

West Africa

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West Africa No. 2703 Saturday March 22 1969

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Winning Nigeria's Peace

DELEGATES are now arriving in Ibadan for what is likely to be the greatest gathering of economic experts ever seen at one time in West Africa, ranging from a score of professors in universities all over the world to the President of the African Development Bank, from Chief Simeon Adebó to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue of the new Rivers State. Officially designated as a conference on national reconstruction and development in Nigeria, the meeting is jointly sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Economic Development and the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research of Ibadan University, where the conference will be held. The official purpose of the conference, which opens on March 24, is to "review the achievements of Nigeria's first national development plan and suggest guide lines for the preparation of the second national development plan". But the conference is asked to take account "of the need for economic and social reconstruction" after the present emergency, the recent administrative changes, and current trends.

It has already been announced that the Federal Government expects Nigeria to make a total capital investment (including some £465m. in the private sector, excluding petroleum), of £1.163m. in 1969-73. But delay in the "final push", which seemed so imminent and inevitable in September last year, has made the planners think of a more flexible time-table; the reconstruction plan will be put into effect "when the war ends or the armed rebellion is confined to such a small area of the country that it will cease to constitute a military and economic threat to the future of Nigeria". Mr. Allison Ayida, however, the energetic Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Economic Planning, in a news conference this month was able to say that the Government still expected to be able to put the plan into effect within the next few months.

Reporting from Ibadan on the commissioning of the conference earlier this month, Griot reminded us that Nigerian aspirations now centre on reconstruction the same way they once did on independence and later "flicker for an too brief moment in a period after January 1966 coup". The conference

shows both the Federal government's confidence in the future and its determination that the reconstruction and development plan will be both a really Nigerian one, in whose framing relatively junior officers of the new states will play a part, and a plan which can command international support.

Plans and action for helping Nigeria to get back on her feet after the devastation (psychological as well as physical) of the civil war have hitherto largely concerned the situation in the stricken areas retaken from Biafra. This shows a proper sense of priorities. But that reconstruction in a broader sense is already prominent in the thinking of the Federal Government is shown by establishment of the high-powered Rehabilitation Committee in the Cabinet Office over a year ago, and by the seven-point programme for the reintegration of the Ibos into the Federation, announced in Lagos last September.

What, however, of the post-war prospects of the country as a whole? A statement issued when an outline of the new plan was announced, so far from being pessimistic said that the "increased savings possibilities" revealed by the war, brighter foreign aid expectations, and the obvious investment possibilities in post-war Nigeria, made the estimate of an investment of over £1,100m. in four years realistic. Reconstruction, in the physical sense would take some £200m., but the rest of the investment would produce new development—for example, £10m. to assist the states' agricultural programmes. Nor was the statement pessimistic, because of the effect of war, about the 1962-68 plan, the results of which the conference is to consider. The Kainji Dam, for example, was completed, as was the second Lagos bridge, and several main roads. More important: "In a sense it is partly because of the foundations laid by the 1962 National Plan that the Nigerian economy has survived the financial strains of the war with bearable scars; outside the war zones, the economy has remained basically and structurally sound—if not exactly buoyant!"

We know that the convenors of this conference will be sufficiently sensitive to the need for preventing its theme, national reconstruction, from being narrowly interpreted, in terms of bricks and mortar alone. In the aftermath of civil war,



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reconstruction does not end with
ing bridges and physical plant.
Nigeria now, as Griot observed,
are times when the word seems
on an almost metaphysical na
and, Biafran rehabilitation apart,
remain two matters of post-war co
which cannot be omitted from the
cussions at Ibadan next week.

One is the future structure and
tions of the present states. On
creation, in May 1967, General C
promised that a Delimitation Comm
would "ensure that any divisio
towns not satisfied with the sta
which they are initially groupec
obtain redress". Arbitration
obviously await the ending of the
as must final decisions on the fu
of the states, and revenue allocat

The other point, which must
the mind of anybody looking b
the war is what may be called the
thesis of reconstruction: demobilis
Leaving aside the disarming, an
haps part-reabsorption, of Biafran
what of Nigeria's problem of ru
down her own military machine?

The armed forces have pre
expanded ten times, and the g
ment cannot wish, or be able, to
tain an inflated force of 80,000
under arms. Many of the me
drawn from that vast reserve o
partially educated and often t
ployed, whose ominous disti
frightened observers before the
Will they gladly relinquish their ne
good and regular pay, free clothes,
and accommodation? Then there
swollen officer cadres, many of
have earned rapid promotion fro
ranks. Can they be expected che
to renounce their newly acquire
status and the rewards that go w

The Ibadan conference must
thought to what so many other
have painfully come to recognise
potential canker in the hour o
military victory, the reintegration
civilian society not only o
vanquished but also of the victors
be, for all the discredit earned
Nkrumah's Workers' Brigade
its abuse as an instrument of te
political thugs (the terminology
of the Kom Commission of En
there is yet something to be s
from a reformed version of the
The establishment of some
serupulously controlled Nation
struction Corps. might allow
during that critical period, to dep
—and Biafra's—organised but
porarily surplus manpower wh
could have a substantial rôle to
post-war rebuilding.

A Cedi for Cocoa

AN increase in the price paid to
cocoa farmers of one cedi
beginning with the present mid
very welcome. But, as an article
journal recently pointed out, the
Government takes from the cocoa

over 60 per cent of the earnings of his cocoa overseas. This may be essential both to balance the budget and to control inflation, but in the long run it deprives the farmer of incentive not only to increase production but even to maintain his farm. Our correspondent estimated that a new price of at least 10 new cedis was needed at a time when smugglers could get almost 14 new cedis in Togo.

The Ghana Government has also announced that a further subsidy for Gammalin 20, the insecticide which farmers themselves use against capsids. Our correspondent said the annual supply would have to be trebled from the 200,000 gallons presently being supplied, and Brig. Afrifa, Ghana's Commissioner for Finance, now says 400,000 gallons is being ordered as a minimum. Apart from the transfer of gammalin distribution to licensed buying agents of the Marketing Board, as our correspondent urged, credit for farmers will be improved.

ROUNDABOUT Cricketing Conspiracy

Bathurst

I have always hesitated in the past to write about cricket in The Gambia. It has been, from Elspeth Huxley to the notorious Berkeley Rice, such an obvious subject to dwell on that it seemed there was nothing new to say about it. For some days, however, I have been studying the present curious state of Senegal-Gambia relations; and one comes back again and again to the idyllic scene in MacCarthy Square on a Saturday afternoon—the crack of the bat and the cries of "Oh good shot" as the shadows lengthen. This is something the average lycee-trained Senegalese can only look on with baffled incomprehension; how can this Anglo-Saxon tribal custom have been transplanted so smoothly and so naturally to the banks of The Gambia river? One Senegalese has even said to me, "the Gambians have picked up all the worst vices of the British." He may not have been referring to cricket (far be it from me to refer to that as a vice) but it is symbolic that bang in the centre of Bathurst a game such as this should be played. It is, like The Gambia itself, a kind of defiance of the logical order of things; surrounded by the omnipresence of *la Francité* in Senegal, Gambian cricket takes on the nature of a subversive movement that would surely have to be banned should, heaven forbid, the day ever arrive that the Senegalese take over here.

Cricket in The Gambia awaits its histories. To do it justice it would need a writer of the order of the Trinidadian, C. L. R. James, whose book *Beyond a Boundary* is the most acute analysis of the socio-political significance of cricket in the Caribbean I have read. I watched a match between "Worcester" (an eleven of young professional men who were trained so effectively by a coach from

England's Worcestershire club when they were at school that they have played together ever since) and Fajara, one of Bathurst's burgeoning residential suburbs. The Fajaras team included several expatriates as well as one of The Gambia's most famous cricketers, Alhaji A. B. Njie, Minister for Local Government, who although over sixty still plays for the Gambian national team. He told me that he had played in West Africa's first inter-colonial Test Match in 1927 (needless to say The Gambia won it the first three years running) and has been in these matches ever since. Any historian would have to draw on his recollections of over forty years. There are plenty of other "Pa" figures around still, with a copious fund of cricketing memories; I sat with Mr. Manly-Rollings, now Chairman of the Public Service Commission and "Pa" Bidwell, Vice-Patron of The Gambia Cricket Association and a well-known Bathurst shopkeeper, listening to

over the last 10 years. Swedish journalists are constantly in and out, and the celebrated blonde star of Ingmar Bergman films, Bibi Andersson, was brought out to do fashion photographs on a pig shooting safari upriver.

Vingresor operate their own Boeing 727s and the runway at Bathurst's Yundum Airport has been extended with British aid to accommodate them. They also run Flygtaxis—light aircraft excursions into Senegal and up-river. This year Swedish tourists are expected to top the 1,000 mark as the season has been extended by one month, but there has been increasing interest from other Scandinavian countries and from West Germany. During the season a German and an Italian cruise vessel now put in once a week at Government Wharf, as an extension of their run to Las Palmas.

All this has led to hotel development. The Atlantic Hotel, established by the Madi brothers, the old established



The City of Bathurst: the MacCarthy Square cricket pitch can be seen among the trees in the background.

their recollections of how the latter had once lost his job because of addiction to cricket and only got it back after petitioning the then UK Colonial Secretary.

I think it is fair to say that, in spite of the countless ties of family, language, custom and other affinities across the borders with Senegal, which must make some kind of unity between the two countries inevitable in the long run, there exists something approximating to the Gambian way of life, of which cricket is merely an integral part. It is this relaxed lifestyle, intoxicatingly free of the political suspicions and tensions which beset so many other African countries, which make it profoundly attractive to the visitor, and even increases its attraction for tourists. I first wrote about the Swedes in The Gambia some three years ago, when they had just started coming. Now the operation seems much more streamlined, having been taken over by a major Scandinavian travel agency called Vingresor, who specialise in tropical holidays for sun-starved Swedes and have the facilities to mount a full scale publicity drive to support their efforts. A scrapbook of cuttings from the Swedish press, it is fair to say, shows that there was more published about The Gambia in Swedish newspapers last year than in the British press

Lebanese commercial family (who have done much to develop cricket here), has a new extension; Kamal Milky, owner of the Adonis Hotel, has built a new one, the Banjul (the Wolof name for Bathurst). There is also a chalet-style beach hotel called the Palm Grove just outside Bathurst, and there are plans by a Swedish group to erect a £3m. hotel at Fajara. It must frankly be said that much of the money which the Swedish tourists bring into The Gambia goes back to Vingresor, in that they organise their own excursions, rather than use local operators. There is also the often posed question whether, in view of the imports necessary in a country like The Gambia to maintain a tourist traffic, this can never make a substantial contribution to the country's "export earnings." But Gambians feel that their country has assets which, if properly used, could make tourism a worthwhile venture. There is a great enthusiasm here to make tourism work; there are people from all walks of life in The Gambia Tourist Board, whose Chairman is the same A. B. Njie I mentioned earlier. For myself, I can think of few places where I would rather spend a holiday than here.

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Behind the Rio Muni Rising

By a Correspondent

EQUATORIAL Guinea's two-stage crisis was apparently started by a very small incident.

Spain's permanent representative at the U.N. said the original trouble arose because the authorities wanted to stop the Spanish flag from being flown from the Spanish Chancellery in Bata, though the Consul refused to take down the flag, and the President—so said the representative—sent an armed detachment to take down the flag. (Another report said the request was for one Spanish flag only to be flown, not the three which were there.) This, and an atmosphere of "insecurity" and "violent threats" against some Spaniards, and the fatal shooting of a firm's employee caused Spaniards on Rio Muni to seek the Bata consul's protection. The representative accused the Guinean Government of refusing to guarantee the safety of Spaniards, and said two passenger ships and a "small escort vessel" were sent to Bata to evacuate people if necessary; he strongly denied that the 260 "police units" had been mobilised, or that weapons had been issued to Spanish citizens, or that (as alleged by the OAU secretariat) Spain intended to send military forces to Equatorial Guinea. He then said Spain had indicated its readiness to withdraw the 260 Civil Guards stationed in the territory after independence.

Atanasio Ndongo, formerly a rival leader and an unsuccessful Presidential candidate in the election just before independence last October, became foreign minister when Señor Francisco Macias was elected president, and was in Madrid, on his way home from Addis Ababa, when the Spanish troops crisis was at its height. Soon after his return the Spanish Civil Guards were reported to have left the airports of Santa Isabel (the capital) and Bata (in Rio Muni), and withdrawn to barracks, while evacuation of Spaniards and other Europeans went on by sea and air. Then there followed the attempted rising, led by Ndongo and Saturnino Ibonjo among others, in the morning of March 5 in Bata, during a visit there by President Macias (Bata, as chief town of the timber-producing Rio Muni, was the centre of the unrest of the previous week, which seemed to have been directed partly against Spanish timber businessmen).

An editorial in *Le Monde* on the crisis said that, like the Congo disaster in 1960, this was due to "tribal rivalries, personal conflicts, continuation of Spanish colonists' economic interests, the ill will of some administrators from the colonial power, and national susceptibilities all the stronger for being newer." On the immediate cause, one suggestion was that señor Macias had tried to stave off unrest in the poorer territory of Rio Muni, where there has been resentment at the greater wealth and power of the Fernando Po people, by stirring up anti-Spanish feelings. Macias is from Rio Muni himself, as is Ndongo.

Soon after the attempted coup a refugee arriving in Madrid said the population had gone "berserk." Another said the gangs were calling themselves the *Juventudes de Macias*; they were said to have arrested several people.

A UN mission arrived on March 10. The members were Marcel Tamayo of Bolivia, José Machado of Brazil, and Armand Gauto of Gabon—a neighbour of Rio Muni, and with the same dominant tribe (Fang or, as they are called in Spanish, the

Pamue). Meanwhile Spain demanded urgent intervention by the Red Cross to help evacuation of Spanish subjects and take charge of hospitals, where Spanish doctors were in a bad situation. Though some Spaniards were beaten, or humiliated, there were no reports of rape or of any Spaniards being killed. The worst of the mob fury was directed against Africans accused of supporting the rising.

A refugee report, and AFP, said that Dr. Ndongo's wife was raped and dragged through the streets of Bata. This is unconfirmed. She is a Cameroonian, the widow of M. Felix Moumie, leader of the Cameroonian revolutionary party UPC (*Union des Peuples Camerounais*), who was poisoned in Geneva in 1960.



Macias—Spaniards accused.

