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Governments in the Mines

Suggestions that a senior Foreign Office official was sent post-haste to Accra following the announcement that the Ghana government intended to "participate" more closely in mining and timber extraction are baseless. Mr. Le Quesne's visit was planned long before the announcement was made and no such response has been made by the British Government to similar announcements in the past. And there have been such announcements in West Africa, and others in Zambia and Uganda. The Sierra Leone one, made in January, 1970, affected two big British companies. The Nigeria one, earlier this year, on oil companies, affected Shell-BP, while the Indigenisation Decree, published last year also affects a number of British companies. And while the British Government may be concerned at the way in which local participation in foreign enterprise is arranged, it cannot and will not question the principle, which is internationally recognised and is moving into the centre of the economic policies of more and more African governments.

There are, however, important differences in the application of the principle, and details are still not available of the Ghana Government's exact intentions (a report appeared in last week's issue). Government participation may fall short of the 51 per cent shareholding which gives control, as it does at present in the case of Ashanti Goldfields in Ghana itself. Although the Liberian government has a 50 per cent

share in the giant Lameco iron ore mine, this is purely a profit-sharing device, agreed before the operation began. The state bought gold mines in Ghana to prevent their closing, and the companies were delighted to leave with generous and immediate compensation. Mr. Siaka Stevens' government was the first in West Africa to take control of profitable mines in full operation.

The Nigerian Indigenisation Decree, like similar measures elsewhere, is intended to exclude foreigners from some areas of activity and to stimulate local private, not government, commercial activity. It is, however, minerals which now chiefly attract the attention of African governments. For it is increasingly realised that minerals are a "wasting asset", that, although predictions, as in the case of Nigeria's oil, can easily prove misleading, one day a mine or a well can be exhausted, leaving little of value for local people. The investor in a factory creates an asset where none existed; the investor in a mine, even if local resources could not themselves develop it, is concerned only with removing an asset. To some degree the same considerations affect timber extraction but here the asset can be replaced or its removal can make land available for farming without injury to the environment.

The implication of increased government participation in extractive industries, therefore, is that the additional funds which such participation can make available to national exchequers

and the addition is by no means automatic — should be used not to augment recurrent budgets but to make the economy better able to meet the consequences of the exhaustion of the asset. Unhappily, revenue from mining, whether via taxation or shareholding, is often so important a part of an African government's funds that it cannot be set aside for economic development. Indeed one result of swelling revenue from mining may only be to establish a level of recurrent expenditure which could not be maintained if the mining ceased. But any government which takes a shareholding in mining should not forget what the main objective should be.

There are other objectives, however. It has been alleged, particularly in Sierra Leone and in Nigeria, that only control or at any rate major participation can ensure that mining companies will afford to government departments a true picture of their operations, allowing correct assessments to be made of the value of their taxable income and production. In some cases, no doubt, there may be something in this. But it could not in itself provide a reason for the diversion of public resources, the possible dislocation of economic activity, and the possible restraint (though this is usually exaggerated) on new outside investment, particularly in mining itself, which full or partial nationalisation can mean. But the fact that the allegation is made shows that African governments now attach little importance to the presence of



A challenge to Acheampong?

- Nigeria's East Central State: how near to recovery?
- OAU: the bilingual Secretary-General
- Genoveva Marais: a personal view of Kwame Nkrumah
- An American seeks his African origins
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African nationals on the boards of companies or in their senior management. It is real local control which governments seek. If, for the industry, such control is in the long almost inevitable, it is unlikely to come through local private share issues. Governments will be the partners.

Even foreign companies directly affected are not necessarily upset by government participation which can, in the case of Sierra Leone Selection Trust, release capital for investment elsewhere or lead to better relations with government and its citizens (in the case of two enterprises affected by the Sierra Leone announcement, however, the government has still taken no action). What matters to a company is the way in which the enterprise will be run under government participation, and the method which compensation is calculated and the way in which it is paid. In West Africa not only the outsider who fears that government participation can mean "interference" - in the shape of political appointments, dismissals of opponents in the government, or setting of production targets which inhibit orderly development. There is a subsidiary problem that so long as foreign technicians are required - in some cases it is likely to be a very long time - and the governments will not consent to immigration permits or the technicians themselves will be unwilling to work in a government-controlled enterprise, that can be said is that experience with Sierra Leone does not justify the fears and that the increased confidence which should come to a government through its control of a mining enterprise should enable it to pursue wise policies in the exercise of that control.

The extreme length of the negotiations between the Government and Sierra Leone Selection Trust shows how difficult it can be to work out terms of government participation and for compensation to the foreign company. In the present Sierra Leone negotiations the Development Company are proving lengthy. Such matters as the nature of the "joint enterprise" to be established, the role of the foreign company as "managing agent", or the role of the company or its associates in marketing, are very complex, but in the last analysis it is probably on compensation that is most difficult to obtain agreement. To the foreign shareholder the idea that a government should offer immediate cash payment but only promise to pay compensation from profits as they arise looks very attractive, even though that may be the only course open to some governments. Just as important is the fact that to repatriate compensation funds is freedom which Ghana, for example, would find it very difficult to offer. Such considerations will deter the Ghana government from a course which is not politically popular. But they are not considerations which can be set a

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EAST CENTRAL STATE

How near to recovery?

By a correspondent

Ukpabi Asika was not exaggerating when he said in his 1972-73 budget speech that "even the most critical visitor has been astonished at the rate of our recovery". The progress made in East Central State since the end of the civil war is reflected in the budget statistics.

The 1970-71 recurrent budget provided for "a rather depressing deficit of £15.4m.", and the Administrator has admitted that with such a wide gap "our budget then was largely based on hope - hope of better times and better performance on our part". Last year he budgeted £25.9m. for recurrent expenditure against an estimated revenue of £20m. - still a deficit, but significantly reduced. In the current financial year, the State Government has provided for a total recurrent expenditure of £30.6m., but estimated recurrent revenue has grown even faster, to £29.6m. The deficit is therefore only £0.94m., and even that can be attributed to the Adebo award, which cost the State over £5m. in additional wages and salaries.

Part of the improved revenue outlook is due to an estimated increase of £4.62m. in internal revenue (a figure, said Mr. Asika, "which represents a 45 per cent improvement over last year's figure and a reflection of the commendable pace with which the State economy is recovering"). The other part of the explanation is the 40 per cent increase in the share-out of Federal revenue as a result of the country's rising earnings from petroleum.

In order to achieve as great a degree of self-reliance as possible, particular attention is paid in the budget to improving internal revenue resources: the Board responsible for collection is being re-organised and to ease the burden on taxpayers, facilities for payment by instalment are being extended to the public. More significantly, Community Councils have been given the responsibility of tax agents and will collect all direct assessment income tax on behalf of the Government, retaining 20 per cent for use in local development projects. This is intended to eradicate the concept of the government as a remote institution ("*Olu Oyibo*").

Almost inevitably, new sources of revenue are also to be tapped. The old development rate is abolished and replaced by a new scale: 5s. for those earnings less than £100 a year, 10s. between £101 and £200, £2 between £201 and £500, £8 between £501 and £1,000, £20 between £1,001 and £2,000 and £40 for those earning over £2,000. This announcement was softened by the decision to repay workers the 25 per cent surcharge and compulsory loan which the government was earlier forced to impose.

Of recurrent expenditure, education is allocated £11m. or 36 per cent of the

total. The Government intends to reduce this massive chunk and hopes that the current controversial exercise for the take-over schools will help it achieve this aim. "We will try to strike an adequate balance between the requirement of education and the need of other services which Government is expected to provide", said Mr. Asika. "Since all schools are meant to belong to the community, Government role will eventually be limited to planning and general direction and its direct financial contribution will accordingly be pegged at a level which will not starve other services of funds. In other words, the size of more education services which the people of this state will receive will in time be determined largely by the amount of contribution they will be prepared to make specifically for education".



Mr Asika greets the Rivers State Governor, Lt. Cdr Alfred Diete-Spiff, when he arrived in Enugu for a recent meeting of the Eastern States Interim Assets and Liabilities Agency.

Far-reaching changes are also envisaged in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The development and modernisation of agriculture has been one of the major failures in the East Central State's reconstruction effort. An advisory committee has been set up to formulate a strategy and to advise on the suitability or otherwise of the Ministry's institutional structure (this is part of the "fundamental re-examination of the scope, nature and functions of our executive ministries" which Mr. Asika announced several months ago when addressing a meeting of Commissioners of Information). Since it is already "obvious from past performances that the Ministry cannot profitably engage in direct production" the farm settlements and institutions such as the Ezillo, Nekede and Nkwelle Farms and the Abakaliki Poultry Centre are being handed over to the Agricultural Development Corporation "for operation on commercial principles".

The agricultural outlook is not entirely bleak. Almost 1,500 acres of trees were established last year so that there is now sufficient plantation-grown timber in the state to support a number of industries such as paper-pulp, chipboard, particle-board, and match and pole manufacture. The success of the Development Corporation's cold store unit at Enugu has encouraged it to plan for similar units in Aba, Owerri, Umuahia and Onitsha. The government's dual policy objectives of producing abundant, and competitively-priced, farm crops and making "satisfying profits" out of agricultural development are clearly going to depend to a great extent on the ADC, whose performance will obviously be watched closely.

Encouragingly, other Government corporations and companies have been performing creditably, although the Marketing Board will have to be restructured to cope with the new situation caused by the poor world prices of palm oil, palm kernels and cocoa. To overcome this, the Government is looking to greater utilisation of primary products as raw materials in local manufacturing industries. The Projects Development Agency and the Housing Development Authority were said in the budget speech to be living up to expectations and although the Reveille Printing and Publishing Company, whose newspaper, *The Renaissance*, now appears daily, has not made large profits at least "the depressing pattern of losses which much affected former Government newspapers is not being repeated".

It is hoped that unemployment, one of the state's most pressing problems, will be reduced by the small industries credit scheme, for which the Ministry of Trade and Industry gets a slightly higher allocation. Of the Government-owned industries which required reactivation, Golden Guinea Breweries and the Nigerian Cement Factory have both reached pre-war capacity and the Aba Textile Mills, the Nigeria Construction and Furniture Company, the Nigeria Water Planning Company and the Modern Shoe Industry have been reactivated. Reconstruction work continues on the Modern Ceramics Industry and the Niger Steel Factory's management board is working on the final stages of the plant's reactivation.

Reference to tourism potential is now a tradition in state development plans in Nigeria, and Mr. Asika maintained the practice by recalling that a State Tourism Committee had been set up, charged with establishing tourist centres in the state.

He summed up by predicting that the East Central State would soon reach the level at which it belonged - "in the community of other states less affected by the war".

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MATCHET'S DIARY

My friend Chief Nhon Modimi of Meme and Ndian, Cameroon (known better to some as Mr. Antony Steel, London lawyer), has enjoyed a long friendship with Mr. Nzo Ekangaki, the new Secretary-General of the O.A.U. Mr. Steel has been impressed by the new Secretary-General's wide travels and has sent me an account of them, and of Mr. Ekangaki's career. "As deputy Foreign Minister from 1961 to 1963 he travelled in every continent, meeting all kinds of people in almost every kind of political and social system. As Minister of Health he had more specialised contacts, while his policies during his seven years as Minister of Labour won further respect and appreciation from the delegates to I.L.O. and African regional conferences. He became doyen of African Labour Ministers, and newly appointed colleagues gained guidance and advice from his enthusiasm. So, at the age of 38, Nzo ('elephant' in the Mbo language) Ekangaki has been a full federal minister for nine years, a deputy minister for two years, a federal deputy, and previous to his entry into party politics, Secretary of the West Cameroon Examinations Board, and President of the National Union of Kamerun Students. The honour he has now received is the highest that Africa can give. He more than any other single individual has been entrusted with the advancement of peace in the continent north of the Zambezi and the bringing of freedom to the remainder".

"Of all Nzo's qualities" Mr Steel continues "it is intelligence and warmth of personality that win affection. Clarity of mind, ability to recognise priorities, aptitude for intense concentration are all there too. Even when at London's Hilton Hotel a waiter whose tongue was neither anglophone nor francophone refused him a cup of coffee because his polo-necked jersey revealed no tie, his good humour was not put out.

"He would not have reached his present position, however, if he did not know how and when to act incisively and when strength of purpose must replace affability. Needing less sleep than the average person the new Secretary-General can put in long hours in studying problems. He never makes an ill-timed or hasty decision in private or political matters. He studies, talks around a subject, weighs opinions and then makes up his mind. He likes company; at home in Nguti, where in 1969 the chiefs and people installed him as Nhon, or in Yuorinde or wherever he has friends, he is unhappy if he has time to relax and finds himself alone. In Nguti or Yuorinde of course such a situation would be impossible. Nzo likes music, and is the owner of what must be one of the few mini-electric organs in Africa. He is a fan of Cameroonian musicians such as Eboa Lottin, Abunda Mansfred and Anne-Marie. Flying, too, is one of his enthusiasms and he may well descend onto Nguti airstrip in

a tiny three-seater tree-hopping aircraft. He may 'make a dash' as he puts it and drive to a place 100 miles away to spend an hour with an old friend who happens to be there. He loves parties, and the social life - so long as they do not interfere with work".

What about his family? There are four children, aged from five to twelve from his first marriage, and a son of fifteen months by his second. A new baby is due just about the time he will be taking up office in Addis Ababa. "He worries about his children" says Steel "but he is also concerned for anyone who brings their problems to him. I have never seen him



Perfectly bilingual

turn anyone in trouble away. He is also a true Cameroonian, so bilingual in English and French that without knowing him it is impossible to tell from which language zone he comes. His French is as perfect as his English, so that he is no longer referred to by staff and colleagues as M. 'I mean'. In the early 1960s he would often when speaking French hesitate for a moment at a point where precision was needed, and say 'I mean' in English, then giving an alternative French word for the one he first used. But within a year or so even that minor hesitancy was overcome. Nzo naturally speaks a number of Cameroonian tongues, and knows a great deal about the history and peoples of his country and their institutions. Now all his spare time is given to reading about and studying problems Africa is likely to face in the coming years. He can now think only as an African and not as the citizen of any one country".

