishment of a steel plant.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Cabral bur

The assassination leader, Dr. Amílcar has been given a funeral in Conakry buried in the Mausoleum, which remains of Guinea's heroes Alpha Y Samory Touré. An mourners were 680 from other African

It has now been announced that Aristide Pereira, former Secretary-General, named as the new movement. It was reported that D. Monteiro was to succeed.

The committee investigated the assassination is reported by the newspaper *Le Soleil* established that operation was in Portugal". Although the committee did not state at the enquiry, the news that the committee viewed 500 people, 50 were pronounced on their own and were described as and 43 as findings would be to the PAIGC, who pass judgement and

The Committee the ambassadors from Senegal, Aimé Tanzania, Zaire, Sierra Leone, Liberia and the elders of the and FRELIMO reports that some PAIGC sea forces they were because the Cape Islanders had all they led a gilded Conakry instead of the front, they were served by the night they were the only drive round in cars of the wounded were from the islands. An officer was reported said that the leaders "the ranks of the forces would have purged".

Portugal has against any involvement assassination, this statement from the also lodged a protest reservation of a UN delegation at a meeting for organised by the on Decolonisation

NIGERIA

The second oil refinery

Nigeria's proposed second petroleum refinery will produce 1.5m. barrels of oil a year, the Federal Commissioner for Mines and Power, Shettima Ali Monguno, said in Port Harcourt. The Federal Government would soon decide the site, he added.

The commissioner, who was on a six-day official tour of the state, explained that the Federal Government had started importing petroleum products to cope with the demand.

Alhaji Shettima said the National Oil Corporation was just at the take-off stage. Its directors would meet before the end of February to appoint executives. A number of graduates had been sent overseas for training.

Before returning to Lagos the Commissioner said that the flaring off of a natural gas was a colossal waste to the economy. He said that proposals by interested parties on the need for a gas complex had been forwarded to the Federal Executive Council for a decision. Alhaji Shettima added that he had observed with regret the pollution in Nigeria's oil producing areas. He intended taking the matter up in the appropriate quarter.

Japanese, German prospecting

Agreement on a joint oil prospecting plan in Nigeria is reported to have been reached between the Japan Petroleum Company of Tokyo and Deminex, a state-financed West German Company.

The proposed prospecting of undersea oilfields will take place in two of Japan's six oil concessions in Nigeria, situated next to the German-owned concessions. The Japanese firm recently reported finding a "very large" deposit off Obe, in the Western state which was expected to yield 3,500 barrels a day.

Nigeria has stepped up relief supplies to her pilgrims stranded in Jeddah as a result of the air disaster at Kano.

King Faisal of Saudi Arabia ordered living costs to be paid to them.

An official statement said Nigeria sent more food supplies to supplement the quantity already sent and had authorised substantial sums of money to minimise the hardship of the pilgrims. The emergency aid was ordered by Gen. Gowon.

- Returning to Lagos after his father's funeral, Gen Gowon called at Ikeja railway station to speak with pilgrims waiting for trams to take them back to the northern states. As he moved through the crowd security officials tried to prevent them surging forward to shake hands. Gen. Gowon took a loudspeaker and assured the stranded pilgrims that everything was being done to get them home as soon as possible.

- Normal passenger train services from Lagos to the northern states and vice versa were suspended until the bulk of pilgrims flown over Kano to Ikeja have been taken home.

- The North Eastern State has taken over the responsibility of bringing back to Maiduguri all of its pilgrims stranded in Lagos.

- Kano airport, closed after the air crash in which 176 people died, has been reopened.

- Gen. Gowon was accompanied on his return to Lagos from the funeral of his father by Mme Touré, wife of the Guinean President and leader of a special Guinean delegation including the Prime Minister, Lansana Beauvoigui, which visited Nigeria to offer condolences.

- Some reporters were unable to cover General Gowon's departure from Ikeja Airport for his father's funeral because the airport commandant, Captain Banfa said that they were not "properly dressed".

Speeding money exchange

Commercial banks throughout Nigeria were opened on Sunday, February 11, and worked longer hours daily from February 7 as part of emergency measures to speed up the decimal currency exchange exercise

which is scheduled to end on February 14.

Dr. Clement Isong, Governor of the Central Bank, told a press conference that about 68.2m. old Nigerian pound notes were still in circulation. This represented 34.3 per cent of all old notes still to be exchanged. Dr. Isong said the new measures were to ensure that Nigerians were able to exchange old notes before the deadline. He indicated that the exchange deadline might be extended for another two weeks if necessary.

There had been no reports of old Nigerian notes being smuggled into the country, he said. It was apparently to prevent smuggling that the Government ordered a six-week compulsory search of incoming diplomatic bags early in January. Most of the foreign missions in Lagos opposed to the order are said to have decided to send back their bags rather than have them searched.

"No pay no work"

About 500 employees of the Nigerian National Press which publishes the Federal government-owned *Morning Post* and the weekly *Sunday Post* have begun a "no-pay-no-work" strike. A union official said the workers took action after waiting for their January wages which normally should have been paid on January 28. He also complained about irregular payment of allowances and claims as well as poor facilities.

A spokesman for the management said arrangements were being made to pay the wages, but he could not say when. Some members of the newspaper's editorial staff also took part in the strike.

- The Federal Palace Hotel is to expand further in two further phases, the Federal Commissioner for Trade, Mr. Wenike Briggs, said when opening the Hotel's seventh floor extension.

He emphasised that the complex envisaged under phase 1 was to provide suitable accommodation for heads of state attending conferences in Nigeria or who were on state visits. Work will begin on it in September. The

complex will consist of a 26-storey building with 250 bedrooms with a revolving restaurant and night club on the 26th floor.