President Macias appears to have been in Bata for most of the crisis; reports all seemed to suggest that he remained effectively in power. On March 12 he said a new constitution would be brought into force to replace the one "imposed by the Spaniards" before independence last October; it would be submitted to a national referendum. He now claimed that Dr. Ndongo was out of hospital and was awaiting trial by a "people's court" (he had been reported dead).

The Nigerian Workers

Refugees spoke of a possible "revolt" by the 30,000 Nigerian farm workers on Fernando Po. There have been Nigerian workers in the island for decades, usually Easterners, and many of them Ibo. No reason has been given why they should revolt; although it has been alleged that some individual Ibos were suspected of taking part in an earlier conspiracy against Macias, there have been no reports of attacks on Nigerians or Biafrans.

News agencies reported from Bata on March 12 that President Macias had asked for \$4m. in aid from the UN for refugees from Nigeria and Biafra who, he said, numbered 70,000. This seems near the figure of Nigerians and Biafrans (a majority of the inhabitants of Fernando Po) normally resident; there have been some new refugees since the Nigerian war began, but it is unlikely that there have been as many as this. According to this report Macias also accused Spain of mounting an "economic blockade"; earlier he had alleged Spanish support for the attempted

coup.

One comment in London recalls that Ndongo himself, when explaining last January the reason for the ban on Red Cross flights to Biafra, had spoken of "internal problems", and says this explanation now appears to have been true. It was rumoured that the Red Cross, by its links with Biafra, had become suspect because of alleged involvement by Ibos in a plot. But at least one rumour of a plot was it was aimed at restoring to a plot minister before independence and was prime retained Spanish sympathy (he is leader of the MUNGE party). Unlike the MUNGE, parties were joined in a coalition in October and formally merged not long after) was a militant nationalist movement, the Ndongo himself spent many years in exile during the last years of Spanish rule, during constitutional conference of April-June 1968 which led to independence.

Before independence some leaders of the Bubi, the original inhabitants of Fernando Po, were unwilling to see the island linked to the poorer Rio Muni, and it was said that some prominent Spaniards supported the idea of separate independence, or no independence at all, for the island. But Edmundo Bosio, accepted a unitary state.

A Spanish radio report on the rising after the coup were Bubi, suggesting that behind the crisis. One might almost see the hypothesis. But as Ndongo and Macias are Fangs and both have stood for a unitary over Fernando Po's position, though reports stirring up of Fang feelings against Spaniards (and the Bubi?) sound credible; Ndongo may have opposed this front genuine fear for the country, or as an excuse for rousing opposition to the President, or for both reasons. While it is possible that Spain, alarmed at Macias' nationalism and militant stance (shown in the closing of the Portuguese consulate and in criticisms of Spanish neo-colonialism) looked to its old enemy Ndongo as an alternative, Ndongo's past would suggest that he supported this stance.

The Guinean National Guard, it seems, has stayed loyal to Macias, but some members backed the coup, and this may account for the decision to form an *ad hoc* youth militia rather than relying on the Guard. If this is the case, Macias seems likely to move further still into the "militant" class of African leaders.

For all their criticism of treatment of Spaniards, the Spanish authorities kept in contact with Sr. Macias throughout, and showed no signs of overt opposition to him. Though they stopped some journalists going to Fernando Santa Isabel (an obscure incident), the new ambassador, appointed at Macias' request, had a meeting soon after the coup with the President, who thanked Spain for not intervening this time. Now it is reported that Spain is sending two experts to help stave off economic collapse following the departure of more than half the settlers; the dislocation (reported on p.38 in "Dateline Africa") could threaten the cocoa crop. It is clear that both Macias and the Spaniards have a clear interest in keeping in with each other.

Senegal's Deep South

From our Correspondent

"WHAT has struck me is the *Senegalite* of the Casamance." President Senghor of Senegal, coining one of the abstract terms with which he is peculiarly associated, was stressing the theme of the essentially Senegalese character of this southern-most province of the Republic of Senegal. Geographically, Casamance is in a peculiar position, largely cut off from the rest of Senegal by the long slivers of The Gambia which run for over 300 miles into the "heart" of Senegal, so that the main artery linking Casamance with Dakar, Senegal's capital, is the macadamised trans-Gambian highway through Gambian territory. There is an untarred road that passes round the easternmost tip of The Gambia, but to take it adds several hundred miles to the journey. Even the trans-Gambian road has drawbacks in the shape of the ferries across the Gambia River and the Casamance River, which on a day of heavy traffic can add hours to a journey. The bridge now being constructed linking Ziguinchor, main town of Casamance, with the north bank of the Casamance River should improve matters somewhat, although in Senegalese eyes it will make the inconvenience of the Bambatenda Ferry over

the Gambia river more acute.

Casamance also differs geographically from the rest of Senegal in its agricultural potential, arising from the plenitude of rivers which can provide irrigation. Here at least there is a chance to break free from Senegal's groundnut monoculture, and to develop as Senegal's granary, especially through rice growing to cut out the costly and increasing bill for imported rice, which the country can ill afford. In the past, there is no denying, Casamance has been a neglected area. Everyone here admits this, and a close study of President Senghor's speeches during his "official visit" of nearly two weeks, reveals his own awareness of this. Those who have travelled all around the province with the President told me that in many towns and villages he visited there have been many complaints of lack of amenities; I was told of a village which, in response to Government exhortations to grow more, increased its fruit production only to find that because of inefficient marketing arrangements half the crop of oranges rotted in storage.

The President's sensitivity to these complaints may be seen from his promises of better things—not just a carrot in the mystical year 2000, which of late he has



Senghor—promises for "our dear Casamance"

been presenting as the year in which a kind of heaven on earth may be achieved; but more concretely in the third five-year development plan for Senegal which comes into operation on July 1 this year. "Our dear Casamance," he said, will be one of the areas in which the government will invest most, to the tune of 12 milliard CFA francs over the coming four-year period. Over 1 milliard of this is to go on transport and telecommuni-



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cations, including tarring the road from Ziguinchor to Velingara; but the President also mentioned the Common Market and Formosan rice projects linked to irrigation improvements, a USAID project for agricultural diversification, the Government fruit and vegetable projects, and cotton; and several new industries.

Why the emphasis now on Casamance? Obviously it is in the Government's own interest to exploit what natural resources the country has (and Senegal is one of the less fortunate African states from this point of view), but it is not hard to discern that this visit, the first the President has paid to the province since 1963, has political undertones. Casamance has a past record of separatism and it is felt that this separatism is always lying below the surface. There have been reports recently that separatist sentiment was reviving and that there was even activity by the banned *Parti Africain de l'Indépendance* (PAI). M. Senghor, preferring to take the bull by the horns, chose to make this intensive tour for what he calls "dialogue and contestation." Judging from the crowds which have turned out for him he can be well satisfied with the results. I saw his departure from the airport here and it was clear that the population of this hot, sleepy port had been mobilised, from the ex-servicemen to the uniformed party *jeunesse*, from *jola* dancers and drummers to the magnificent and unique Senegalese women in their purple and white *baubous*, gliding like ships in full sail through the streets. Over the road to the airport was hung a banner saying with typical Casamance directness: "Au revoir, Léopold."

One particular problem which has been causing a certain restlessness in this area has been the fact that Casamance is on the frontier of Guinea (Bissau) and is feeling the side effects of the six-year-old war against the Portuguese there. Not only has the Senegalese Government, helped by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Red Cross had to deal with an influx of refugees (about 60,000, and since 1964 from all parts of the insurgent territory), but there have been lately an increasing number of raids into Casamance by Portuguese troops. There are also frequent cases of unauthorised aircraft flying over Senegalese territory, and the best part of two battalions of Senegalese troops are stationed along the frontier with Guinea. The President could hardly come here without making some sort of statement on the war, especially as he has been visiting refugee camps; and last week in Outyoste he came out with a declaration of considerable interest for students of Senghorian techniques. "We cannot do other than give moral support to our brothers to the south", he said. Violence and war, however, were solutions of despair, as could be seen in Algeria, where in the end "dialogue" triumphed. He stressed that the Senegalese did not hate the Portuguese people

whose former government had imposed this war. He praised the nobility and generosity of the Portuguese and recalled that thousands of Senegalese had Portuguese names and blood, just as here, in Casamance, they still speak Portuguese Creole. He then revived his suggestion, first made in 1965, for a "Luso-African" community, to include Brazil.

When I visited the dispensary of the PAIGC (Guinea liberation movement) here, where freedom fighters come for treatment, I was told that they were quite happy about Senghor's statement. The important thing was that they had the moral support of the Senegalese, seen, for example, in help given by Senegal's medical services for serious cases. Given the considerable family links across the border and the extent to which "refugees" have been absorbed by the traditional African social system, it is not surprising to find considerable solidarity here with the Guinean struggle. If anyone has been pressing for a more positive policy from Dakar towards the war it has been the Senegalese of Casamance. M. Senghor, however, has very good reasons for extreme caution on this question, and my impression is that the PAIGC appreciate fully his position and are satisfied that his moral support is now complete.

I have been impressed once again by the non-racial nature of this Guinean struggle. There is a Portuguese doctor working at the dispensary here, who told me that there is much sympathy in Portugal itself for the African cause; and there are African conscripts in the Portuguese army fighting in Guinea. With remarkable public relations sense the PAIGC periodically hand over Portuguese prisoners to the Red Cross here (inconceivably to imagine the reverse). Each time you come into contact with the PAIGC and their complete self-reliance and tolerant determination, it brings home the war's crass stupidity and pointlessness, when, as Senghor says, it would be easy to have "co-operation".

letters to the editor

"A NEW DAWN"

SIR.—I congratulate you on Griot's report on March 1. After reading through the contribution and seeing how it points the enthusiasm and determination of South-Easterners to break with the old order of subjugation, suppression, exploitation and denial of political aspirations, in the context of an autonomous State within Nigeria. I realised that had many other conscientious journalists taken such pains as Griot to seek for the truth and report it, the world today would not have fallen victim to the lying propaganda of the rebels.

The South-Eastern State has come to stay. To us the separate identity of the State and the long sought-for freedom of its people make the existence of the State



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non-negotiable. Griot completely missed the point when he wrote "The strongest argument against the plebiscite seems to be that it renders the whole future of the State negotiable, creating uncertainty when the building of confidence is needed." The strongest argument, from the South-Easterners' point of view, is summed up in the State's Executive Council Resolution to Charles C. Diggs of America: "That it does not lie in the mouth of any Ibo man to demand a referendum or plebiscite in the South-Eastern State . . ."

But we bear no hard feelings. We bear the world no grudge for its studied unconcern for our plight. No, we have no time for recriminations, not even against the Ibo rebels, for in God's own good time we have achieved our life's ambition.

I would like to point out a little slip by Griot. The Military Governor of the State, Colonel U. J. Esuene, is from Eket, not from Uyo.

LEFIONG ETUK,
South-Eastern State Liaison Officer,
Northern States.

Kaduna.

SECESSION OR SECURITY?

Sir,—I find your leader "Secession or Security" (March 8) a bundle of contradictions and naive statements.

You say the Ibos in the Mid West "might be regarded by both the Lagos and Benin governments as a threat to security", yet in almost the same breath you say, "Nor have we seen any evidence that the Ibos in the areas now administered by Mr. Asika are thirsting for revenge or plotting against the Federation."

You also say that "When talking of any

possible sovereign Biafra, one is talking of the areas of the East Central State" (sic). Since your real reason for excluding the minorities' areas is the fact that these are at present in Federal hands, surely, by the same token, you must also excise from Biafra Nsukka, Enugu, Abakaliki, Awka, Onitsha, Afikpo, Owerri, Aba and Ibo villages "liberated" by the Nigerian Army.

"It is quite impossible," you say, "for the Federal Government to abandon the two new non-Ibo states created in the former Eastern Region, not only because it has always been a main Federal aim to liberate their peoples from Ibo rule but also because these peoples themselves would not accept any going back to their former status." How on earth did you find out their wishes? As regards the "Federal aim to liberate" them, the only "liberation" done so far is liberation from this world, for more than half of the dead in Biafra are not Ibos.

In the final analysis it is the wishes of all the people of this former Eastern Region, who have undergone common suffering since the massacres of 1966, that will decide whether they remain in the federation or not.

SAM EKONG.

Sir,—Writing in his column (*West Africa* 22-2-69) Matchet quoted a misinformed letter to the Editor of the *Cork Examiner*. I would not bother to comment on the letter's misrepresentation of facts, except that I believe only the truth can make us free. The fleeing from the north took place before the break-away from the Federation by the rebels, which precipitated the civil war; and it involved every Southerner living in the North at the time of the massacre. The killings were not of Ibos only.

In any case, what Nigerians and all honest and humane people of the world need now is an end to the conflict. Lo of peace should seek to calm the mind of the rebel leaders rather than arouse anger and bitterness in them. Every Nigerian, rebel and loyal citizens alike, a share of the blame in the war, and should therefore be encouraged to develop spirit of give and take. Those who help must act quickly to save the innocent lives now being used by our "good neighbours" to gamble for the rebels.

THE IBADAN CONFERENCE

Sir,—An article in your issue of March 8 mentions that a number of people, including myself, are taking part at the University of Ibadan on the future of Nigeria.

A colleague of mine who feels strongly about the Nigerian war has asked me to make it clear that I take part in the conference in a personal capacity, not as representative of the Institute of Development Studies. I am glad to make it clear beyond doubt, in case anyone should think to the contrary—this is of course a representative conference, not does the Institute send representatives to conferences.

Making this point raises, however, serious risks of misunderstanding about my personal position, so I should add that I took the invitation—like a similar one at the seminar on Ghana's future in 1965—as being addressed to a development economist, and answered accordingly.

DUDLEY STANS



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MATCHET'S DIARY

AFTER listening to most of last week's House of Commons debate on Nigeria, an important Nigerian visitor from the Federation said to me: "they should send a hundred copies of the Hansard to distribute among our people." Like other Nigerians he had originally viewed the whole idea of such a debate with distaste, feeling it to be an unwarranted intrusion into Nigeria's domestic affairs. I myself felt the same distaste as I listened to M.P. after M.P. offering his version of Nigerian events and his hopes for a solution. But I cannot see how the Speaker can stop members from asking whether or not Britain should permit the Federal Government to purchase arms in Britain, and the reasons for and against this must range very widely. My own feeling was that they ranged far too wide but my Federal friend in the end felt that, since such a debate would not take place in Nigeria itself, it was no bad thing that it should take place in London and that Nigerians should read it. Whether this was also the view of Mr. Christopher Mojekwu, generally thought to be Colonel Ojukwu's main civilian lieutenant, whom I fancied I saw in the Strangers' Gallery, I could not say. But favourable though this one may have been to Nigeria, I feel that another debate of this kind is quite impossible. It was amusing, incidentally, to observe that although, uncharacteristically, the *London Times* has been running what amounts to a campaign on Biafra's behalf, M.P.'s views were not in the least affected by this, even if Mr. Churchill's reports of the Federal air-raids on Biafra had both partly helped to bring about the debate and increased the unease of M.P.s who wondered whether Britain should permit sale of arms to the Federal Government.

