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Going to the polls

Nigeria brings back the ballot

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"Foulah plot" in Guinea?

Nigeria — fresh start at the bottom

So certain are Nigeria's military rulers that local government reform is essential, in the words of Brigadier Shehu M. Yar Adua, Chief of Staff Supreme Headquarters, "to stimulate democratic self government and to encourage initiative and leadership potential", that they have approved a new system of local government even before the proposals of the committee on a new constitution have been presented to the Head of State. The new system is the result of wide consultation among traditional rulers, conferences of state representatives, etc. (an "exhaustive process", Brig. Yar Adua rightly called it). And it is emphasised that the *Guidelines* now issued to state governments (summarised on pages 1243-4) are just that: local government, it is asserted, is primarily the responsibility of state governments, and Lagos does not want to "impose" any uniform system. Above all, the proposed reforms are not meant to reduce the traditional functions of chiefs, but should help to preserve "the organic unity of our traditional institutions and societies".

A number of state governors, however, after due consultations with chiefs, have indicated that the *Guidelines* proposals will be brought into effect as soon as possible. Elections to many of the new Local Governments (as they are to be called) will

be held before the end of the year. And the Federal Government has shown its faith in the proposed system by allocating, in this financial year, 100 million naira for them. The *Guidelines* proposals, which do allow significant diversity among the states, must therefore be assumed to have been put into operation before the end of this year, throughout the country.

In essence it is proposed that a very wide range of functions — not just control of drumming and such matters but agricultural extension work and primary education — must be the responsibility of Local Governments. These authorities will be the only ones recognised below state level, although they can delegate work, accepting full financial and staffing responsibility, to lower authorities. They will be big enough (serving populations between 150,000 and 800,000 according to population densities) to command staff and funds to provide services, but small enough to be "local".

The *Guidelines* allow for a proportion of traditional members to sit in the authorities, but most members will be elected, indirectly by communities if states so choose. And there are elaborate provisions for presidents, chairmen and committees.

Perhaps the biggest innovation, however, lies in the simple statement that "Provincial and Divisional Administration" should "be

abolished". Field administrative officers in some states have in effect been running local governments, are to be withdrawn either to the Ministries of Local Government or to the new authorities themselves. The British system of local government, whose introduction was so optimistically attempted in colonial days, is now to be supreme. The French "prefectoral" system, to which many Nigerian states were tending, is abandoned. Local government is to be the school for democracy and political responsibility and it is the soldiers who have most clearly adopted this hope.

The *Guidelines* do not pretend that local government of this kind was successful in the past. But the federal government clearly rejects the view mentioned in the *White Paper*, that the failure of this type of local government has been so marked in Nigeria (as, indeed, it has been in Ghana and Sierra Leone) that the basic issue had become "why it is necessary to operate a system of government at this level at all". Nor is the old Native Authority system of the Northern Emirates to be revived, since many of the emirates will be split into a number of self-contained Local Governments, while smaller ones will fast themselves joining others under a single Local Government. Emirate and traditional councils are given clear tasks, and the possibility of chiefs being "active" Presidents of Local Governments, where a traditional area coincides with a new Local Government, is allowed. But even if, as the *Guidelines* insist, there is no intention of making local government uniform throughout the country, it will be far more uniform than ever before.

"Excessive politicking", says Brigadier Yar Adua in his foreword to the *Guidelines*, was one reason for the failure of local government in the past, and apart from the injunction to chiefs and traditional members of Local Governments to avoid politics, the Federal Government clearly hopes that this time local government councils will not become the playthings of parties, nor their work and workers the prey of politicians. So long as military rule lasts, these hopes can be fulfilled. But insofar as the new authorities have wider functions and bigger funds than the old, they will be more attractive fields for politicians than were the old authorities. And while the military government can insist that the first elections to the authorities should exclude parties altogether, it is unlikely that a civilian government could, or would wish to, impose such a restriction.

Since, as Brig. Yar Adua says, the *Guidelines* mean "a fundamental change in the political structure" of Nigeria, they require much more detailed comment than this. They are an earnest and carefully devised attempt to provide a new basis for political life. But yet even if everybody must hope that the *Guidelines* have gone far to deal with the factors which have produced such miserable performances in local government in the past, the questions must still be asked: is such failure endemic in local governments of this kind in Nigeria? What will happen when the paternal protection of the soldiers goes?

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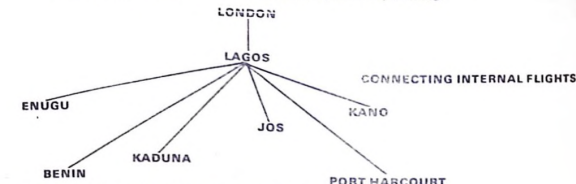
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bureaucracies distant from the people. Each town and city together with its surrounding planning area should come under a single authority. It is recognised that population densities in some areas may be so low that authorities covering less than 150,000 people should be allowed, though only with the authority of the Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters. In most cases the authorities should be coterminous with existing state administrative divisions.

While the new bodies are to be "modern functional institutions" it is not intended to destroy the "organic unity" of traditional areas under Emirs, Chiefs or other authorities. Councils for these areas would include, in addition to the traditional ruler, or traditional title holders, representatives of each Local Government where thought appropriate, and others who may assist to make the council "broadly representative of the major facets of life in the area". Their precise composition would be decided by state governors.

Role for Traditional rulers

If a new Local Government is coterminous with an existing Local Government authority where there is a single Emir or Paramount Chief, and "it is desired" that he should be "active" President of the new Local Government, there will be only one council in the area, with the Emir or Chief as President. This could apply in an area where a single traditional authority covers the great majority of people, and the minority peoples accept the Emir or Paramount Chief of the majority as President. In other cases Emirs or Paramount Chiefs should be ceremonial presidents only, with the office "rotating" in appropriate circumstances. "Active" presidents can also "rotate", those eligible being members of the Local Government when not performing the functions of President.

When there are traditional councils, they can offer advice to Local Governments, assist in the co-ordination of their development plans, assist in the assessment and collection of tax, deal where appropriate with religious and chieftaincy matters, determine customary law and practice on land, and advise all branches of government and official organisations on matters affecting the area they cover. They will be provided with staff, and funds. Emirs and Chiefs will continue to assist in the maintenance of law and order. They will continue to appoint District and Village Heads where that is the custom, but in consultation with local government. They should also continue to "tour" their areas.

Councils of Local Governments will be predominantly elected either directly or through indirect elections arranged by state government. But up to a quarter of the members may be nominated by the State Governor, either by name, by office or by traditional title. Nominated councillors should not become involved in politics.

Where there is no "active" president each Local Government will have a chairman who will either be nominated from three members elected by the council or whose

election is ratified by the governor, who may also refer nominations to traditional councils for their comments. Chairmen will normally remain in office for three years, the life of the councils, unless they are suspended by governors, in which case caretaker committees will discharge their functions until fresh elections can be held.

The *Guidelines* urge local governments to avoid numerous or big committees. Two main standing committees, Finance and General Purposes, and Education, are essential. The membership and functions of the second will usually be determined by an existing education law. It is hoped that the effective staff will make it possible for much work to be delegated.

"Political control"

In a section on "political control" of local government departments, the *Guidelines* suggest that this should be exercised normally through not more than four councillors, each being chairman of a small committee concerned with a department or a group of departments. These chairmen will be members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee which will be the "cabinet", responsible for policy and accepting political responsibility for day-to-day functioning of departments. They will not give orders to executive heads of departments on internal management for which these heads will be responsible to an authority's Secretary, himself accountable to the whole council and to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Although membership of all committees should be elected by the council, for an initial period at any rate state governors will have to approve the appointments or sometimes to make the appointments directly.

It is essential, says the *Guidelines* that Emirs or Paramount Chiefs who are Local Government Presidents should avoid any kind of political partisanship so that they can remain "impartial fathers of their people". They can resign their offices if they wish to stand for election.

The secretaries of the new authorities and departmental administrative heads should be in the position of Secretaries to State Governments and their Permanent Secretaries. Each state should establish a Local Government Service for all authorities in the state. For senior positions the minimum qualification should be a national diploma or similar qualification. Local Government Service Boards should be responsible for employment, postings, discipline with appropriate delegation. Retirement benefits, identical to those of state civil servants, should be the responsibility of the states.

Local Development

Ministries for Local Government should now be responsible for community development, for assisting Local Government Service Boards, and for the administration of a revolving loan fund for Local Governments. They will be particularly responsible for the quality of Local Government staff, including training, and will be generally responsible for seeing that Local Governments have adequate resources and use them efficiently.

They will maintain "holding posts" from which state officials can be seconded to local authorities. The existing "divisional administration" should now be abolished, particularly as most field administrative officers will be needed for secondment as secretaries of Local Governments or for the inspectorates of Local Government Ministries. Divisional administration, says the *Guidelines*, was necessary when so many local authorities were totally unable to discharge their nominal functions and when the regions, or later some states, were of such a size that provincial as well as divisional administrators had to act as a channel between state capitals and local authorities. "The aim now is to concentrate more on building strength into the Local Government system, rather than placing so much reliance on propping it up from outside".

Police Powers

Explaining that the police are to be reorganised so that a "unit" will cover each Local Government area, the *Guidelines* say that most police in a unit should be conversant with the local language or languages and the backgrounds. A senior officer will be responsible for liaison with the Local Government. A police committee in each Local Government area will include a representative of the judiciary and of the prison departments, a traditional leader, and "two or three dignitaries".

The *Guidelines* list a number of functions which must be discharged by Local Governments except under exceptional circumstances. These include licensing vehicles not mechanically propelled and cargoes, control of animals, restrictions on drumming, and similar matters. A number of other functions may initially be discharged by state governments although they are an ultimate Local Government responsibility. These include provision of health centres and preventive health services generally, primary education, agricultural extension work, rural water supplies, pollution control, roads except for trunk roads, and public housing programmes.

100m. naira budget

The Federal Government has allocated 100m. naira for Local Government in 1976-77, 25 per cent of which is shared equally by the states and the balance reallocated according to state populations. States will arrange a similar division. Among Local Governments, Federal allocation, but on a new formula, will continue and a formula for allocation of state funds for local government will be worked out. The *Guidelines* warn local government councils against committing their revenues to servicing loans except for projects which generate immediate revenue, or for "bridging". State Revolving Loan Funds will meet this need. The only locally raised revenue likely to yield "really large" sums is property rating which should be extended, and made comprehensive rather than selective. Community taxes and the like should belong exclusively to Local Government. Licences and similar revenue devices which scarcely cover the cost of collection should be abolished.

UMOA's end of term report

UMOA, the West African franc zone, was established in 1962 to aid the development of the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Togo, Upper Volta, Niger and Benin. With the production of a new treaty in 1974, the region was able to issue a report covering its first twelve years. Here, a correspondent surveys its progress.

In the twelve years up to October 14 1974, when the new UMOA Treaty and Co-operation agreement with France came into force, the *Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest* supervised the currency of the members of the Union Monétaire Ouest Africain along the lines of the original agreement signed between France, the Ivory Coast, Benin (then Dahomey), Niger, Senegal and Togo in May 1962. During these twelve years, the economies of the UMOA countries have grown unequally and the Sahel drought has caused serious set-backs in the early progress made by Senegal and Niger in particular. Nevertheless, the BCEAO report for 1974, which summarises the performance of the UMOA countries in the first period of the Bank's existence, reveals that the region has displayed a steady growth over the years, accelerated in the last years by the development of phosphate and uranium mining, and that even the effects of the drought have been unable to check this progressive trend.

Although inflation and population growth have both depressed the ability of the UMOA countries to accumulate a surplus, the GNP of the six states rose from 529,000m. frs. CFA in 1962 to almost three times that amount, to 1,443,000m. frs. CFA, in 1974. A growth rate of 21.5 per cent, from 1,188,000m. frs. CFA in 1973-74 was exceptional, created by rapid price rises for phosphates and other raw materials, but further GNP growth of this magnitude cannot be ruled out. Moreover, the Bank estimates that a proportion of the GNP of the UMOA states, estimated to range from 11 per cent in the Ivory Coast to 42 per cent in Niger, represents "non-monetary" activity outside the cash economy.

The growth rates of the UMOA states from 1962-74 are of course led by that of the Ivory Coast, which has sustained an average of 8.4 per cent per annum over the period, peaking at 15.8 per cent in 1973-74. Togo is second with an average of 6.7 per cent, though all the other states are below the UMOA average of 4.3 per cent. The lowest rate of growth is that of Senegal, whose economy grew, on average only .4 per cent over the 12 years. This, however, takes into account a spectacular fall of 25.7 per cent in her GNP in 1972-73 because of the drought. Benin, Upper Volta and Niger were also pushed into negative growth rates by the drought, having suffered falling expectation even before this catastrophe.

The UMOA states are particularly sensitive because of their dependence upon agriculture, with only the Ivory Coast and Senegal committing less than 30 per cent of their GNP to agriculture. Commerce is a greater charge than mines and industry throughout the region, except in Togo, where the two sectors receive an equal location. As might be expected, Benin, at

14 per cent, spends the largest share of her resources on public administration, followed closely by Senegal, at 12 per cent, and Upper Volta at 10 per cent. Togo devotes only half this sum to its civil service.

Primary produce remains the principal economic activity in the UMOA area, although production of groundnuts, reflecting the problems of Senegal, the main producer, has remained fairly constant, at around 650,000 tonnes. Indeed, this level has only been maintained by the recovery, with the 1974 crop, from the effects of the drought. Fluctuations from country to country, however, reveal, a significant pattern, with Upper Volta (producing 18,000 tonnes in 1974, three times her 1962 harvest) encouraging production, while more habitual groundnut growers, such as Senegal, were striving to reduce dependence on this crop. Other crops, however, reveal a more stable pattern of growth with coffee and cocoa registering gains of 100 and 200 per cent respectively over the period. By 1974, the UMOA countries were producing 202,000 tonnes of coffee and 230,000 tonnes of cocoa annually. Palm oil, karite nuts, and other tropical products have also registered slow and steady growth.