"Are you going to have today the same attitude towards Zaire as your ancestors had towards Morton Stanley?" This was the question which the Zaire Ambassador, Asal B. (formerly Theodore) Idzumbuir asked the London Chamber of Commerce at a special meeting on "Trade and Investment Prospects in Zaire". He had told an assembled collection of interested businessmen of how King

Leopold had taken up Stanley's offers in the 1880s, and after a survey of the present state of the Zaire economy, he posed his challenge. "Certainly you have made an effort", he said. "Indeed several Britons are already in Zaire where they have established industries and other activities which are prospering (Unilever, Shell, Leyland, Barclays etc. not to mention Britmond and SMTF - the Société Minière du Tenke-Fungurume). All these represent important investment but are not representative of Great Britain's economic and financial power. What then should you do to develop this interest? Very simply, do as others are doing. Define the area of interest in which you wish to make your efforts. Sound the Zairois market by sending economic missions out there. Let these missions be led by important people not only in the economic and financial fields but also politically, who carry the weight and guarantee of the political institutions, a strong psychological element for your contacts". The Ambassador also suggested organising at the UK level by "the creation of an Anglo-Zairois association, or an institution endowed with the same assets as those in other European countries (Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, etc.) Within this group will be those personalities from the business world with a special interest in Zaire who could meet to discuss questions of mutual interest in an atmosphere of mutual understanding". The Ambassador concluded by saying that the initiative of the London Chamber of Commerce in inviting him to speak bore witness to such a desire and such an interest. "You have only to make them concrete".

Questions to him revealed such an interest, although perhaps understandably tended to concentrate on one of the obstacles to improved trade, with Zaire National Bank Circular No. 139, which requires prices for imported goods to be 3 per cent less than the lowest prices in effect in 1971. Although the desire of the Zaire government to prevent its own importers from over-pricing is natural, there was a feeling that this measure was hampering further improvements in Britain's trade with Zaire (British exports to Zaire rose from £3.4m. in 1965 to £18.1m. in 1971). The idea of a Britain-Zaire Association was well received by the gathering, but attempts in the past to start one have not borne fruit.

A delegation of the Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce, led by the President, Mr. T. T. Hope, complained to the Vice-President about the increase in burglary in Freetown. Mr. Koroma expressed deep concern and noted that the "strangers drive" in the Kono diamond district seemed to have caused the increase. People without residence permits who had left the diamond areas because of the campaign against them are now operating in Freetown.

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Budget for posterity: 2

From a correspondent

Reviewing the budgetary performance for 1971-72, the Finance Minister recalled that revenue was originally estimated at Le51.7m. "This represents a considerable decrease on the collections for the previous year which were affected by substantial non-recurrent receipts resulting from the restructuring of the diamond industry. In the event, the performance has turned out to be a good deal better than the estimate, and it looks as though the final total will be well over Le56m." The main increase came from Customs and Excise, which recorded a rise of Le3m. on import duties and less on export and excise duties. Taxes on incomes and profits, including taxes on mining companies and personal taxation showed an increase of Le2m. over the estimates. This was achieved with assistance from tax measures imposed in the previous budget, such as the payroll and entertainments taxes.

However, there was a "disturbing" increasing in expenditure: "Unfortunately the requirement for supplementary appropriations, including the first supplementary of nearly Le3m. which the House approved some months ago, is likely to be something of the order of Le6m. Of this the largest additional appropriation will be for the Ministry of Education, which is likely to require provision of more than a million leones above the original estimate of Le9.6m." Of this nearly Le2m. was provided mainly to meet teachers salary increases; "somewhat more than this" would be necessary to meet increased scholarship costs. But "no government could afford to let a rate of increase of this nature become habitual, and the government intends that this will not occur again on this scale".

Security also necessitated an increase in expenditure - of about Le2.5m in Defence appropriations and over 1/4m. for the Police. Health estimates, also, were larger than expected and the Minister blamed the growing requirements for drugs, and their increased cost, for the rise of Le300,000 in Health estimates. The opening of several new foreign missions accounted for a further Le0.37m., and the subsidy to the railways had to be increased by Le300,000 because of a drop in the revenues expected.

Speaking of the estimate increases the Minister said, "I do not expect this pattern to be repeated in the coming year, first because we have made every effort to be realistic in making our estimates both of revenue and expenditure, and secondly because there is every reason to think that we have now dealt with the bulk of the large and unforeseeable problems which we have had to face in the past year".

On the development side, Mr. Kamara-Taylor said that instead of the original programme of Le10.1m. for 1971-72, he expected to have achieved about Le11m., including both domestically financed and foreign-financed expenditure. Le3m. was raised for road development stock, which finances expenditure on specific road projects. Sums up the Minister: "Budget performance for 1971-72 with an expected revenue surplus over the estimates would have given an overall pleasant picture if expenditure did not unfortunately exceed the estimates and also completely absorbed the surplus".

Having dwelt on the previous year's budget performance the Minister said that his 1972-73 budget was geared to maintain a policy of rapid economic expansion designed to increase individual *per capita* income, achieve balanced economic growth, and ensure more equitable distribution of wealth.

To improve the living standards of civil servants and reduce the disparity of incomes, the government revised salary scales in the civil service, judiciary and armed forces, adding an extra Le2m. to the budget. It was also decided to exempt from income tax the pensions paid to Sierra Leone pensioners. Three new border posts are to be erected and consideration given to the problem of under-invoicing of imports by businessmen to avoid full payment of duty. Discussing the issue of tax evasion Mr. Kamara-Taylor said: "If all the tax arrears are paid up during this fiscal year we should certainly end up with a sizeable surplus on our current budget".

Another area that needed immediate attention was the returns to the government from its investments in commercial and industrial enterprises "From now on a much more vigilant and scrupulous eye will be cast on their operations to ensure more rewarding dividends". One should recall that the majority of public corporations were formerly departments from which the government obtained a regular inflow of cash, said the Minister. He praised the Sierra Leone Marketing Board and the Ports Authority for their regular contributions to the development budget, and stated: "In the near future Government will undertake the proposed investigation and reappraisal of the role and contribution of all state enterprises and Corporations to the development effort".

It was rewarding to report that the rate of domestic savings has risen over the past three years, but data showed that investment in the economy did not match up with domestically generated saving. Statistics indicated a gap between savings and investments and suggested "a general indisposition on the part of the private sector to search for and exploit available investment outlets".



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Letters to the Editor

Proposals for a new tax system

SIR—The article "Nigeria Tax Drive" (June 30) made pleasant reading. The details are not strange or surprising for it is a known and well-established fact that every taxpayer tries his luck on manipulating his financial affairs so that he pays the minimum possible tax. The shocking thing is that the Nigerian tax system is literally a non-starter as nobody seems to know what it is all about. Various reasons might contribute to this state of affairs but the following are sufficient examples: (a) inadequate tax law and (b) careless tax management. What we are faced with now is finding a remedy rather than looking for faults. Bearing this in mind one can only attempt to give the authorities concerned some doses:

1. We need a national taxation system which must be well documented, simple and capable of being understood by the layman.
2. There should be for our tax enforcing officials an extensive education in depth and this should include patriotic awareness that they must put the nation before their personal desires.
3. The Inland Revenue should undertake a country-wide campaign with the aim of supplying answers to the tax-paying public on questions as to the what, why, how, when and where of the taxation mystery. With an intelligent explanation most of the self-employed persons and institutions would endeavour to keep proper records.
4. There should be a clearly laid down penalty for tax defaulters and tax evaders including persons who might have aided and abetted them in the evading technique.
5. Clearly accountants have a special duty to their clients and a responsibility to the state, obviously they are caught in a dual role; but the question is, what use have we made of them? The governments have not demanded that the self-employed tax-paying public submit their business accounts through a practising accountant. As a result people are arbitrarily taxed — which in itself is a very good excuse for tax-dodging.
6. Mr. Edwin Clark can collect enough money to enable him to implement the Four Years Development Plan today if he and his counterpart both of the Federal and States level have the courage to face reality. This is by a planned and intelligent back-duty operation.

Finally, it is recognised that nobody wants a "saint" but a fair and equitable system is necessary to see that every citizen contributes fairly to the progress and development of our country.

OLU BASHORUN

London

Nigerians and the growth rate

SIR—Dr. Ariwoola (June 23) should be told that the Nigerian "surprise" of a 9.6% annual growth rate is due not so much to any hardworking qualities "discovered" by Nigerians during the civil war as to the oil boom and the foreign-aid grants for reconstruction and from some countries trying to "buy" themselves into Nigeria's good books after the war.

I do not know how much "Africans in UK ... recognise how hardworking Nigerians are", but I do know that this quality is not universally conceded. Besides one has only to walk to the Passport Office in Lagos, the nearest police roadblock check-point, any post office, railway station or a Nigerian embassy abroad to see how Nigerians rush forward snail-like to carry out the duties for which they are paid. I agree, however that "each Nigerian works hard ... making provisions for future personal progress". If not, bribery and corruption would not have been so all-pervading as they are in Nigerian society.

The fact that "most of the 8,000 Nigerian graduates in the United States had settled down with little or no plans to return", that Peter Enahoro says "Nigeria is my country but at the moment Europe offers the wider scope I need in my work" (June 23) and that thousands of Nigerians in UK and other African countries prefer to work very

often under discriminating (racial, religious, nationalistic) conditions rather than return to their motherland undermines Dr. Ariwoola's prophetic "the future holds so much for our nation".

Could these unpatriotic(?) attitudes be indications that Nigeria offers no incentive to her nationals in and out of the country — except to officers of the Armed Forces and non-productive (and often incompetent) administrative officials? That technicians and professionals of all sorts — the most essential assets of a developing nation — are often woefully neglected in Nigeria?

Nigerians should stop wasting their precious time "asserting their leadership not only of Africa but also of the Black Race". Let Africa and the black race accord Nigeria this honour(?) in due time if she merits it. And this can come about only when Nigerians at home and abroad start working as hard for "the progress of our country" as they do for their "personal progress".

The truth is that Nigerians are a very long way from being as hardworking as the Japanese or as dedicated as the Brazilians. The sooner Nigerians of Dr. Ariwoola's calibre stop euphorically singing the "glory-glory-alleluia" of their countrymen at the least sight of government statistics and get down to some painful but constructive criticism, the sooner Nigeria will "take the world by bigger surprises".

ADEM EMAIKWU S. J.

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People

Amidst the controversy over the pros and cons of introducing a quota system for University admissions in Nigeria, new vice-chancellors have been appointed to the universities of Ibadan and Lagos. At Ibadan, Professor Oritshejolomi Thomas, who is 54, follows Prof. Adeoye Lambo, who has joined the World Health Organisation (Prof. G. M. Edington filled the interregnum as acting vice-chancellor). He was previously head of the Department of Surgery in the College of Medicine at Lagos University and has acted as vice-chancellor of Lagos on a number of occasions. Educated at Methodist Boys' High School, Lagos, Igbobi College and Birmingham University in Britain, Prof. Thomas has a wide range of extra-curricula interests including gardening, water-skiing and reading. Ibadan has experienced its share of student politics - the last major outbreak was the riots in which a student was shot dead by a policeman. Prof. Thomas takes over in the midst of a controversy about the university's plan for second-year students to live off the campus. The public relations officer of the students union, Teju Titiloye, has already claimed that the decision "is a calculated attempt to kill students unionism in the university". At both universities, however, the first topic likely to be drawn to the attention of the new vice-chancellors is that of academic staff salaries. An article in the *Daily Times* recently said that lecturers had been petitioning against "anachronistic salary scales since 1967. A potential source of tension is an attitude that remains indifferent to this pressing question".

At Lagos, where the row surrounding the appointment of the previous vice-

chancellor led to the closure of the university for a time in 1965, Prof. Jacob Ajayi takes over from Prof. Saburi Biobaku. Aged 43, he was educated at St. Paul's School, Ikole-Ekiti, Christ's School, Ado-Ekiti and Igbobi College, Lagos, later attending Higher College, Yaba, University College, Ibadan, University College, Leicester and London University. Until his new appointment he was head of the History Department at Ibadan. Married with five children, he has a reputation for fair-mindedness and tolerance. He has built up a solid reputation as a historian; his publications include *Milestones in Nigerian History*, *Yoruba Warfare in the nineteenth century* (with R. S. Smith), and *Christian Missions in Nigeria 1841-1891*. He was co-editor of *A Thousand Years of West African History*, and is general editor of the Ibadan History Series. A pioneer of the "Ibadan approach" to African history, his most recently published work is the *History of West Africa*, which he edited jointly with Prof. Michael Crowder of Ahmadu Bello University. This ambitious two-volume study (only the first volume is out so far) aims to provide "a lucid, scholarly, and authoritative synthesis of West African history that can serve as a basic university textbook, as a work of reference for teachers, and a general background for all those interested in West African studies".

Hoping to get the opportunity of cutting a record during their two-month tour of Britain are the eight men and one woman who make up the *Afro National Band*, formerly known as *Sabanoh*. Until recently, the group was the resident band at the Cape Sierra Club in Freetown. A number of club appearances and student dates have been fixed for the tour, including a performance at the annual Sierra Leone Students Congress, which is taking place in Leeds.