I hope to be in Lagos next week, when the mystery of HMS *Fearless* may be cleared up. It is said that she is going to supplement the British High Commission's communication system, although no such assistance was needed when Mr. Wilson was last in Lagos, at the beginning of 1966. It is said that she is going to "show the flag" (she is a much more impressive ship) after the visit of the Soviet flotilla. But that would be a very crude move indeed. It is said that she will help to provide accommodation for Mr. Wilson's entourage, but again no such assistance was needed in 1966 although, as there was a Commonwealth conference, far more people had to be accommodated in Lagos. It is said that she may provide safe accommodation for Mr. Wilson himself. This is a preposterous suggestion, since if Lagos is as dangerous as that the Federal Government would have no business to invite Mr. Wilson and he would have no business to go. Finally it is said that *Fear-*

less may provide a meeting place for Col. Ojukwu or his lieutenants to meet, perhaps Mr. Wilson, perhaps Federal representatives. I hope that will happen. But it is such a forlorn hope that it would scarcely justify sending a ship of this kind all that way.

An extraordinary myth is constantly repeated in Britain—it appeared several times in the Commons' Debate—that the British High Commission in Lagos is constantly misleading the British Government about Federal prospects in the war. Sir David Hunt, the High Commissioner, is personally accused of persuading the British Government to believe that an easy and quick Federal victory was always round the corner. I have never seen Sir David's dispatches to Whitehall, but he is both a very intelligent man who was a Don at Oxford and an experienced staff officer in the last war. I am quite certain that neither he, nor any of his staff, ever thought that the war was going to be easy or quick. Remember the state of disorganisation on the Federal side resulting from the murder of senior officers in 1966 and the withdrawal of Easterners to their own region, how could anybody suppose that by the middle of 1967 the Federal army was once again perfectly organised and ready for a quick advance against Biafran forces, which, at that time, were not noticeably inferior in fire power and might have been better

offered. Sir David, who had served in Lagos as Deputy High Commissioner to Lord Head immediately after independence, was no stranger to Nigeria when he returned as High Commissioner, and could not possibly have fed the former Commonwealth Office with the nonsense now attributed to him. He may have gone wrong, as I did, last August, when Biafran resistance really seemed at an end. De Gaulle's arms changed all that. But since not even the French Ambassador in Lagos, or the British Ambassador in Paris, knew anything about these, Sir David Hunt cannot be blamed for ignorance. I am glad to see, however, that the *London Daily Mail's* John Dickie, who is now in Lagos, has made some amends to Lady Hunt, who has also been unfairly treated in many reports, by giving details of her success in raising funds for war orphans.

I see from Sam White's Paris diary in the *London Evening Standard* that Mlle. Claude Cahour, the doctor's daughter, who was eventually married to Georges Pompidou, de Gaulle's former Prime Minister, when he was a brilliant literary scholar, very nearly became the wife of Leopold Senghor, who was in Paris in the 1930s and the early war years. White does not say when this was; Pompidou married his wife in 1935. President Senghor's present wife (this second) is a Frenchwoman, *née* Colette Hubert.

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books and publications

SOLOMON ABROAD

The Fortunate Slave by Douglas Grant
(Oxford University Press, 35s.).

BY Professor Grant's premature death, African history has lost a most valuable recruit (he was Professor of American Literature at the University of Leeds). His interest in Job ben Solomon, the subject of this work, was aroused by his reading in *The World Displayed*, twenty volumes published in the middle of the 18th century summarising published accounts of voyages and travels, extracts from Francis Moore's *Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa*, which had been published in 1738. There was little about Solomon in Moore's excellent work, which concerns the Gambia river and its banks, but what there was aroused Grant's interest and led him to examine the background from which Solomon came, his experiences in America and Britain, and the whole question of relations at the time between Africa and Europeans.

Grant was greatly helped by coming across the journal of Thomas Hull among the papers of one of Job's admirers during his stay in Britain, the Duke of Montagu. Job, who came from Bondou, a Fulani chiefdom on the Fulane River, a tributary of the Senegal, several days march to the north-west of the Gambia, had been captured (he was a slave trader himself) and sold as a slave in 1731 and taken to the United States. Rescued there by General Oglethorpe, founder of the State of Georgia, he was then brought to London, impressed all who met him and, son of a priest and a natural aristocrat, was even introduced at court, though still technically a slave. Loaded with presents he was enabled to return to his own country, and it was Hull who accompanied him and related their journey.

The Gambia, Professor Grant maintains, is a country which has changed little in 250 years, and he himself spent some time there experiencing the courtesy of its people. He visited Solomon's country at Bondou, to draw a contrast between it and, for example, Cheshunt, the Hertfordshire village where Job spent some time with Thomas Bluet, one of his patrons, who had helped him to escape American slavery and had come with him to London, and who wrote a "memoir" of him.

Professor Grant is deeply disturbed by the story of this extraordinary man who was so briefly lionised in London

and then returned to obscurity. "Job ben Solomon 'a great Pholey from Boonda,' a forerunner of the emerging millions of his race, is still the challenge that he was, to the understanding and the conscience." From what can be called a short text, Moore's account of Solomon, Grant has based a fascinating sermon.

Solomon was a predecessor of those much better known West Africans who were lionised in London in the same century—Gustavus Vassa (Equiano), who arrived in Plymouth in 1777, and Ignatius Sancho, who arrived in England as a baby in 1731. Both published their own stories and Solomon's Duke of Montagu befriended Vassa. Professor Grant does not refer to them, but they also illustrate the theme.

P. N.

India Independent by Charles Bettelheim
(MacGibbon & Kee, 84s.).

It is India's economy with which Professor Bettelheim, of the School of

Advanced Studies at the Sorbonne, is chiefly concerned. He explains the country's social and economic structure and particularly that of the rural areas. He describes the formation of a middle class, with the growth of local capital, the urban class structure, the growing industrialisation, and then the political structure, just after independence.

This is a detailed and carefully documented study of the greatest value whether you agree with its conclusions or not; but the conclusions are very definite. Professor Bettelheim notes that the most decisive economic advance has been in industry, but that the benefits have not been distributed with much social justice. There is also a great deal of "pseudo-industrialisation." Progress in agriculture had been much slower, with the consequent need to import food and rely on foreign aid.

The lesson drawn for other underdeveloped countries is that rapid economic development is possible only through radical changes in social structures, which will allow national resources to serve the needs of the whole population. Although India had relatively favourable conditions for economic advance compared with most countries (Professor Bettelheim strongly opposes the idea that India has "insoluble" agricultural and social problems) it is some form of socialism that is needed.

It is safe to say, the author maintains, "that no other underdeveloped country could succeed in attaining a rate of



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development higher than India's by using capitalist methods; and yet India's rate of growth is insufficient and does not offer the hope of a quick, regular, self-sustained growth in the future." Some of today's underdeveloped countries "could probably follow India's example for a certain time, especially those which already have favourable economic conditions. But without the factors which have allowed India to make some fairly rapid advances in certain spheres, they would find themselves in very awkward circumstances."

N. D.

The Closed Question: Race Relations in Britain Today by Dick Pixley (Geoffrey Chapman, 21s.).

A readable and good-humoured short survey of what is called "coloured" immigration into Great Britain, written by a freelance radio producer from Jamaica, now living in England. A short historical sketch is followed by chapters on the growth of the race relations "problem," on Enoch Powell and reactions to him, on organisations to help immigrants (Mr. Pixley mentions the 18th-century Council for the Relief of West African Seamen), on the police, the churches, a "visit to Wolverhampton"—a series of light sketches, free from sociological jargon and full of sensible and profound comments, and understanding of feelings on both sides. Mr. Pixley discusses "black power"—which he thinks is unlikely to become

important in Great Britain, as immigrants know they would be worse off, economically, at home, which is why they want to stay in spite of everything—and similar movements (he mistakenly attributes the term "négritude" to Nkrumah), and the 1968 Race Relations Act. He concludes on a note of hope.

J. D.

The Crane by Isabel Ryan (Jonathan Cape, 30c)

The setting of this novel is so transparently Ghana (at the end of the Nkrumah era) that the thin disguise seems hardly worthwhile, especially as the book is clearly based on the author's own stay in Ghana as wife of a timber company general manager. But perhaps changes there are too recent for anyone to write a novel explicitly set in real places in Ghana. This one is about a timber company general manager and his relations with the African senior staff of the company and a local girl, all in a context of political oppression and unease. Written from a definitely expatriate and feminine angle, the story has welcome features, including a sound attention to work and other ordinary things of life. It is, perhaps, a little too ordinary and like a businessman's real life, though it makes a welcome change from club-centred, DO's-wife-seducing expatriate-life novel; it does not, I feel, give one enough to get one's teeth into. It reads like an honest record of fact.

J. P.

Mali after Modibo

THREE months have passed since a group of junior officers seized power in Mali and brought the eight-year reign of Modibo Keita to a sudden end. The military are very much in evidence in Bamako, the capital; small detachments lounge about lazily around the main radio station and other important buildings, but they are not aggressive and make no effort to interfere with ordinary citizen bent on his peaceful pursuits. Compared with the smartness of the parachutists, the elite corps, an ordinary soldier is often scrawly and untidy. And strange as it may seem, arms are in evidence. If the small, guard-mounted buildings are armed, their weapons are discreetly kept out of sight. No armoured cars or vehicles patrol the streets.

The coup was a military one, so the army is now in charge, but it wants to hold the sympathy of the populace which has welcomed the change. This attitude may be illustrated, perhaps, by what I encountered on my first evening in the capital: three or four soldiers, out for myself for a stroll, wished me bonsoir and when I returned the compliment, they came over, and to my astonishment, shook hands with me. The new leaders have no doubt given instructions to their men to avoid the behaviour of the former militia which earned general approbation.

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and which was one of the principal causes of the coup.

The coup did not come as a surprise to those close to the Malian affair. To the outside world, Modibo Keita's position might have seemed solidly based, as a leader of the revolutionary world. But his dictatorship, his doctrines reiterating those attributed to Lenin and Marx, his interference with the traditional ways of life in the country, the mismanagement of economic affairs and the excesses of the militia, made his downfall inevitable, and, when it came, welcome.

Now, what about the future? The new military leaders are no doubt begin-

ing in Bamako, when traditional trading methods were once again permitted, and supplies became immediately available. Throughout the former President's tenure of office, it is interesting to note, production of cotton went up very considerably in the private sector run by a French company, but kept dropping in the public state-run sector of the *Office du Niger*; about 20 to 30 times as much cotton was produced in the former as in the latter.

On the positive side of Modibo Keita's administration, there were the Chinese rice growing efforts; on the negative side, such enterprises as a North Korean ceramic factory, which produced poor quality goods no-one wanted.

Sorting things out is not going to be easy. Important supporters of the regime are in prison, others are in exile or in hiding. Many stayed away from their jobs until they say how things were going to work out. Some of those who have come back are clearly blocking the way of younger, brighter and more capable persons. Scores will no doubt have to be settled one day. In the meanwhile, there is a general atmosphere of wait and see.

Traders have taken advantage of the return of the free market to push up prices. People are already complaining about excessive and unjustified rises and the military leaders have issued warnings about them. In the bush, many miles from Bamako, people are reacting to the fall of Modibo Keita by damning

all his works: because he made school attendance compulsory, parents who not see the use of sending their children to school are reported to be keeping them at home. In certain places, groundnuts are being withheld from the organised market, because this market is considered a creation of Modibo Keita. Caravans of camels from Mauritania are reported to be travelling a good deal more deeply into Malian territory, creating a kind of black market. Much higher prices are being offered to the Malian producer by these foreign merchants, so inevitably the organised market suffers still further and in the end, the general public is well.

Loosing the Reins Too Quickly?

The solution to Mali's problems will not be easy to find. Some say the soldiers ought not to have loosened the reins so quickly. Many unpleasant decisions will have to be taken, and these may be resisted. Will the military react with draconian measures as they sometimes did under the former regime? They will certainly want to avoid alienating more people than they need. Dignified and pleasant as the Malians may be, and great though their efforts may be to stamp out illiteracy, they cannot afford to squander the talents and qualifications acquired by the small intellectual élite.

F. D. Squire.



Celebration in the Streets of Bamako after the coup.

ning to realise the enormity of the job ahead.

They are now said to be overburdened (*débordés*) with work. So far they have done nothing dramatic, apart from sending a number of goodwill missions abroad. They are taking their time: they have no experience of running state affairs. They clearly do not want to go along the Marxist-Leninist path of their predecessor. However, advertisements for the Russian and East German airlines are still prominently displayed, innumerable copies of Mao's *Thoughts* still line the shelves of the *Librairie Populaire*. These, it is reported, will remain in position until it is quite clear that they have served their purpose, and are no longer wanted; only then will they be removed. Meanwhile, as a *commandant de cercle* told me jokingly, 150 to 200 kms from the capital, the fat book, *The Principles of Leninism-Marxism*, which lay on his desk now serves as a paper weight, preventing his papers from being blown away by the wind. "C'était dur", remarked his companion with a grim smile, "quand on était obligé de le lire". ("It was painful when one had to read it.")

Under Modibo Keita, production of groundnuts had dropped enormously: peasants saw no point in keeping up their production with no goods in the (state-owned) shops to buy with their earnings. The staple food, millet, was prevented from leaving the administrative district in which it was grown. With the coup, the queues disappeared overnight

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The Commons and Nigeria

From a Correspondent

AFTER a spate of prophecies that the Government would suffer a severe setback in the debate on British policy towards Biafra last week, only 34 Labour MPs did vote against the Government. The Conservative Party officially and faint-heartedly abstained, but 22 Conservatives, the one Scottish Nationalist MP, and the handful of Liberals also voted against the Government. Even so, the anti-Government vote was only 62. Nor was the debate as acrimonious as some on Nigeria have been in the past—nobody, for example, made allegations about genocide.