Cotton boom

Healthy developments in the production of processed coffee, tapioca and tobacco are also visible throughout the period, and vegetable cultivation and marketing, particularly of tomatoes and beans, show remarkable upward trends. The most spectacular change in agricultural production patterns since 1962, however, has been the extension of cotton cultivation and manufacture. Only 14,000 tons of cotton were grown in the UMOA countries in 1956 but this had risen to 119,000 tonnes by 1970 and, despite drought, to 175,000 tonnes by 1974. Cotton processing has a long history in francophone West Africa, with the first spinning plant opening at Bouake in the Ivory Coast in 1920, but recent developments have spread the industry to Upper Volta and other parts.

Increases in both the quantity and variety of agricultural production have also stimulated intra regional trade in these commodities, with Africa taking 12 per cent of the Ivory Coast's banana crop, for instance, 3,630 tonnes going to Senegal alone in 1974. Local demand has also acted as a stimulus for the rapid expansion of non-agricultural activities, such as the production of sea-salt, whose value to Senegal rose from 350m. frs. CFA to over 1500m. frs. CFA from 1972-74.

CFA in March 1974. Price rises were also responsible for the astonishing maintenance of the area's livestock levels throughout the Sahel Drought, with the expansion of flocks

and herds in Togo and the Ivory Coast almost succeeding in making up for the devastation caused in Niger and the other traditionally pastoral countries.

Food imports, nevertheless, remain large throughout the region, especially for its relatively more developed countries, the Ivory Coast and Senegal, which together took the lion's share of the 246,581 tonnes imported in 1974. This figure, while a reduction from the 358,000 tonnes bought in 1973, at the height of the drought, still represents an alarming increase on the 171,607 tonnes needed in 1962. At the same time, Benin and Togo were, by stringent domestic efforts, able to cut back sharply their imports of food after 1972.

Electricity consumption rose by an average of 12 per cent per annum throughout the period from 1970, an increase on the preceding period from 1962. Fuel consumption, on the other hand, grew more slowly, by only 5 to 10 per cent annually in the same time. The refineries in the Ivory Coast and Senegal also export a growing quantity and range of products which tripled in value from 1972 to 1974, a line with oil prices.

The pattern of foreign aid disbursements in the UMOA region has inevitably been distorted by the Sahel Drought, which diverted a larger proportion to those states most seriously affected. However, the trend for a more equal distribution of aid has been reinforced by the drought and the total amount of aid, some \$363m. in 1974, represents a 60 per cent increase in real terms from 1969 to 1974. Around 15 per cent of all aid to sub-Saharan Africa goes to the UMOA states, that is, about 2 per cent of all overseas aid.

The closing of the first UMOA treaty period in 1974 creates a certain artificiality in the figures, for price increases in 1973 and 1974 have radically altered the financial position of the whole of the region's trade. The adverse regional balance of nearly 50,000m. frs. CFA in 1973 was turned into a favourable balance, admittedly of only 2,000m. frs. CFA the next year, by the doubling of export values. Yet before this, only the Ivory Coast had had a favourable trade balance since 1971, and a rising curve of imports threatened to return the area to deficit in 1975. Imports as a whole rose faster than exports until 1972 and, with intra regional trade relatively static at just over 5 per cent throughout the whole period, UMOA's favourable balance seems unlikely to be maintained.

Internal inflationary forces are also at work, with locally-produced food rising in price at a faster rate than imported produce, which kept pace with the norms of the industrialised countries. From 1970 to 1974, food prices had risen by 30 per cent in the Ivory Coast, 32 per cent in Niger, 34 per cent in Togo and 43 per cent in Senegal, although in Upper Volta they were held to only 16 per cent. Money supply shows a similar pattern, rising on an average 8.5 per cent in the period, rising to 15 per cent in 1973-74. Total currency in circulation was 365,100m. frs. CFA in 1974, over three times that in existence in 1962, with 60,000m. frs. CFA on deposit at the *Tresor Français*.

Matchet's Diary

The growing tension in the Catholic Church over the continued attachment of many of the faithful to the Tridentine (Latin) mass, banned by the Second Vatican council more than ten years ago, has apparently now spread its dissensions to Africa. The connection between African and what has been up to now largely a European protest against the Holy See is, of course, the crucial role being played by Monsiigneur Lefebre, the former Archbishop of Dakar, and the founder of the "rebel" Pius X seminary at Ecône in Switzerland. Mgr. Lefebre has long campaigned against the demise of the Latin Mass and his outspoken criticisms at last prompted the Papacy to act against him in May last year.

At the juncture however, according to a report in the French newspaper *L'Aurore*, the African clergy intervened on his behalf, led by the Archbishop of Dakar, then Monseigneur Hyacinthe Thiandoum. Mgr. Thiandoum and many other senior African clergy had been ordained by Mgr. Lefebre, and remembered many of his kindnesses. Their intervention, according to the report, persuaded the Pope to stay excommunication, imposing instead a "censure", of vaguer and therefore lesser impact.

Mgr. Lefebre, however, has continued his campaign against the vernacular liturgy and, now posing as the champion of a "revisionist" counter attack on Vatican II, has forced the Holy See to take final steps against him and his "rebel" seminary. This time, though, says *L'Aurore*, there will be no African intervention, for, noting the elevation of Mgr. Thiandoum and three other African prelates to the College of Cardinals last April, the newspaper confirms their reconversion to approval of His Holiness's decisions.

Whatever the fate of Mgr. Lefebre, nevertheless, there are other signs that the African and other Third World churches are increasingly a power to be reckoned with in ecclesiastical circles. Earlier this month in

Dar es Salaam an "Ass World Theologians" from Latin America accuse churches of being the "systematic exploitation" of. Pledging themselves to a "conscious of the need for the persons and structures", prophesied that a new "would emerge from "involved process of struggle" in. From their language, he take the reassurance theologians will be no let their own way that the o

Fitting the Crime?

Diamond smugglers in now liable, if caught, to imprisonment or a 10,000 L or both. Parliament was to the inadequacy of the form who was found attempting million pound's worth of he sentenced to six months and to lose his diamond.

Most people outside Si astonished that the stronger force are still so light. The serious financial position, not true in the days when ing was even more serious has a balance of payment who have plundered S decades -- most of them seldom suffered any penalties laid down for the -- which they incurred on occasions when they were laughable. The penalties a enough to deter the big exempt from income tax, adopted country's laws with contempt.



The cast of *Ipi Iyambi* on stage at Her Majesty's theatre, London.

"Black Dance" in London

London can now see at least two contrasted aspects of "Black Dance": *Ipi Tombi*, the Zulu dancers, whom I saw performing in King's College Chapel celebrating the 50th anniversary of the International African Institute, are at Her Majesty's Theatre, and *The Dance Theatre of Harlem* at Sadler's Wells.

Marilyn Awooner-Renner writes:

The pulsating beat of the music and dance of *Ipi Tombi* and its dynamic, rhythmic sequences are brilliant. Not a moment is lost as scenes change and one song blends into another. The tempo is astonishingly fast and the cast apparently indefatigable throughout the exciting two hours. The story of African life in the village of Tsomo is unfurled by the storyteller, Daniel Pule. Following his narration, the story is told in dance and lyrical form as the women perform their daily duties — grinding corn, preparing food and drink for the return of the menfolk at night after the hunt.

The second scene, which shows the conflict between African religion and Christianity — another aspect of the colourful life of the villagers — ends with Martha Molefe singing the lead song "Mother Mary", supported in chorus by the whole cast.

The work of street sweepers, refuse collectors and miners is portrayed in song and dance. The power of this musical lies in the gamut of emotions through which it takes the audience. We feel with them at every turn... first, enjoying the gaiety,

laughter and happiness of the opening scene, next, mystified by the conflict and confusion of cultural differences; and in due course, experiencing hope, sadness, despair and disillusion.

These performers are not the young career actresses and actors of the western world, trained from early years to entertain large audiences. So their success is even more to be wondered at. It is clear that South Africa's potential in successful entertainers is another of her many great resources. Martha Molefe, Daniel Pule and Count Wellington Judge stand out among the greatest of entertainers because of their rich sonorous voices.

Harlem's reply

From America, the "First World" continent with the largest Black population, *The Dance Theatre of Harlem*, offers a cultural fusion of the Black and White worlds. Under the direction of Arthur Mitchell and Karel Shook are vibrant, youthful, dancers who effortlessly dance both classical western ballet, as in Greig's "Holbert Suite", Stravinsky's "Agon" and Digo's "Le Corsaire", and the jazz rhythms of "Every Now and Then". Music and choreography fit from the traditional to the contemporary and back.

The programme is enriched by other cultures, with Prokofiev's "Romeo and

Juliet" and Tchaikovsky's "Deign for Strings. The exciting choreography of Balanchine in "Bugaku" is enthralling. Here, the celebrated Gagaku music has been transposed for western orchestration by one of Japan's most gifted young composers, Toshiro Maizuyumi. The costumes designed by Madame Karinska in the style of traditional Japanese court dress, combined with the physical movements of the dancers, result in an exotic creation.

At all times the performance is electric. Perhaps what is most appealing is the evident delight of this stunning young company in their physical movements and dances. Indeed, Arthur Mitchell and his Harlem black brothers and sisters are a most welcome delight. They are a source of inspiration; who knows they might well spark off a comparable group among British Blacks?

For my part, the most dynamic and significant numbers are "Dougla" and "Forces of Rhythm" which carry a special message. They exemplify the unique contribution of the company. Here lies the strength of *The Dance Theatre of Harlem*. No other company can give both the authentic visual image and rhythmic dance form of Africa and traditional classical ballet forms. Nowhere has African music and dance been thus interpreted within the American experience, and executed so artistically and presented in such close juxtaposition to, sometimes within the same dance as, classical ballet. The best example is Louis Johnson's "Forces and Rhythm" sequence in the ballet of the same name.

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LETTERS to the Editor

A National identity

SIR: Your August 16 issue earned a report quoting Professor A. O. Adesola of Lagos University calling for the adoption of a *lingua franca* for Nigeria. A *lingua franca* is one of (if not the greatest) unifying factors of any community which is as heterogeneous as Nigeria. If all tribes in Nigeria are able to understand each other's speech, then national unity will be better and more compactly cemented.

Apart from further helping to unite the country, the idea of a *lingua franca* is a way of promoting our cultural heritage.

The argument then arises, which of the 250+ languages and dialects is to be chosen as the *lingua franca*? The Hausa language comes distinctly ahead of other Nigerian languages and dialects. Hausa is spoken by a majority of Nigerians. Besides this, Hausa would be easier to learn because of the direct and not too complex grammar. A third and most important benefit of the Hausa language is that it cuts through almost the whole of West Africa. To mention a few examples, Hausa is spoken in Niger Republic; Chad; part of Cameroun; Benin; Ghana and so on.

The language has its economical, social, and political advantages over the other two Nigerian major languages. It will facilitate easier communication among Nigerians and its advantage in bringing closer the ECOWAS community cannot be underestimated.

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for the adoption of a *lingua franca*. This is a government of action, so the Federal Government should set up a committee to work out the process of the adoption. Experience of the past should still be fresh in our memory, so the government which has proved its dedication by locating a Federal capital city and creating new states should not find it difficult to give us a "native language".
Kiev University.

OBASOLA OLU FATUNLA.

Mercenary law

SIR: I read with interest (*West Africa*, August 9) a letter from Dr. Seth C. K. Agodzo criticizing an article about Angola mercenaries in *West Africa*, July 5. The part that interests me most is where he said that the law that made it a crime to be a mercenary in Angola is unfair as it clearly discriminates against those mercenaries who fought for FNLA and UNITA, and that the Cubans and Russians who won the war for the MPLA were also mercenaries.

Firstly, does Dr. Agodzo agree that the MPLA government is an undisputed government of a sovereign and independent state? If so, does he agree that an undisputed government is entitled to make a law or laws that guarantee the safety of the government and people of such a state? If Angola's government decides to make being a mercenary a crime in Angola there is no international law that can prevent it.

Furthermore, who tells Dr. Agodzo that the Cubans and Russians were mercenaries in Angola? The Cubans and Russians were invited to Angola by the undisputed government of that country and they are still there training the Angolans in every aspect of life that will make that government strong. There is no secret about that. On the other hand, the mercenaries are merely soldiers of fortune who went individually to Angola to fight for their living. They were never sent by any government. Dr. Agodzo should be reminded that some South African soldiers captured by MPLA were treated as prisoners of war, not mercenaries because they were sent by their government. The 13 mercenaries tried in Angola were not claimed by any government.

Dr. Neto had even made mercenaries too important by bringing them to trial. They should have been shot immediately they were captured. UNITA and FNLA claims to have captured some Cuban soldiers; these soldiers were not treated as prisoners of war, but were murdered instantly.

It is true that the Portuguese did not hand over power to MPLA. They abandoned the country for the three parties to fight things out for themselves. Since it was the MPLA that won the shoot-out, it has the right, politically, morally and legally, to seek political domination.
Witzenhausen, West Germany.

GOKE ADEROUNMU.

Casus belli?

SIR: Not caring in the least about the international outcome, the white minority government of Ian Smith attacked Mozambique — a newly independent African country — on the pretext that she was fighting the guerrillas operating from Mozambique.

The attack on Mozambique by Rhodesia was an open invitation to combat and I wonder why black African nations should allow this invitation to go unheeded. Are they waiting for the UN to send troops to Rhodesia to uphold African integrity? If so, Africa has no more than one thousand years to wait. Why can't the OAU Heads of State decide on military action to stop what is going on in southern Africa? There is no other solution now but to accept the inevitability

of war and to go into combat against Rhodesia, whose troops are tired of waiting for Africa to attack them and are ready to bring the battle to Africa's doorstep. The major problem of Africa seems to be that too many of her citizens are hopelessly unprepared to accept the grim responsibilities for their own liberation let alone freedom of their fellow Africans. Many African nations, including one whose black army is larger than the white population of Rhodesia, are giving up financial aid to guerrillas as larger well equipped men to fight along with them. Is aid going to stop Africans being used as slaves in Southern African mines? Will boycotting the Olympic Games alone stop the killing of Africans in Southern Africa? No, neither would the series of talks with Smith lead to the desired African rule. Why do African leaders have the serious eyes to the delaying tactics of Ian Smith and Vorster? For whom are African leaders waiting? Fidel Castro or Brezhnev? It is high time Africa learned to handle her affairs without reliance on some foreign countries.