The picture shows Genoveva Marais, author of *Kwame Nkrumah As I knew Him* (reviewed on page 977) and her husband Victor Kanu (both in African robes) talking to Lady Carter (centre left) wife of the Guyana High Commissioner and Marcus Lipton, MP. Lady Carter as Mary Lou Carter was a model in New York with Genoveva. The occasion was a

reception given by Mr. Kanu to mark the publication of his wife's book in the Hilton Hotel, London. The reception included a short meeting in an "inner sanctum" at which both husband and publisher paid tributes to the author, and a minute's silence was held for Kwame Nkrumah.



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BUSINESS EQUIPMENT AND MANUFACTURE

Introduction to Traditional Art of Western Africa by *E. V. Asihene* (Constable, £3.00).

Just as some of the countries chiefly responsible for the establishment of the transatlantic slave trade took a lead in abolishing the trade, so people in some of the European countries whose missionaries tried to bring the art of Africa into contempt have done most to restore that art to its proper place. Indeed, until recently, educated Africans themselves have shown little enthusiasm for their traditional art and Prof. Asihene says that Africans who have had a western education look upon this art "with some contempt as its presence seems unessential in the present mood of our present way of life and all the accoutrements of modern societies. This is because present-day African society is removed from the purpose for which these works were made." And one of his objects in writing this book, though it is inadequately realised, is to find out why uneducated people in West African villages seem to appreciate traditional art more readily than do the educated people.

This is one of the first books of its kind to be written by a West African - Professor Asihene also brings the story more briefly up to date by references to Ben Enwonwu, Ampofo and Ntiamoah. He is unusually well qualified for his task, having studied art originally under the Meyerowitzs at Achimota, and having been at Goldsmith's College, London, where he specialised in painting and stone



A Bundu mask of the Mende of Sierra Leone, one of the many pieces in the Ghana Museum illustrated in Prof. Asihene's book.

carving and took an art teacher's diploma. He has worked as cultural attaché in Ghana missions in London, Washington and Rome, and is now Dean of the

College of Art at the University of Kumasi. He has held numerous exhibitions of his work, some in western capitals, and also in China, and among his work is a set of murals for the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva.

This book, however, is intended as an introduction to the subject and the illustrations are drawn only from the British Museum, the Ghana Museum and other Ghana collections, with the single exception of Enwonwu's figure of Christ at Ibadan. Some authorities would dispute Prof. Asihene's claim that it was only the looting of Benin that brought to the attention of the Western world the existence of West African traditional art - they would even draw a distinction between the court art of Benin and the art of the wood carvers and mask makers and deny the description "traditional" to Benin, but the main object of the book is to present a simple catalogue of the different styles to be found in West Africa, and the photographs are chosen to illustrate the differences.

Prof. Asihene has a particularly interesting chapter on the media which West African artists can use. He draws attention, for example, to the view that the tree is a living thing and has a life of its own, leading the West African artists to adopt the cylindrical form for carving human figures. The result is that the legs and arms are very close to the body, giving a somewhat static effect, leaving the dynamic effect to the proportionately enlarged head, and to the details.

It is interesting to learn that wood carvers now use DDT in an attempt to counteract the pests which have destroyed such a high proportion of traditional wood carvings. Prof. Asihene notes that West African works can be identified from the incisions and decorations made on the human body since these indicate a particular origin.

Since this is meant to be a guide for those who know nothing of the subject, it is a pity that the term "Sudan" is explained and that Prof. Asihene uses the term "Mandigo" for the group who are better known as "Mandingo". One wonders, too, whether those missionaries who despised African traditional art really "knew about the Michelangelo's and Raphael's". Some people may feel the achievements of Benin may have been overstated and those of the Yoruba given some reference to the applied arts and terra-cotta, but really confines human works of wood carving, to masks and works in bronze.

One would like to see, however, an introduction to West African art, with attention to pottery, textiles, decorations and basket-work. But doubt, the author felt that the compass of his book was too small to permit comprehensiveness; and he has accomplished the task which he set himself.

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White history

South Africa an Historical Introduction by Freda Troup (Eyre Methuen, £4.50)

Miss Troup has written a great deal about her native South Africa. This time she makes a successful effort to explain the present by reference to the country's history. She makes no claim to being a professional, still less an impartial, historian. But her book, excellently produced and beautifully illustrated, goes a long way to finding the answers she is seeking. She claims only to offer a "White" version of the country's history, saying that the "Black" version has yet to come, but as an intermediate report this does well enough.

Miss Troup concludes her history: "so it was that a nation of 3,500,000 white people has been forged by the interaction of genealogy and geography, economics and history into one as tenaciously obdurate as the world has known. In less than a century a poor and factious tribe of nomadic farmers under constant threat of annihilation has been transformed into a nation of substance and significance: its substance founded on a feudal-colonial exploitation of a subservient class in a natural El Dorado, its significance on a systemised manipulation of racial inequalities which spread like a contagion into the world inflaming latent malaises everywhere. Most of this took place under a British suzerainty inconstant in purpose and mainly governed by the fluctuating imperial, strategic and economic consideration of the moment."

A few clear-sighted and objective men in each century, Miss Troup agrees, have warned of the dangers along the political path. "There have been times - perhaps almost up until Sharpeville - when a spirit of White compromise would have met with Non-White co-operation. The early chiefs were for the most part conciliatory and often eager for the benefits of Western culture. The first mission-reared African politicians were far closer in outlook to their White mentors than to their Black compatriots. Indian leaders came mainly from a merchant class and shared a common commercial language with the Whites. The Coloureds had been, until quite lately, accepted as part White by origin and wholly White - Afrikaner - in culture and interests. But the chances of building a multiracial policy, with possibly an eventual painless transfer to majority rule, were missed time and again. For the Afrikaners decided they had no line of retreat back to the mother-country. Their myopic preoccupation with establishing their livelihood in Africa and preserving White blood and culture against the expected tide of colour dictated their defences. These seemed justified by the upheavals in many territories newly freed from and resentful of White control, a view which took no account of completely different circumstances in South Africa where the leaders of a larger and long-Westernised Non-White population acknowledged the right of the Whites to be there, declared a willingness to co-operate with them in

responsibility and accepted the need for the White contribution. A multi-racial community might well have been possible, that does not mean South Africa would have escaped political conflict, but that, if it came, it could have been a conventional class struggle and not a race war."

Now, however, South Africa is more and more symbolic of the crystallisation of mankind into two irreconcilable equations: "White equals advanced, privileged and rich; Black equals backward, exploited and poor. The consequences for the future are alarming."

The last word Miss Troup leaves to Smuts, the Afrikaner-Imperialist, "whose achievements fell so far short of his moments of sharp perception. 'Freedom is the most ineradicable craving of human nature, the denial of human rights must in the long run lead to a cataclysm'."

A.M.

Blues and griots

Savannah Syncopators: *African Retentions in the Blues*, by Paul Oliver (Studio Vista Books, 65p.)

Using his field work in northern Ghana, Paul Oliver provides convincing evidence for his thesis that there is a definite and traceable link between the Afro-American blues and the griots and cora players of the West African savannahs. "It seems to me", he writes, "that the whole conception of music in the rain



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forest region, and especially in the drum orchestras, has little to do with the music of the American Negro, whatever they may have had to do with jazz. The evidence of the music of the Ashanti, Yoruba, Ewe and Baule is of music of great rhythmic complexity which seems not to have survived in any significant way in the United States. That it is to be heard in a remarkably pure form in Haiti and other parts of the West Indies serves to emphasise that, given the right hospitable circumstances, this powerful music can thrive on foreign soil after the passage of a century and much more. But, like other aspects of rain forest sculpture and the image-making of African sculpture when it ran counter to the patterns of behaviour acceptable to the American slave-owners, it died". The savanna music seems to have been more acceptable, and thus survived, above all in the shape of the banjo, which seems directly related to the Wolof *hulam*. Also "the skills of the players of *kukuma* or *gambia* would soon have been adapted to the European fiddle".

The African Newsroom (International Press Institute)

Edited by Frank Barton, Africa Director of the Zurich-based International Press Institute, this concise manual is an Africanised version of an earlier publication, *The Active Newsroom*, produced as part of the IPI's African programme. In simple, straightforward English, supported by well-chosen examples and illustrations from a variety of African newspapers, it describes techniques of reporting, news editing, sub-editing, photo-editing and proof-writing. Those responsible for the publication of newspapers in Africa should ignore all those impressive-sounding courses of journalism at American universities and make this book compulsory reading for all editorial staff members. All the tenets in *The African Newsroom* were put into practice the standard of press in Africa would be doubled overnight.

Our People Are Our Mountains: Amílcar Cabral on the Guinean Revolution, published by the Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea, 1971.

This is a record of the two London meetings last autumn of Amílcar Cabral, Secretary-General of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde Islands, put together by a Committee which invited him. The book respectively the speech he made at the meeting at the Central Hall Westminster and a "Question and Answer" session at the University of London. Also Cabral's 1971 report on PAIGC activities, as well as telling the reader about the unassuming yet remarkable leader who has helped the movement to its successes.

There is a foreword by Basil Davidson as well as maps and pictures.

IVORY COAST

The importance of agriculture

In the first of two articles Tamar K. Golan discussed the achievements of and prospects for Ivorian agriculture.

Figures made public this month by the Ivorian Chamber of Agriculture reveal the predominance of the primary sector, or rather of agriculture, in the economy of the Ivory Coast: the agricultural sector provides 80 per cent of export earnings for primary products and 90 per cent when products of agriculture-based industry are added. Agriculture-based industry produced 54 per cent of the industrial sector's overall output of 116,000m CFA francs in 1971. Three crops, coffee, cocoa and timber, dominate the exports picture. Coffee and cocoa make up 60 per cent of exports (together with their semi-manufactured products such as cocoa butter), and timber represents another 23.7 per cent.

The impact of new crops on the export picture is not yet noticeable, but they are expected to grow rapidly in the years to come. They include bananas, of which 188,000 tons were produced in 1971, at 4,800m CFA francs in value of exports, pineapple production was put at 178,000 tons, of which 33,000 tons were exported fresh and 145,000 tons preserved in local factories. The exports earnings of pineapple were only 905m CFA francs.

Other crops to which special attention is being given are palm-oil and rubber, of which very extensive new plantations are coming into being, and large areas cleared for development in the south-west of the country, the Ivorian "new frontier"; rice, an increasingly important staple food in the towns, at present largely imported, but in which the country hopes to be self-sufficient in a few years' time, and sugar, at present nearly all imported, but in which the country should be self-sufficient by 1975 if the Ferkessedougou scheme (in which the London-based Lonho has a management-consultant contract) is successful. Despite gloomy forecasts, the Ivory Coast was self-sufficient in traditional crops such as millet, cassava and plantain. At present, the country's over-dependence on agriculture is beginning to become a strain. In order to maintain its remarkable rate of growth, the Ivory Coast will need to diversify and increase the share of the secondary and tertiary sectors of the economy. Most observers of the unique Ivorian model of development have centred their attention on the fast-growing sky-scrapers of Abidjan when speaking on "foreign domination" they saw the firms installed in or around the capital. Some favoured such a model of development with the help of foreign incentives, others criticised it. Most observers, however, have not paid enough attention to the agricultural sector which is the single most important contributor to the Ivorian "miracle".

It is in this sector that President Houphouët-Boigny has invested most of his effort; it may be time now to switch the emphasis, but the fact still remains that if there is anything to be learned from the Ivorian experience — one should not look for it in Abidjan but, rather in the cocoa and coffee plantations of the centre and centre-west of the country.

One of the first laws approved by the Ivorian National Assembly after independence was one barring non-nationals from ownership of farmland and the cultivation of cash-crops. Only those French plantation owners of the pre-independence period who wished to retain their plantations and who acquired Ivorian nationality (dual nationality is allowed), were permitted to keep their farms. Since coffee and cocoa make for



Aerial view of a rice project.

more than half of the country's production and foreign earnings, and because their production (though not marketing and sales) is almost entirely in Ivorian hands — charges that the Ivorian economy is completely foreign dominated are misleading. Thus, despite the country's declared "open door" policy, it seems safe to say that the productive side of Ivorian economy is mostly dominated by the Ivorian peasant class.

This peasant class, the Ivorian "kulak class", is aided on one hand by European foreign investment and technical assistance and by African foreign migrant labour, on the other.

The power of the régime, both economically and politically, lies with the individual coffee and cocoa planter who cultivates an average area of five hectares by semi-traditional methods. This planter employs on his land not only members of his own extended family but also up to a dozen foreign migrant workers, usually from the Mossi of Upper Volta.

Estimates of the number of seasonal and permanent migrant workers residing in the Ivory Coast are varied, and no official figures are available. Modest estimates have it that almost a third of the country's population is foreign, with the Voltaiques by far in the majority (between 750,000 and 1,000,000), Guineans around 250,000, Malians 50,000 to 100,000 and Ghanaians around 200,000. At one point, President Houphouët-Boigny proposed to establish the dual nationality for citizens of the Entente member-states. His offer was rejected by the other members for fear of losing their own citizens, and the revenues "injected" into their poor economies from money transferred by the migrant workers to their families back home.

It would be interesting to compare how far Ivorian prosperity is derived from the much talked-of foreign investment and foreign experts and how far it is based on the little-discussed huge foreign labour force. Cheap manpower is ensuring the operation of the plantations, saw-mills, and ports. About a half of the

population of Abidjan is said to be foreign. Some 1.5 million migrant workers have perhaps contributed to the economy much more than all the private French firms put together.

President Houphouët Boigny was the richest planter in the country before he became its President. He considers it a compliment when he is referred to as "le Président-Paysan" the "farmer-President". His special awareness of the primacy of the peasant class in the economic context of his country has saved him from the miscalculations of his neighbour, in another country dependant on a single crop — Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana. President Houphouët-Boigny has always done his best to keep the farmers happy (it also happens that the majority of cocoa and coffee planters are Baoulé, of the President's own tribal group), and not to antagonize them. Quite often this was done at the cost of alienating other groups, such as the industrial labourers and the intellectuals.