Technically, it is true, a debate of this kind can easily appear to be an improper intrusion into the affairs of another sovereign state. Mr. Maurice Foley, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs now chiefly concerned with Africa, said in an opening speech: "In many respects . . . we are entering into the grief and private agony of Nigeria." The debate was, in fact, on the "Adjournment" and, therefore, there was no specific motion about Nigeria, although the Government gave time for it because of a motion signed by members of all parties. This urged an increase in British relief for war victims, an international embargo on supply of arms, and the use of the good offices of the British Government to bring about a meeting between the Federal and Biafran leaders.

Mr. Foley was, on the whole, well received as he outlined the well known case for British support for the Federation. "We have links extending over 100 years. We have 16,000 of our people in Nigeria, great investments and much trade of enormous mutual benefit to Nigerians and ourselves. We could not avoid involvement; we have no other honourable option." He criticised bombing of Biafra as "cruel and militarily useless." The war was really an infantry war. British arms were sold for cash (Mr. Andrew Faulds, the actor, interrupted to say that a friend of his at the Egyptian Embassy in London had told him that no Egyptian pilots were seconded to Nigeria, showing Mr. Faulds to be glibly even for an MP). Mr. Foley gave details of new British aid for Nigeria.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, now Conservative spokesman on Foreign Affairs, followed with a thoughtful speech: "The question the House has to decide, therefore, is whether a cutting off of such supplies as are given to Nigeria, and have been given for a number of years, will be a contribution to peace for all Nigerians. We could, of course, make a gesture to save our conscience"; but they must remember that the possible fragmentation of Africa that would follow Nigeria's dismemberment could set Africa "back to its beginning."

Mr. James Griffiths, the veteran former Colonial Secretary, who recently visited Biafra with Lord Brockway, doubted whether any government in Nigeria could now be called legitimate.

Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal leader, alleged that the British Government had expected that the Federation would make "a quick kill": this was not a rebellion, it was a civil war.

Mr. Woodrow Wyatt, the maverick Labour MP, who shortly before had made a strong defence of the Federation on BBC TV, claimed that much of the misunderstanding of the Federal case by members was due to reporting on the BBC and Inde-

pendent Television. He mentioned also the cruelty shown by the Biafrans in areas they occupied. The Government had been too luke-warm in support of Nigeria.

Mr. Hugh Fraser, former Conservative Minister at the Commonwealth Office, who had clashed with Mr. Wyatt on the television programme I mentioned, followed him. He feared the creation in Lagos of a sort of Saigon, where puppet régime succeeded puppet régime.

The next speaker, Mr. Frank Allaun, Left-wing Labour back benches, had returned from Biafra only the previous evening. He gave first-hand accounts of the consequences of air raids. He claimed that at Orlu, for example, there were no military targets at all, but it was still bombed.



Behind the debate.

A strong champion of the Federal cause, Mr. Nigel Fisher, former Parliamentary Secretary at the Commonwealth Office, agreed that aerial bombing was unjustifiable, but claimed that Federal military victory was the only solution; there was no genocide by the Federals; it was rather a case of suicide by the Biafrans.

The next speaker, Mr. Raphael Tuck (Labour) noted the quantity of Biafran propaganda which members were receiving and asked whether the money should not be used for relief. Biafran guerrillas in Federally occupied territories were terrorising local people and relief workers.

Lord Lambton (Conservative) agreed that to stop sending arms to Nigeria would only mean increasing Soviet influence, and not an end to the war. He respected the Government for facing facts and not taking a "synthetic" moral view. He was followed by a Left-wing Labour member, Mr. David Winnick, who said that Britain had a moral responsibility for the air raids so long as the sent arms of any kind.

Mr. John Tilney, a director of John Hollis, urged the British Government to give the Federal forces more "hardware" so long as they stopped the air raids. Perhaps the Federal forces could use time bombs with delayed fuses which would allow civilians time to escape. "If only the Ibos had been sensible enough to claim only their territory and not dominion over the peoples in the south-east state and in the rivers state, one would have very

much more sympathy with them."

Mr. Michael Barnes, who visited Biafra and Nigeria recently, said that price of a military solution was to grant that it should be avoided at all costs. The British Government should send an envoy, perhaps Mr. Jim Parker, former British representative in Enugu, to Biafra.

Sir Frederick Bennett, Conservative MP who is Treasurer of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, said it was unthinkable that Nigeria should have totally uneconomic, hostile, minute, enclaves in the middle of its territory costing reaching out to establish boundaries to Port Harcourt . . ."

Mr. Eric Heffer, another left wing Labour MP, said that as a Liverpool member, had been influenced to support Biafra. The Federal Government's commandment of a Liverpool-based ship. Mr. David Crouch, gave a complete parody of creation of new States in Nigeria, and that General Gowon "produced his 12-3-5 formula which would have produced 12 Balkanisation of which we should be afraid of little non-viable States within a Federation in which the powerful north would be in control."

Labour's elder statesman in foreign affairs and disarmament, Mr. Philip Noel Baker, said that he thought it right to decline to use force in Rhodesia and the same argument applied in Nigeria. Mr. Ronald Bell complained about the Biafra publicity campaign and the massive intervention by the French Government. Britain should have supported Nigeria more effectively to shorten the war.

The best speech, I thought, came from Mr. Alexander Lyon, a young Labour lawyer, who went to Biafra with Mr. Barnes and came back with very different views. He said the tragedy was that the Biafrans did not realise the extent of the carnage that had taken place in the Federation because of the new states, while the Nigerians did not realise the intense feeling at every level among the people of Biafra. But all Biafran states were full with potential Biafrans. The air raids had been Biafra propaganda, but were on a very small scale. He did not believe that the war would be continued by guerrilla fighting.

Mr. Richard Wood, an opposition spokesman, said that the dangers of a wider integration across the African continent beyond were a threat to the stability of the world. To opt out of such problems would ultimately place a heavier load on the consciences.

In replying Mr. Michael Stewart had been thrown off his balance by need to announce at the beginning, not, probably intended, the end of his speech. Mr. Wilson's coming visit to Lagos, because so many speakers had demanded to know whether the morning's report in the *Financial Times* was correct. Nevertheless he made a competent case, his sincerity in forcing points that might otherwise be too obvious. To cut off arms from Nigeria would amount to supporting a situation which could prove disastrous to Nigeria and the continent. The Federal Government's record was a good one: although the British Government could seek any grounds for a cease-fire on international arms embargo, he was optimistic. In any case "Britain does hold this issue in the hollow of its hand. They had done what they could to arrange meetings between the two sides and Aburi and Kampala showed they had been without success.

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COCOA

Middlemen and Gammalin

GHANA'S Cocoa Marketing Board is seeking ways to ensure that gammalin is sold direct to farmers and not through middlemen. Mr. Kwasi Agyarko, a director of the Cocoa Marketing Board, told a meeting of 500 farmers at Wiameo-Ashanti, who had complained against the sudden increase in the prices of gammalin and matchets, that the board would also see that the price of gammalin was cut. The board had, he said, also reviewed the system through which its scholarships are offered to students in secondary schools and other educational institutions; a special committee of three members of the directors had been formed to take charge of the scheme.

On the CMB programme to help repair damaged feeder roads, Mr. Agyarko said special regional committees would soon be formed to take up the distribution of materials to the affected areas. In a petition, the farmers said Ghana could succeed in its programme to increase agricultural production if it did not take serious view of damaged rural roads. "We are always discouraged to grow more when our products cannot get to the marketing centres," they said. They accused cocoa buying agents of using monies voted for short term loans to farmers towards their own selfish interest, and urged the CMB to find ways whereby they could obtain loans direct from the board.

• An endowment by Mr. John Cadbury (a former director of Cadbury Brothers) has made possible the setting up of Ghana Cocoa Growers' Research Association. It is hoped this research will lead to more intensive and efficient cocoa farming. The new company aims to foster closer links between the University of Ghana, through whom most of the research will be carried out, and the individual Ghana cocoa farmer.

The value of the endowment, which is administered as a trust in the UK is about £140,000, at present-day values. Income from the trust will be disbursed for cocoa projects at the University, approved by the Board of the new company, whose chairman is Mr. W. R. Feaver (Cadbury Group). The other directors are Mr. John Young (Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance) and Mr. R. H. B. Graves (University of Ghana). Mr. Feaver was formerly head of Cadburys in Ghana.

The first project to be sponsored by the company is a study of insect fauna on cocoa farms.

• Nigerian cocoa production will rise over the next five years, but not fast enough, according to a forecast by Dr. Albert Viton, Director of Tropical Commodities for FAO, on a visit to Nigeria. He said he disagreed with those who held that Nigerian cocoa production would fall, but would give no specific estimate of any rise in out-

put. He is expected to report in FAO's committee of cocoa statistics meeting in Rome on March 31 and April 1 after a West African tour.

He discussed national and international cocoa policies aimed at stabilisation of the cocoa price with officials of the Western Nigeria Marketing Board, the Cocoa Research Institute and others.

• Nigerian cocoa purchases and sales to the end of February are both estimated at about 180,000 tons, says Wilson, Smithett & Cope. Some Nigerian contracts, it says, have been switched from main crop to light. Last week the Biafrans' cease-fire offer had a slight effect on the cocoa terminal markets, but this was brief, as the Federal Government soon rejected the offer.

Sales of UK chocolate and sugar confectionery, including imports, totalled 617,000 tons in 1968, compared with 614,000 the year before.



On arriving last week at Liverpool aboard the Elder Dempster liner "Auroal", Mr. J. Frimpong-Ansah (right), Governor of the Bank of Ghana, and his wife were greeted by Mr. Selwyn Green, Liverpool Agent for the Bank of England, and Mrs. Green.

• The International Tin Council has declared the second quarter of the calendar year 1969 to be a third period of export control, and has fixed permissible exports of the six producing members at 38,750 tons for that period. Nigeria's quota is 2,537 tons (the fifth in size out of the six), and Congo-Kinshasa's 1,799.

The Council has agreed to allow the buffer stock manager (who buys tin for the buffer stock when prices fall below a certain level, and sells from it when they rise above another agreed level) to operate between £1,400 and £1,515 per ton in the second quarter of 1969.

• The Nigerian war is having "negligible effect" on Paterson Zechonis' profits, says a *Financial Times* comment on the 1968-69 first-half profits (to Nov. 1968). These were £619,000 before tax, compared with £518,000 the previous year.

Ghana's Diamonds

DIAMOND sales proceeds for the first half-year (ending December, 1968) of the current financial year of Consolidated African Selection Trust were £9,018,000, compared with £5,593,000 in the first half of 1967-68. Profit before direct taxation rose from £2,942,000 to £4,874,000. Mr. J. H. Codrington, managing director, has explained that no direct comparison between the half-yearly results is possible in either Sierra Leone or Ghana: in Ghana CAST succeeded in selling only a third of the total sales it hopes to make. CAST still finds difficulty in selling Ghana diamonds at fair prices to the sole legal purchaser, the official Diamond Marketing Corporation.

• A third new diamond treating plant, after completion of two last year for Sierra Leone Selection Trust Ltd. at Yengema, is to be built by Taylor Woodrow of Sierra Leone, who were the contractors for the other plants. The £100,000 contract will include mechanical and electrical installation and ancillary works. Work is due for completion by mid-1969.

A steel-framed building, 80ft high, housing two 4ft diameter rotary washers, screening and concentrating plant, will be erected against the excavated face of a hillside. A 50 ft high reinforced concrete retaining wall will be built against the face and will partially support the washing plant and gravel feed systems.

• The Gambia is thinking of setting up a cargo handling company on the model of Ghana's Mr. G. P. F. Mandy, Comptroller of Customs and Excises, said after a visit to Ghana.

TAILORING



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The history of Banking dates so far back that no one really knows where or how it began! Archaeological evidence however abounds to prove that the Assyrians, Egyptians and Phoenicians had instruments similar to present day promissory notes, bills of exchange and cheques—and performing much the same roles—long before the Greeks and Romans! The earliest Bankers were indeed money changers who played a very active role in the trading transactions between people from different states with different currencies. The very word "BANK" is derived from the old Italian word Banca meaning a bench or counter. The counters of the money changers, upset according to biblical tradition in the Jerusalem Temple by Jesus Christ were indeed the bank.

Of course no one would dream of setting up a bank in a church these days, but the Temples of Greece at one time in history housed the earliest deposit vaults known to man. You won't find a branch of National Bank of Nigeria Limited or any of their correspondents in London, Paris or New York, in a church—not even a Greek temple. One or two have been known to be situated near churches, but there's no fear of religious or any other kind of favour upsetting the bank! What's more, National Bank do know their own business—as you'll soon find out if you take your foreign exchange, trade or even simple things such as current accounts or savings—problems to them.

Why don't you try your nearest branch? You might even learn some more about how banking has progressed into the 20th Century while you're about it! Besides, they're "The Bank You Can Trust!!"—Reason enough, surely!



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Branches throughout the Country

London Branch: Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C.2. Tel. 4303

New York correspondents: French American Banking Corporation J. Henry Schroeder Banking Corporation

WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

ELDER Dempster Lines

SOUTHBOUND—From Liverpool:—AUREOL s/g. Liverpool Mar. 20; DUNKWA s/g. Liverpool Apr. 10; OTI due Monrovia Mar. 22. From London:—EGORI s/g. London Mar. 20; FALABA s/g. London Apr. 11; EBANI s/g. London Apr. 10; KUMBA due Victoria Mar. 24.

From Continent:—FULANI s/g. Bremen Mar. 24; FIAN s/g. Hamburg Mar. 1.

NORTHBOUND—To Liverpool:—DUMURRA due Tema Mar. 24; FOURAH BAY due Liverpool Mar. 23; OBUASI due Boma Mar. 24; PERANG due Bathurst Mar. 23.

To Avonmouth:—NAIRNBANK due Freetown Mar. 21.

To Hull:—SCHUITING due Hull Mar. 27.

To London:—EBOE due Abidjan Mar. 24; KADUNA due Abidjan Mar. 20; KOHIMA due Takoradi Mar. 23; ONITSHA due Port Gentil Mar. 21.

To Continent:—FORCADO due Saple Mar. 25.

EASTBOUND—From USA/Canada:—FREE-TOWN s/g. Halifax Mar. 19; DEIDO s/g. New York Mar. 26.

WESTBOUND—To USA/Canada:—DALLA due Jacksonville Mar. 27. DIXCOVE due Monrovia Mar. 21. DUMBAIA due Jacksonville Apr. 11.

From India/Pakistan/Burma:—TWEEDBANK due Freetown Mar. 21.