This is the time for the OAU to do away with the title of "The Toothless Bulldog" conferred on Africa in the past years, and show the world that Africa intends to take full responsibility for her freedom. All African countries should develop the more radical approach towards the liberation of Zimbabwe. It is very surprising that development in West Africa in particular are not aware that what is going on in southern Africa is not a great need to educate Africans so there is and inhumanity practised against the brutal whites in Rhodesia and South Africa.

Black Africa has waited too long for the whites to "release" Africans held in long for their own homeland. This is show in bondage. This is liberation time. If Africa is going to rise up from her deep slumber at all, now is the time.

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Dirty work at the seaside

from a correspondent

Towards the end of April the United Nations Environment Programme sent a two man Exploratory Mission on Marine Pollution Problems to visit the West African coastal states along the Gulf of Guinea — in response to requests from several of these states. The Mission, Michel Angot and Donald Kaniaru, completed their travels in the first week of July yet here is their report already; for sheer speed of delivery alone it would be praiseworthy but it is also a clear and constructive document which must do much to help combat the problems it covers.

Messrs. Angot and Kaniaru visited, in this order, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Senegal, Guinea Bissau and The Gambia (and they talked with UNDP representatives for Sao Tome & Principe and the Cape Verde Islands) on their see and hear for themselves mission. They spoke to local experts, officials and Ministers.

The following types of pollution affect the waters and shores under investigation; domestic sewage, liquid or solid, treated or (more usually) untreated issued into the sea or lagoons or on to beaches, and industrial effluents; logs, either floating as a hazard to small boat navigation or washed up on beaches; oil pollution, either from exploitation, at some level from extraction to refining, or transport, which might be either local or international; and coastal erosion.

Most of the towns and cities along the coast, with the notable exception of Tema, have no sewage treatment system or proper outfalls and already there have been some environmental disasters as a result of unregulated dumping of sewage and industrial wastes. Korle Lagoon at Accra for example, is virtually dead, smells

awful and is a major risk for mosquito breeding.

The range and location of industries is wide and expanding; virtually all the countries visited have, or intend to have, oil refineries but these refineries do not treat their effluents, nor do most of the other industries at work and this includes inland mineral activities discharging into rivers which can also cause silt problems at their mouths.

The report points out that these domestic and industrial sources of pollution call for local national action, though international help may be needed, particularly advice and access to experience and expertise in handling these problems. The report proposes a guidebook listing the ways in which industries likely to be established, or already functioning, in the area cause pollution and methods available to control such pollution at source. With such information readily to hand Governments would be able to decide for themselves on how effectively to restrain pollution and gauge more accurately the development and longer term environment costs of enforcing, neglecting or postponing control. (Such a guide would be of much wider value than just in West Africa).

There is a hint that the problem of floating or beached logs may be much reduced by the increasing value of logs making people take greater care of them. Otherwise control of this problem, of special interest to fishing and tourist authorities, should be a relatively simple matter of stricter policing of sources of loose logs.

Oil pollution may come from refinery wastes, offshore wells or tankers. So far pollution from wells has been slight and rapidly contained (by Nigeria) but the expanding search for oil along the coast increases the risk. Refinery controls can be exercised by national governments, if they

have the will to do something about industrial pollution.

The most prevalent and visible form of pollution at present is from tankers, either spillages in port or washing off a long way off shore. Tar balls are washed up on the beaches of nearly all the countries visited, part of the reason is that the prevailing wind is from the South West and this is coupled with a strong West to East current along the coast. Apart from the immediately visible threat to tourism on the beaches there is also concern that surface pollution may damage the very important tuna nursery area of Ghana, one of only two such areas in the South Atlantic. International oil shipping is clearly responsible.

On the matter of erosion the report suggests that a specialised two man team should visit the affected areas and make a survey on the problem and methods of control that may be possible.

By and large the countries involved have a present, little capability for the necessary research to combat pollution though there are educational bases in some countries. There is a need for international assistance and training though the report stresses that there is not a lot of point in training specialists if they are not provided with the facilities to carry on their work. A lack can lead to brain draining (this point was made in the recent ECA paper on training personnel for energy industries). It also suggests that Sierra Leone offers a good site for a regional co-ordinating and monitoring centre having an existing, though modest, Institute of Marine Biology and Oceanography, and a prominent Chemistry Department at Fourah Bay College and almost unpopulated waters.

The report says that both Ghana and Ivory Coast are prepared to act as hosts to meetings to draw up and enact a regional convention to coordinate efforts to control and reduce pollution. Now it is up to the affected countries to turn the good work of the mission to good effect.

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BOOKS and Publications

Methods of the Military

Coups and Army Rule in Africa by Samuel Decalo (Yale University Press: £11.55; £3.30, paper)

In the flourishing industry of writing books about military rule in Africa, Nigeria and Ghana are often used as the major examples. Professor Decalo has instead chosen four régimes less thoroughly studied, to illustrate "the internal dynamics of African military hierarchies, their officer cliques, and corporate and personal ambitions". The "motivations for military upheavals", rather than the weaknesses of the structures of African states or the organisation of African armies, are at the centre of the study.

The four — Benin (Dahomey), Congo, Togo and Uganda — do not, as the book's final chapter makes clear, cover all possible types of military rule in Africa; but they provide material for Dr. Decalo to suggest which aspects of military régimes should be identified and further studied, if the "characteristics of military rule, the motivation for coups, and the prospects for stability in Africa", are to be better understood. The book's subtitle — "Studies in Military Style" — illustrates its approach.

The book would be worth reading if only for the excellence of its summaries of the histories of the four states and of their military régimes. But the social scientist will also find in it much of theoretical interest. There are also useful comments on military régimes not studied in detail.

The literature on military coups in Africa, says Professor Decalo, is "cluttered with unfounded theories on the corporate integrity, professionalism, and nationalist credentials" of armed forces. Army rule, his study shows, has not been "necessarily more free of corruption or conducive to economic and political development than civilian rule. Corruption remained a fact of life in all four countries. If anything it increased in both Uganda and Congo-Brazzaville, striking deeper roots among officers-turned-administrators. In Uganda it has been Amin's policy to build up a class of officer-entrepreneurs beholden to him alone, while Nguabi's frequent pleas, admonitions, and warnings against the self-enrichment of officers provide official testimonials to the intensity and intractability of the problem in Brazzaville. The weaker Dahomean and Togolese economies have allowed fewer opportunities for sizable embezzlement or corruption. Still, self-enrichment of officers while in political office has continued, warnings by both General Eyadema and the Colonel Kérékou notwithstanding". The more prominent cases of military enrichment have also been treated gently, such

mild measures "in régimes avowedly socialist and contemplating death penalties for petty crimes argue against the thesis that army rule is more strict with misuse of state resources".

Summing up his analysis of the four states, Professor Decalo says that the "dominant feature of Dahomean military rule under Kérékou and under previous military régimes have been the low concentration of power at the centre and the ability of the regime to satisfy group demands". The underlying feature has been the instability of the weak central core of authority resulting from acute factionalism, in the army as in society, which has led to armed assaults on the power hierarchy. This political system Professor Decalo classifies as "praetorian", in which the distinguishing feature is "acute instability" coupled with blurring of civil-military boundaries and poor economic and political achievements.

Congo is similar to Dahomey "despite the latter's (until recently) different ideology. The prime characteristics of Major Nguabi's régime are its symbolic output, weak authority core, susceptibility to power grabs, and lack of economic and political development.

President Amin's personal power in Uganda—despite the internal mutinies—is completely different. Though he is not secure, his personal power — to coerce, punish, purge or liquidate officer cliques or entire strata, and to enforce decrees — is considerable "and is not comparable to that of either Kérékou or Nguabi". His nationalisation and religious positions "can scarcely be called symbolic" nor are they in the same class as policies in Brazzaville and Cotonou. Since the régime's style is his and all decisions flow from him, the Kampala system Dr Decalo describes as "personal dictatorship or personalism".

Togo, the most successful of the four military régimes, differs from the others in many ways. While in Dahomey, Uganda and Congo officers are "scattered throughout the state-run industries and civil service (in what are referred to as 'supervisory' positions, which also tend to be lucrative sinecures), this is not the case in Togo". The satisfaction of economic demands "had been given high priority (though not ahead of the military's needs)", and civil-military boundaries have been observed. The régime has been "reconciliationist" and "passive" on social issues and international affairs (although the close bonds with Nigeria and Togo's role in

preparing for Ecowas are scarcely "passive"). Although "there is little doubt that the army is in control of the country and that Eyadema has a sure grip over the armed forces, there is a significant evolution of decision-making authority".

Dr. Decalo is anxious throughout to question ideas which are not, perhaps, as widespread as he claims. While making concessions for the Ankráh régime in Ghana and the first Lamizana régime in Upper Volta, he wonders whether "holding operation" régimes are always "moderate" while in office and concerned with correction of the previous government's fiscal abuses.

In "bureaucratic" military rule, another type identified by Professor Decalo, the status of the armed forces is not especially high and civil-military boundaries are still blurred. Concentration of power at the centre is low and diffused and satisfaction of group demands is less evident. Moreover, allowing for rhetoric, the distinctive feature of such military régimes is their "status quo bureaucratic approach" to economic and political issues.

It is in his examination of motives for coups and counter coups that Professor Decalo is most perceptive — he rightly believes that you should always begin to look inside the army itself. For example, as happened with the overthrow of the late Brigadier Lansana in Sierra Leone, there is the desire of highly trained young officers to get rid of men who have come up from the ranks, a factor which has been important in Benin. Sometimes soldiers are anticipating moves against them by civilian governments, as Amin probably was. Sometimes it is general army discontent. Even if there is a clearer political motive, these other motives also matter. It is, in fact, impossible to correlate coups with the instability of political structures, with the failure of civilian governments, or the absence or presence of economic resources.

Professor Decalo concedes that many military régimes have much to their credit. He is not concerned to condemn military rule, only to question many conventional ideas about it, and to suggest directions for more research.

M.D.

New Phase of Independence

Southern Africa: The New Politics of Revolution by Basil Davidson, Joe Slovo, Anthony R. Wilkinson (Penguin Books, £1.25)

Independence in this decade is markedly different from independence of the previous two decades. With exceptions like Kenya and Algeria, independence in the first phase of decolonisation in Africa was a gift: independence in the former Portuguese colonies followed intensive armed struggle which in effect liberated the metropole. Independence for Rhodesia and South Africa under majority rule — and many people believe that this must come in the foreseeable future — will be gained by struggle against an armed and entrenched

white settler class. This Pelican Original (which means that we have an important book available in its first edition for the price of a London cinema seat) offers perspectives on change in Southern Africa in recent months and prospects for the near future. Basil Davidson, a distinguished historian and frequent contributor to this journal, discusses national liberation in the former African colonies of Portugal. Joe Slovo, by background a lawyer from South Africa but now working in the African National Congress of South Africa, discusses the struggle in that country, and Anthony Wilkinson, a Rhodesian-born academic, looks at the conflict in Rhodesia.

It should be made clear that the three authors contribute separately, and I feel that Wilkinson's essay, which led Ronald Segal into creating this collection, actually belongs to a different framework. Wilkinson is caught in an uneasy neutrality between what he categorises as insurgency and counter-insurgency, so that he is convincing neither on Zimbabwean nationalism nor on Smithian repression. By contrast Davidson and Slovo accept the basic concept of liberation and can adduce historical lessons from the various struggles — achieved in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea-Bissau and still at the outset in South Africa. Davidson covers ground familiar to those who have read his longer works but presents his argument here in finely tuned analysis — it inspires confidence that he, writing in the midst of the Angolan war, is proved right by events occurring after the book went to press.

It is important that we do understand the

nature of the national liberation struggle in the former Portuguese colonies — in Britain Davidson has stood almost alone to explain this subject — because whether they wish it or not the leaders of the liberation movements for Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa are heirs to the revolutionary tradition of men like the late Amílcar Cabral. The bourgeois nationalism that characterised many African political parties of fifteen years ago is no longer sufficient to hold the enthusiasm of young African revolutionaries, and the older nationalists of Southern Africa are obliged to adapt to new currents of thought. As Davidson points out in this book, the phase of struggle in what two years' ago could still be thought of as Portugal's Africa is "one of large achievement in the annals of creative change" which will have profound influence on the whole outcome for southern Africa.

Slovo's section of the book, subtitled "South Africa — No Middle Road", is a powerful piece of writing of a strength to make any political writer envious. In a mere one hundred pages on a subject of great complexity and sensitivity, he leads the reader skilfully through a crash course of political, historical and economic thought on the South African situation. For those who are curious about this tragic situation of oppression by an alien white minority of the black people of South Africa but who have been unwilling to tackle the major statistical studies, Slovo provides clearly sign posted answers. He advocates the African National Congress position but on the basis of argument so clear and reasoned that it would be hard not to agree with him. He writes with

clarity and realism, as witness this random example: "The illusion of the liberal gradualists, that apartheid will die a natural (albeit slow) death by the operation of the economic process, has been demonstrably shattered by the events of the last three decades."

Slovo explains factors of class and race, interests of black and white workers, pressures of rural living and the anomalous situation of the black bourgeoisie in South Africa. His forecast for the future is uncompromising: "National liberation, in its true sense, must therefore imply the expropriation of the owners of the means of production (monopolized by a bourgeoisie drawn from the white group) and the complete destruction of the state which serves them." He argues convincingly that mere nationalism will not be enough, and in a detailed section on past resistance demonstrates that armed struggle is inevitable in South Africa. This brilliantly compressed argument is timely as the impotence of South Africa's majority government day more obvious. In their own way the Soweto killings of this year may prove as significant as the Sharpeville shootings in 1960.