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Roots in the Gambia

Bob Okonedo writes about Alex Haley's quest for his Manding origins.

Alex Haley, the black American writer who wrote *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* in the mid-sixties was in London recently to give a public lecture on his mammoth genealogical search which took him to The Gambia. The lecture entitled "Manding Origins" was organised by the London School of Oriental and African Studies as part of the international Conference on Manding Studies held in London.

He began by talking about his early days in the US Coast Guards. His first attempts at writing were love letters to girl friends all over the world. These girls enjoyed receiving these letters and liked his style of writing - "especially those Australian blondes on whom I showered love poems". It was from these early beginnings, backed by his habit of reading voraciously, that he developed his passion for writing. Soon he moved into writing sea adventure stories as well as articles on various subjects which he sent off to magazines in the hope of getting published. It was not till after "collecting rejection slips for eight years before some editors began purchasing and publishing occasional stories".

After twenty years service in the Coast Guard, Alex Haley retired at the age of 37 determined to make writing a full-time career. During this time, while he was collecting "a good deal of provocative material" about the cult of Islam for an article for the "Readers Digest", he met Malcolm X; a meeting which later developed into a special attachment leading to the *Autobiography*.

The main subject of the lecture, however, were his roots. He described how "Grandma's old stories" and "some curiosity hanging on from boyhood about my slave forebearers" led him to look up the Census Records of County North Carolina where his great grandfather had worked as a slave in a tobacco plantation and discovered in the microfilm rolls the names of "Grandma's parents and relatives that I'd heard countless times on her front porch".

This was how he authenticated Grandma's stories and launched himself into the most ambitious research project ever undertaken by any black American - tracing the origin of his great-great-great-great grandfather, the original African who had said his name was "Kintay" and called a river "Kamby Bolong" and a gaiter "Ko". With a breath-taking pace, Mr. Haley went on to give a graphic account of how as a result of his relentless researches in public libraries both in the US, Britain and Ireland, plus the guidance given him by certain African scholars, he finally took the trip to the Gambia River and set foot for the first time, on the now crumbling James Fort from where slave ships were loaded for their trans-Atlantic voyages.

With the help of Gambian officials he eventually arrived at the village of Juffure

to meet the *griot*, Kebba Kanga F who was 73 "rains" old (on the one rainy season in each year) This old storyteller finally provided the missing link in the chain for he recalled that "about the time the King's son came", (Colonel O'Hare's forces patched to protect James Fort in 1767), "the oldest of these four Kunta when he had about sixteen went away from the village to chop to make a drum and was never again".

"Goose-pimples the size of lemons seemed to pop all over me. Right here in this African village I was being told a very story which my Grandma, C. Georgia and the others had told me. African 'Kintay' who had always said he was kidnapped near his village who was out chopping wood to make a drum". To drive the reality of the situation home, the *griot* rallied the men and women descended from Kunta and other three blood brothers from surrounding villages and we all took a picture to commemorate this family reunion in Juffure".

Alex Haley must have spoken for a good two hours before coming to the end of his narrative but it did not seem he had spoken for more than five minutes since his narrative was so action-packed that it left most of his audience on the edge of their seats in anticipation of what was going to happen next. It concluded by thanking his sports publishers and the film company who were already planning to make a feature film of the findings resulting from his research. His book on his findings, called *Roots*, is to be published in September 1973.

When I had the chance to talk to this middle-aged conservatively-dressed man afterwards, I asked him if it is true that the black struggle in America assumed a new dimension since the death of Malcolm X.

"Yes. It is changing, it's altering, replied firmly. "There's less activism now for several reasons, one of them is that it was, I think, necessary that there be at first a deal of what was called violence in more euphemistic terms called activism simply to shake society's consciousness into a recognition of the fact that there was a problem. Many people in America would have said there was no problem as many people now saying right here in England.

"However after the active struggle in America, the country began to become much more sensitised to the fact that there was a problem. So that now some really radical changes are taking place in American everyday society. For example in the schools; Black Studies is now taken in most schools - from high school level to the universities - and

not the case previously. Also black students are attending from High schools through universities where previously there were none or, at best, only a token few. In the everyday employment area, you see black people working in jobs now where you just wouldn't have seen them before. That having been accomplished through activism, now, there's a different sort of pattern emerging where there's more emphasis upon the political process, the educational process, the entry into business aspect and the economic aspect of the continued plight of black people - but there're different facets of the plight. That is the new direction I would say, the political, the economic and the educational."

How did he feel when he first set foot in Africa?

"Bewildered - simply in the sense that I was in a new culture I was seeing people I have never seen before. I felt a kind of strange pull of knowing this is where I ancestrally came from and that I had never been there before. I didn't understand many things I saw yet I had this awareness that this is where I came from - so it's that strange thing of knowing that you had become alien to your source, you know, psychically I am looking at people who are black but whose native language I could not understand and even when they spoke English, often I couldn't readily understand what they were saying. There was therefore that ambivalence of feeling the tug, the pull of knowing that's your ancestral home but not really feeling as

comfortably at home as I would have liked to feel.

"I don't think black Americans would find it readily easy to live in Africa for a number of reasons. First of all, if the black American goes to Africa with the feeling of 'this is the motherland and if I get there there'll be no problems, everything would be great because it's a black country' they're in for a rude shock - probably.

"There's another area of black Americans who would go to Africa with the idea 'we're going to go and show them how politically to run their own country'. Those also are in for another rude shock - maybe more rude than the first shock. The reason for this, as I have found, is that Africans resent anybody coming to tell them, in effect paternalistically how to run Africa. Africans themselves have enough problems running their own countries without outside advice from whomever, particularly uninformed, ill-advised and emotional type of advisers.

Simply because they have not been exposed to it the black Americans do not understand the nuances of African national differences. We do not understand for instance, the essence of African tribal rivalry I have myself been set back on my heels. I have met young men very articulate, speaking the same kind of English in Africa but who happen to belong to two different tribes and who recoil towards each other like two snakes that I simply couldn't understand it. I was later given to understand that they



came from two separate tribal groups who have had ancestral enmity. And I can't understand that simply because I have not been exposed to it. Now, if I do not understand something that elemental, how possibly can I go and try to tell how to run a place where these two people live?"

"A black American who is accepted and probably would live very well there would be that person who came to Africa with the spirit and sincere feeling 'I want to learn what this country and its culture is like - which is my ancestral culture. I want to be a student of it.' so much in that I can be part of it." That kind of attitude would help the person within himself to adjust and, also, it would communicate to Africans who would then be eager to help such a person."

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and 19 James Street, Liverpool L2 7RT.

Commercial News

Ghana cocoa farms 'neglected'

Many cocoa farms throughout Ghana have been completely neglected since the harvesting of the 1971-72 main crop, says Paterson, Simons & Ewart's latest Report. "This has been due primarily to the Government's present agricultural policy with its emphasis on production of food crops for domestic consumption. Prices currently being paid for food crops give farmers a much higher return than the husbandry of a cocoa farm

"Two weeks ago, at the time of our most recent survey, it was rare to find a cocoa farm which was not heavily overgrown, and the labour situation is such that it is unlikely that much clearing will be done before the opening of the 1972-73 main crop season. This could have serious consequences if rainfall is heavy and high humidity in the farms leads to the spread of fungus infection." The labour supply position in the cocoa growing areas continued to deteriorate. Ghana's economic situation, characterised by high prices, low earnings and shortages of basic commodities, provided little incentive for foreign labourers to remain in the country. There were fewer working on farms than at the same time last year.

On disease, Paterson, Simons point out that the canopy is generally in good condition with light insect damage. "This has been due more to a satisfactory weather pattern than to individual farmer spraying, which has been almost non-existent. Farmer complaints about the poor quality of Gammalin have been numerous." The re-organised Cocoa Division of the Ministry of Agriculture had indicated that it would continue with the mass spraying programme begun earlier this year and it was intensifying its cutting-out programme for swollen shoot. Good progress had also been made with the rehabilitation programme in the Eastern region financed by the World Bank, where a considerable area had now been planted with new "Hybrid" trees.

In general, says the Report, development of the mid-crop had not been promising. In addition to an unfavourable weather pattern some reduction in yield was anticipated after the largest main crop for seven years. "since farmers make little use of fertilizers and seldom adopt the measures necessary to replenish the soil". The reduced vitality of farms had been characterized by heavy flushing rather than the production of pods. Although most farms in the traditional mid-crop areas had developed a good canopy, there was a relatively poor showing of pods which would ripen

in time for the mid-crop season. The size of the mid-crop, adds the Report, would be dependent largely on the younger farms which have been planted with "Amazon" and "Hybrid" cocoa which, unlike the "Amelonado" variety, flower and fruit most of the year round.

Expectations that the promise of an increase in the growers price would lead to farmers and buying agents holding back supplies of the 1971-72 main crop to be delivered as 1972 mid-crop had not materialised because the delay in confirming the announcement, combined with an increase in the cost of living and real or supposed shortages of some basic consumer goods, resulted in beans being converted into cash as quickly as possible.

The Cocoa Marketing Board intended to revert to the system of taking over cocoa from buying agents at the ports, but the agents would have to satisfy the Board that they had the necessary financial backing to operate. In particular, they would be required to obtain bank guarantees to cover their declarations before the 90 per cent advance on declarations was paid by the Board.

Looking at the world market situation, Paterson, Simons note that in spite of record production in 1971-72 the price had risen about £70 a ton from the lows of last December. This was due to optimistic crop expectations for Nigeria and the Temporo crop in Brazil failing to materialise; fourth-quarter 1971 and first-quarter 1972 grind figures showing some very encouraging results; and the relatively low price level of around £200 per ton proving so attractive to manufacturers that long forward cover had been established, in some cases extending right through 1973.

Weather conditions in West Africa during the next 10 to 12 weeks would be crucial. Prices would undoubtedly be strengthened if weather reports were unfavourable. But if the weather picture continued fair, "the rising trend in production in most countries should ensure that last year's record world crop is again exceeded". The company did not consider that cocoa was at present overvalued, "even allowing for the fact that the main origins are on the whole less well sold for the time of year than they have been for many years past. Bearing in mind the present price-level, it appears to us that there is less scope for downward movement as a result of a fourth consecutive world surplus in 1972-73 than there is scope for upward movement in the event of a world deficit".

BANK REACHES 'TAKE-OFF STAGE'

The African Development Bank reached "the take-off stage", the President, M. Abdelwahab Labidi of Tunisia, told the opening session of the general assembly of the Bank's Board of Governors. The investment target \$25m. in 1971 had been reached and the same target for this year would certainly be attained and might even be beaten, he told the meeting in Algiers. Sixteen countries still had subscriptions arrears but there had been an improvement in payments by the 34 member states.

M. Labidi urged African countries to adopt a common position on the international financial crisis and said the Bank would be prepared to convene an African monetary conference to discuss a joint stand. Any reform of the monetary system should go beyond mere readjustments and should safeguard the interests of African countries. Last December's dollar devaluation and the recent float of the pound had led to serious losses for African nations with reserves in those currencies and he warned that other major currencies would soon be in trouble, leading to further devaluations and floating operations.

The conference, attended by about 400 delegates and observers, was opened by M. Cherif Belkacem, Algeria's Minister of State, who said that the developed countries had continued to get a raw deal from the developed nations. Inter-African trade accounted for only six per cent of Africa's foreign trade exchanges and economic co-operation had not reached the level of political co-operation achieved in the OAU. M. Belkacem welcomed the creation of a soft-African Development Fund (approved by the Bank) which was on the agenda of the meeting but stressed that the Bank itself should "remain a specifically African institution of solidarity". All possible means of financing Bank activities should be examined before a final decision was taken on another item on the agenda - acceptance of non-African capital. He also suggested that excess African financial reserves should go to the benefit of developing countries, "which have inherited a real drainage network of the world's financial means to the benefit of the big industrial centres".

Ghana exports shrimps

Ghana has exported her first consignment of 10 tons of shrimps to Yokohama. The shrimps were processed by a Ghana-owned factory at Tema. A spokesman said that the factory, equipped with Japanese machinery and with the help of a Japanese shrimp processing expert, would be exporting five tons of shrimps every two months. Only one Soviet trawler was being used at present. It is hoped that when a further four trawlers commissioned about \$1.5m worth of shrimps would be exported annually.

Liberian mine rumours denied

A rumour that the Liberian Government intended to discontinue the concession agreement of the Liberian Iron and Steel Corporation (LISCO) has been discounted as "false and unfounded" by two company executives, Mr L. Edgar Detwiler, president, and Attorney A. B. Tolbert, vice-President. (The corporation is a subsidiary of the Liberian International American Corporation, LIAC).

The rumours stemmed from the refusal of five leading Japanese companies to exercise an option to purchase a controlling interest in the company because of a substantial change in world-wide conditions affecting the iron and steel industry. A LISCO board meeting in Monrovia was informed that the Japanese group maintained that world-wide iron and steel production was not increasing in accordance with earlier projections and that they thought these unfavourable conditions might persist for a considerable period of time. The repercussion on the Japanese steel industry had been particularly sharp because of limitations on the industry's exports through import and quota restrictions and negotiated curtailments. In addition, the group explained, the industry had been adversely affected by currency realignments, and they feared that further revaluations might take place which would be even more disadvantageous.

In view of these uncertainties, the group did not feel justified in exercising the option and undertaking the necessary substantial financial commitments, particularly the large ore purchase obligation it would have been required to assume as a condition to the exercise of the option. The meeting was told, however that the Japanese would retain their present holding of 730,000 shares, would continue to be represented on the board of directors and desired to co-operate with LIAC in the furtherance of the Wologisi project.