BARBER WEST AFRICAN LINE

OUTWARDS—TEMA due Monrovia Mar. 26, thence Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema, Lagos/Apapa; CORNEVILLE due Freetown Mar. 31, thence Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lome, Lagos/Apapa, Victoria, Douala and Takoradi; FERNWOOD due Sd New York Apr. 1, Halifax (NS) Apr. 4 for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala and Takoradi.

INWARDS—TEMA due Ibad Lagos N. Bound about Apr. 5, Takoradi Apr. 10, Abidjan Apr. 13 Buchanan Monrovia mid third week Apr.; CORNEVILLE due Ibad Lagos S. Bound about Apr. 9, Victoria Apr. 13, Douala Apr. 15, Lagos/Ghana N. Bound second half Apr., Abidjan end Apr., Buchanan Monrovia early May.

JAPAN "K" LINE

WESTBOUND—From Japan (via Hong Kong and Cape) to Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown etc.—DENMARK MARU s/d. Japan Mar. 15, due Lagos Apr. 24.

EASTBOUND—From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown etc. to Japan (via Cape and Singapore)—NORWAY MARU s/g. Lagos Mar. 22, Tema Mar. 25, Freetown Mar. 28, due Japan May 11.

PALM LINE

SOUTHBOUND—From London:—AKASSA PALM due Freetown Mar. 21.

From Continent:—BADAGRY PALM due Las Palmas Mar. 23.

From Continent:—BAMENDA PALM due Douala Mar. 23.

From Continent:—ILORIN PALM due Tema Mar. 23.

NORTHBOUND—To London:—KATSINA PALM s/g. Apapa Mar. 24.

To Liverpool:—LAGOS PALM s/g. Lagos Mar. 25.

To Liverpool:—IKEJA PALM due Tiko Mar. 24.

To Continent:—BAMENDA PALM s/g. Douala Mar. 27.

WORMANN LINE

NATAL s/d. Bordeaux Mar. 11, due Dakar Mar. 18, Cape Palmas Mar. 22, Douala Mar. 26, Libreville Mar. 28, Port Gentil Mar. 30; MADRID s/d. Antwerp Mar. 10, due Las Palmas Mar. 18, Freetown Mar. 23, Monrovia Mar. 25, Tema Mar. 29, Lagos/Apapa Mar. 31, Douala Apr. 5.

NOPAL WEST AFRICA LINE

EASTBOUND—NOPAL TELUS s/d. New Orleans Mar. 15, Takoradi Apr. 7, Lagos Apr. 10, due Warri Apr. 13; NOPAL LUNA s/g. New Orleans Apr. 17, Takoradi May 7, Lagos May 10, due Warri May 14.

WESTBOUND—NOPAL LUNA s/d. Luanda Mar. 1, New Orleans Apr. 2, due Houston Apr. 7; NOPAL SUN s/g. Luanda Apr. 3, Takoradi Apr. 16, New Orleans May 5, due Houston May 10.

HOLLAND WEST AFRICA LINES

SOUTHBOUND—From Continent:—DAHOM-EYKUST due Dakar Mar. 22; KATSEDYK due Freetown Mar. 26.

NORTHBOUND—To Continent:—SENEGAL-KUST due Amsterdam Mar. 26, Bremen Mar.

28, Hamburg Apr. 1; CONGOKUST Rotterdam Mar. 25, Amsterdam Mar. 27, men Mar. 31, Hamburg Apr. 1; BOVENBURG due Lisbon Apr. 1, Amsterdam Apr. 14, Hamburg Apr. 14.

INTRA-INTEROCEAN LINES

INWARDS—STRAAT FREETOWN Japan s/g. Kobe due Lagos/Apapa etc. Tema Mar. 30, Monrovia Apr. 3, Port Apr. 5, Abidjan Apr. 9, Takoradi Apr. 13, Victoria Apr. 17, Lagos Apr. 21, Monrovia Apr. 25, Lagos/Apapa Apr. 29, Abidjan Apr. 17, Monrovia Apr. 21, Freetown Apr. 26, Dakar May 1, Conakry May 29.

OUTWARDS—STRAAT FREETOWN Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong Japan second half Mar. first half HOLLANDS DIEP from Nigeria/Gha, Singapore, Hong Kong and China second Apr.

GOLD STAR LINE

NOGAIH s/g. Lagos/Apapa Mar. 23, Lagos/Apapa Mar. 25, Takoradi Mar. 27, Abidjan Mar. 29, Monrovia Mar. 31, Apr. 1, Freetown Mar. 3.

BLACK STAR LINE/SEVEN STAR LINE USN/WEST AFRICA

WESTBOUND—KORLE LAGOON G Mar. 22, Philadelphia Apr. 2, thence Gen.

BLACK STAR LINE UK/CONTINENT WEST AFRICA

SOUTHBOUND—LAKE BOSOMTWE I s/g. Monrovia Apr. 9, Antwerp Mar. 12, Ram Mar. 15, Dunkirk Mar. 16, BENA R Liverpool Mar. 21.

NORTHBOUND—BIRIM RIVER Apr. 18, Rotterdam Mar. 21, Hamburg Mar. 23.

AFRICAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LN

SOUTHBOUND—ORANYAN s/g. Apr. Mar. 22, RIVER BI NUE s/g. London Mar. 22.

NORTHBOUND—RIVER NIGER due Ibad Lagos Mar. 22, OBA OVRKASHEN London Mar. 22.

HUGO WINNERS TRANSOZEAN SEA/RAIBT GMBH

ILRI s/d. Rouen Mar. 22, due Sta. Cruz Mar. 25, Las Palmas Mar. 28, Dakar Mar. 31, Abidjan Apr. 4, Abidjan Apr. 7, AID s/g. Rouen Mar. 23, due Sta. Cruz Mar. 26, Las Palmas Apr. 7.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

WESTWIND s/g. New Orleans Mar. 21, ton Mar. 30, for Dakar, Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Takoradi, Lagos/Apapa, Douala, Luanda; SOPHE C s/g. Houston Mar. 21, New Orleans Apr. 12, for Freetown, Abidjan, Lagos/Apapa, Douala, Luanda.

HOMEWARDS—AUSTRALIAN REEF ports; AUSTRALIAN GULF s/g. Apapa 20, for Monrovia, US ports.

OUTWARDS—AUSTRALIAN GULF Monrovia Mar. 25, for Abidjan, Takoradi Apr. 5, Apapa Apr. 7, AUSTRALIAN ISLE due Monrovia Apr. 9, for Luanda, Lobito.

HOEGH LINES

HOEGH BINNY s/g. Rouen Mar. 23, Dakar Apr. 3, Freetown Apr. 6, Monrovia 7, Abidjan Apr. 10; HOEGH AURORA Antwerp Apr. 11, due Dakar Apr. 17, Lagos/Apapa Apr. 20.

EDWARD NASSAR LINES

TERESA s/d. Beirut Mar. 4, due Me Mar. 26, Tema Mar. 29, Lagos Apr. 1, Tak Apr. 5, Fergagusta Apr. 7.

CHARGEURS REUNIS

KERGULEN s/g. Kobe Mar. 26, TANA due Lagos Apr. 10, Tema Apr. 13, Freetown Apr. 22.

MITSUI OSK LINE

KASUGI/SAN MARU s/d. Kobe Feb. 21, Lagos Mar. 24; HONOLULU MARU Kobe Mar. 4, due Lagos Apr. 8, ARIZ MARU s/g. Kobe Mar. 20, due Lagos Apr. 24.

TORBER MAERSK s/g. Takoradi Mar. 26, Abidjan Mar. 25, JESPER MAERSK Lagos/Apapa Mar. 28, due Tema Mar. 31.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE

SOUTHBOUND—INDIANA s/d. Scand and Bordeaux during second half Apr. VIKAREN s/d. Scandinavia incl. S. Freetown and Bordeaux during second half Mar. Apr.

NORTHBOUND—INNAREN s/d. Africa second half Mar.; HOEGH BIS s/d. West Africa (S. range) mid/second Mar.; HJELMAREN s/d. West Africa late Mar.; BULLAREN s/d. West Africa during late Apr./early May.

commercial news

Formal Bids for John Holt—

SHAREHOLDERS of John Holt have now received the takeover offer sent on behalf of Lonrho by S. G. Warburg. The chairman of John Holt has recommended acceptance, saying *inter alia*, "It is the intention of Lonrho that John Holt will be continued under its existing identity, Board and management and assurances have been given that the interests of staff and employees of John Holt will be fully safeguarded. On the offer becoming unconditional one director of John Holt will be invited to join the Board of Lonrho and three Lonrho representatives will join the Board of John Holt."

Lonrho offers two ordinary 5s. shares for each ordinary John Holt share of the same value. The offer is conditional partly on acceptances on or before April 2, or such later dates (before April 23) as Lonrho may decide, in respect of 90 per cent. of ordinary Holt shares (or less if Lonrho so decides).

An appendix on Lonrho attached to the offer says the group "carries on a variety of businesses, including mining, ranching and agriculture, textiles, building and construction, printing and publication, transport, brewing and various ancillary activities. Its operations are spread over countries in central, eastern, southern and western Africa, and extend to Mauritius, Ceylon and Europe." Net tangible assets at 30 Sept. 1967, were £6,487,000 (Holt's at 31 Aug., 1968, were £4,698,000).

—and Denny Mott

The formal document of the bid by William Mallinson and Sons for the timber concern Denny, Mott and Dickson reveals that the possibility of a third party coming in for Denny Mott is now "unlikely to materialise," reports the *Financial Times*.

The directors of Mallinsons (another timber firm, importing from Nigeria among other places), estimate that profit for 1968 was £740,000 (£583,000). They also state that if the offer becomes unconditional they will declare a second interim dividend, in lieu of a final, of 9.2 per cent. making 14.2 per cent. for the year.

The Board of Denny Mott estimate group profits for the year ending March 31, 1969, at about £900,000 (£698,000). If the offer becomes unconditional, DMD will declare a second dividend of 7 per cent., which may be paid in May, and which current shareholders will be entitled to retain.

Full conversion, says the *Financial Times*, "means that Denny will be taking 53 per cent. of the equity and contributing about the same amount of the combined earnings."

The offer takes Denny Mott out at 12.6 times, which looks reasonable enough. But the Convertible preference could prove expensive in the event of a downswing, and with a third party interested the battle probably is not over yet."

● The British Leyland Motor Corporation hopes to start production early next year at its assembly plant in the Congo, assembling lorries, buses, tractors and cars, through a subsidiary, Industrie Nationale Congolaise des Automobiles Leyland.

Ghana-made Tyres

The first Ghana-made motor tyres were produced last week at the Firestone Ghana factory at Bonsaso in the Western Region. Full production is expected to start later this year, and to meet 90 per cent. of Ghana's needs (production, said the general manager, would be 500 tyres and 250 tubes a day). Firestone Ghana, in common with Ghana Rubber Estates which runs the nearby plantation feeding the factory, is a joint enterprise of the Ghana Government and Firestone Rubber and Tyre Co. of Akron, Ohio. This firm (still powerful in Liberia, though it no longer controls the majority of US rubber plantations there, as in the days when it earned notoriety in the 1930s) owns 60 per cent. of the shares in Firestone Ghana and 45 per cent. in Ghana Rubber Estates. Both firms were set up in 1967 to take over from the State Rubber Tyre Corporation, whose plantation and factory had been under construction with Czech aid until the coup.

● Tate & Lyle reports a pre-tax profit of £1.3m in 1967-68, considerably more than in the previous year (£9.5m). Tate & Lyle and its subsidiaries hold altogether 10 per cent. of the shares in the Nigerian Sugar Co., operating at Bauchi.

● The Ghana Government is to review its agreement with the Intercontinental Hotels, which is responsible for management of the Ambassador and Continental hotels and receives 20 per cent. of the gross operating profits (the Government receiving the rest).

● Mr Lester Pearson, former prime minister of Canada, and now head of the World Bank's commission of enquiry into the past performance and future prospects of aid, has begun a short African tour. After visiting Abidjan and Kampala he will go on to Asia.

Coffee Council in Africa

The International Coffee Organisation's executive committee has held a meeting in Africa for the first time—in Abidjan, capital of Ivory Coast (normally the biggest coffee producer in Africa). It agreed to set up three study groups to examine production goals of producing countries, control of stocks, and demands by Congo-Kinshasa, Rwanda and Burundi for an increase in authorised exports. These questions are being studied further at a meeting of the executive committee in London, which will be followed next week by a session of the International Coffee Council.

● The list of government research establishments under the Ministry of Overseas Development, given in answer to a parliamentary question by the Minister of State for the Ministry, includes the Tropical Produce Institute, with which the Tropical Stored Products Centre has been linked since 1967 (estimated expenditure in 1969); the Anti-locust Research Centre (£251,000); the Tropical Pesticide Research Headquarters (£35,000); and the Tropical Pesticides Research Unit, at Parnton Down near Salisbury (£33,000).

● Kumasi University has decided on a pilot scheme of commercial production of kenaf, which, it is hoped, farmers will grow in sufficient quantities to feed the Kumasi fibre bag factory (this was originally meant to use locally-grown kenaf, but has had to rely on imported jute).

● The UN Development Programme is to aid Cameroon in three projects: a centre for aid to small- and medium-sized enterprises, at Douala; a university centre for study of health sciences at Yaounde; and the running of a statistical unit in Yaounde.

Cie maritime des Chargeurs Reunis

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Port Harcourt, TRANSCAP, Ltd., 8 Azikiwe Road—P.O. Box 429 PORT HAR-COURT

Ghana:

Accra (PALM LINE) Cables: Palmage POB130
Takoradi (Agencies) Cables: Palmage POB212
Tema (LIMITED) Cables: (via Accra)

Sierra Leone:

Freetown: TRANSCAP (SIERRA LEONE)
Ltd. P.O. Box 704

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Accra:

Elder Dempster Agencies Ltd. P.O.B. 66.

Takoradi:

Elder Dempster Agencies Ltd. P.O.B. 210.

Tema:

Elder Dempster Agencies Ltd. P.O.B. 148.

Freetown:

Sierra Leone Shipping Agencies. P.O.B. 74.