M.W.

Nuclear Power's double edge

"Nuclear Power: The Fifth Horseman" by Dennis Hayes (World Watch Institute, \$2)

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use nuclear reactors in the mid fifties. Federal Germany, Canada, Italy, Japan and Sweden joined the "nuclear reactor group" in the sixties. In 1964, the People's Republic of China exploded its first nuclear bomb. Since then a number of "nuclear nations" have emerged, mostly in the 70's. They include Switzerland, the G.D.R., the Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, India, Pakistan, Taiwan, Czechoslovakia, Argentina and Bulgaria.

According to Mr. Hayes: "if the world is indeed to 'go nuclear', all will be legitimate matters of international concern. The debate is not whether nuclear power will lead to nuclear weapons but the problem is who will control these bombs and how will they be used."

The paper, which is the sixth in a series of papers published by World Watch Institute of Washington, evaluates the future of nuclear power, subjecting it to several tests, in an attempt to identify and analyse emerging global trends and problems.

Analysts of foreign policy are greatly concerned over the implications of the spread of nuclear power, for the proliferation of weapons, considering that sooner or later instability will allow terrorist groups to acquire this awesome weaponry.

By the end of 1975, commercial reactors totalled 158 world wide, with a combined capacity of 66,995 megawatts. This shows a ten-fold increase in 10 years. There are many more commercial nuclear power plants currently under construction in Austria, Brazil, Finland, South Korea and Yugoslavia. And countries such as Australia, Denmark, Egypt, Hungary, Iran,

Israel, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, South Africa and Thailand are seriously considering the idea of going nuclear. The latest is Nigeria. It is estimated that by the end of the century, 40 or more countries could have a combined nuclear capacity of more than 2m. megawatts.

The paper, while stating that "Nuclear power is not cheap", refers to Donald Cook, chairman of American Electric Power, who believes that "an erroneous conception of the economics of nuclear power sent US utilities down the wrong road."

The true cost of nuclear power has been concealed by the quasi-public nature of much nuclear development, because billions of dollars spent on government research and development costs are not included in the total costs of nuclear projects.

The paper draws attention to the fact that nuclear fission entails risks qualitatively different from those involved in other energy sources. A 1000-megawatt reactor, after sustained operations, has about 15 billion curies of radioactive material in its core. The heat of decay from this material constitutes about 7 per cent of the reactor's thermal output (the other 93 per cent coming from the fission reaction). While the fission process can be regulated, radio-active decay cannot be so controlled. The decaying core can only be cooled. Uncooled, the core would grow so hot that it could melt through its containment vessel, and would then continue to melt down into the earth.

The International Atomic Energy Agency predicts that by 1980 nuclear plants will produce 8 per cent of all electricity in the less developed countries; but, it cautions

that "a nuclear-dominated energy system would impose severe financial strains on most poor countries".

Nigeria has begun negotiations to buy a nuclear reactor from West Germany. The deal was discussed in Bonn between a Nigerian delegation led by Brigadier Shehu Musa Yar'adua and a West German concern, Kraftwerke Union A.G. Nigeria was reported to be interested in the purchase of an atomic power station with a maximum capacity of between 500 and 600 megawatts, costing about £220m.

In Nigeria, electricity consumption rose from 1,000m. kilowatt hours (KWH) to 2,000 kwh between 1970 and 1974, representing an annual growth rate of about 20.5 per cent, whilst per capita electricity consumption increased from 17 kwh to 25 kwh over the same period. At present the industrial and commercial users account for well over 60 per cent of total consumption. There was an annual increase of 11 per cent in the number of customers whilst average sales per customer increased by about 6 per cent per annum between 1970-74.

While the total installed capacity stood at 690 MW by 1974, the maximum operational capacity was only about 517 MW — or about the rated firm capacity of the nuclear station. The 1974 demand level, indicated by the 519 MW firm capacity, is a deficiency in firm energy for extending types of power generation. The additional nuclear power must be seen as a long-term insurance.

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RIVERS STATE BUDGET:

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Of all Nigeria's original 12 states none seems to have suffered more from financial mismanagement than the Rivers State. With minor adjustments it retained its old boundaries when the new states were created last February. Among the former 12 states it stood with some 1 1/2 m. people, eleventh in population, and with some 18,000 sq. kilometres, eleventh also in area. In the 19 states it is 16th in size and also in area. It is an "oil state" but suffered from the change in the basis on which federally collected revenue is distributed to the states. A correspondent here discusses the financial position.

Although it is small, Rivers State has long had a movement which wanted it split between the "riverine" and the "mainland" areas. The panel on new states received demands for a "Port Harcourt State" made up of the former Ahoada, the former Ogoni, and the present Port Harcourt Divisions, with the Oducal Clan of the former Degema Divisions. The proponents argued their case mainly on the grounds of "incompatibility" between the Ijaws in the Delta area and the non-Ijaws on the "mainland". The panel did not accept as "valid for all times the argument of incompatibility", nor did it agree that the Ijaws "dominated" the non-Ijaws. The state was also too small to be split. But the problem of developing the Riverine Areas called for special consideration.

The government's White Paper agrees that the riverine problem constituted a "national emergency". An authority to develop the riverine areas, like those for the various river basin authorities, should be est-

ablished. "The Delta Basin Authority would be set up by the Federal Government with executive authority and charged with responsibility for the development of the Delta Basin", including areas in neighbouring Bendel State (a Niger Delta Authority, was recommended by the pre-independence Wiling Commission).

Announcing the budget for 1976-7 the new Military Governor, Col. Zamani Lekwot who succeeded when Commander Diete-Spiff was dismissed, said that last financial year there had been a budget deficit of over 102m. naira. Although total state revenue had been estimated at 112m. naira, capital expenditure was estimated at 132m. naira, which, after absorbing all reserves, left this huge deficit. This year, the Governor said, they had to reduce the deficit to "realistic and manageable proportions"; there was now "no cause for anxiety" about state finances.

Estimated revenue from internal sources for 1976-77 amounts to 11,118,082

naira. 123m. naira is estimated revenue receivable from the Federal Government and 12 1/2 m. naira reimbursement from the Federal Government in respect of Universal Primary Education (UPE) up to September 1976, making a total revenue of 147m. naira. Estimated recurrent expenditure is 107 1/2 m. naira; leaving a recurrent surplus of some 40m. naira, transferred to the Capital Development Fund which, with 31 1/2 m. naira capital receipts, make a total of 71 1/2 m. naira. Total estimated capital expenditure is 112 1/2 m. naira, leaving an overall budget deficit of 41m. naira compared to the 102m. naira deficit in 1975-6.

The Governor noted that except for the Ministries of Health, and Trade and Economic Development, allocations to each Ministry and Extra-Ministerial Department had been "systematically reduced". In cases for the Ministry of Health would be inevitable due to the commissioning of 11 new hospitals, with additional recurrent charges. The increase for the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development was only apparent, since the divisions comprising the new single ministry were previously provided under two separate Ministries.

The revised allocation for capital projects in the Second Plan, which ended in March 1975, under the Gowon regime, was 128m. naira. 118 1/2 m. naira was spent, but, said the Governor, roughly 50 per cent of the total of the second plan (219m. naira out of 488m. naira) was supposed to have "spilled over" into the third plan. Only 131.9m. naira was spent on projects during the first year of the third plan (April 1975 to March 1976). So all expenditure in the first year of


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the third plan was still well within the sum carried over from the second plan. "This is because our plan was overburdened with extra projects introduced by the last administration for which the federal government would not pay". The state was "practically on the verge of bankruptcy" last August when the new administration came into office. All projects had to be stopped to allow time for "appraisal and rectification".

As in all states, education has the major share of the budget. In this state a high proportion of children are at school — 380,000 in 587 primary schools, of whom over 7,600 represented the first enrollment of 6-year-old children under UPE. This year training colleges were expected to produce a thousand grade 2 teachers compared to 600 last. Capital allocation for secondary education is 12m. naira, and for technical education 5m. naira. For the College of Science and Technology, which now has over a thousand students, a subvention of 3m. naira is made. The Governor said that it had been necessary to review scholarship policy, but last year some 2,250 had been awarded.

Almost 2m. naira is allocated to development of food crops, and almost 11m. naira for development of tree crops, including oil palms and cocoa. The state will also produce eggs and chickens for direct consumption as well as for hatching and breeding. The state dairy farm will be expanded as well as the feed mill. Fishing is a major activity in the state and in addition to assisting sea fishermen and co-operative societies, fish farming is being developed. Rubber is another crop being developed, but the governor noted that the amount of palm oil and

palm kernels being gathered by local people had fallen compared with pre-war. The state would expand its own production of palm products.



Five "Cine-Rovers", provided for in the budget to take cinema entertainment to inland areas, are handed over to Mr. G. I. G. Okara, the well-known novelist, who is Rivers State Commissioner for Information.

The Governor noted that the issue of "abandoned properties" had been "finally resolved". As well as providing some 2m. naira for part-payment for compensation for land compulsorily acquired by the state, they were arranging to return land unlawfully allocated or no longer required. In view of the small proportion of revenue, about 7½ per cent, raised internally in the state's special efforts would be made to deal with tax defaulters. In the year up to March 31 1976, the state's Pan-African Bank had

made a profit of 1,630m. naira and new branches were being opened.

Among the 11 new hospitals to be commissioned this year would be the physiatric hospital. Training of nurses and ancillary personnel was being expanded. Special attention was given to sanitation.

When the film producing laboratory is completed, continued Col. Lekwot, the state would be able to produce its own documentary and newsreels. Land vehicles and water craft would disseminate films widely. The Governor said that the state's newspapers, *Tide*, now sold 35,000 daily and a Sunday was to be launched. A kobo exercise book factory connected with the newspaper was expected to supply the needs of primary schools and to assist the newspaper corporation. As part of the state's permanent centre for arts and culture a sculpture workshop was being equipped.

Noting that the state now had nine High Court judges the governor said that there was staff shortage in the Ministry of Justice. The new high court complex was near completion. More magistrates would be appointed.

No major housing programme had been undertaken publicly or privately since 1970, the Governor declared; but a number of layouts were now being developed in Port Harcourt and large sums were being spent on water supply and sewage systems in the capital. There was need, too, for greatly improved roads to reduce congestion in Port Harcourt. In the state as a whole some 12½m. naira were allocated for road works. More launches were being acquired to assist officials to work in the Riverine areas.

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ECONOMIC and Business NEWS

Banking with too much money

from a correspondent

Ghana Commercial Bank made a net profit of 6.6m. cedis (about £3.2m. in the 1975-76 financial year, an increase of 25 per cent over the previous year's profit.

In his report the chairman and managing director Mr. T. E. Anin said that the balance sheet shows a high level of liquidity "which is partly attributable to the 'sellers market' conditions prevalent in the economy". Over the past few years savings increased markedly, doubling last year. However this has posed certain problems for the bank, namely in trying to maintain the ratio between capital and deposits, matter of world-wide concern to bankers at present and, in the words of Mr. Anin "the subject of learned articles in Banking Journals". There are various views on what the correlation should be; in Ghana the Banking Act of 1970 lays down that "a bank shall maintain at all times a paid up capital of not less than 5 per cent of the deposit liabilities of its business."

Mr. Anin explained that the Ghana Commercial Bank, in common with other commercial banks in Ghana, had not been able to maintain this ratio. This was partly because of the growth in deposits and partly because of the difficulty in raising new capital particularly when the Investment Policy Decree has brought about a "rash" of new issues. These difficulties have been brought to the notice of the Bank of Ghana. As a step to setting things right the Commercial Bank of Ghana has, with the permission of the Government resolved to increase the authorised capital from 15m. cedi to 25m. cedi and has issued 100,000 bonus shares (of 20 cedi nominal) to the Government — the sole shareholder and recipient of 500,000 cedi in dividends — making issued capital 14m. cedi.

(This problem of capital-deposits ratios could well affect Nigerian banks as well since deposits are increasing and the capital issues market there is liable to be affected "Indigenisation" new issues. Last October Mr. Sam Asabia, deputy chairman of Standard Bank of Nigeria and former Governor of the Central Bank, was expressing his concern that the capital base of most Nigerian commercial banks was so small for the amount of business available.

"The economic background against which the Bank and its customers operated during 1975-76 proved to be difficult" said Mr. Anin. "While it is true that recession and stagnation have been world wide phenomena, their effect on Ghana has been staggering. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics the rate of inflation in Ghana has risen from 18.1 per cent in July 1975 to 29.3 per cent by the middle of this year. This Latin American type of inflation must be checked."

He went on "There should be a concerted national effort (from both the private and public sectors) to bring down the inflationary rate to manageable proportions. There must be a reduction in the growing burden of public expenditure to a level which this country can afford". These were words which have been heard from more than one British chairman of late but unfortunately they have hardly been able to add as Mr. Anin did. "It is therefore heartening to note that steps are being taken by the Government to reduce the gap between its revenue on the one hand and expenditure on the other hand."

Later Mr. Anin spoke of the Special Financing Scheme for small farmers. "Under this scheme, the Ghana Commercial Bank will provide not only financial assistance to small scale farmers; the Bank will also ensure adequate supplies of other inputs such as seedlings, fertilisers and farm equipment. Furthermore the Bank has completed plans to provide marketing services including the provision of transport and storage facilities. We take the view that for an agricultural programme to be successful it has to be a mix of not only bank credit but of the other equally vital ingredients listed."

Mr. Anin returned to the need for Government expenditure to be controlled and for the economy to be as free as possible to develop "With the implementation of the Investment Decree there is now an urgent need to restore a proper balance between the private and public sectors of the economy. Government spending must be reined in, but more importantly greater encouragement must be given to those individuals, organisations and businesses whose activities constitute the productive base of the economy."