Attorney Tolbert assured board members that the Export-Import Bank in Washington had shown interest in LISCO if the company could secure a sales contract. Mr Tolbert said that another finance company in Geneva had expressed great interest in the project. And it was stated that negotiations were currently going on in order to establish a position not less favourable than that which would have existed had the Japanese group exercised its option.

• Employees of the Council of Copper Exporting Countries — formed by Zaïre, Zambia, Peru and Chile — are threatening to sue the organisation if their June salaries are not paid soon, according to a report in the *Times of Zambia*. The newspaper reported that CIPEC, formed five years ago to control the price of copper, was short of funds because member countries were not paying their subscriptions.

WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

ELDER Dempster Lines

SOUTHBOUND — From Liverpool: slg. Jul. 25. DUNKWA slg. Jul. 24. EBANI slg. Jul. 25. BHAMO due Monrovia Jul. 30. From London: FALABA due Apapa Jul. 25. EBOE slg. Aug. 3.

From Glasgow: DONGA slg. Jul. 25. From Southampton: EGORI due Apapa Jul. 31. From N. Continent: PATANI slg. Jul. 28. FREETOWN slg. Rotterdam Jul. 25. MACHAON slg. Rotterdam Jul. 27. FORCADOS slg. Takoradi Jul. 28. KABALA due Lome Jul. 27.

NORTHBOUND — To Liverpool: FOURAH BAY due Jul. 23. DEIDO due Dakar Jul. 26. To London: FULANI due Jul. 30. EBOE due Jul. 23.

To Avonmouth: DARU due Jul. 24. DUMBAIA due Monrovia Jul. 29. To Glasgow: KOHMA due Jul. 30. To Poole: CLEARWAY due Lagos Aug. 1.

EASTBOUND — From USA/Canada: DURRA due Cotonou Jul. 28.

WESTBOUND — To USA/Canada: AKOSOMBO due Abidjan Jul. 30. DLEGMA due New York Jul. 25. MIAN due Montreal Jul. 27.

EASTERN SERVICE to W.A. GOWANBANK slg. Bathurst Jul. 24. TAYBANK slg. Apapa Jul. 28.

BARBER Lines

OUTWARDS — FERGATE due Monrovia Jul. 29, thence Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala. FERNLAND slg. New York Aug. 15 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala.

HOMEWARDS — FERNLAND ldg. Abidjan/Monrovia end Jul. FERGATE ldg. Lagos S. bound about Aug. 4, Ghana Aug. 10, Abidjan/Monrovia mid/3rd week Aug.

WOERMANN Line

TANGA slg. Rotterdam Aug. 2 due Tema Aug. 13, Apapa Aug. 15, ABOISSO slg. Le Havre Aug. 5 due Dakar Aug. 13, Abidjan Aug. 17, Cotonou Aug. 20, Douala Aug. 23.

DAFRA Line

EASTBOUND — BELGIAN slg. Houston Aug. 10, New Orleans Aug. 15.

WESTBOUND — FRANKRIG slg. Angola Aug. 30, Douala Sept. 3, Kalaba Sept. 5.

GOLD STAR Line

WESTBOUND — DEGANYA Lobito Aug. 10, Luanda Aug. 11, Matadi Aug. 17.

EASTBOUND — SAHARA Singapore Aug. 8, Hong Kong Aug. 13.

BLACK STAR LINE/USNH/WEST AFRICA

WESTBOUND — BINYA RIVER Lagos Jul. 13, Sapele Jul. 22, Ghana Jul. 31, Abidjan Aug. 2, Montreal Aug. 14, thence Great Lakes.

BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT/WEST AFRICA

SOUTHBOUND — OFFIN RIVER Bremen Jul. 20, Hamburg Jul. 22, Antwerp Jul. 25, Rotterdam Jul. 27, Dunkirk Jul. 29, Rouen Jul. 31, SAKUMO LAGOON London Jul. 28;

OTCHI RIVER Middlesbrough Aug. 8.

NORTHBOUND — PRA RIVER Bremen Jul. 23, Hamburg Jul. 27, OTCHI RIVER London Jul. 13, Middlesbrough Jul. 21.

DELTA Line

DELTA PARAGUAY due Port Arthur Aug. 1, Monrovia Aug. 16, Buchanan Aug. 18, DILL SOL due Houston Jul. 29, Dakar Aug. 17, Freetown Aug. 20.

PALM Line

SOUTHBOUND — From Liverpool: ELAUNA PALM slg. Aug. 10 for Dakar, Bathurst, Freetown, Monrovia.

From London: LOBITO PALM slg. Aug. 16 for Freetown, Lobito, Luanda, Matadi, Pointe Noire.

NORTHBOUND — To Continent: ILISHA PALM slg. Lagos/Takoradi due Hamburg Jul. 30.

N.Y.K. Line

WESTBOUND — SHIMANE MARU Lagos/Apapa Aug. 20/23, Abidjan Sept. 1/2, Takoradi Sept. 3/5, Tema Sept. 5/6.

EASTBOUND — SHIMANE MARU Tema Sept. 5/6, Japan first Port Oct. 5.

MITSUI OSK Line

HONOLULU MARU slg. Kobe Jul. 19 due Lagos Aug. 23. PHILLIPINE MARU slg. Kobe Aug. 4 due Lagos Sept. 10.

MAERSK Line

INWARDS — From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan: SUSAN MAERSK slg. Kobe Aug. 5 due Luanda Sept. 1.

OUTWARDS — From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi: JOHANN'S MARESK slg. Takoradi Jul. 16 due Los Angeles Aug. 8.

FARRELL Lines

HOMEWARDS — AFRICAN PLANET slg. Luanda Aug. 2 for Lobito, Abidjan, Monrovia, U.S. ports; AFRICAN CRESCENT slg. Matadi Aug. 23 for Luanda, Lobito, Abidjan, Monrovia, U.S. ports.

OUTWARDS — AFRICAN CRESCENT due Monrovia Aug. 7 for Abidjan, Tema Aug. 13, Matadi, Luanda, Lobito; AFRICAN STAR due Dakar Aug. 21 for Freetown, Monrovia Aug. 27, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Sept. 4, Lagos/Apapa Sept. 6, Douala.

NEDLLOYD — SWAL Joint Services

HOFGH MELING slg. Bordeaux Aug. 4 due Boma/Matadi Aug. 18, Pointe Noire Aug. 20, Luanda Aug. 23; BALONG slg. Rouen Aug. 18 due Boma/Matadi Aug. 30, Pointe Noire Sept. 1, Luanda Sept. 4, Lobito Sept. 7.

NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING Line

SOUTHBOUND — DAN FODIO due Freetown Aug. 13, Apapa Aug. 18, Port Harcourt Aug. 26.

NORTHBOUND — HERBERT MACAULAY due Dublin Jul. 23, Belfast Jul. 29.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA Line

NORTHBOUND — MINNESOTA slg. W.A. Late Aug/Sept for discharge Scan. early Oct; VIKAREN slg. W.A. Mid. Sept/early Oct. for discharge Scan. Mid Oct/Nov.

HOOEGLI Lines

HOOGLI BEAVER slg. Antwerp Aug. 4 due Dakar Aug. 16, Abidjan Aug. 20, Port Harcourt Aug. 24; HOOGLI BRLEZI Hamburg Aug. 18, Antwerp Aug. 22, Rotterdam Aug. 24 due Tema Sept. 9.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN Line

INWARDS — STRAAT FREETOWN from Japan, slg. Jun. 18, due Luanda Jul. 19, Monrovia Jul. 24, Freetown Jul. 26, Port Harcourt Aug. 1, Lagos/Apapa Aug. 3, Takoradi Aug. 8, Abidjan Aug. 11. STRAAT VAN DIEMEN from Hong Kong, slg. Jun. 1, due Lagos/Apapa Jul. 3, Cotonou Jul. 10, Lome Jul. 12, Tema Jul. 13, Abidjan Jul. 14, Monrovia Jul. 16, Freetown Jul. 18, Dakar Jul. 21, Takoradi Jul. 24.

OUTWARDS — STRAAT FREETOWN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong and Japan early Aug. STRAAT VAN DIEMEN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong, Japan and Shanghai late Jul.

EAL EUROPE — AFRIKA Line GmbH

ADOLF VINNEN due Lome Aug. 5, Cotonou Aug. 7, Douala Aug. 10; NEDDRI LAND due Lagos/Apapa Aug. 8, Douala Aug. 11, Port Gentil Aug. 13.

NOPAL Lines

WESTBOUND — IVORY MOON due Luanda Aug. 13, Douala Aug. 18, Takoradi Aug. 20, Abidjan Aug. 21, NOPAL THLEUS slg. Luanda Sept. 2 due Cotonou Sept. 8, Abidjan Sept. 9.

WESTWIND AFRICA Line

SOUTHWIND slg. New Orleans Aug. 6, Houston Aug. 11 due Lagos Aug. 31, Freetown Sept. 4; **NORTHWIND** slg. New Orleans Aug. 10, Houston Aug. 15 due Lagos Sept. 5.

THE E.A.C. Lines

SOUTHBOUND — SARGODHA slg. Jul. 27 due Dakar Aug. 3, Freetown Aug. 5, Monrovia Aug. 6, Abidjan Aug. 8, PANAMA slg. Antwerp Aug. 7, Rotterdam Aug. 9, Rouen Aug. 8 due Dakar Aug. 19, Monrovia Aug. 22.

NORTHBOUND — SINALOA slg. Abidjan Jul. 27 due Amsterdam Aug. 6, Denmark Aug. 10, Bremen Aug. 16, Hamburg Aug. 18, SIMBA slg. Abidjan Aug. 10, Monrovia Aug. 12 due Amsterdam Aug. 22.

Fajemirokun criticises 'growing intervention'

Chief Henry Fajemirokun, President of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Mines, has criticised growing government intervention in the economy. The last three or four years, he complained, had witnessed an unprecedented incursion by the governments of the federation into areas of private enterprise at national as well as at state levels. The trend was continuing with "unusual official enthusiasm". From banking to insurance, extending to the service industries and even distribution, there is now virtually no area that is sacrosanct of government intervention," he told the Western State Governor, Brig. Rotimi Nigerian businessmen believed, he said, that the long-term interests of the economy were insecure in this way. He suggested that instead of participating in private enterprises, the governments should concentrate their resources on the development of infrastructure and the creation of the most suitable atmosphere for private enterprise.

● Expressing "a cautionary note" before "the commercial bug bites too many governments", an editorial in the *New Nigerian* called for a line to be drawn in the provision of commercial activities by state governments. "Government ought to define clearly the areas where their direct intervention is necessary; and where their role should be limited to encouraging the private sector

to provide services, if necessary through grants and loans". The newspaper said that the National Supply Corporation "seems to have taken on rather more than is necessary, or indeed is good for the country?"

● The bulk of last year's claims against Britain's Export Credits Guarantee Department arising from non-commercial causes were in respect of one market: Nigeria, on which the Department paid out over £19m. due to transfer delays. A statement issued by Mr. Robert Fell, Secretary of the Department said that the money "has already been largely recovered".

Noting that insured turnover for the year ending 31 March 1972 was £3,813 (compared with £3,225m. in the previous year), Mr. Fell said that claims set a new record at £30.4m., an increase of 13 per cent. Claims were largely on business in Nigeria, Ghana, Mexico, Sweden, USA and Spain and recoveries on business in Nigeria, Egypt and Libya.

● A call to the Federal Government to help the Leather Institute in Zaria by providing more teaching staff following the ending of the UN presence at the school has been made by the acting principal, Mr. R. Adewoye. He also noted that accommodation shortage was limiting the Institute's activities.

'EXCEPTIONAL' FOOD PRICES IN GHANA

"Exceptionally high" increases in average wholesale prices of most of major local foodstuffs in Ghana compared with those recorded during February-April period of last year, have been noted by the Ghana Commercial Bank *Bulletin*. The average wholesale prices of maize, local rice, and cashew rose by 34.6, 18.0 and 26.2 per cent respectively as against rises of 0.1 and 10.3 per cent during the period February-April a year earlier.

● All exports of manganese ore and bauxite from Ghana must now be under the supervision of the General Superintendence Company in Accra. Bank of Ghana has also directed that order applies to any other ores and concentrates of non-ferrous base. Immediately after the shipment of exports are required to furnish a company with all relevant particulars of the shipment.

● All commodities imported into Ghana are now subject to pre-shipment inspection for quality and quantity as well as for price comparison, the Bank of Ghana announced.

● Ghana will host the 19th annual assembly of the Alliance of Developing and Producing Nations in November.

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Time: 6.30 p.m. - 2 a.m.

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'Miss Africa Super-Nurse'.
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Organising Secretaries:
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Miss Adwoa Agyemang.*

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Present their

GRAND SUMMER DANCE

at Finsbury Town Hall,
on
SATURDAY 5th AUGUST 1972
6pm - Midnight

Music by
GENERAL PRINCE ADEKUNLE
and his
WESTERN STATE BROTHERS

Tickets: £1.00 Flat.
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40 Melgund Rd. London N5 1PT.
Tel 01-607-0693
Prince J. S. Odofin - President
133 Mayall Rd. London SE24.
Tel 01-733-6918
'Gboyega Isikalu - Social Sec.
1 Henderson Rd. London SW18.
Tel 01-874-8345*

**The African
Cultural Union**

presents
Frank Manu and his

**Black Star Line
Band**

from Ghana
at a dance to be held at
**St. Pancras Town Hall,
Euston Road, N.1.**
on
Friday 28th July 1972
From 6.30pm. until midnight
Tickets: £1. flat
You Are All Cordially Invited
Secretary - 01-348 7799
Social Secretary - 01-994 5179

SITUATIONS VACANT cont.