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NOTICES

LAGOS STATE UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected at the representatives' meeting of the above Union held on 16th March 1969, at the Nigerian Centre, Inverness Terrace, W.2

President ... M. A. S. Ariyo (Ikeja)
Vice-President ... R. B. A. Jafoto (Ikeja)
General Secretary ... V. O. Barotio (Epe)
Deputy Gen. Secretary ... A. Y. Shanu (Badagry)
Assistant Gen. Secretary ... O. Akilo (Ikoro)
Treasurer ... A. A. Durosinmi (Badagry)
Financial Secretary ... R. O. Sanni (Ikeja)
Social Secretary ... Shoye Olutunji (Epe)
Publicity Secretary ... Lati Osoha (Ikeja)
Welfare Officers ... (1) S. O. Agoro (Ikeja)
... (2) B. A. Banjoko (Ikoro)
Auditor ... M. A. Balogun (Epe)
Returning Officer ... S. A. Gwa
Lati Osoha, Publicity Secretary.

OSHUN DIVISIONAL UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

Secretariat: 3 Bride Street,
London, N.7.

NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The Public is hereby informed that the said Union has been formed at a meeting on March 1, 1969. The sons and daughters, of this Division, of whatever denomination, should therefore make contact with the above-named address. All the towns' unions in the Division should forward their addresses to—

Olu Ogunbunmi,
Acting Secretary-General.
Tel.: 01-607 8220.

THE SOUNDCASTERS

The Sierra Leone Pop Group, "The Soundcasters", will be releasing their first pop single, titled "Oh! How I Miss Her" on the "Byron Label" on the 14th of March 1969.

The Group also wishes to announce that their name has been changed from "The Soundcasters" to "The Sand Castles" which is on the Group's current pop release in the United Kingdom. The record is numbered "BEA 123A & B". The record is numbered "Oh! How I Miss Her" and "Waiting For You" respectively, in the shops all over the United Kingdom from Friday the 14th of March 1969.

NOTICES—Continued

WESTERN IAW STUDENTS' UNION

At the annual general meetings of the above named Union held at No. 6 Southborough Road, London, E.9, on 26th January 1969 the following officers were elected—

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1969:—

President ... Mr. S. A. Oki
Vice-President ... Mr. M. I. Obi
Gen. Secretary ... K. E. J. Torunngaha
Asst. Gen. Secretary ... J. Asen
Treasurer ... C. W. Okoro
Financial Secretary ... L. O. Dorgu
Social/Publicity Secretary ... A. O. Soroh

THE SOCIETY OF NIGERIAN ACCOUNTANCY STUDENTS (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND)

Our A.G.M. was held at Nigeria Centre and Hotel, 29 Inverness Terrace, London, W.2, on the 22nd February 1969, the following officers were elected for 1969/70—

President ... Mr. I. A. Alaribe
Vice-President ... Mr. P. O. Ladonka
Gen. Secretary ... Mr. S. B. Onibidire
Asst. Gen. Secretary ... Mr. J. A. Adewumi
Social Secretary ... Mr. F. T. Akinkunle
Publicity Secretary ... Mr. S. O. Adeniji
Organising Secretary ... Mr. C. A. Oshoke
Financial Secretary ... Mr. F. A. Adedunjo
Treasurer ... Mr. R. A. K. Aretz
Auditor ... Mr. S. O. Deru
Unofficial Members ... Mr. M. O. Oluwu
... Mr. F. A. Thomas

S. O. Adeniji, Publicity Secretary
Secretariat, 10 Elmgrove Street, London, N.7.

MEETINGS

THE AFRICAN SOLIDARITY UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

THE INAUGURAL MEETING
of the above Union will take place on
Saturday, 29th March, 1969
at 20/22 Inverness Terrace,
London, W.2,
at 2 p.m. prompt.

AGENDA:

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

All citizens are cordially invited.
Underground: Bayswater and
Queensway.
Buses: 85, 96, 35.
The Organiser, A.S.U.
6 Mornington Road, Leytonstone, E.11

EGBE OMO ENITI (GREAT BRITAIN)

There will be a general meeting of the above League at 1 South Villas, London, N.W.1, on 23rd March 1969 at 2 p.m. prompt.

Election of Officers will take place at the meeting.

R. Abiez, Asst. Gen. Secretary.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known and addressed as Richard Akabir Domingo, wish to be called and addressed henceforth as Abdul Raheed Akabir Domingo. All former documents remain valid.

DANCES

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In evergreen memory of our beloved father, **Mr. Abiodun Okegunna**, who slept in Christ two years in Nigeria.
Though you are gone, your good deeds and prayers are always remembered.
Rest in Peace, Daddy.
By F. Adetunji Okegunna,
on behalf of the children and grandchildren.

SITUATIONS VACANT

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for the following appointments from September 1969 or sooner these are:

- (a) CHAIR OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
- (b) LECTURESHIPS IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (Control, Electronics/Telecommunications Engineering)
- (c) LECTURESHIPS IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (Thermodynamics, Fluids, Production Processes and Engineering Analysis)
- (d) LECTURESHIP IN CIVIL ENGINEERING (Public Health Engineering—Microbiology and chemistry) Candidates must have a first in Chemistry or Microbiology and postgraduate qualifications in Public Health Engineering.

Salary scales: Professor (N1,000 p.a.), Lecturer D (N2,175 p.a.), (EN1—£1 3s 4d sterling) Salary mentioned in appropriate case in range (240-400) is under British Equivalents. Supplementations: Family allowances, various allowances; superannuation; regular overseas leave. Detailed application forms (6 copies) naming 3 referees by 30th April, if Inter-University Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, W.1P 0DT, from whom particulars are available.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Please note, due to advance printing schedules, Classified Advertisements, for April 5th issue must be received by 2 p.m. Thursday 27th March.

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SITUATIONS VACANT—Continued

LAGOS CITY TRANSPORT SERVICE

VACANCY FOR THE POST OF DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Nigerians for the post of Deputy General Manager in the Lagos City Transport Service which is a quasi-commercial undertaking set up by the Lagos City Council to provide passenger transport service for the City of Lagos and environs. The assets of the undertaking are worth about £2.5 million and include a fleet of buses numbering about 250, consisting mainly of Mercedes-Benz, Guy, Leyland and Daimler makes.

Qualifications:

Candidates should be a member of one of the following professional bodies—

- (i) Institute of Mechanical Engineers;
- (ii) Institute of Transport;
- (iii) Institute of Road Transport Engineers;
- (iv) Institute of Traffic Administration; or other comparable Institutions.

Candidates should in addition have had wide administrative experience and should have held a senior appointment in a transport organisation.

Duties:

The Officer appointed shall assist the General Manager in day-to-day administration of the Transport Service and be able to co-ordinate the functions of the main sections of the Organisation comprising the Engineering, Traffic and Administration.

The office calls for a man who is willing to accept the challenge to constructive service and be able to display initiative in promoting efficiency and ensure profitability.

Salary: Super Scale Group 5—£2,700

Other Conditions of Service:

The appointment will be on permanent establishment.

Method of Application:

Official Application Forms which must be completed in duplicate can be obtained from the Secretary's Office. Completed Application Forms (including photostat copies of Certificates and Testimonials) should be enveloped and marked "DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER" and addressed to:

The Secretary, Lagos City Transport Service, P.O. Box 2137, Lagos.

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

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL STUDIES

Applications are invited for the following appointments from September 1969 or sooner (where applicable):

- (a) **PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY.** Preference will be given to candidates specialising in the Sociology of rural communities.
- (b) **PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY.** Preference will be given to candidates specialising in Social or Clinical Psychology. Appointees will be required to undertake an assessment of local requirements for Psychologists and to evaluate and design the new course structure leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.
- (c) **PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE.** Preference given to candidates specialising in the following developing countries. Appointee will be required, among other things, to develop a postgraduate programme in Political Science.
- (d) **2 PROFESSORS OF ECONOMICS.** Candidates should have specialised in (i) monetary economics and public finance or in (ii) theoretical and quantitative economics, with a strong bias towards development economics, statistics and/or econometrics. Appointees will be required, among other things, to supervise the development of postgraduate degree programmes in Economics.

Salary £3,000 p.a. (£N1 £1 3s. 4d. sterling) plus supplementary of £600 p.a. (sterling) in appropriate cases under British Expatriates' Supplementary Allowance Scheme. Family passages, various allowances, superannuation scheme; regular overseas leave. Detailed application forms (6 copies) naming 3 referees, by 22nd April, 1969, to: Inter-University Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0DT, from whom particulars are available.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, IMPERIA NIGERIA

PHARMACIST

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Nigerians for the above post. Candidates must have a qualification acceptable to the Pharmacy Board of Nigeria (or be responsible) (£684-£1,164 per annum). Payment into the salary scale depends on qualifications and experience of the successful candidate. Free passages, other separate domestic allowance, liberal leave. Applications should be submitted not later than 11th April, 1969, in the appropriate forms which will be forwarded by post with additional information on receipt of an appropriate fee by the Adviser on Staff Recruitment, London Office (U.C.H., Ipsden), 91 Regent Street, London, W.1.

FOREIGN COMMONWEALTH AND SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT AWARDS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 1969/70 Academic Year

Applications for scholarship awards are invited from persons who wish to start in the 1969/70 Session a course of higher education, other than teacher training and who are already qualified to do so. Awards will be made in the following categories:-

(A) SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT AWARDS

- (i) National Scholarships
- (ii) Regional Scholarships
- (iii) Government Scholarships

(B) OTHER COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AWARDS

APPLICANTS in the United Kingdom and the Continent of Europe interested in any of these scholarships can obtain full details governing the awards on application from the Education Attache, Sierra Leone High Commission, 33 Portland Place, London, W.1.

Please make sure you read these details carefully before submitting applications. Candidates in the United Kingdom and the Continent of Europe should submit two applications: One through the Sierra Leone High Commission and one direct to the Ministry of Education in Freetown.

All applications must reach the Ministry of Education in Freetown, not later than 7th April, 1969. Applicants outside Sierra Leone will be considered in absentia.

SITUATIONS VACANT—Continued

NIGERIAN EXTERNAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED

VACANCY FOR THE POST OF

SENIOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Nigerians for the post of Senior Telecommunications Engineer.

(a) **Qualifications:**

Possession of a good B.Sc. Degree in Electrical Engineering from a recognised University, with emphasis on subjects in telecommunications.

A second degree in special studies in circuit and digital techniques or related topics would be an advantage.

(b) **Practical Experience:**

Two (2) years post graduate training in establishments approved by an internationally recognised Institution of Electrical Engineers.

Plus, minimum four years additional working experience in relevant fields including any of the following: Network Analysis and Systems Planning, Design of Switching and Logic circuits, Digital Computer System Operation.

(c) **Membership of an internationally recognised Institution of Electrical Engineers will be an advantage.****Conditions of Service:**

Salary scale: £1,825 p.a. x 75—£2,050 p.a.

The successful candidate would be given further training in telecommunications network planning, system development and traffic engineering.

Method of Application:

Applications should give full details as regards age, marital status, educational qualifications including names of all institutions attended, post graduate training including details of any special studies, work experience and salary; and the names of two referees. Envelopes should be marked "Application—Senior Telecommunications Engineer" and addressed to:

The Secretary,

Nigerian External Telecommunications Limited,

Necom House, 15 Marina, P.O. Box 173, Lagos.

to reach him not later than 29th March, 1969.

Only applications of those selected for interview will be acknowledged.

F. K. OLOWU, Secretary to the Company

NJALA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF SIERRA LEONE

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

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

CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

VACANCY FOR

MEDICAL OFFICER

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

2. **Position:** General Duty Medical Officer under the direction of the Corporation's Chief Medical Officer.

Duties: Primarily those of the General Practitioner. Experience in surgery and tropical medicine would be an advantage.

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

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

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

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

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

dateline Africa

GUINEA

New Plot: France Accused

A PLOT against the Government was alleged in broadcasts last week, soon after disclosure of the incident where three arrested soldiers tried to seize an aircraft in which they were being taken. Conakry radio said the inquiry into the soldiers had uncovered a plot hatched "in collusion with French imperialism acting with the active complicity of African governments." Then, three days later, details were given by M. Ismael Toure, Minister of Economic Planning and brother of President Sekou Toure. The President, he said, was to have been assassinated by members of a guard of honour planted to give him a mock welcome at Labe airport, or, if this failed, at a reception or a football match later; if all these failed, parachutists would seize control of an aircraft flying from Labe to the capital and kill the President at his place. M. Toure told a meeting of civil servants and soldiers in Conakry that the conspirators also planned the total secession of the Labe region from Guinea, "follow-

ing the example of Biafra".

The broadcast claimed that the conspirators planned to appeal to France for financial aid and arms after the coup, and that de Gaulle would then, by arrangement, pay to the secessionist region some money France owed to Guinea as pensions for ex-servicemen who fought in the French forces.

■ President Sekou Toure, receiving a delegation of women from their Party organisation, has thanked them for their work of confidence in him and the PDS, National Political Bureau, and told them the Bureau had decided to commemorate on May 14 the death of the Guinean national heroine, Mbalia Camara, who was "assassinated by the French imperialists" on February 9, 1955. On May 14, "Mbalia Camara Day," there would be an extraordinary session of the National Council of International Women, attended by leaders of international women's organisations.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Returning to Normal?

In the few days after the arrival of the UN mission and the peace appeal by President Macias, the Equatorial Guinea disturbances had died down (the President was reported to be worried at the possible departure of large numbers of Spanish civil servants and others essential to the running of the country). On March 12, according to AFP, the minister of the interior, Señor Angel Masie, guaranteed the safety of all remaining Spanish residents, in a speech in Bata, which was apparently addressed to 100 Spaniards still in Rio Muni. About half the expatriate population had now left; refugees said public services were breaking down and there was a food shortage. A censorship was imposed on outgoing cables, with President Macias personally controlling press despatches. All Spanish plantation owners have left Fernando Po, and workers had not been paid ten days after they left. The cocoa crop, normally about 30,000 tons a year, was thought likely to be threatened, unless conditions returned to normal quickly.

A Spanish report has claimed that Armando Balboa, secretary of the National Assembly and a Bubi, had died of gangrene resulting from injuries. It also said his Spanish widow and their five children had found refuge at the Spanish embassy in Santa Isabel, and that several other Bubi leaders besides Balboa had been arrested. The previous day a Spanish radio report claimed that very few Spaniards had received exit visas, and obstacles were still being placed in the way of Spaniards trying to leave, despite a promise by the President to Señor Tamayo, head of the UN mission. That day (March 15) unconfirmed reports that Spanish paratroops were ready to fly

to Equatorial Guinea were quoted, and a report in *The Observer* from Madrid added that Señor Macias and others feared troops would be sent. (See article on p. 321.)