Cocoa at new record levels

At a meeting of the Alliance of Cocoa Producing Countries in Abidjan last week the Ivory Coast Agriculture Minister, Mr. Abdoulaye Sawadogo, said that concerted pressure by producing countries would undoubtedly result in consuming countries finally accepting producers' proposals which, he said, could alone guarantee adequate supplies to the market. He pointed out that Alliance members produced 90 per cent of the world's cocoa and African members 80 per cent. The talks are aimed at formulating demands to renegotiate the International Cocoa Agreement, particularly in the eyes of Ivory Coast, which has not signed the Agreement. The price rose in the agreement.

While the Alliance was meeting cocoa prices in London, partly reacting to weakness of sterling, reached record prices, with both September and December prices well over £1,300 and prices through to September next year over £1,200. The rise was attributed to rumoured shortages of nearby cocoa for manufacturers and little producer selling pressure.

Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board purchases at the end of the eleven week of the mid crop season were 7,108 tons compared with 4,967 tons at the same stage of last season.

Coffee, too, moved up with all prices until September next year over £1,500, mainly on the belief that some small to medium manufacturers are actually short of coffee.

More aluminium

The International Primary Aluminium Institute says that the average daily production of primary aluminium — on a world basis excluding communist countries and Yugoslavia — was 27,000 tonnes in July compared with 25,800 in July last year. It has also been predicted that increasing demand will lift world aluminium prices to 50 cents a lb by the end of the year.

Tin price rise helps Nigerian mines

Higher tin prices — round the £4,500 mark on the London market — have helped the Nigerian mining subsidiaries of Ex-Lands, Gold and Base Metal Mines and United Tin Areas which were all badly hit by last year's rising costs and low metal prices and the export quota restrictions. This has made an easier background for the companies to approach the Federal Government for a review of royalties.

The Chairman of Ex-Lands and Gold and Base, Mr. N. H. Marshall, said that Gold and Base has no cash resources for a 1975 distribution and Ex-Lands is awaiting Nigerian approval to remit to the UK the dividend

declared by its subsidiary but he could not say when that might be received.

The Nigerian Mining Corporation is understood to have approached Ex-Lands about buying shares, in accordance with the Government instruction that 60 per cent of the shares in mining companies should be Nigerian owned by the end of 1978 but it seems that so far no approach has been made to United Tin Areas of Gold and Base.

Microbes as miners

The Mineral Exploratory Department at University College, Cardiff, is studying techniques to use micro-organisms in mining low-grade ores and mine spoil. The idea is that in many cases metals may be present as insoluble sulphur compounds but certain organisms can convert these compounds to soluble sulphates. These can then be leached out of the lode or spoil up, or the "hugged" material can be treated as an enriched concentrate making a considerable difference to transport economics.

Unilever up 150%

First half pretax profits of Unilever (both Ltd. and N.V.) were £255.3m., with the second quarter figures double those of the first quarter, and were 150 per cent up compared with the first half of 1975. Volume of sales in virtually all product groups was up though profit margins in Europe are not yet back to the levels of a few years ago. The warm weather in Europe has of course been good for ice cream sales.

North American profits were affected by a prolonged strike, now ended, at some Lever Brothers factories. Elsewhere in the world business developed well and as now seems to be the habit, "UAC International remained very successful".

Lorhro keeps going

Lorhro, which reports progress every three months, has announced that after nine months of its year, pre-tax profits were £51.4m. on a turnover of £706m. (£35.2m. on £348.9m. for the same period of last year), an improvement of 46 per cent. Group profits were £47.7m. but the profit from Associate Companies was down from £5.8m. last year to £3.7m. this year. Commenting on this in the *Daily Telegraph* in London suggested that the recent slide in the price of gold — which had its lowest fixing since December 1972 at \$106 an ounce last week — must have turned Ashan Gold fields, in which Lorhro has a 45 per cent holding, to a mere break-even operation. However the feeling is that the company's profits should pass the \$80m. figure for the year, a view which has already been aired by one of the directors Mr. Edward du Cann. One supporting fact for this is "continued buoyant trading from Nigeria".

Britain ahead on trade with Nigeria

The Anglo-Nigerian balance of trade for the first six months of this year was heavily (£183.8m.) in Britain's favour, with exports to Nigeria of £257.2m compared with imports from there of £173.4m.

The major import from Nigeria was, not surprisingly, oil which cost £127.4m., while Britain sent Nigeria just over £9m. worth of petrol and petroleum products. The next biggest category was coffee, tea, cocoa and spices at £21.2m., in fact considering all the gloomy news coupled with the exporting problems associated with the now disbanding port congestion, Nigeria's agricultural sector did quite well in sales to Britain; crude rubber exports were worth £4.4m., of seeds, nuts and kernels were worth £3.4m., fixed vegetable oils and luts £1.4m. and animal feedstuff £1.3m. and leather was worth £3.6m. over the six months. Non-ferrous metals valued £5.4m. and exports of machinery and transport equipment added up to just over £2m.

Britain's biggest export line was machinery with non-electric machinery worth £6.8m. and electrical machinery £41.4m. The next big group was transport equipment at £60.9m. Metal manufactures at £19m. and miscellaneous manufactures at £17.3m. were both substantial

carriers but pharmaceuticals outstripped miscellaneous at very nearly £1.8m. professional and scientific instruments also earned Britain £10.1m. Textile, yarn and fabrics were worth £13.4m. and paper and paperboard £6.8m. and iron and steel £9.8m.

... and with The Gambia

In the first half of this year Britain imported £3.86m. worth of goods from The Gambia and exported £4.8m. worth there.

The Gambia's biggest group of exports to Britain was fixed vegetable oils and fats which totalled £1.99m., of which £1.8m. was imported in the second quarter from April to June. Sales of Gambian animal feed showed a similar growth between quarters, from £498,000 in the first quarter to £774,000 in the second for a half year total of nearly £1.3m. But British imports of oil seeds, oil nuts and oil kernels, which means in effect groundnuts, slipped and totalled only £507,000 for the six months.

Machinery was the principal British export at £1.3m. for the six months, next came chemicals at £722,000 and transport equipment at £582,000. Metal manufactures lost ground in the second quarter to finish with a half year total of £338,000. Overall Britain showed a "profit" on the first half of the year of about £1m.

Timber does well for Ghana

Ghana sold over £4m. worth of goods more to Britain in the first half of this year than she bought, £39.4m. compared with £35m.

Britain's principal imports were, of course, in the coffee, tea cocoa and spices category and totalled £23.5m. The next big commodity was timber, with wood, lumber and cork earning Ghana £5.5m. and wood and cork manufactures just over £1m. Non-ferrous metals brought in £4.1m., metal ores and scrap £1.9m. and non-metallic mineral manufactures £1.9m.

Non-electric machinery was Britain's biggest export to Ghana during the six months at £7.9m. transport equipment came next at £5.5m. miscellaneous manufactures were worth £2.8m. The next category was pharmaceuticals at £2.6m. then electric machinery at £2.5m. metal manufactures were worth £1.6m., chemicals £1.4m. and paper in various forms just over £1m.

Just diamonds

All that Britain imported from Sierra Leone in June were diamonds, worth £1.5m. according to the Department of Trade in London. This brought the total of diamond imports for the first half of this year to £12.7m. out of a total import bill for Sierra Leonean goods of £15.7m. The main categories covering the other £3m.

were coffee, tea, cocoa and spices at £1m., fixed animal and vegetable oils and fats £869,000 and raw materials at £832,000.

Britain's exports to Sierra Leone, on the other hand, were only £8.2m. in the first half of the year giving Sierra Leone a "profit" of £7.5m. Machinery exports were worth nearly £2m., manufactured goods were £1.9m. and chemicals were at £1.8m., while live animals and food exports earned Britain just over £900,000.

Reckitt's expand

Reckitt and Colman's pre-tax profits for the half year ended on July 3 were £26.7m. on sales of £226.7m., compared with £17.4m. on sales of £173.4m. in the first half of last year. Operating profit attributable to overseas activities was 86 per cent of the total, before deducting expenses and corporate interests. Operating profits in Africa were £3.8m. (£3.6m.) on sales of £19.7m.. (£17.3m.) but the company says that progress in Africa was only modest with local manufacture in, and exports to, the important Nigerian market both expanding.

• The City of Westminster Chamber of Commerce is sending its first trade mission for two years to Nigeria at the beginning of October. The fortnight long mission has been limited to 20 members although many more companies wanted to be represented.

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OPEC officials plan next rise

OPEC officials met in Vienna last week to prepare for the next price rise for oil, which is not due to be settled before December though some countries are said to be pressing for an earlier rise because of the buoyant position of the market at present and world inflation. The main task for the present meeting is to sort out the differential position which allows for some 60 different prices being charged instead of one and also provides a loophole for countries to undercut each other when demand for their particular product slackens.

Nigeria's oil commissioner Mohammed Buhari was expected to join the OPEC chairman Mr Mohammed Sadli, the Indonesian Oil Minister, at the week end to inspect a new headquarters building for OPEC in Vienna.

Saudi Arabia may cut oil flow

Saudi Arabia, which presently produces about 8.5m. barrels of oil a day, is planning to cut production to about 5m. barrels a day according to a report in the American magazine *Newsweek*. The magazine said that Saudi Arabia's Planning Minister Hisham Nazer had told the American Government that production will have to be cut back to match the Saudi Arabian development plan. He said "We are eating up our only capital and overproduction is already causing us problems". Mr. Nazer said that if Saudi Arabia produced to meet world energy demands it would merely deplete its resources faster and accumulate wealth that it could not invest. He said that Saudi Arabia would prefer OPEC not to raise prices but rather to reach agreement with consumers on conservation policies and research for alternative energy policies.

A United Nations committee report describing the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as a cartel, and calling other producers' associations monopolistic groupings, provoked angry protests from developing countries at a meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council in Geneva.

Nigerian representative Leslie Harriman accused many members of the UN Secretariat staff of having a colonial mentality and said they should be replaced.

Mr. Manoutchehr Fartash of Iran described the report's descriptions of OPEC and producer associations as abusive. Mr. Abdelmadjid Fasila of Algeria — also an OPEC member — said it was an unacceptable insult to call OPEC a cartel.

(Concise Oxford Dictionary defines a cartel as "manufacturers' union to control production, marketing arrangements, prices.")

Authorities in Zaire have said that a report in a Brussels stock market journal of the discovery of an oil deposit in the Equateur region of Zaire was over-enthusiastic. What had been found was indications of a deposit which requires further study before it can be declared a deposit.

African oilseed conference

The second conference of African oilseed producers has been held in Lagos. The two day conference was expected to discuss a draft statute for the proposed African Oilseed Producers' Organisation, AOPPO. One of the aims of the organisation is to ensure remunerative prices for commodities such as groundnuts, oil palm produce and cottonseed. Zaire, the Ivory Coast, The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Togo are among participating countries.

Senegal's harvest of groundnuts this year has already reached 1,300,000 tonnes, 200,000 tonnes more than the last bumper crop in 1965 — according to official figures.

Breeding a new kind of sesame

The International Development and Research Centre in Canada has given a grant to Professor Amran Ashri at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, to develop a variety of sesame in which the seed capsules will not burst open when they are ripe. At present the practice is harvest the capsules before they are ripe, which means a lower oil and protein yield, otherwise most of the seeds are lost — an even lower yield — when the capsules burst open and scatter the seeds. Sesame is a valuable oil seed able to survive high temperatures requires little irrigation and is a good rotation crop.

Desert sands are invading more and more African countries and threatening the loss of land badly

needed for producing crops, according to Dr. M. K. Tolbert, Executive Director of the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP). He said that as many as 30 African countries are now suffering from "desertification". He said much-needed arable land would disappear under the sands unless the problem was faced boldly. He indicated that the destruction of forests was partly to blame.

Animal feeds

Experts from government agricultural services, research institutes, professional associations and the animal feed industries are expected to attend an international symposium on new sources of proteins, essential amino acids and non protein nitrogen in Geneva at the beginning of next year.

The symposium, organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, will deal with recent developments with the emphasis on feeding ruminants.

Four main topics will be discussed: requirements of dairy cattle, and new sources suitable for dairy cattle; economic and other considerations; the same issues will also be discussed in relation to beef cattle. Additional reports may be made on sheep.

Where we are now

The world's population has grown by 57 per cent in the past 25 years to approach 4,000m. by the end of last year, according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

In 1959, a department report says, there were 2,543m. people in the world — nearly a quarter of them Chinese — but by 1975 the figure had grown to an estimated 3,996m. China's share, still the largest, had dropped to just over 21 per cent of 843m. followed by India's 615m. people (15.4 per cent).

Europe showed the sharpest slide, plunging from a 15.4 per cent

share in 1958 to just 11.9 per cent last year, and North America dropped slightly from 6.5 per cent to 5.9 per cent.

Asia, excluding India and China, accounted in 1975 for 11 per cent of the world's population (in 1950 it was 15.2 per cent) the survey said.

Africa's share rose from 8.6 to 18.6 per cent, and Latin America from 5.5 to 7.1 per cent.

Malaria still a killer

Out of about 2.5 million cases reported, malaria killed 2132 people in Africa last year, according to a report published by WHO's regional director for Africa, Dr. Alfred Duenom.

Malaria remains one of the most causes of death in Africa south of the Sahara and the figures show that the organisation has failed in its efforts to stem the disease, the report said.

The poor condition of national health services, the growing costs of drugs and insecticides and gross resistance to DDT in certain areas were among main problems mentioned by the report.

Flying cars

Since May 1975, UTA has airlifted from Lyons more than 10,000 "knocked down" 404 and 504 Peugeot cars to Kano — Northern Nigeria, for assembly at Peugeot's plant in Kaduna.

The airlift contract, signed between GEFCO — the Peugeot's forwarding company and UTA — is for three years with a possible two years' extension. UTA uses DC8 55F (36 to 38 cars) and DC8 63 (40 to 44 cars) and 10 to 13 flights a week will enable the airline to reach the figure of 18,000 cars by the end of 1976.