GHANA CIVIL SERVICE – BUREAU OF GHANA LANGUAGES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Ghanaians for the post of:

(a) Bureau Manager**Duties:**

Direction of Bureau affairs and handling of matters relating to Scripts for the writing of Ghanaian languages, provision of reading material of requisite quality for various levels of readers, production of text books for use in schools and stimulation of literary activities in the Ghanaian languages, effective implementation of Copyright Act and the protection of the interest of authors, determination and application of standard rates of royalty for writers and discount rates for book-sellers, regular provision of up-to-date bibliographies of works in Ghanaian languages and liaison between the Institute of Ghanaian Languages and the Linguistics Department of the University of Ghana, Legon.

Qualifications:

Possession of a degree from a recognised University, preferably of Linguistics or relevant qualifications with 10 years experience, 5 years being in an Administrative capacity, Active involvement in the development of one or more of the Ghanaian languages for a considerable number of years, 5 years being in an Administrative capacity, OR possession of Teachers' Certificate 'A' with relevant experience. Familiarity with the mechanics of at least two of the Government sponsored Ghanaian Languages and the process of editing and publishing.

Age: Between 35 and 50 years

Salary: Range 73 – G2,260-G4,848

(b) Assistant Bureau Manager**Duties:**

Responsibility for the day to day running of the Bureau and all personnel matters, handling of Orthographic problems resulting from work of Linguists in the field, assistance where necessary, in all matters relating to publication, promotion of writers' clubs for the advancement of literature in Ghanaian languages and responsibility for the running of the Bureau in the absence of the Bureau Manager.

Qualifications:

Possession of a degree from a recognised University, preferably in Linguistics or equivalent academic qualification with 5 years relevant experience, 3 years being in an Administrative capacity, OR possession of Teachers' Certificate 'A' with relevant experience, Previous work of assisting in the development of one or more of the Ghanaian languages for not less than 5 years, 3 years being in administrative capacity. Familiarity with the mechanics of at least two of the Government sponsored Ghanaian Languages and the process of editing and publishing.

Age Between 35 and 50 years

Salary Range 65 – G3,338-G3,720

Candidates may apply for forms from the Director of Recruitment, Ghana High Commission, 38 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7 or Ghana Embassy High Commission outside Britain, to whom completed application forms should be returned not later than 14th August, 1972.

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SITUATIONS VACANT cont.

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN. Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of Assistant Training Fellow/Training Fellow/Lecturer in Forest Engineering and Timber Utilization in the Department of Forestry. Applicants should possess a good honours degree in Forestry or Forest Engineering or Wood Science preferably with experience in a Government Forest Service, industry or research. The successful candidate will be required to lecture in Forest Engineering and various aspects of Wood Technology and to conduct research in one of these fields. It is expected that a suitable Nigerian will undergo further training abroad and a post-graduate degree, although desirable, is not essential. Appointment is to commence as soon as possible and in the case of Training Fellows will be for the period of the training fellowships, after which he may be required to respond to an advertised post of Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer in his field. The Lecturer's appointment will be for three years in the first instance and will be subject to review thereafter. Salary scales: Training Fellow/Assistant Training Fellow: £N1,070 x 50 - £N1,220 (if holding a higher degree £N1,120 x 50 - £N1,270). Lecturer: £N1,380 x 75 - £N1,830/£N1,905 x 75 - £N2,415 (post Adebo) a year. Passages are paid for appointee, wife and five children on appointment, approved overseas leave and termination, where applicable. The successful applicant is also entitled to children's and car allowances, part-furnished accommodation or housing allowance. Detailed application (4 copies) stating age, qualifications, and experience and naming three referees by August 31st 1972 to the Acting Registrar, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, from whom further particulars on the Department of Forestry may be obtained.

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN. Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of Research Fellow in the Department of Agronomy. Candidates must possess a doctorate degree in Agriculture or related fields, a working knowledge of field crops and should be able to plan and execute research programmes on them. He should also be conversant with statistical methods of analysing and writing up research data for publication. The successful candidate may be required to teach undergraduates. Appointment which is to commence as soon as possible, is for three years initially and subject to review thereafter. Salary Scale: £N1,380 x 75 - £N1,380/£N1,905 - £N2,415 per annum. Passage is paid for appointee, wife and up to five children under 11 years on appointment, approved overseas leave and termination where applicable. F.S.S.C./N.U.J.S.S., children and car allowances. Part-furnished accommodation or housing allowance is provided. Detailed application (4 copies) stating age, full qualifications and experience and naming three referees by 25 August 1972 to the Acting Registrar, University of Ibadan.

IN MEMORIAM

IN EVER-GREEN and affectionate memory of our dearly beloved Father Mr. William Okhonna Emoyon. Who suddenly left us on 25th July 1970. You are remembered always. Only those who lost know the grief that lingers. May your soul rest in peace. Children (London): E. E. Emoyon, S. E. Emoyon, A. Emoyon. Miss O. Emoyon.

CHANGE OF NAME

I. FORMERLY KNOWN and addressed as Sunday Ezeikpe Uchegbue now wish to be known and addressed as Sochika Ezeikpe Uchegbue. Documents bearing my former name remain valid.

I. FORMERLY KNOWN and addressed as Ayinde Adegbovega, now wish to be known and addressed as Isaac Babatunde Ayinde. All documents bearing my former names remain valid.

FEDERAL STATUTORY CORPORATIONS SERVICE COMMISSION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of

Deputy General Manager

in the National Insurance Corporation of Nigeria.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicants for the post should have at least seven years experience in the Insurance Industry and must be an A.C.I.I. with at least five years post-qualification experience.

DUTIES:

The successful candidate will be responsible to the Managing Director in all operations of the Corporations, including Accounts and Administration as well as of the Underwriting Departments.

SALARY: S.A.P.7 i.e. £N3,220

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Application forms are obtainable from any of the following places: -

- The Secretary & Chief Administrative Officer, Statutory Corporations Service Commission, P.M.B. 12033, 30 Marina, Lagos, Nigeria.
- States Public Service Commission and States Statutory Corporations Service Commission's Offices
- The Resident Commissioner, Statutory Corporations Service Commission (Sub-Office) Z. 21 Queen Elizabeth Road, Zaria.

CLOSING DATE: Completed application forms with photostat copies of Certificates and two recent passport photographs of the applicant duly signed at the back by the applicant must be submitted to the Secretary & Chief Administrative Officer at the above address not later than 31st July, 1972.

SITUATIONS VACANT cont.

DANCES cont.

GOVERNMENT OF MID-WESTERN STATE OF NIGERIA

Vacancies in the

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointment to the undermentioned post in the Ministry of Education, Midwestern State of Nigeria.

2. Post Principal of Midwestern Technical College, Auchi.

3. Salary Scale - Group 5 (£N3,000 per annum).

4. Qualifications:

- (i) A degree in Engineering obtained from a recognised University;
- (ii) Success in Parts I and II of the Institution of Civil and Mechanical Engineers' Examination or in Parts I, II and III of the Institution of Electrical Engineers' Examination
- (iii) A qualification of equal standing to either (i) or (ii) above. Candidates should have not less than 10 years suitable experience part of which should be in the organisation and running of a Technical Institution.

5. Duties: Responsibility for the administration of the Technical College.

6. Conditions of Service - Appointment is permanent and pensionable and in the case of new entrants into the Public Service, appointment will be on probation for three years. Expatriate Officers will be appointed on contract for two years in the first instance.

7. Methods of Application: Applications from candidates not in Government Service should be submitted in duplicate on Form No. MNPSC 1 which will be obtained from the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Benin City or the Administrative Attache (Recruitment) Office of the High Commissioner for Nigeria, 9 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2 or the Chancery, Embassy of Nigeria, 1333, Sixteenth Street, N.W. Washington D.C. 20036. Applications from candidates in Government Service should be submitted in letter form through the normal departmental channels. An applicant in a Civil Service other than that of the Midwestern State of Nigeria, should route his/her application through the secretary of the appropriate Public Service Commission who should forward it with copies of the candidate's Confidential Reports for the last three years.

8. Closing Date: All applications should be forwarded to the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Benin City, so as to reach him not later than 31st July, 1972.

J. A. Argue,
Ag. Secretary,
Public Service Commission.

A Non-Stop interpretation of African Culture in Music

AFRO-CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION in conjunction with THE SAKUMO CLUB featuring Ghana's Black Beats Dance Band

on Cultural Tour of U.K. & Continent Led by
SAMUEL OWUSU
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MIGHTY EXPLOSION
led by Milton James

also featuring the people's choice **CAS LOWE**
The leading Sound System in Manchester
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Programme Organisers, Jones Aggrey, Victor Hammond.

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IJESHA ANNUAL SUMMER DANCE

Will take place this year at the
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Saturday 19th of August, 1972,
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Nearest underground, Old Street and
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Music will be supplied by:

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Admissions by invitation and tickets
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A privilege to know and chat with
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The President Egbe Omo Ijesha
Tona Abanikanda,
51 Drakenfield Road, London S W 17,
01-672 8389
The Social Secretary
Bode Famakinwa,
91 Maronant Road, London S E 5
01-732 7284.

DANCE EGBADO UNION

1972 Grand Summer Dance

Date: Saturday, 5th August 1972
Place: Islington Town Hall, Upper
Street N1.
Buses: 4, 19, 30, 43, N92, 104 & 27
Tube: Highbury and Islington -
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Time: 6.30 p.m. - Midnight
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MUSLIM ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

(London Branch)

Salam Alaikum

There will be a General Meeting of the above-mentioned Association at 3 p.m. on 30th July 1972 at Islamic Cultural Centre, 146 Park Rd London NW8 near Baker Street Tube Station and buses 2, 2A, 13, 26, 74, 113 are available.

New members are welcomed. Direct all communications to Gen. Sec. 86, Bethune Rd N 16.

DANCES cont.

AFRO-CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION Presents A NON-STOP INTERPRETATION OF AFRICAN CULTURE IN MUSIC

By GHANA'S BLACK BEATS BAND (on Cultural tour of United Kingdom & the Continent) led by SAMMY OWUSU at

THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE

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on

Wednesday/Thursday, 2nd & 3rd August, 1972 from 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

(Doors open at 7.00 p.m.)

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RITA and RUBY

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Afro-Caribbean Food Centre (01-274 0817)

Ghana Centre, 3 Collingham Gardens, S.W.5 (01-373 3390)

A. A. Ogunbunmi (01-226 5597)

And at the Gate.

ALL ARE WELCOME

The Ghana Students Union of U.K. & Ireland in conjunction with

THE AFRICAN CULTURAL UNION

Proudly present a special dance Featuring

The African Fiesta Dance Band from Zaire (Congo)

Supported by

Frank Manu and the famous Black Star Line Band of Ghana on 12th August 1971

From 7 p.m. until 1 a.m.

at the Empire Ballroom (Tottenham Court Road) Admission: £1.25

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and

THE AFRICAN CULTURAL UNION

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Adu, Mr. Adu Gyamfi Poku**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!**

The African Fiesta Dance Band

of Zaire (Congo) led by

PASCAL ROCHEREAU

is touring Britain under the auspices of

The African Cultural Union

from 10th August.

1st Dance: 12th August 1972

From 7 p.m. - 1 a.m.

at the Empire Ballroom (Tottenham Court
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01-994 5179

The Secretary, The African Cultural Union,

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Dateline Africa

GHANA

NRC claims Busia plot foiled

The Ghana Government announced that it had foiled a plot to overthrow it. A statement issued by the NRC says, "some disgruntled businessmen and officials of the banned Progress Party, acting on the advice of the deposed Prime Minister, Dr. Busia, attempted to subvert the NRC by infiltrating armed forces for support to overthrow the government on Friday, July 14". According to the plan, Dr. Busia was to have been brought to Ghana the next day. The statement said that information revealed that foreign troops were to have been brought in in case of resistance from the Ghana armed forces. The plotters had planned to stay in power for 14 days after which the PP was to have been revived. All those connected with the plan had been rounded up and would be brought to trial, concluded the statement.

It is rumoured in Accra that the coup attempt was a clumsy one to use money to cause dissatisfaction among lower ranking armed forces personnel. Foreign intervention in the form of paratroop landings, probably from a neighbouring country, was also mentioned.

From his home in Standlake, Oxfordshire, Dr. Busia described the reports of an attempted coup as "completely imaginary". "The statement is in line with the false accusations that the present military junta has been making against me in an effort to justify its unwarranted takeover of power, which it knows has never had the backing or approval of the people of Ghana."

African students attending a conference in Kumasi (see below) staged a demonstration in support of the NRC and urged that no mercy be shown to the plotters. The state-owned *Daily Graphic* said that it was not surprising that politicians and businessmen had been involved since evidence at the Assets Commission showed collusion between both groups to defraud the nation. "The plot to overthrow the NRC is clear proof that the inordinately ambitious politicians and their cronies will never, by themselves, accept the fact that they are not wanted by the ordinary Ghanaians and are working determinedly to foist themselves on the nation to perpetuate their destructive policies."

The Trades Union Congress has assured the NRC of workers' support and pledged continued vigilance against "all forces of chaos and retrogression". In a letter addressed to Col. Acheampong, the

Congress expressed horror and dismay at the news of an unsuccessful plot to overthrow the NRC "by forces of the ousted Progress Party régime".

The Attorney-General, Mr. E. N. Moore, has announced that the trial of those alleged to have been involved in the plot against the NRC would begin within two weeks.

Under a new decree attempts to overthrow the NRC will be punishable by death. Cases involving subversion and the concealment of subversion will be tried by a military tribunal, the decision of which shall be final.

Col. Acheampong told a durbar of chiefs in Cape Coast that his government would not be deflected from set goals by threats "from desperate and frustrated politicians and businessmen". The armed forces would deal with "any and every attempt to disrupt the country's onward march towards national reconstruction. As anybody will admit the NRC has shown excessive magnanimity but this has been greeted with subversion."