■ The Spanish authorities stopped four Spanish journalists from leaving Madrid for Santa Isabel with 15 foreign correspondents on March 6. These foreign correspondents, however, were able to go to Santa Isabel. *Le Monde's* Madrid correspondent, José Antonio Novais (a friend of President Macias) was arrested and questioned when about to leave for Santa Isabel at the invitation of the Government there. He was later freed.

■ A Paris Correspondent writes: The left-wing Paris daily *Combat*, followed by the satirical *Le Canard Enchaîné*, have alleged British intervention in Equatorial Guinea. According to E. Maillarde in *Combat*, the British secret service is accused in some Paris circles of responsibility for the trouble there. Besides discrediting Spanish attempts at decolonisation (a small revenge for Spanish attempts to take over Gibraltar), the aim would also be to cause trouble in Gabon among the Fang, majority tribe in both Rio Muni and Gabon, whose slice of the cake in Gabon is said to have been considerably reduced under President Bongo. The *Canard* pointed out for its part that unusually large numbers of agents of M. Jacques Foccart, secretary-general for African affairs at the Elysée, had been noticed around Gabon's capital, Libreville—although the explanation may be no more than the recent africanisation of top posts in the Gabon army and the curious reshuffle in which army officers took minor posts in the government.

GHANA

No salaries for M.P.s

Members of Ghana's future parliament will have no salaries but will receive by sitting and travelling allowances to be assessed by an independent body. The Constituent Assembly decided this in rejecting a motion to give them salaries. The motion, introduced on behalf of the House Committee by Mr. Justice A. Crabbe, said that if there were no salaries rich men would be able to enter parliament; while Mr. Joe Appiah argued that in Ghana's economic state salaries for M.P.s, which might amount to a million cedis a year, would not be popular.

The five committees into which the Assembly has divided itself were given more time for their deliberations, originally to end on March 15.

The Assembly has adopted an amendment on the Education Service, by which "this House accepts, in principle, the establishment of an Education Service, one of the public services of Ghana." Thomas Bediako, of the National Association of Teachers, regretted that the Constitutional Proposals had made recommendations about education, but had set up a unified education system, he added, had led to a "complete mess" and confusion, with nepotism, inefficiency and mismanagement. Mr. Richard Quarshie said the amendment on the Education Service was necessary, as the Government had agreed to integrate of this service with the Public Service.

■ The strikers at Ashanti Goldfields' Obuasi have returned to work on condition that Mr. Benjamin Bentum, secretary-general of the TUC, reports to them on April 2 of the results of his negotiations with management. They also demand that management agree to their claims by March 31.

The mine's management has promised to dismiss any worker involved in a strike (during which police killed 11 workers in the course of a riot).

Mr. J. V. L. Phillips, Commissioner of Industries, has said the workers have a right to severance pay.

■ The management of the Konongo mine, run by the State Gold Mining Corporation, has agreed to transfer an expatriate engineer, Mr. John Kenworthy, to another position for his alleged "unhealthy attitude" towards the workers. The decision was taken at a meeting between management and representatives of the TUC and the local branch of the Mineworkers' Union.

■ The Alpha Shaft, formerly worked by the Prestea Goldfields Corporation, closed in the mid-1940s, is to be reopened, the *Pioneer* reports. It will expand gold production at Prestea, ready site of one of the main goldfields run by the State Mining Corporation.

■ More than 500 application forms for vacant positions in the Civil Service have been sent through Ghana's diplomatic missions to students overseas (some of whom have complained of undue delays in applications following the end of their courses).

■ A second part of the Sowah Action Committee's report, dealing with another ten people, has been presented to the chairman.



Mr. Komla Gbedehah (pictured here soon after his exemption from public office disqualification last November) has given a press conference this week, in which he hinted that he might be willing to take a leading position in politics. He would consider a suggestion by Dr. Kofi Busia that they join forces, but added that Dr. Busia was not the nation.

CAMEROON

First UNC Congress

AT the first congress, held in the Northern town of Garoua, of the Cameroon National Union (CNU), President Ahidjo spoke of "satisfactory economic development and a healthy financial situation." In a four-hour speech to 800 delegates of the ruling party, of which he is chairman, he said gross national product had risen from 113,000m. CFA Francs p.a. in 1959 to 177,000m. in 1955-66. Agricultural production, he said, had suffered from the anarchy and incoherence which resides over the great world markets for tropical agricultural products. Losses due to this equalled all the aid given from 1960 to 1967, he claimed.

He spoke of reduction in French budgetary aid from 3,000m. CFA Francs in 1961 to 500m. in 1965: "since then, Cameroon has not had to ask for anything from anyone." Turning to education, he said the number of pupils had risen from 430,000 in 1959 to 700,000 in 1964.

President Ahidjo announced that a Cameroon daily newspaper would soon be started. On investment, he said the liberal policy would go on, but investors should reinvest in Cameroon instead of sending nearly all their profits home. He appealed to Cameroons' three trade union organisations to unite in the interests of Cameroons' 150,000 workers.

● Mr. Benjamin Bentum, secretary-general of the Trades Union Congress, has resigned from the Incomes Commission because of its approval of the Government's wage policy recommendations, which advocate a maximum annual wage growth of 5 per cent. with possible further rises if the Commission so advise. He said the long delay in signing of collective agreements already concluded between national unions and managements was due to what he called the "unsatisfactory method" used by the Commission. He resigned in protest, he said, because to restrict wage increases without curbing and reducing prices of goods and services would reduce real earnings; he had submitted a minority report against the Incomes Commission's recommendation, and he called on the Government to publish it.

● The NLC has given a free pardon to Sgt. Yaw Berko, who was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment in Feb. 1967, on a charge of failing to report knowledge of subversion to a senior officer. No reason is given for the pardon, which is "absolute free and unconditional".

● A new Nationality Decree (NLCD 333) has been issued, saying a person born in Ghana is a citizen of Ghana by birth if he was born after independence (6 March 1957) and one or both of his parents was then a citizen of Ghana, or if he was born before independence and one or both of his parents was then a citizen of the UK and policies of a British protected person, and at least one parent or grandparent was born in the Gold Coast.

● Mr. E. N. Omaboe, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, has said a population policy, including birth control, will soon be published. Ghana's population growth rate is 2.7 per cent. per year, one of the highest in Africa, and this would affect agriculture, he said, adding that a long-term agricultural policy would also be drawn up.

● *A Cameroon Correspondent writes:* "The wheel of history does not roll backwards but it rolls forward." This saying is in keeping with the Cameroon National Union (CNU) on Sept. 1 1966. In President Ahidjo's speech during the great 1962 Ebolowa Union Camerounaise (UC) Convention (UC is now defunct with the advent of CNU), he said, "Experience shows that the urgent necessity to bring about in as brief a period as possible, the unity of the entire Cameroon Nation is incompatible with political and tribal considerations and calculations. Besides, as you know, political unity is the sine-qua-non if there is to be union of minds, union in patriotic sentiment of there is to be real unity." Then the Union Camerounaise (UC) in East Cameroon and the then Kamerun National Democratic Party (KNDP) in West Cameroon decided to work together in the Federal Assembly.

On Sept. 1/2 1964 came the creation of the UC/KNDP national working committee; and on May 21/2, President Ahidjo with the other political leaders from West and East Cameroon held a meeting which ended in the unanimous agreement to form a national political party on a Federal level. Subsequently, on June 11 1966 the final document of agreement was signed by the various leaders of the UC, the KNDP, the Cameroon People's National Convention (CPNC) and the Cameroon United Congress (CUC)—these last both Western—dissolving their former parties which they did with various party conventions.

Of the old Western parties, the CUC was as a result of misunderstanding within the rank and file of the then KNDP. This sprung from the then leadership of West Cameroon after the exit to Yaoundé of Mr. John Ngu Foncha who was then serving a dual purpose in West Cameroon. Delegates came over to persuade M. Ahidjo to take a more drastic action against what they called the "insubordination of the Muna faction" which later formed itself

into a political party, the Cameroon United Congress. The President's thoughts then were on how to bring together the different factions. For this the last resort was the wooing of all the other political parties to agree on the formation of the National party, the Cameroon National Union.

Among other aims of the formation of the Cameroon National Union are: to be able to create a forum in which Cameroonians can best be able, by means of consultation and discussion, to reach a common understanding; and create an enlightened body of opinion in the approach to finding solutions to the problems that face the nation. Aims of the CNU are to educate Cameroonians to think of everyone as a Cameroon first and foremost, and to consolidate unity.

TOGO

In a series of articles in the government daily *Togo Presse* under his own name, the editor, M. Polycarpe Johnson, seems to have envisaged a new political grouping. He said, *inter alia*, "Our objective is to render the former parties useless... what is going to be created must be the work of all without exception. We want all Togolese to be in the same boat with lucidity... If there are sceptics who have doubts about the coming of such an organisation, let them abandon their scepticism to take part in this new formation, in which they will lend a hand."

● M. Léonard Baguilma Ywassa has been presented his credentials as Togo's ambassador to the UK. He resides in Paris.

DAHOMY

After visiting the USA and calling on President Nixon, Secretary of State William Rogers, and the UN Secretary-General, President Zinsou stopped in Paris before returning home. He said neither he nor U Thant had proposed any solution for Nigeria, though the people he had met had expressed a wish for the war to end. "I told responsible Americans," he said, "what I thought of this war. I want all the world to act in the direction of peace, and of a cessation of hostilities, not in the direction of war by supplying arms to one side or the other or supporting one against the other. I think the only thing which must be supported in peace."

● Nigeria's chargé d'affaires in Dahomey, Mr. Olufolabi, has said at a news conference that restrictions made on the Nigerian side of the frontier were not directed against Dahomey, but against smuggling from either side. He mentioned smuggling of cars into Nigeria.

THE GAMBIA and MAURITANIA

The Gambia is to receive emergency food aid for people affected by drought—about half the population of over 350,000. It is to last until September, when the shortage is expected to be over.

Mauritania is to receive an emergency supply of 4,500 tons of wheat and sorghum, also through the World Food Programme, to help about 300,000 people affected by drought in the centre and south. Mothers and children will receive dried milk.

There was a severe drought last year in Senegal and Mali as well as The Gambia and Mauritania. In Mali the drought has worsened the epidemic of meningitis.

dateline Africa

SIERRA LEONE

SLPP Hold Some By-election seats

RESULTS in the 10 by-elections postponed last November when the State of Emergency was declared, and held this week, show five wins for the former ruling party, the SLPP, and five for the present ruling party, the APC. The constituencies are in the Bo and Kenema areas of Mende land, generally regarded as SLPP strongholds. Among those successful are Mr. M. S. Mustapha, the former SLPP Minister of Finance who, although a Freetown man, won a substantial victory at Bo. Mr. Jusu-Sherriff, the SLPP leader who supplanted Sir Albert Margai, and who is awaiting trial on offences arising out of political disturbances, again won his seat in Kenema. Mr. Cyril Fouray, a Fourah Bay lecturer, is one of the APC MPs for Bo.

The six new MPs greatly strengthen the SLPP in the House of Representatives but it is now a very small group compared with the APC. The twelve Paramount Chiefs also, by convention, support the Government. There are now 48 APC MPs, 12 SLPP, and six independent, thought to support the government.

Before the elections the Electoral Commission assured the public that every effort would be made to ensure that voting was fair and impartial. The Commission noted, however, that "a number of voters in the Bo and Kenema Districts are not aware that the recent state of emergency has been lifted." It was alleged, the Commission said, that "various threats and pressures are being used to induce the electorate in these Districts to vote for candidates other than those of their choice".



The Minister of Health, Mr. Barthes Wilson, takes his place after launching an appeal to everybody to be vaccinated against smallpox and measles.

● Mr. M. S. Mustapha is reported to have been kidnapped and maltreated before the election, together with another SLPP man, Mr. Daramy Rogers. Mr. Mustapha, a leading Muslim, is an important trader, and a contender for the SLPP leadership.

● In a press release the newly formed Koidu/New Sembehun Town Council says that it "views with the gravest concern the abnormal and scandalous situation which

currently prevails within the boundaries of its authority, and which threatens the safety and lives and properties of all those who properly reside in the district.

"In the national interest and in the interests of all Kono people, the Council wish to draw the urgent attention of Government to the breakdown of law and order: to the wanton destruction of the national wealth by those who illegally organise and finance the illegal diamond miners, most of whom are strangers over-running our township in their thousands.

"Daily, people are killed or die during IDM (Illicit Diamond Mining), almost total lack of sanitation is liable to cause epidemics of diseases which may cause death to many Konos and strangers alike. There is no water supply and most of what there is must be contaminated. The schools are inadequate for the numbers and all houses in the area heavily overcrowded. There is, in the view of the Council, widespread corruption which has contributed to the breakdown of moral standards and of law and order, which is beyond the control of the police force. Our people walk in fear, and sleep in fear of organised 'night-walkers' of all descriptions. The Council have already created plans for the future development of Kono and Koidu, and feel powerless to act when all efforts and achievements will be sabotaged by the situation in Koidu which is out of control.

"The Council therefore, humbly begs Government to give urgent priority to take action to rid this area, once and for all, of the organisers and financiers of IDM and also the strangers who threaten so much destruction to our national heritage, wealth and prosperity as well as to the safety, health and development of our people."

● The new APC sponsored news sheet *Kononanda*, published in Koidu, has said that there is a "helpless, hopeless" situation there and bribery and corruption prevent people speaking out. There is a danger of epidemics in Koidu, there is gangsterism and no one in Kono district is "safe any longer". The area is wealthy but "there are more paupers and beggars in Kono than any other part of Sierra Leone".

● A delegation from the Economic Commission for Africa has been sent to Sierra Leone to assist the Government to consider existing mining leases. The delegation, led by Mr. Godfrey Lardner, who is of Sierra Leone origin but was formerly a Permanent Secretary in Lagos, and is now Director of ECA's Division of Natural Resources and Transport. The other two members are ECA's Adviser in Mining, and Mr. E. A. Ifatorufi, now a mining consultant but formerly Chief Inspector of Mines in Nigeria. Four overseas companies are at present mining in Sierra Leone; Sierra Leone Selection Trust (Diamonds), Sierra Leone Development Company (Iron Ore); Sierra Leone Ore and Metal Company (Bauxite); and Sherbro Minerals (rutile). In his budget speech, the Minister of Finance said that the conditions on which the companies mined would be reconsidered.