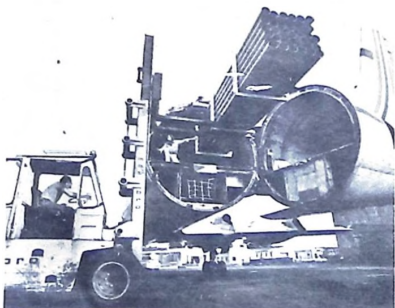
Jump in Lome's air-cargo load

The volume of cargo passing through Lome International Airport rose by 140 per cent last year, mainly due to congestion in the port of Lagos and the difficulty of road transport between Togo and Nigeria according to Togo's civil aviation director Mr. Amoussa Salama.

He said that 3,858 tonnes of cargo passed through Lome airport in 1975, compared with 1,600 tonnes the year before. There was a 30 per cent rise in passengers, to 115,564 passengers, using the airport in 1975.

New schedules

British Caledonian Airways' winter schedules will offer eight flights a week to Lagos from London instead of the present seven. The extra flight will be on Wednesday, which will have both morning and evening departures. There will be three daytime southbound flights a week and a new non stop weekly flight in both directions.



A sample of the unusual sorts of cargo that get airfreighted to Nigeria: IML recently flew three aircraft loads of piping to Kano to help in the building of Maiduguri Airport.

SHIPPING News

ELDER DEMPSTER LINES

SOUTHBOUND — From Liverpool
BHAMO sig. Sept. 16; **FREETOWN**
 sig. Sept. 7; **JURI** due Appapa Aug. 30.
 From London **DFGMA** sig. Sept. 15,
SHERRO sig. Sept. 8; **IGORI** sig.
 Sept. 3; **ANTIOCHUS** sig. Douala
 Aug. 30.
 From N Continent **MENESTHEUS**
 sig. Antwerp Sept. 14.
NORTHBOUND — To Liverpool
EBANI due Douala Sept. 1; **MANO**
 due Aug. 31.

To London **DIXCOVE** due Sept. 8
 To N Continent **DUNKWA** due Pt.
 Harcourt Sept. 2
 To Avonmouth **FOURAH BAY** due
 Sept. 6.
 To Poole **CLEARWAY** due Aug. 31.
 To Dublin **DARU** due Alajaja Aug.
 30.

FASTBOUND — W/A to N-York
DONGA due Baton Rouge Sept. 7;
DUMBAIA sig. New York Aug. 31;
DUMURRA sig. Philadelphia Aug. 30.

BARBER LINES

EASTBOUND — **TAIMYR** due Kan-
 sar Sept. 8; thence Freetown, Monrovia,
 Abidjan, Tema, Douala and
 Lagos/Appapa; **THUCA** due Nor-
 folk Sept. 17; **BALMOR** Sept. 19;
Phaladpha Sept. 21; also New York
 Sept. 27; for Freetown, Monrovia,
 Abidjan, Tema and Douala.
WESTBOUND — **SANTA CRUZ**
 due New York Sept. 2; **THUCA** due
 New York mid Sept.; **TAIMYR** due
 Tema / Takoradi / Abidjan / Monrovia
 second week Oct. for US North Atlan-
 tic.

DELTA LINES

DELTA BRASIL (V.42) sig. Dakar
 Sept. 7; Freetown Sept. 7; Monrovia
 Sept. 9; Abidjan Sept. 11; Tema Sept.
 11; Lagos/Appapa Oct. 11; Port Har-
 court Sept. 23.
DELTA ARGENTINA (V.44) sig.
 Takoradi Sept. 12; Lome Sept. 14;
 Cotonou Sept. 16; Lagos/Appapa Sept.
 18.

K LINES

WESTBOUND — From Japan via
 Hong Kong and Singapore to Abidjan,
 Tema, Lome, Douala, Port Harcourt
ATLANTIC NEPTUNE sig. Japan
 Aug. 10; due Port Harcourt Sept. 25.
EASTBOUND — **HONDURAS**
MARU sig. Lagos Oct. 10; Abidjan
 Oct. 25; Douala Oct. 8; Pointe Noire
 Oct. 12; due Japan Nov. 18.

BLACK STAR LINE/

UK/CONTINENT
WEST AFRICA/USIN
WESTBOUND — **OFFIN RIVER**
 Tema Aug. 24; Takoradi Aug. 31;
 Abidjan Sept. 3; Philadelphia Sept. 17;
 New York Sept. 21.
UK/CONTINENT WEST AFRICA
KORLE LAGOON Hamburg Sept. 4;
 Antwerp Sept. 9; Rotterdam Sept. 11;
 Bremen Sept. 7; **SUBIN RIVER** Liver-
 pool Sept. 9.
NORTHBOUND — **KULPAWA**
RIVER Hamburg Aug. 28; Bremen
 Aug. 26; Rotterdam Aug. 20; Antwerp
 Aug. 22.

DAFRA LINES

WESTBOUND — **DAFRA X** New
 Orleans, Sept. 4; Houston Sept. 1/2;
 Monrovia Abidjan, Tema, Ware, Port
 Harcourt, Douala, and Point Gen-
 eva.
WESTBOUND — **HELEN ROTH**
 head Douala Sept. 10; Tema Sept. 17;
 Abidjan Sept. 19; discharging New
 Orleans and Houston.

PALM LINE

SOUTHBOUND — **IBADAN PALM**
 due Tema Aug. 23; **ANDONI PALM**
 due Takoradi Aug. 28; **KANO PALM**
 due Appapa Aug. 28.
NORTHBOUND — **ILORIN PALM**
 due Liverpool Oct. 26.

NIGERIAN SOUTH AMERICAN

LINE
NAXOS ISLAND arr. Lagos Aug. 10.

MITSUI OSK LINE

OUTWARDS — **FIDEF** Yokohama
 Aug. 12; **FHIMIZU** Aug. 13; Nagoya
 Aug. 14; Kobe Aug. 18; Hong Kong
 Aug. 22; Bremen Aug. 15; Cape Town
 Aug. 19; Matadi Sept. 25;
 Tema Takoradi.

MAERSK LINE

INWARDS — **SUSAN MAERSK** sig.
 Koko Aug. 31; due Matadi Oct. 6;
JOHANNES MAERSK Abidjan due
 Aug. 21/23.

THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL

SHIPPING LINE
SOUTHBOUND — **RIVER**
GONGOLA sig. Dawas Island Sept. 2;
 Calcutta Sept. 7; Takoradi Sept. 10.
NORTHBOUND — Port Harcourt
 Aug. 30; Takoradi Sept. 2; Freetown
 Sept. 6.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA

LINE
SOUTHBOUND — **MAREN SKOU**
 (V.1) sig. Dakar Sept. 11; Monrovia
 Sept. 17; Buchanan Sept. 15; Abidjan
 Sept. 20; Tema Sept. 23.
NORTHBOUND — **HOEGH**
AUGVALD (V.68) sig. Douala Sept. 3;
 Pointe Genet Sept. 5; Takoradi Sept. 9;
 San Paulo Sept. 14; Freetown Sept. 18.

ROYAL INTERCOASTAL LINES

INWARDS — **STRAAT NAGOYA**
 sig. Monrovia Sept. 9; Freetown Sept.
 16; Abidjan Sept. 19; Lome Sept. 22;
 Cotonou Sept. 24.

FARRELL LINES

HOMELWARDS — **AFRICAN**
NEPTUNE sig. Lagos/Appapa Sept. 11;
AUSTRAL PATRIOT Calabay Sept. 9;
 Tema Sept. 4; Monrovia Sept. 9;
AFRICAN COMET Tema Oct. 3;
 Abidjan Oct. 6; Monrovia Oct. 8.
OUTWARDS — **AUSTRAL PILATE**
 New York Sept. 17; for Monrovia,
 Abidjan, Tema, Oct. 4; Matadi and
 Douala Oct. 3.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

A VESSEL — Houston Aug. 16/20
EASTWIND — New Orleans Aug.
 26/28; Houston Aug. 30/Sept. 1.

I.A.C. LINES

SOUTHBOUND — **SARGODHA**
 (V.71) Copenhagen Sept. 6; Aarhus
 Sept. 7; Bremen Sept. 14; Rotterdam Sept.
 12; Antwerp Sept. 21.
NORTHBOUND — **ATREVIDA**
 (V.28) Lome Sept. 6; Lagos/Appapa
 Sept. 10; Abidjan Sept. 1.

NIGERIAN FAR EASTLINE

WESTBOUND — **D. F.**
FAJMI MIROKUN (V.3) arr.
 Lagos/Appapa July 1.
EASTBOUND — **FEWARA** arr.
 Shanghai Aug. 27.

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Will the public please note that the above advertisement which appeared in August 16th issue should have the following amendments:
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Second Deputy Chairman
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NOTICES Cont.

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By not later than September 15, 1976.

Dateline AFRICA

SIERRA LEONE

Getting together at the Embassy

On his way to the Non-Aligned Conference in Colombo — where he was one of the vice-chairmen — President Siaka Stevens stepped in Paris and formally opened Sierra Leone's new Embassy. In the course of his address, to an audience which included diplomats from other Commonwealth and OAU and developing countries, President Stevens expressed concern at the large sums of money which developing countries have to spend on diplomatic representation. He suggested that perhaps African and other developing countries might consider whether it was time to change from the old European style of diplomatic representation and instead club together to effect multiple representation for friendly and neighbouring states in Western and other capitals. By doing something along these lines the President said the cost of external foreign services could be reduced considerably allowing more foreign currency resources to be pumped into national development plans.

A correspondent writes: President Stevens is by no means the

first person to make such a suggestion but he is rather better placed than, for example, Dr Nkrumah or Colonel Nasser (whose United Arab Republic — of Egypt, Syria and Jordan — never really got off the paper) who never were able to do something about it. Not only are he and President Tolbert actually making practical progress with combining some of the activities of their two countries in the Mano River Union; they have also established a relationship between themselves and their governments and peoples which could well allow these countries to merge two of their embassies and test the scheme though it would take a lot of careful thought and tremendous mutual goodwill. But the greatest asset that they could bring to such an experiment is that the bond already forged between them would allow them realistically to admit if need be that the experiment had not succeeded in the way that they had hoped without a lot of recrimination and rancour between them. Few other pairs of countries are able to render this pioneering service to the world.

"Local goods" list to be compiled

The Mano River Union Commission on Industry and Trade decided at its first meeting in Monrovia recently to make a "list of goods of local origin". Manufacturing industries in Sierra Leone and Liberia are invited to make applications for their products to be considered for inclusion on the list of goods of local origin. Manufactured products which qualify for this list can enter intra-union trade without import duties being levied by the importing member state. Some products may, however, be liable to any applicable harmonised export and/or excise duties.

Diamond experts and smugglers

Parliament has passed the Diamond Corporation Agreement (1974) (Ratification) Act 1976 which amends and consolidates certain agreements for export and marketing of alluvial diamonds. The Minister for Lands and Mines, Mr S. B. Kausu Konteh, who piloted the Bill through the House, explained that when the Diamond Corporation Sierra Leone had the monopoly of diamond exports the

figures were low, for example in 1973 they were 569,808 73 carats worth 30.7m. Leone, with five other concerns competing with DICOR in 1974 the figures were 917,032.31 carats worth 33.98m. Leone.

An amendment to the Alluvial Diamond Mining Act now makes diamond smugglers liable to twelve months imprisonment or a fine of 10,000 Leone, or both. Introducing the amendment the Minister for Lands and Mines told Parliament that investigation of a smuggling incident recently in which 2m. Leone worth of diamonds were smuggled out of the country revealed that the law did not provide adequately for dealing with the culprit, who was not a Sierra Leonean. He was sentenced to six months in prison and had his diamond dealing licence withdrawn.

- Presenting the Accounts and Annual Report for the year ended June 30, 1976, The Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone, Mr S. L. Bangura, said that the year's operations had been highly successful and resulted in a substantial profit.

- The Defence portfolio has been temporarily assigned to the Prime Minister Mr. C. A. Kamara Taylor.

GHANA

50 per cent inflation

No further increase in prices could be sustained by Ghana's economy said Dr. Amon Nkoro, Governor of the Bank of Ghana. The result of failure to control and cut down the inflationary rate, now 50.5 per cent, would be "too ghastly" to contemplate. Dr. Nkoro who was addressing the annual dinner of the local centre of the Institute of Bankers declared: "We have no option but to control and cut down inflation". Production must be increased. An effective discriminatory wage policy should favour those in the productive sector such as farmers, fishermen and artisans.

Inflation could not be explained as wholly imported, even though high import prices had contributed.

Dr. Nkoro expressed concern at the supply of money which did not correspond with output; bankers

should reinforce and apply rigidly established methods of expenditure control.

The Governor also said that adverse weather threatens the current crop season, particularly maize. Ghanaians must redouble food production. Farming and fishing must be given priority in import licence allocation.

Dr. Nkoro also called for effective taxation of the self-employed in the distributive sector who despite their windfall profits escaped their fair share of taxation. Public demand for provision of more services must be backed by the public's willingness to pay for them.

Deterioration in living standards resulting from inflation could not be solved by nominal wage increases; "we must increase food production".

declared that "the exigencies of the service renders compliance with provisions "A" and "B" of rule seven, sub-rule two of the rules of procedure (army) 1956, impracticable".

The DPP said that the import was that the prosecution was not bound to serve the accused with summary or abstract of evidence.

After the trial had been resumed the prosecution described the two captains as officers who had been actively involved in the 1972 coup, had felt they had been ignored in the subsequent distribution of rewards, and so conceived hatred for the Acheampong government. Had they succeeded in overthrowing the regime, Capt. von Buchstein and Capt. Sowa would have become, respectively, President and Vice-President of an armed forces revolutionary council, the prosecution said.

The prosecutor indicated that he would submit to the court the text of an alleged speech which would have been broadcast on the day of the planned coup to announce its motives and its leaders.