The new extension, to be built by an indigenous firm, comprises one presidential suite with two beds, five double rooms with 10 beds and four singles with 10 beds. It thus provides 10 additional rooms.

- The British Foreign Minister, Sir Alec Douglas Home was expected to talk with the Portuguese Foreign Minister during a brief stop-over in Lisbon before his tour of Senegal, Liberia and Nigeria.

- The Vice-Chancellor of Ife University, Professor H. A. Oluwasanmi, has been appointed a member of the Council of the University of Ghana, Legon, for a further term of two years. Professor Oluwasanmi was first appointed a member of council in 1970.

- The Government has approved awards made by the Industrial Arbitration Tribunal to the Ikeja Textile Workers Union and the Lagos Cement Workers Ltd Union. The awards were made as a result of industrial disputes.

- Federal Commissioner for Labour and Information, Chief Anthony Enahoro, told the Commonwealth Youth Conference in Lusaka: "We cannot close this conference without at least according in some form a reaffirmation of our support for and solidarity with Zambia, and without making a clear call upon Britain to bring this rebellion to an end."

- The Federal Government has set aside 14m. naira for the development of library services in primary schools. Also 200,000 naira has been set aside for the building of a central medical library and 1.5m. naira for a national library headquarters in Lagos.

- Soviet experts have begun to study feasibility reports on an iron and steel industry in Nigeria, and a paper mill, said the Federal Commissioner for Economic Development and Reconstruction, Dr. Adedeji.

- Production at the Abeokuta brewery has been grounded owing to an acute shortage of water. The Abeokuta office of the Western Nigeria Water Corp-

oration said, "there is a mechanical fault at the Iberekodo Water Works"

• Nigeria had a trade surplus of £247m. in 1972, almost double the figure for 1971. Exports rose by 9.4 per cent. Revenue from crude petroleum exports increased by about £118m.

• Mr. Thomas Letchworth has died, aged 66. He was formerly Resident in the Northern Region. He was awarded the CMG in 1959.

• Mr. William Hamilton Whyte, who was Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research at University College, Ibadan, from 1950 to 1953, has died.

• A sweeping purge of corrupt officers had been carried out in his division, the GOC, 1 Infantry Div. Brig. Bisalla, said in Maiduguri.

General and Commissioner for Justice, Dr. Moses Onwuamaegbu, said in Enugu. He referred to action taken since the murder of two tax officials at Abakaliki, which included the immediate arrest of all suspects

• With the re-opening of the Awka exchange 14 out of 25 telephone exchanges in the East Central State have been reactivated since the end of the civil war, said the Federal Commissioner for Communications, Mr. J.S. Tarka. He said that the Federal Government was determined to restore disrupted services to war-affected areas and may extend such services to other towns.

• Of the 212 doctors required to run 22 government medical institutions in the East Central State, only 102 are available at the moment. The 102 doctors also help in the running of ten joint hospitals, 16 voluntary agency hospitals and five community hospitals in the state.

• Eight villages in the Andoni area of the South Eastern State are reported to have been burned down during a clash between the villagers and the peoples of Ogoni in the Rivers State. Property estimated at 40,000 naira was destroyed. Official reports say that 300 houses were burned and over 3,000 people rendered homeless. About 80 mobile policemen have been sent from Lagos to patrol the areas in case of more trouble. Stockfish and fishing nets have been sent from Calabar to Opobo for distribution among those whose property was destroyed.

At a meeting arranged by the Divisional Officers for Andoni and Ogoni areas the traditional chiefs of the two disputing clans agreed to be law abiding.

• The Federal Government has made available a 1.5m. naira loan to the Mid-West State for the reactivation of the Ukpilla Cement Works and Ughelli Glass Factories, the Federal Commissioner for Economic Development, Dr. Adedeji, said during a five day tour of the State.

• Customs officers seized smuggled goods worth £38,000 in the Owode area of Lagos. The goods include unmanufactured cigarettes and tobacco. Customs authorities recently intensified patrols in a fresh attempt to curb smuggling.

• The North West announced that it will spend 10 per cent towards every major project in the state in the next financial year.

• Four men were arrested in Benue State for allegedly using forged naira notes.

• Benue-Plateau signed a 140,000 contract with the Aero Service Company Lagos to provide fuel for the River Marka project.

• New army barracks are to be built at Calabar. The new commander of the Infantry Brigade, Lt. Col. Oluyemi Bajowa, said during a five day tour of the State.

From the states

Steps are being taken to protect all citizens, especially tax collectors, whose lives are sometimes threatened in the execution of their duties, the East Central State Attorney-

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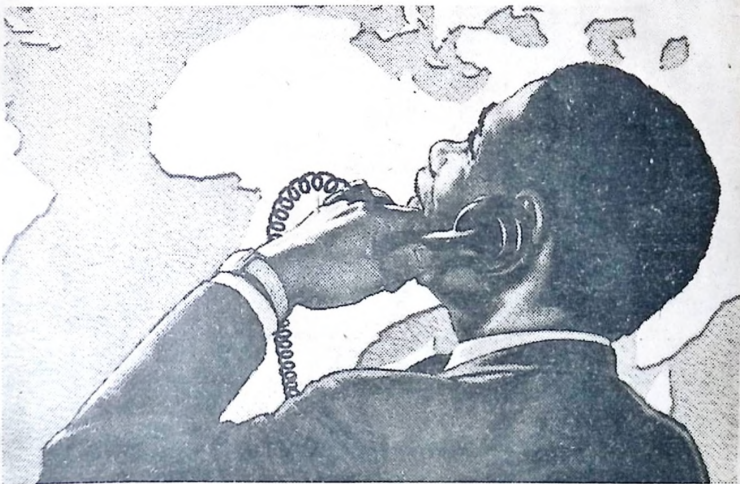
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