● In the trial of 16 men and one woman on charges of treason and misprision, four British lawyers, Mr. C. Fletcher-Cooke, Q.C., Mr. T. O. Kellock, Q.C., Mr. Desmond de Silva and Mr. Nigel Murray, are appearing for the defence. Mr. Murray, the last to arrive, represents the former Brigadier

Lansana. Mr. Bertram Macaulay, a former Attorney-General, one of the accused, belongs to the same Law Chambers as Mr. Kellock and Mr. de S

● In an article in the *Free Daily Mail* Dr. R. B. Wellesley Cole has reached "alarming proportions." gives advice on the treatment of the way and on the need to report to the police any cases of death following fights.

● The Soundcasters, a "pop group" of Freetown, hope to get into the first hit parade with their first pop release "How I Miss Her." The Group have toured Europe and have been working in clubs and dance halls all over the UK.

● The Acting Minister of Works, Paramount Chief Jibaco Gaima, has suddenly.

PARIS

● A correspondent in France writes that the National Biafra Week—at an undetermined point what had been announced by the cabinet as a 10-day campaign was extended to last a week, later two extra days were added—produced more inches of copy in the *Free Press* on the Nigerian war than has appeared at any other time. The merit of the campaign, presented as humanitarian but transparently political, were criticised even among supporters of Biafran cause. A pro-Nigerian "group *entre*" composed of French progressive African students and Black Power activists who went to break up a public meeting organised at the Mutualité in Paris during the week had virtually nothing to do as a former minister of transport, Paul Burot criticised the official lottery used to raise the cash for relief, he was violently attacked by France's new ambassador in Nigeria, Raymond Ombredane, chairman of the newly formed Action Committee for Biafra, who had just returned from Biafra. Soon after, all speakers were shouted down.

The French branch of Caritas objected to the one-sidedness of the campaign, the faithful at Mass were warned not to take part in the Week. But the various Christian organisations, both Catholic and Protestant, also objected to the lottery which was launched on television by a well-known TV panel game compere. Ten million plastic cards were put on sale in tobacco shops and post offices throughout France with prize money of 500,000 francs—system was rather similar to French Sub betting on horses. In a later film on government-controlled TV, primary school children were shown swapping the cards like marbles. The *Comité Française contre la Famme* sponsor (with the French Red Cross) the appeal, withdrew from it before it began and the Catholic trade union organisation the CFTD, criticised the lottery.

The *Canard Enchaîné*, the satirical weekly has claimed that M. Foccart and the *General* had been very upset by an official French admission that arms were going to Biafra via Gabon and the Ivory Coast. It armed forces minister Pierre Messmer, to be in the pro-Nigerian, "Quai d'Orsay" camp, who made the statement, presumably the cuff. Under France's defence agreements with Abidjan and Libreville, a may not be re-exported. Nor can French arms leave France without authorisation from M. Messmer's ministry.

NIGERIA

Wilson to Lagos and Addis Ababa

MR. HAROLD WILSON will be going to Lagos on March 27. The original date, announced on March 13, was altered because of a Federal Cabinet Meeting on March 26. News of the planned visit was reported on March 13 by the London *Financial Times* and officially announced in Lagos that afternoon.

Several Nigerian newspapers reported the news of the visit prominently and had editorially welcoming it. The *Lagos Morning Post* said the visit must be welcomed despite Nigerians' temptation to show resentment of "the antics of a vocal section of the British Parliament, press and people." It says the visit will provide a good chance for Nigeria to show its case. Mr. Wilson, it said, must be left in no doubt that "we are supremely determined to meet the cost" of preserving unity. The *Nigerian Observer* of Benin, like the *Morning Post*, hinted that there would have been serious results if British policy had been changed under pressure. It said

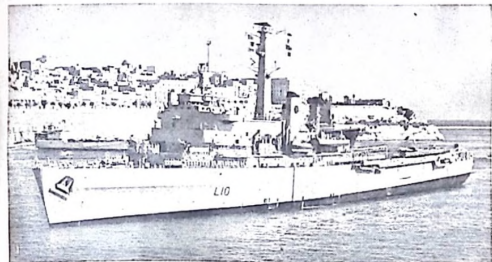
as a Biafran representative, said he would not encourage Col. Ojukwu to go aboard *Fearless* (a 19th century Eastern Nigerian leader had been enticed aboard a British warship and then deported to the West Indies, he said), though he did not rule out the possibility. Dr. Dike said Biafrans saw Mr. Wilson as part of their enemy.

The *Financial Times* has quoted a rumour that Mr. Wilson might meet Col. Ojukwu or a Biafran representative at Aburi, in Ghana, perhaps on March 30.

OAU Committee to meet?

● President Tubman has said the OAU consultative committee may meet in his country on April 18. He had suggested that a meeting should be called without any formal proposals for settlement of the war. The President had sent messengers to the Federal Government and hoped to contact Col. Ojukwu through the World Council of Churches.

The members of the OAU committee are Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Congo-K. Cameroon and Niger. Its last meeting was in July 1968 for talks in Niamey which led to the Addis Ababa peace talks.



HMS 'Fearless', the 11,060-ton Royal Navy assault ship, will be in Lagos for Mr. Wilson's visit, but it is not certain that, with her minimum draught of 26 feet, she will be able to enter the harbour.

Mr. Wilson probably understood Nigeria's case more than anyone else, and his visit might help to educate the British people. Nigeria, declared the newspaper, will buy arms elsewhere if Britain halts supplies, and if necessary fight "with bows and arrows."

Mr. Wilson will go to Addis Ababa afterwards for talks with Emperor Haile Selassie, head of the Otu Committee. A tentative date given for this is April 1.

It was reported that the Federal Government was thinking of taking Mr. Wilson on a visit to the war fronts and nearby areas, perhaps including the Abakaliki area where large numbers of Ibo people have remained in their homes or been resettled. Mr. Wilson, it is said, will stay in State House in Lagos or an hotel, not aboard *Fearless*, as was at one time thought, but some of his staff may be aboard the ship.

There have been British press reports that Mr. Wilson might meet Col. Ojukwu or a representative Biafran aboard the ship (where he met Mr. Ian Smith last October). There has been no official forecast of any such meeting, however. Biafra's Information Commissioner, Dr. Eke, has denounced the Wilson visit, and in Paris Dr. Kenneth Dike, the famous historian (former vice-chancellor of Ibadan University) now acting

could not justify "even one death," but the people would be killed whether they fought or not.

In answer to other questions Col. Ojukwu said he would stay in Biafra to the last, but France was only giving moral support but he expected a change in American policy which would "decide the outcome in Africa." In a permanent settlement of the borders of Biafra must be those of the old Eastern Region, he said.

● A *Financial Times* report claims that the USSR is offering a peace plan for Nigeria, with Biafra having no real sovereignty but a considerable amount of autonomy, perhaps on the lines of the Ukraine (which has a seat at the UN) in the Soviet constitution. This would involve control of its own security forces and some international standing, all subject to talks with Nigeria after a truce. Biafran sources were later quoted as saying the alleged proposals were good, but they did not say whether they had been in touch with Soviet representatives.

● The *New York Times* has called on Col. Ojukwu to accept the Federal proposal for airlifting food to the Obilago airstrip and transporting it overland from there into Biafran-held territory. It says Mr. Clyde Ferguson (see below) must impress this on Col. Ojukwu that the Federal publicity over the case, though it made Biafran acceptance more difficult, was not a good enough reason for rejection; and it adds that, despite allegations that the offer was made because the Biafrans were about to retake Obilago, this has not occurred. Failure to make this arrangement will make Mr. Ferguson's mission almost meaningless as far as Biafra is concerned, says the newspaper.

● Mr. Clyde Ferguson, President Nixon's special co-ordinator for relief to Nigeria, has announced a new US grant of \$6m. to the International Red Cross, to last until the end of May.

Mr. Ferguson has now gone to Lagos by way of Geneva, and hopes to visit Biafra too, to make new proposals on relief. It is hoped these will raise by 60 per cent. food supplies now reaching war victims.

● Mercy flights by Red Cross aircraft into Biafra resumed this week from Fernando Po, after two weeks' suspension due to the crisis in Equatorial Guinea. There were five flights on the first night.

● Canada is making new proposals to Nigeria on ending the fighting. Mr. Mitchell Sharp, the External Affairs Minister, told the Commons. He said Mr. Paul Maloney, Canadian High Commissioner in Nigeria, was returning to Lagos from Ottawa with some "initiatives."

The Federal Government has protested to Canada about reports of a widespread campaign by some Canadian relief organisations to collect funds to build an airfield in the Biafran-held area. It appealed to the Canadian Government to stop these collections.

Ahidjo on Intervention

● President Ahidjo of Cameroon has criticised the action of non-African states in intervening in Nigeria, accusing them of prolonging the war. "What scandalises us," he said, "is that those states which speak of self-determination for Biafra, should

● In an interview with *Newsweek* of New York, Col. Ojukwu has said the food situation would get worse in the next few months but it would not be "impossible." Food brought from the other side of the war front was very important, he declared, adding that Biafra could hold out for another four months provided there was no serious interruption of relief supplies, and, "if we can make it through those months, we have made it." If there were real starvation, he said, they would summon the Biafran Consultative Assembly, and he expected they would decide to fight on. The Biafrans believed Nigeria to be intending genocide, but this did not necessarily mean killing everyone. Nigeria aimed "directly at destroying those things that make of us a people—our institutions, our organisations and our ability to resuscitate those institutions," he said.

On relief flights, Col. Ojukwu said he rejected the land corridor idea because Nigeria would use it to advance into Biafran territory, but he would allow daylight flights despite military objections. Asked about "balkanisation" he said the separation of the Balkan countries in Europe has brought peace. Biafra's aims, he said, in answer to another question,

NIGERIA—continued

have been insensitive to what is happening in South Africa, Namibia . . . and that those states which speak of humanity in relation to Biafra, continue to supply arms for massacring Africans." He was speaking at the first congress of the UNC, the Cameroon ruling party.

● Sir David Hunt, British High Commissioner to Nigeria, is to move on to another post this year, at the end of the normal two-year tour of duty.

● General Gowon described as "ridiculous" Col. Ojukwu's boasts that neither side of the Nigerian conflict could win the war, made in an interview with a London *Daily Express* correspondent. General Gowon declared: "We are going to win this conflict, we have the will . . . We have been going slowly because we don't want to kill the Ibos." He added that he could not predict when the war would end but stressed "we will win in our own time." Federal forces were withholding a full-out attack on the rebels because the war was not an external aggression.

● In response to the recent appeal of the Red Cross, the UK Government proposes a further contribution to the International Red Cross to supplement any balance remaining from last December's contribution of £700,000 to war relief. Announcing this in the Commons debate on Nigeria, Mr. Maurice Foley (Under Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office), said the Minister of Overseas Development had agreed that the UK should offer the Federal Government £400,000 for purchase of food grains, in accordance with the pro-

visions of the 1968 Rome Food Aid Convention. The grant will not include the cost of freight and insurance. Mr. Foley proposed a special grant of £100,000 to Nigeria for these charges. The Government has given an assurance to the Save the Children Fund that it intends to continue to underwrite the costs of the Fund's Nigerian relief work in the next year to a total of £90,000. Mr. Foley also proposed additional provision of £250,000 for direct relief assistance. The total new UK contribution proposed to relief is £1.1m.

Mid West Fighting

● More than 2,000 people taken away from the Midwest during the Biafran incursion have escaped from rebel-held areas, and hundreds are now back home in Asaba, Ika and Aboh divisions, the *Nigerian Observer* reports. Their escape was made possible by the dislodgement of the Biafrans from Oko-Egbele and Okunala, two border islands on the River Niger, near the riverine area of parts of the East Central State under secessionist control. Lt. Col. G. J. Omananyi, Commander of the Asaba Garrison, has issued an appeal to those in hiding to come forward.

● General Gowon, receiving the head of Caritas, said Nigeria was not opposed to the organisation's humanitarian work in Nigeria, but criticised it for defying Nigerian air space and allegedly carrying arms on its aircraft. Mgr. Rodhain, head of the relief organisation, strongly denied this earlier and denied it again in Gen. Gowon's presence.

Mgr. Rodhain said that he would ask Col. Ojukwu to accept the offer of a land relief route.

● Joint Church Aid, the co-ordinating church relief organisations flying from Tomo to Biafra, has announced a record: 263 tons in one night, of wégian stuckfish, other food and medicine.

● The 1,500th Joint Church Aid was made by Capt. Donald Merriman, Canadian.

● Professor T. O. Ogunleshi has been appointed as head of the Department of Medicine at Ibadan in succession to Professor Alexander Brown who died last month. Professor Ogunleshi was previously a member of the Board of Management of the University College Hospital. Professor Brown joined University College Ibadan in 1948 and was thus a foundation member of the college staff.

● The *Nigerian Tribune* has called for the appointment of a Military Government executive council in east-central state. The governor would have now to be outside the state. It praises the work of Mr. Asika, administrator of several areas in that state, but says the change suggests it is necessary to show that Ibos are not "second-class citizens."

● Chief O. Fadahunsi, former chairman of Nigerian Airways, has taken full-page advertisements in Nigerian newspapers to answer criticisms of him made in a George Report on the Airways.

● Professor Felix Dosekun, Western State commissioner for Trade and Industry, has resigned, as he said he would last week. The *Ibadan Daily Sketch* says he is leaving "the call of duty in another very important sector of Nigerian national life." The *Nigerian Tribune* says he is resigning because he has an academic post. It praises him, saying others with both political and academic posts should do up one or the other.

● The Western State Government has reassured the people of the State: "there is no question of scrapping the primary education scheme." Bng. Adebayo gave the assurance during a meeting with representatives of the Nigerian Union of Teachers Western State branch.

● London police evicted a Biafran woman and her five children from a house owned by the Nigerian High Commission on House Office instructions. Ownership of the house, in Golders Green, had been put for several months, and police twice been called to stop fights.

Mr. David Agbor said the house had been bought in June, 1964, by the Nigerian Government. The Nigerian High Commission claimed the £11,000 house was now Federal Government property.

Soon afterwards the Court of Appeal ruled that Mrs. Agbor had been evicted, and she and her family returned to their home for a celebration.

Lagos African Games

● The Second African Games will be held in Lagos in 1971. M. Jean-Claude Galt, secretary-general of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, has declared in Yaounde where the Council has its headquarters, said a stadium to seat 100,000 had been promised by the Nigerian delegate at a meeting of the Council's executive bureau in Khartoum. (The next Games were to be held in Bamako this year, but were cancelled, so far as Mali was concerned after the coup there.)



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