"I helped Kattah to cross border"

A prosecution witness at the special court trying Dr. Kofi Awoonor on charges of harbouring and aiding a criminal to escape, in the person of ex-Brigadier Kattah, now at large, said that he had assisted the ex-Brigadier to cross the frontier into Togo last December. The witness, William Kwaku Ayayee, a 28-year-old clearing agent of the border town of Aflao, said that the former Brigadier and Dr. Awoonor had come to his house and that he had later helped Kattah to cross the border without formalities.

A statement made by Dr. Awoonor last December was tendered in evidence. In it he said that the ex-Brigadier had never spoken about a military take over

but had spoken of his resentment at his treatment by the present government. Dr. Awoonor said that he had told Kattah that he was not keen on military intervention but if there was military rule it should allow all sections of the nation to participate or it would degenerate into dictatorship. He had had conversations with Kattah about the possible political value of military take overs and said that armies had been known to have become revolutionary progressive forces. He himself had been openly critical of the influence of American political and economic prestige in Africa and the need for Ghana once more to represent true African independence. He had never been known to betray his country or a friend but he would not betray his political beliefs.

Mr. Joe Rendoff, counsel for Dr. Awoonor, earlier objected to the statement being tendered, but was overruled by the court on the ground that there was no evidence that the statement had been given through inducement or compromise made under duress.

Permission has been refused for an Amnesty International observer to attend Dr. Awoonor's trial. A visa was granted last month to Sir Osmond Williams, a magistrate, so that he could observe a number of trials including that of Dr. Awoonor. But he was told a few hours before he was due to depart that the visa had been cancelled.

Speedier justice for officials

The Government has instituted measures to deal quickly with the interdiction of public officers. It is worried over the number of public servants who have been interdicted for various offences, and who, under current regulations, can remain on interdiction for as long as five years.

A circular signed by Mr. E. M. Debrah, Secretary to the SMC, with copies to heads of departments, corporations and boards, has directed that certain disciplinary measures be adopted to deal with such cases. It directed that while the Government is amending the disciplinary procedure, new measures should be adopted to deal with offending officers. Under these, a departmental enquiry is expected to be conducted into allegations against officers; it should be completed within a specified period of not more than three months.

The circular stated that if the officer was found guilty, the prescribed punishment should be imposed outright. The punishment should, however, be without prejudice to any criminal proceedings.

Principal Secretaries, heads of departments and corporations have also been requested to ensure personally that all pending cases of interdiction were disposed of within three months.

Okeyehana's warning

The new Okeyehene, Osagyefuo Kuntunkunuku II, has warned that he will not tolerate persons who take the law into their own hands to molest others. He called for peace among the people of Akim Abukuwa Traditional Area, despite the current constitutional crisis (see last week's issue).

The Okeyehene was commenting on reports that the "destooled" queenmother, Nana Akosua Sekyera II's, house was besieged by a hostile crowd, jubilating after restrictions imposed on the function of the Okeyemang Traditional Council had been revoked by the Koforidua High Court.

Nana Kuntunkunuku denied that there had been such hostilities at the queenmother's house which he said was within his palace.

The superintendent in charge of Kyeibi district, Mr. John W. Mould, had ordered a round-the-clock police guard for Nana Sekyera.

Koforidua High Court has refused its injunction restraining the Okeyemang Council from ousting and installing the Okeyehene-elect, Dr. Fredua Agyemang. The Court's decision followed the application by Nana Akosua Sekyera II for an indefinite postponement of the writ of prohibition she and four others have filed against the Okeyemang Council pending a hearing at the Appeal Court in Accra. (see last week's issue).

• The Catholic Bishop of Kumasi, Rt. Rev. Peter Sarpong, has accused the Catholic Church of failing to speak out against racism in South Africa, Zimbabwe and some part of the US.

Bishop Sarpong was speaking at the 41st Catholic International Eucharist Congress in Philadelphia.

Airport disorder

Confusion reigned at Accra's Kotoka airport when 100 passengers chased Ghana Airways officials all over the terminal building demanding to know why they could not board on Ghana Airways flights to London and West African airports. Some of the passengers claimed they had booked and received confirmation of their flights as far back as July 20. Some had come from Kumasi, Tamale, Sunyani and Bolgatanga. A lady from Holugaranga who was to join a flight to London, according to Ghana News Agency, said: "I don't have any money on me for hotel bills, the airline does not want to put us up and I don't have any relatives here. What am I going to do?"

• Mr. K. Mensah, managing director of Queensway Bookshop and Stores, Accra, is attending a six week course in Britain for booksellers organised by the British Council.

Subversion trial proceedings

The Military Tribunal trying two retired army officers and two serving subversives on various charges of subversion, which was adjourned after its opening (see last week's issue, page 1232), was again adjourned because the fourth accused, Warrant Officer II, Charles Wormenor, was indisposed.

The other accused persons are Captain John Seth Komla Von Buchstein, Captain Joel Kwame Sowa (both retired) and Sergeant Kommissary Agohah.

Soon after the submission that the trial be adjourned, the President of the Tribunal, Lt. Col. R. B. Comney, asked the accused whether they had engaged the services of counsel. All insisted that they were served with the summary or abstracts of evidence they would not be in a position to engage counsel. The Director of Public Prosecutions then contended that the prosecution was not bound to serve the accused persons with the summary of evidence under the Armed Forces Regulations.

If the Tribunal yielded to the request it would tantamount to contradicting Cap 10 of the Armed Forces Regulations. The DPP said: "This recalcitrant attitude of the accused persons under the guise of insisting on their rights, which they do not have, amounts to deliberate impediment to kill time". He submitted that the Tribunal should go on whether the accused had counsel or not.

In his ruling on whether the accused would have the summary, the Judge Advocate, Mr. Justice V. F. A. Mensah, reminded the accused that they had been charged under the Subversion Decree 1972 (NRCD 90), which empowered the convening officer "to effect such modifications in it as he may find necessary". The convening officer, the Chief of Defence Staff, had

Students should pay for damage

Dr. N. O. Anim, Director General of the Ghana Education Service, has strongly urged, before the committee enquiring into recent university disturbances, that students should be made to pay compensation for bodily harm caused to workers in universities during demonstrations. He asked that students who caused damage to public property during demonstrations should be held responsible for the cost.

A memo from a psychiatrist read to the committee stated that Indian hemp smoking was one of the causes of student demonstrations. Asked to comment, Dr. Anim agreed that there had been cases where students who caused demonstrations were under the influence of drugs. He observed that drug abuse was on the increase in schools and was prevalent in pre-university institutions.

The purchasing organisations of Ghana's three universities were criticised before the committee for collusion with contractors in the supply of meat and fish.

● The Yabumwara Abudu Mahama, Paramount Chief of the Gonja Traditional Area, has assured his chiefs' and people's determination not to give in to any secessionist moves, when he called on the Head of State at the Castle, Osu. "We are more vigilant than ever to expose any unpatriotic and disgruntled elements who might seek secession from Ghana of that part of the Gonja land which was in the former mandated territory."

Part of Gonja was in the northern sector of the Togo trust territory administrative with the Gold Coast by the British.

In a UN plebiscite the people chose permanent union with Ghana, but there have been many reports of the activities of a movement in the southern part of the former trust territory which seeks its integration with the Togo Republic.

Manganese earnings

The Ghana National Manganese Corporation realised \$17.9m. in foreign exchange in the 1975 fiscal year after exporting 357,000 tonnes of ore, compared with \$14m. realised in 1974-75 after exporting 352,000 tonnes. The Corporation realised \$4.5m. in foreign exchange in 1975 after exporting 146,000 tonnes of ore.

The acting managing director, Mr. E. E. Mensah, estimated that the Corporation would achieve a record target of about \$22m. in foreign exchange in the 1976-77 fiscal year.

Mr. Mensah, told the Commissioner for Lands and Mineral Resources, Col. Ibrahim, that the high grade ore deposits at Nsuta were limited. He pointed out that unless a "nodulization project" was implemented, it would be

difficult for the corporation to mine profitably within the next few years. Mr. Mensah emphasised that since the African Manganese Company handed over the company to the government in 1973, its achievements had been improved.

He told the Commissioner that although Caemi International was the agent for the corporation overseas, the corporation determines the price for the ore.

Free port and tourism plans

Col. K. A. Quarshie, Commissioner for Trade and Tourism, has said that the government is considering introducing a general plan for tourism development.

Speaking at a seminar organised by the Ghana Tourist Control Board in Accra, Col. Quarshie said good investment opportunities awaited prospective investors.

● Plans are far advanced for the establishment of a free port in Ghana. Mr. K. S. Adusei Poku, Executive Chairman of the Capital Investments Board, has announced. Answering the questions at a meeting with the Executive Committee of the Ghana Manufacturers' Association, Mr. Adusei Poku said details of the project were still being worked out.

The Board had already received approval from the Government on its interim report on the project and invitations have been sent to foreign expert companies to assist in assessing its viability and economic impact.

Call for African High Command

Africa will be "in big trouble" if it fails to unite militarily Ghana's High Commissioner to Nigeria, Brig. Awani Baroma, has warned. Speaking to 21 Ghanaian Foreign Service trainees visiting Lagos, the High Commissioner suggested that Ghana and Nigeria should form the nucleus of an African High Command, which would attract other African countries and enable them to "confront South Africa's apartheid".

The military organisation would be enough to instil fear into the Pretoria regime, he said. Since the racism of Southern Africa were intent to oppose the rest of Africa, "we are in big trouble, if we do not unite militarily to oppose the confrontation".

● Too much administrative pricing" has contributed to the unstable and high commodity prices in Ghana, Dr. Kwame Fordjour, the new president of the African Development Bank, said at a dinner organised in his honour by the Asantehene, Otumfuo Opoku Ware II. The big trading firms, he said, should be allowed to sell at market prices.

Ivory Coast Ghana commission meets

Five separate agreements, covering tourism, trade, road transport, visas and legal co-operation, have been signed at the meeting of the Grand Mixed Commission of Ghana and the Ivory Coast. The meeting, which began on August 3 in Abidjan, was the third regular session of the commission.

The meeting recommended that both governments go ahead with the speedy construction of the Abidjan to Accra highway, via Abosso Asum and Takoradi, and that measures be taken to improve postal and other common services. An extradition treaty was also discussed. The discussions were led by the Ghanaian Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, Col. Roger Felli, and the Ivory Coast Foreign Minister, M. Arsene Usher Assouan.

● 183 members of the Austrian International Police Association are on a two week tour as guests of the Ghana Police Force. Col. Alfred Bauer, Chairman of the Austrian International Police Association and leader of the group, said their tour was a purely educative one.

● Major Akwasi Akomeah is attending a study course on Sports Administration organised by the British Olympic Association and the University of Sussex.

● Pioneer Tobacco Company has offered 2,400,000 ordinary shares to Ghanaians, 600,000 were reserved for the government and 122,440 for the company's Ghanaian staff and 120,000 for a co-operative. The shares available to the public and the staff were oversubscribed by 2.13 times. The allocations to the 3,201 public subscribers received the "most reasonable consideration".

Timber equipment

The Ghana Timber Marketing Board has imported 1m cedis worth of equipment for the improvement of the timber industry announced Col. S. M. Akwagyiram, Chief Executive of the Board, during a tour of sawmills in Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions.

The Chief Executive said the purpose of his tour was to familiarise himself with some of the problems facing sawmillers and also to find out the cause of the shortage of plywood on the local market. He appealed to sawmillers to take advantage of the Board's facilities to improve and expand their businesses.

● 875 bags of food, including maize, rice and millet, were impounded at Tamale's Aboabo market during a surprise army swoop led by the Northern Regional Commissioner, Maj. Zumah. Items seized in the

exercise, code-named Operation Find Out, were sold to the public at their controlled prices.

● Brig. Kotey, Commissioner for Information, launched the second phase of "Operation Counterpoint" at Bawku, Upper Region, with a call on Ghanaians to help the Government wage a relentless war on secession, smuggling, hoarding and profiteering. He urged the chiefs and people to organise "volunteer squads" to assist the Border Guards apprehend smugglers.

● The Government has begun negotiations with the World Bank on the proposed third highway project due to start in 1978, the Commissioner for Works and Housing, Lt.-Col. K. A. Jekes, announced when he opened tenders for the Achimota-Nsawam road, part of the second highway project.

The first highway project started in 1974 after the Government had signed a contract with the State Construction Corporation for the rehabilitation of the Anyanam Kumasi road. The second highway project comprised a \$10m loan by the Ghana Highway Authority for the purchase of equipment, spare parts and tools for the maintenance of roads, construction of the Achimota-Nsawam road, and a \$6.2m loan to the Bank for Housing and Reconstruction for extending to road maintenance contractors.

Farm scheme

Colonel Paul K. Nkegbe, Commissioner for Agriculture, has launched a 63m cedi five-year agricultural development programme in the Upper Region. The Ghana and British governments and the World Bank are providing funds.

The two main objectives of the project, forerunner of similar ones to be implemented throughout the country, are to increase production as well as establishing permanent support for farmers. Establishment of 90 farm service centres, each serving about 1,300 farm families located throughout the region, and provision of farm inputs throughout Farmers Services Company (FSC) are features of the programme. Dr. Assib Abdou of the National Economic Planning Council is project manager.

Appeal to traders

Gen. Acheampong, the head of state, read the second lesson at the enthronement of the Catholic Bishop of Keta Diocese, the Right Rev. F. K. A. Ludena, at Ho.

After receiving the Bishop's blessings, Gen. Acheampong called on all Christians to help the government fight anti-social elements in society. He urged traders, especially "market queen mothers" to stop hoarding and profiteering.

● Two infantrymen from Teshe Military Academy have just completed their military training

with a six-month course at Sandhurst.

Officer cadets Godwin Mahunnu of Avatime, and Obed Akwa of Nowam, were among 434 cadets — 20 of them from overseas — who were reviewed by the Duchess of Kent at Sandhurst's passing out parade.

After a further six months regular careers course at Sandhurst, the two men will return home.