The NRC would never betray the confidence reposed in them by Ghanaians. The challenge before us is how we get out of the economic and social mess in which we are now entombed."

Col. Acheampong's visit to Cape Coast was his first to Western Ghana since he assumed power last January. He was accompanied by five other members of the NRC.



Crowds queue at Accra's State House to file past Dr. Nkrumah's body.

Publication of the independent newspapers, the *Pioneer*, based in Kumasi, and the *Echo* have been banned.

Madame Fathia Nkrumah, widow of the former president has said that she wishes to remain in Ghana with her three children. She left Ghana in February 1966 with the children, Gamel, 16, Samia, 12, and Sekou, 9, following the coup. Madame Fathia and the children accompanied Dr. Nkrumah's body from Guinea to Accra. Ghana News Agency quoted her as saying that she would prefer her children to be brought up in their own country, since they were Ghanaians. She went on to say that she felt so proud to be a wife of "a brilliant and devoted father who has done so much for Africa that I think I will never be happy with any other man again". Madame Fathia expressed gratitude to the NRC for the fitting burial given to her husband in Nkroful.

In an editorial the state-owned *Daily Graphic* said that Madame Fathia Nkrumah should be allowed to live in Ghana with her children. "Perhaps it is not yet time to discuss the question of what kind of recognition Fathia Nkrumah should be accorded. When it is due, the NRC can be depended upon to act with the same commendable sense of vision with which it has so far approached other aspects of 'the man Nkrumah'."

Zambia is to erect a memorial to Dr. Nkrumah. President Kaunda has announced. He also said that Kabwe Teachers Training College would be re-named the Nkrumah Teachers Training College and that a Kwame Nkrumah Trust Fund had been launched to send students to the University of Zambia.

Dr. Busia said in a letter to the *Times* in reply to that of the Ghana High Commissioner that his main reproach was "not so much that the military junta has not solved any of the old problems which we were manfully tackling, but rather that in a short time it has managed - by blunders of omission and commission - to create new and aggravating ones". He did not see how the devaluation last December could be said to cause the present shortages in essential commodities. Moreover "at the very moment Col. Acheampong and his accomplices were polishing and priming their guns wherewith to enslave our democracy, representatives of the I.M.F. were in Accra to seal our negotiations for a stand-by credit and a promise of assistance to obtain better terms from our creditors. The *coup d'état* put a sudden stop to all this while the junta's arbitrary cancellation of debts which followed hastened the flight of confidence from poor Ghana's shores". He stressed the democratic character of his government because it was essential to his argument. Concerning the detainees he asked why so many were still detained. "The truth of the matter is that Col. Acheampong has realised that he has seized power against the will of the people and is haunted by fear of the people".

● An official statement issued by the NRC has disclosed that of the 1,301 people taken into protective custody following the January 13 coup, only 256 remain in detention. The process of releasing the others would continue, added the statement.

● Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, the leader of the British Liberal Party and representative of Amnesty International, met Col. Acheampong, the Attorney-General, Mr. E. N. Moore, and the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, Gen. Aferi, during a five-day visit to Ghana where he discussed such topics as Rhodesia and the business of Amnesty. In an interview with the Ghana News Agency Mr. Thorpe said that Commonwealth countries in Africa and other members of the OAU should tell countries trading with Rhodesia that they were putting short-term interests above the wellbeing of the population. If Africans did not buy from countries that broke sanctions a peaceful settlement to the Rhodesian question could be found. Mr. Thorpe refused to give details of the Amnesty affairs he discussed since "they are confidential".

● The first All African Students conference has taken place in Kumasi. Jointly organised by the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) and the National Union of Nigerian Students (NUNS), it had as a theme "One continent, one people and one great destiny" and was attended by students from over 20 African countries. The Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, Gen. Aferi, told the students to intensify the struggle to uproot colonialism and racism; the first pre-requisite for the re-unification of Africa was the total elimination of colonialism and apartheid. African students should organise themselves on a continental basis. Gen. Aferi referred to Col. Acheampong's recent proposals to Ghanaian students to sponsor a new movement, the Volunteers for African Freedom, and called on the students to adopt positive steps to put into action "this novel but practical idea".

● African universities should be an instrument for consolidating national unity and continental co-operation. Col. Acheampong said in his opening address to a five-day workshop of the Association of African Universities. Sponsored by USAID and the Rockefeller Foundation the workshop was attended by 150 participants from 43 countries.

● Ghana is to switch to driving on the right in 1974. (Ghana is the last West African country where traffic still drives on the left - Nigeria changed to "drive on the right" in April).

● Dr. Godfried Agama, leader of the parliamentary opposition, 1969-70, has been appointed Chief Research Officer of the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board.

● Two employees of the African Timber and Plywood Company, Samreboi, described as "ring leaders" in the disturbances in March 1971 in which three people died, have been sentenced to three years imprisonment each with hard labour. They were found guilty of unlawful assembly, but six other employees charged with them were discharged.

● A fishing research development centre is to be established at Elmina by the International Development Centre in Canada and the Ghana government. M. Joseph Hulse, Programme Director of the Centre told the Regional Commissioner, Col. Frank Bernasko.

● Managers and senior personnel in the Ghana Industrial Holding Corp. (GIHOC) have been reposted to other divisions in a reshuffle. The moves, said the Acting Managing Director, Col. J. M. Ewa, were aimed at increasing efficiency and profitability, and improving managerial techniques.

● The Commissioner for Industries, Major Agbo, has denied a newspaper report of dissatisfaction among general managers and senior personnel following the re-organisation. The Commissioner said the management reshuffle was just one step in a series of actions by the Corporation to improve its performance and he fully supported the exercise as being in the Corporation's best interest. He emphasised that managers would continue to be transferred as long as it was in the best interests of the corporation.

● The Central Revenue Department collected 55,000 cedis in the Northern and Upper Regions during the "Pay Your Taxes" campaign launched on May 1. It was the highest amount ever collected in a single month in that area.

The Department has exceeded its target for 1971-72 by over 10m. cedis as a result of the campaign. Over 77m. cedis has already been collected against a target of 75m.

● The NRC is to embark on a campaign to unite the country after "Operation Feed Yourself". Colonel Frank Bernasko, the Central Regional Commissioner, has announced. He said at Komenda that the NRC would like Ghanaians to be adequately fed before it tackled the rest of the country's problems. The new campaign would be called "Operation Reconciliation". Meanwhile the state-owned dailies have been educating the public on the need for a national government, he said.

● Japan is to build a 4m. cedi medical training centre in the University of Ghana, Legon, in memory of Dr. Hideo Oguchi, the Japanese doctor who died in Ghana in 1928 while conducting research into yellow fever.

● The Public Relations Secretariat is now known as the Information Services Secretariat.

SIERRA LEONE Bidding for "The Star" begins

The Minister of Mines, Mr. K. Conte, has examined the tenders made by dealers for the 968.9 carat diamond, the Star of Sierra Leone, at the Central Selling Organisation headquarters in London. The sale of the stone is yet completed. It was discovered by Diminco separator last February, and is the third largest diamond yet found anywhere in the world. Among those present at the examination of tenders was Mr. G. L. V. Williams, Secretary to the President and Chairman of the Sierra Leone Government Diamond Corporation which is managed by the Diamond Corporation West Africa, through which the GDO is associated with the Central Selling Organisation.



The Star on show in London

● Sixty-eight Sierra Leoneans graduated this year from universities, technical colleges and other institutions of higher learning in the Soviet Union. Among them are 26 doctors, most expected to return home shortly. In eastern Europe, ten Sierra Leoneans are expected to graduate this year. At least two of them will be two doctors, two engineers, one agriculturist and five in medical and related fields.

● The Director of the Institute of Education, Mr. T. J. Forde, has said the supply of qualified teachers is inadequate to cope with the population increase at the primary level. Primary school enrolment has risen sharply from 136,000 in 1967-68 to 160,000 this year. In 1970, 270 candidates passed the Teachers' Certificate examination but in 1971 the number dropped to 150. Present enrolment in Teacher Training colleges was, however, encouraging. There were indications that passes in the Teachers' Certificate level examination would surpass those in previous years.

- To ease traffic congestion in the capital and to improve transport after the phasing out of the railway, the government is considering use of a new type of vehicle known as "personal Rapid Transit" - a version of the "hanging mono-cab". The device was first seen by the Minister of Transport at the 1972 Transport Exposition at Dulles International Airport. Mr. Kargbo has also said that his ministry is considering purchase of prop-jet passenger aircraft as replacements for the country's twenty-year-old Herons.

- At the inception of the Sierra Leone Petroleum Refining Company there were 34 expatriates on the payroll, but training of Sierra Leoneans had continued so satisfactorily, the Chairman has told the President, that four expatriates remained on the payroll at the end of the last financial year.

- The Minister of Finance, Mr. C. A. Kamara-Taylor, has said that the finances of many government bodies, including Metal Works, Forest Industries, the Rice Corporation, and the Road Transport and other departments, are unsatisfactory. They have on their books a "colossal list" of debts, some dating as far back as 1969.

- President Stevens told representatives of the East Ward One APC Youth League, on the eve of their first Convention, that the "misunderstanding" among the women in the All Peoples Congress would be settled amicably. He advised the women not to indulge in abuse and emphasised the need for the preservation of unity in the Party.

It was necessary to show gratitude to those who had fought vigorously and made sacrifices for the party, especially during its difficult days. Credit and praise, the President said, should be given where they are due. He added that where there was a need for re-organisation in the interest of the party it should be carried out.

- Opening an exhibition on the history of Sierra Leone newspapers from 1843 to 1935, the Minister of Information, Mr. A. Khazali, said that the press had played a vital role in the country's development. "There is no doubt that the journalists of Sierra Leone have helped our countrymen immensely to develop a clear understanding of the role that each one can and must play in the building of this nation".

- President Stevens has received a personal message from President Tolbert of Liberia, reportedly on the proposed formation of an economic union between their two countries and Guinea. The message was delivered by Liberia's Finance Minister, Mr. Steve Tolbert, who had a similar note for Guinean President Sekou Touré.

- Dr. Davidson Nicol has been appointed an Honorary Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, where he was previously a Fellow.

SPANISH SAHARA Morocco reviews claims

President Ould Daddah has had further talks in Rabat with King Hassan on the Spanish Sahara question (they had met, with President Boumediene of Algeria, immediately after the OAU summit in June). The paper *Maroc-Soir* said that it hoped that the critical position taken by the Madrid paper *Ya* on the decolonisation of the Sahara was not that of the Spanish government. Otherwise Morocco would have to revise her policy towards Spain.

Morocco still believes she can obtain satisfaction in her claims to areas occupied by Spain through negotiation, the Government daily *Al Anbaa* said in an editorial commenting on the third anniversary of the evacuation by Spain of the South Moroccan enclave of Ifni. The paper said it was "an opportunity to reaffirm that Morocco ... continues to lay claims to rights over territories still under colonial domination, whether Sakiet al Hamra (The Spanish Sahara), Ceuta or Melilla". The paper, published by the Moroccan Information Ministry said these rights were "incontestable" and no other party was authorised to contest them. "To demand her rights, Morocco has chosen the path of dialogue and entente. She believes it is still possible to obtain her rights by this means" the paper said.

- A \$22m loan to a Spanish firm, *Fasfatos de Bu-Craa*, to cover 45 per cent of the costs of American equipment for phosphate mining in Spanish Sahara has been approved by the US Export-Import Bank. The Bank is also guaranteeing a loan from the First Wisconsin National Bank of Milwaukee for another 45 per cent of the costs.

- It is reported from Rabat that a clandestine organisation, *Morehob*, has been set up to promote the liberation of Spanish Sahara. The organisation, composed mainly of young men of Spanish Sahara origin, is lobbying the Moroccan government for support.

ZAIRE Malula see Mobutu

Archbishop of Kinshasa Joseph-Albert Malula has been given an audience by Zaire head of state Mobutu Sese Seko. The audience, granted at Cardinal Malula's request, lasted for one hour and 10 minutes.

This was the first public contact between the Archbishop and General Mobutu since Cardinal Malula took refuge in the Vatican at the beginning of the year when the campaign for "Zaire authenticity" was launched. The Archbishop was allowed to return to Kinshasa in May after the resulting violent quarrel with the Catholic Church had subsided. Since his return, permitted on condition the church kept out of politics, Cardinal Malula has virtually not appeared in public.

- President Mobutu Sese Seko has dismissed Civil Service Minister Ntita Tshisambo for "shameless tribalism" in a government reshuffle. Eighty per cent of the appointments in the ministry made by the minister have been revoked by the President.

- Lebanon is to open a permanent diplomatic mission in Kinshasa.

CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE Appeal to Moudileno

Congo President Marien Ngouabi has appealed to Vice-President Aloise Moudileno to return from abroad in order to end rumours that he has "fled". In a speech delivered on Radio Brazzaville President Ngouabi said that Vice-President Moudileno had gone to East Germany in May to receive medical treatment. He was now in Paris. Attacking "spreaders of false news", Major Ngouabi said: "People are saying that he fled. Perhaps he fled. I do not think so, I do not see why he should have done. I hope all his friends will write to tell him about these rumours". President Ngouabi went on to say he had cabled Mr. Moudileno to come home, whatever the condition of his health.

The President also announced that the government had agreed to allow the return to the Congo of the body of former President Fulbert Youlou, "although he had done harm to the country". However, Youlou's widow, who lives in Spain, had vetoed the return, as she was entitled to do under Spanish law. The request for the body's return had been made by Youlou's mother.

- A delegation of about 12 Chinese experts have arrived from Peking to study the possible setting up of a palm oil refining plant at Jacob, 250 kilometres west of Brazzaville.

CHAD

President Tombalbaye, who is also the Defence Minister, has presented epaulettes to a group of 13 sub-lieutenants, the first graduates of the national army officers' school. He told them: "an army without competent officers is like a house of sand that will collapse in the first wind. If you have become officers to serve your own private cause instead of the interests of the country then you should demobilise yourself right away, for you will never be sufficiently prepared to take on the grave responsibilities of command that await you during your career."

- The correspondent of Agence France Presse in Fort Lamy, Mme Marie Claire Leroy, has been expelled from Chad. She had been working there three months. No reason was given for the expulsion, which took effect immediately.

- President Tombalbaye has said that Chad's security services were carrying out a purging operation to rid society of "a network of scoundrels and bad citizens". This was being done to assure calm and quiet to the population.

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CAR All detainees freed

President Bokassa has freed all the country's detainees. He announced the amnesty at a reception given by the women's union for his wife Catherine.

● President Bokassa has said that as far as aid was concerned it was the gesture that counted, not the amount. Speaking at a reception given by the departing Soviet Ambassador, Dimitri Zelenov, the President said: "for us, aid might be a box of matches, a sewing needle or a shirt button. What we appreciate is the gesture. What we cannot understand is silence".

After recognising the effort of certain countries like France - the most important supplier of aid - and the Soviet Union, General Bokassa severely criticised "the harmful policy of non-giving" of certain friendly states who on the occasion of international conflicts called for Central Africa's political support. "We are always ready to send bags of coffee or pepper or manioc or even diamonds to friendly countries", he said. The Head of State then ordered that diamonds should be given to the wives of all ambassadors present.

The President said that when he came to power he asked all the ambassadors accredited to the country to help him build a university. "They all refused. Later, out of the Central African budget I was able to build this university at which the sons of ambassadors study today".

FRANCE Black slave route uncovered

Italian and French police have discovered an international racket in which hundreds of Africans from remote districts of Mali, Senegal and Ivory Coast were smuggled through Italy to provide cheap and illegal labour in Paris. The existence of the trade was revealed after a sealed lorry broke down in the South of France, and the driver went to the police, because he was afraid that the 49 Africans packed like sardines in conditions near to suffocation might die.

The Africans were recruited by an "unidentified white man" who went to the villages with promises of secure well-paid jobs in Europe, with fares, documents, food and lodging provided by the employers. They were usually first sent to Italy via Tunis or Palermo on tourist passports. In Paris they were usually put to work on construction sites with minimal wages and without any social security. Most of their wages for the first few months were paid to the clandestine organisation to pay their "debts" for transport from Africa.

● A book by the Cameroonian writer, Mongo Beti, *Main Basse sur le Cameroun*, ("Secret Theft of Cameroon") has been banned by the French government. Writing in *Le Monde* the publisher Francois Maspero said that both this book and an earlier one, *La Grande*

● The government has cancelled a \$600,000 contract and has given the manufacturer, Aeronautica Macchi, 15 days to take back seven of the ten aircraft it delivered two years ago. The three single-engined aircraft were involved in accidents during 1970. Certain accidents suspended further flights and pending corrective measures by the manufacturer. The government is now declaring that an enquiry had detected defects in the aircraft. The government now says Macchi has failed to do so and has paid \$170,000 on the contract.

MAURITANIA

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the Peking-based Cambodian Government of National Union, has been on a week's official visit to Mauritania accompanied by his wife, Princess Monique. At a banquet the Prince thanked President Moktar Ould Daddah for inviting him, and for being the African head of state to build a bridge between free progressive, anti-imperialist Africa and Asian countries. On the subject of Spanish Sahara he said: "We support the people support without reservation the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Democratic Peoples Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Morocco in their legitimate affirmation of their rights over the Sahara which is improperly occupied by Spain".

Sihanouk's Cambodia is recognised by a number of African countries, including Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea and Congo-Brazzaville.

Mystification de Congo-Kinshasa Cleophas Kamitatu, had been his "diplomatic reasons". M. Maspero said that French interests in Africa were more than "diplomatic", however, and that the French government is out to prevent any cause for reproach against her on the part of her African allies. "This necessitates discouragement, by all means, of our opponents to come to express their views in France".

● M. Maurice Delauney, who has been French Ambassador in Gabon for the last seven years, is to replace M. Alan Plantey as Ambassador in Madagascar. Plantey, who was there for five years at a Bastille Day reception that he did not force any country to accept co-operation "but it too is independent and no one can force it to do anything". All sorts of incriminations had been voiced recently on this subject by Sihanouk, who, if they were not ill-intentioned, were in any case misinformed. "I am like everyone to know that France never in any field imposed its aid".

● M. Pierre Billecoq replaced M. Jacques Bourges as Secretary of State for African operation in the recent French government reshuffle in which M. Maurice Delauney became Prime Minister.

NIGERIA

India's Foreign Minister in Lagos

The question of Nigerian recognition of Bangladesh was not an issue between Nigeria and India, said Indian Foreign Minister Sardar Swaran Singh, visiting Nigeria as part of an African tour. After seeing General Gowon he said, "I explained the present situation in Bangladesh but we did not discuss recognition". India had not been authorised by Bangladesh to take up the question of her recognition by other countries.

Nigerian officials are understood to have raised with the minister the question of India's current adverse balance of trade with Nigeria, and the minister said India had accepted in principle that she should buy more from Nigeria. Indian plans in this regard are thought to include oil shipments.

His scheduled visit to Ghana was put off: "there is no special reason", he said. "We just agreed to postpone it for the present". It was thought that the exposure of a plot in Ghana may have been the reason.

• Negotiations are taking place between the Federal Government and Trans-World Airways on the reorganisation of Nigeria Airways, says Dr. Dikko, Federal Transport Commissioner. The re-organisation is aimed at improving the financial situation of the corporation as well as its efficiency. He also announced that Maiduguri and Port Harcourt airports are to be developed to international standard.

A correspondent writes: The American airline has been very successful in assisting the operation of Ethiopian Airlines, which is now one of the continent's best. It has been particularly successful in training personnel so that now you are likely to find that the captain of your international Boeing aircraft is an experienced Ethiopian while internal services are operated almost entirely by Ethiopians. Ethiopia is normally regarded as technically a backward country which makes the achievement more remarkable.

• A Lagos radio talk said that the bulletin issued recently by the Nigerian Embassy in Bonn had not merely denied but had corrected false stories being spread by German businessmen and mass media on Nigeria's indigenisation programme and on Nigeria being a Muslim state. The first charge was unjustified since the Nigerian Government had never acquired foreign business without giving fair compensation, the second charge was of supreme irrelevance. The talk referred to the "fictions the German nation had had to swallow in the past century" and said it was alarming and disgusting that an advanced and civilised nation should be so easy to deceive and mislead about Nigeria. It was really unnecessary to tell the Germans that Nigeria did not belong to any particular religious group, it was more important that they should be warned

that "no amount of lies would prevent Nigeria from being fair to foreigners while doing what was right by her own people".

• Alhaji A. B. N'Jie, Agriculture Minister of The Gambia, has been on a 13-day visit. When he met General Gowon, the head of state pledged to continue cooperation with other West African states in farming and other spheres. Alhaji N'Jie said he was asking for Nigerian assistance for The Gambia's development programme.

• Chief Abdul Eke, Federal Commissioner for Education, has explained the Federal Government's opposition to a quota system for university admissions. Such a system "will not be in the interest of the political structure of the country", he noted. He regretted that "certain people had nurtured the erroneous belief" that a quota system would help the educationally backward states when in fact "it would only help to make such states the worse for it in the long run".

• A federal government decree has set up a Student Loans Board under which indigent students in Nigerian universities and other higher institutions may borrow money from the government to complete their studies.



The leader of a delegation from Leeds, in Nigeria to gain support for the city's application to stage the 1978 Commonwealth games, presents Mr Abraham Ordu, President of the African Supreme Council of Sport, with commemorative medals of Leeds.

• The state of emergency imposed on Nigeria in 1966 will not be lifted yet, the Inspector General of Police said in Kaduna. Leaders of the police force would be visiting the states during the year to assess the needs and problems of the various commands, he announced, and added that by the end of the development plan period almost 90 per cent of the police would be provided with official accommodation.

• The Assistant Secretary-General of the Nigerian Trade Union Congress, Mr. Samuel Dada, has been suspended indefinitely, in an internal dispute among Nigerian socialists. Other moves are the resignation of Dr. Tunji Otegbeye as Secretary of the Nigerian Socialist Movement, and the dismissal of the board of the socialist weekly *Advance* and its editor, Dapo Fatogun. Moreover it is reported that the construction of a

six-storey secretariat for the movement at Surulere was stopped half-way through, and stalwarts drafted to the site to prevent sabotage attempts also. The youth wing of the movement also seized the also of *Advance* on the Agege Motor Road.

• The Nigerian government is investigating a newspaper report that Cameroon troops have seized a Nigerian fishing boat and captured a crew member. Quoting an eye-witness, the *Daily Times* said that a privately owned vessel was fishing "on the high seas within Nigeria's territorial waters" when Cameroon troops emerged from a creek, fired into the air, and ordered the crew to surrender the equipment. The equipment was valued at more than \$9,000, the newspaper said.

External Affairs officials said that the report could be true "judging from past experience". They added that such incidents resulted from the undefined borders.

When Cameroon President Ahmadou Ahidjo visited Lagos last March he and Nigerian Head of State General Yakubu Gowon agreed to maintain reciprocal fishing agreements in their territorial waters pending conclusion of a formal agreement. A joint commission met in May in the Cameroon capital of Yaoundé to examine frontier demarcation.

• About 70 men, women and children are feared dead after a violent storm struck their fishing fleet near the Cameroon border. The Nigerians were reported to be returning to their homes in the Rivers State when the storm hit their fleet of canoes near Soualaba in Cameroon. Some of the survivors were treated in the hospital in Victoria.

• A conference of English speaking West African countries has been held in Monrovia on plans for the second Black festival of arts and culture. The festival is to be staged in Lagos, Nigeria in 1974. The first one was in Dakar, Senegal, in 1966. Taking part in the two-day planning conference were Liberia, The Gambia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Ghana. Leader of the Nigerian delegation was the federal commissioner of information, chief Anthony Enahoro.

• All events at the All-Africa Games in Lagos next January are to be broadcast and televised live to all parts of the country and the outside world.

• Temporary mobile telephone exchanges are to be used to help improve the telecommunications system, the Federal Commissioner for Communications, Mr. Joseph Tarka, announced. He said that a "modest increase" in the internal postage rates would be introduced next January but pointed out that the rates were now "among the lowest in the world".

• A feasibility study for the conversion of Oshogbo airport into an air force base is being conducted by the Nigerian Air Force. Speaking on arrival in Kaduna, the Chief of Air Staff, Brigadier Ikwue, said the Air Force intended to spread its activities all over the federation.

From the States

Lagos State Government has ordered 52 British Friesian in-calf heifers, it was announced at the Royal Agricultural Show in Britain last month. The contract is worth more than £70,000 and includes a service agreement under which a British veterinary surgeon will spend three months in Lagos helping to settle the cattle in and get them acclimatised. The contract was signed on the show-ground by Mr. J. A. Johnson-Agiri, the State Commissioner for Agriculture, who was accompanied to the show by Mr. Muhammadu Inuwa-Dutso, Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Kano, and Alhaji Umaru Nassarawa, Commissioner for Agriculture and Forestry, Sokoto.

• More than 400 mortgage defaulters' houses are to be sold by the Western State Housing Corporation. Over £500,000 is owed by defaulters, who have been given a final 14-day warning to pay arrears which cover periods ranging between three and 10 years.

• Ibadan University students have expressed opposition to the decision by the university authorities that second year students should no longer live on the campus.

• Alhaji Hamzat Thanni, head of the Ministry of External Affairs' information section and former chief information officer in the Western State, has died, aged 54.

• Mahmud Dantata, the Kano businessman, has been acquitted of charges connected with the illegal printing of Nigeria Airways tickets. After the verdict, procession of cars, motor cycles and bicycles followed his white Mercedes Benz through the main streets of Kano.

• Raleigh Industries of Britain and a local company, Niger Cycles, have concluded an agreement to establish a £0.2m. bicycle manufacturing plant in Kano.

• Two Military Governors, Alhaji Audu Bako (Kano) and Colonel Musa Usman (North East State) have been on a two-week tour of Kenya, accompanied by a 12-man party.

• Mr. Niyi Akintola, the lawyer who was last year sentenced to three months imprisonment for contempt of court, has been pardoned by the Kwara State Governor, Col. David Bamigboye. Both the conviction and the sentence imposed by the chairman of the Kwara State robbery and firearms tribunal, Mr. Justice Adesiyun, have been set aside. The Governor said in a statement that he had taken into account the circumstances of the case "and found that the lawyer deserved clemency particularly as he had tendered an accepted apology to the tribunal".

• Almost 200 workers have been laid off by the United Match Company in Ilorin.

• In a reshuffle in the North-East only three ministers retained their portfolios, although none were dropped. New Commissioners have been brought into an expanded government.

Adamu Fika, who becomes Commissioner for Finance; Malam Sule (Economic Planning); Mr. U.Z. (Information and Social Welfare); Alhaji Umaru Baba (Trade and Industry).

• Benue Plateau State has taken a 10 per cent stake in the private Niger Electricity Supply Corporation "to advance and develop the promotion of enterprises in which the citizens of Niger shall directly or indirectly participate".

• Opening the Jos branch of the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Governor of Benue Plateau State, Police Commissioner Joseph Gomwalk, appealed to the public to reduce the "unnecessary delay in processing applications for foreign exchange". Branch offices should be allowed to deal with applications, suggested.

• Benue Plateau State has launched a weekly newspaper, *The Nigeria Statesman*.

• The South-East State has asked those who suffered damage during the civil war to submit details of their claims by August 20.

• Brigadier Esuene, visiting Rwanda on the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Construction Materials, has held talks with the Foreign Minister.



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