NIGERIA

British Minister for Lagos

Mr. Ted Rowlands, the British Foreign Office Minister responsible for Africa, is to make a tour of Africa following the same itinerary as Messrs. William Schaufele and William Rogers, the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs and for Economic Affairs at the State Department respectively. Mr. Rowlands' team is not expected to meet its US counterpart, but will visit Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique and Zaïre after them. Mr. Rowlands is also expected to make a second visit to Nigeria on his tour, accompanied by Sir Anthony Duff, the Undersecretary for Africa at the Foreign Office.

The British and US governments deny any co-ordination of their missions, although the US officials held a meeting with Sir Anthony Duff in London on August 24.

Cement contract damages awarded in Germany

A West German court has ordered the Central Bank of Nigeria to pay more than \$12.6m (£7.7m.) to a Lichtenstein-based concern — owned by Tunisian businessman, Mr. Yossef Nada — to cover demurrage and damages resulting from an uncompleted cement transaction.

Last December the court had taken the unusual step of freezing more than \$12m. of the bank's assets held in Germany by the Deutsche Bank to ensure that sufficient funds were available to cover any award which might be made.

The case arose from a contract for 240,000 tons of cement, signed in Vienna and for payment against an irrevocable letter of credit issued by the Nigerian bank to be drawn against its Frankfurt account with the Deutsche Bank. About 140,000 tons of cement were shipped by Nada Establishments of Vaduz, while a further 100,000 tons was cancelled before shipment.

Mr. Nada claimed that of 17 ships despatched only seven had been unloaded by November 21 last year, nine were still waiting to be unloaded. The remaining ship had sunk after collision in the grossly overcrowded Lagos harbour.

The case could have far-reaching implications both for the

Nigerians and the companies affected by Nigeria's inability to unload the huge quantities of cement ordered for delivery last year. The decision covers about 240,000 tons of cement — just 1.2 per cent of the 20m tons of cement ordered by Nigeria, much of which was either cancelled or languished for months aboard ships in Lagos harbour awaiting unloading.

It is understood that other suppliers of cement to Nigeria have reached out of court settlements with the Nigerians in Frankfurt. Other cases have not been brought before the court. However, this Frankfurt decision could well encourage other cement suppliers who have not reached settlement to bring actions in West Germany. Nada Establishments used the Nigerian bank under a West German law which allows assets held by foreigners in West Germany to be seized to settle debts arising in third countries. Nada Establishments was awarded demurrage and damages amounting to \$12,692,559 plus costs.

It is not clear whether the Nigerians will appeal, a lengthy procedure, the expense of which can be judged by the fact that costs to both parties are estimated so far to have totalled DM1m., more than £206,000.

Dangerous drugs

Fears have been entertained about possible dangers to health because of a drug put on the Nigerian market three months ago. The *Daily Times* reports that a batch of a popular laxative (Milk of Magnesia) manufactured by a Lagos pharmaceutical company (Sterling Products Nigeria) was not certified fit for consumption before it reached the market. Dr. A. Kola Fasina, former director of quality assurance at the company, is said to have confirmed that he resigned his appointment because of the way the sale of the drug was handled.

Five pharmacists in the former North-Eastern State Ministry of Health have been sacked following an inquiry into the Ministry's management from 1972 to 1976.

● The Federal Government's take-over of all consignments of stockfish destined for Nigeria was intended to ensure that available supplies reached the public at considerably reduced cost, and to eliminate potential profiteers, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Co-operatives and Supply, Mr. J. Akade, has explained to the Nigerian Stockfish Importers' Association. He told the association that it was difficult for his ministry to decide on a "margin of profit" to be paid to them because of the wide difference between the price available to government and that submitted by the association.

● A delegation from the ministry, with officials of the Nigerian National Supply Company, visited

Norway recently to make purchases.

● Nigerians are warned, by Barclays Bank International headquarters, to look out for dud bank drafts, travellers' cheques, international money orders and letters of credit. A bank circular said that a multi-national company in America was marketing a colour-copying machine capable of making good copies of security documents, and the machines were already on sale in Nigeria.

Niger Commission meeting

The third session of the Niger-Nigeria mixed commission has been held in Niamey. The meeting decided that a committee of experts should report as soon as possible on the harmonisation of telecommunications between the two countries.

● Mrs. Kathleen Devereux, from the Cambridge Institute of Education, is spending four weeks advising Kano State Ministry of Education on school facilities for teaching mentally handicapped children.

● Mrs. A. W. Adejumo, managers of the CSS Bookshop, Ibadan, Mrs. D. A. Akindie, senior bookshop supervisor, University of Lagos Bookshop, Mr. A. Amadi, education manager of the CCS Bookshop in Enugu, and Mr. A. Dogari, area manager of the Challenge Bookshop, Lagos, are attending a six week course in Britain for booksellers organised by the British Council.

● Ten senior fisheries officers, from both Federal and State fisheries, are on a three week tour of training facilities in Britain. The tour has been organised by the UK White Fish Authority and ranges from fishing ports in the West Coast of Scotland to the Tropical Products Institute in London.

● Dr. Awotire Eleye, deputy Director of Sports, N.S.C. is attending a study course on Sports Administration organised by the British Olympic Association and the University of Sussex.

Not enough teachers for UPE

If education departments depended only on trained teachers for Universal Primary Education (UPE) they might not be able to meet demands, the Principal Inspector of Education for Eastern Benin Division, Mr. Joseph Ikhuobio, told a course for auxiliary teachers. He warned the teachers against faults sometimes attributed to the profession. These include lateness to school; failure to prepare lessons, disobedience to authorities; shabby dressing; heavy smoking and heavy drinking; borrowing money from other pupils; falsification of examination marks; sale of testimonials and certificates; engagement in outside businesses; clannishness; and lack

of respect for local customs and tradition.

● The Federal Government is free to site any industry in any part of the country, the Bendel State Commissioner for Lands and Housing, Prince Iwé Jegbefume, said at Warri. Any citizen of Nigeria was also free to move to any part of the country without obtaining permission from anybody. The Commissioner was refuting allegations that the Federal government had sent officials to the site where Nigeria's second oil refinery is being built without consultation with the trustees of the land.

The manager in charge of the project, Mr. Benito Manoli, informed the Commissioner that about 1,300 workers had been employed by his company, Saproteti, and the number would rise to 5,000. The refinery will have a capacity of between 6,000 and 8,000 barrels a day.

● Bendel State is to give its Public Accounts Committee powers to initiate independent scrutiny. The Governor, Commodore Husaini Abdullahi, said that a secretariat for the committee has been established in his office. He charged the committee to examine the Auditor-General's reports on state accounts for 1969-1970 and 1970-71, and emphasised the time-lag between those years and 1976-77. Immediate examination was imperative if the Committee's work was to have bearing on current spending.

Barracks' promise

Reorganisation in the army will continue until all soldiers are properly accommodated in 26th barracks, the Commander of Lokojai Infantry Brigade said in Lokoja. He assured the battalion there that barracks for them would be ready before the end of the year.

● The constitutional drafting committee has concluded its final plenary session in Lagos. Members will meet in Lagos on September 14 to present the draft constitution and the committee's general report to the Head of State, just a year after their first meeting.

● Two more states, Bendel and Ondo, have announced arrangements for reformed local government in their areas. Bendel has been reorganised into 19 local government areas. The state has already received 3,300,000 naira from the Federal Government for the councils. In Ondo State there are 17 local government council areas and interim secretaries for the councils will be appointed this week. Niger state has announced creation of eight local government areas, to which 3m naira had been allocated.

Price control visit to London

An executive secretary of the new price intelligence agency is spending a week in London on at-

tachment to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection. The aim is to give Mr. S. O. Ogundare an insight into how Britain conducts price control. Mr. Ogundare was formerly a senior economist in the research department of the Central Bank.

Lassa Fever outbreak denied

The Federal Ministry of Health has denied that there is an outbreak of Lassa fever in the country. The Commissioner, Mr. Kafuru Tinubu, said that there was no truth in reports in the British press alleging an outbreak of the disease in the northern states. Although a British woman died suddenly and two other foreigners were taken ill medical tests did not show the cause to be Lassa fever, but hepatitis. Immediately the Federal Government was notified of the deaths a group of doctors was sent to the area, and tests were carried out on both Nigerians and foreigners.

1981 date for steel production

Nigeria's iron and steel industry will go into production in 1981, the Federal Commissioner for Industries, Dr. R. A. Adeleye, has announced. Saying that production might even start earlier, Dr. Adeleye pointed that as a result of measures being taken by the Federal Government and its Soviet advisers the first phase will become fully operational by 1980. This will be followed by two other phases, when production would reach 5m. tons annually.

Dr. Adeleye has also announced that the Federal Government had laid down regulations to ensure that, following the indigenisation decrees, ownership of businesses among Nigerians was evenly spread throughout the country. No section of the country would be able to hold a major portion of businesses to the disadvantage of other sections. Provisions were being made to establish more stock exchanges.

• Night landing by aircraft at Kaduna begins this week. Work started on installation of new facilities in May this year. Similar facilities are to be installed in Kano and Port Harcourt.

• The Federal Commissioner for Co-operatives and Supply, Mr. U. A. Mattalab, has said that arrangements are being made for each state to place orders for scarce commodities from abroad through the National Supply Company. The commissioner explained that these arrangements followed complaints by some states.

• Tobacco farmers in Zana have been called on by the Zana Co-operative officer to undertake mass cultivation of the crop during the current season in view of the present scarcity. During the 1975-76 season the Zana Co-operative union sold 631,000 kg tobacco valued at 458,000 naira.

• Panocan Oil Corporation announces that shipments of crude oil from its Oghare oil field will start by the end of the month. Panocan, a subsidiary of the Marathon Oil group, struck oil at the end of 1973 and began production last month at a rate of about 12,000 barrels a day.

• The All Africa Scouts' Jamboree originally scheduled for the end of August in Jos, has been postponed until next year. The decision was taken by the African Regional Committee of the World Scouts Committee, which also announced the postponement of the third All Africa Scouts' Conference, which would have taken place at the same time. In taking the decision, the announcement said, consideration was given to weather conditions.

• Fruigerles Nigeria Ltd. have begun preparations for the construction of a motorway in central Nigeria whose cost, estimated at over £50m., is the largest ever awarded in Black Africa.

• Cocoa farmers in Oyo State have appealed to the government to increase cocoa prices for the 1976/77 season. The farmers want the price of the crop increased from 668 naira to 1,008 naira per ton, arguing that labour costs and the price of chemicals had increased by about 100 per cent.

The farmers also urged the government to make farming more attractive, through such incentives as well balanced loans for farm production, maintenance, storage, transportations and marketing.

Pilots released

The two British pilots held in Henu for five weeks have been released (see *West Africa*, Aug. 21, p. 1235). They are reported to have been forced to land by bad weather at the BP airstrip, Ughelli. Mr. James Cobb, who had previously headed President Amin's air force, and Mr. Gordon Loughton, were delivering Cessna 150 trainers to Zaire.

• The Chief Justices of the States, will now be known as Chief Judges, says a Federal Government decree.

• Four men have been arrested in Warri for allegedly being in possession of oil drilling equipment thought to have been stolen from the construction site of Nigeria's second refinery.

• In Kaduna 14 men have been questioned over alleged theft of new cars from the Peugeot assembly plant.

• Two American nationals were jailed for ten years each in Lagos after they were found guilty of arms offences. Eugene Perry Guthrie, 58, and Harry John Spriggs, 33, were arrested on May 18, after a search of their car revealed two automatic weapons and about 2,000 rounds of assorted ammunition. Passing judgement, the Chief Magistrate noted that the prosecution has proved all the charges against the two Americans. Both Mr. Guthrie and Mr. Spriggs had pleaded not guilty to the charges of conspiracy, im-

portation and possession of firearms. Mr. Guthrie, an employee of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, and Mr. Spriggs, a pilot working for Bristow Helicopters, were working in Nigeria.

Two weeks ago, Australian helicopter pilot Damian Lawson was jailed for ten years on similar charges.

THE GAMBIA

Chinese sports gift

China has sent a gift of sports equipment, by way of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa. It includes 250 footballs, basket balls, handballs and volleyballs and 1,000 table tennis balls.

• Work has been resumed on the National Library — it had been delayed by the late arrival of roofing panels — and Miss Sally N'Jie, the Senior Librarian, has said that she hopes the building will be shaded off at the end of the month.

• Three Gambians have completed courses at the Ghana Nautical College, sponsored by the Gambia Ports Authority. Musa Ibrah and Mustapha Jallow did a two year pre-sea course leading to the Engineering Certificate of Competency (foreign going) and Alimady Jallow did a one-year pre-sea navigating officer's course towards a Master's ticket.

• Ghana Film Industry Corporation officials Stephen Ampah and John Holdbrook have returned to The Gambia to set up the film processing laboratory and printing machines for the Information and Broadcasting Services.

• Radio Gambia now broadcasts for 88 hours a week — compared with 70%. This extension of services coincided with the operation of the new Bonto transmitters; another set of transmitters at Baye is due to come on the air shortly.

LIBERIA

New local govt. minister

President Tolbert has named Samuel J. Hill as Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Urban Reconstruction, to replace the late Everett J. Goodridge. (*West Africa*, August 23). The new minister was Mr. Goodridge's deputy, in charge of Administration.

In his other post, National Chairman of the True Whig Party, Mr. Goodridge was automatically succeeded, according to the party constitution, by party Vice-Chairman James Anderson. Mr. Elijah Taylor, Director General of the General Services Agency, is deputy Minister.

President Tolbert postponed a visit to Nigeria, for talks with Nigerian Head of State General Olusegun Obasanjo, because of Mr. Goodridge's death.

The Transkei's Minister of Justice Mr. George Matanzu, leading a six man delegation, had an hour long meeting with President Tolbert during which he delivered an invitation to attend Transkei's Independence celebrations on October 26.

Liberia on Non-aligned Bureau

Liberia was elected a member of the new 25-country Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Nations Movement at Colombo. Liberia served on the former 17-country Co-ordinating Bureau, among the other 11 African members of the new bureau are Niger, Guinea, Chad, Angola, Zaire and Nigeria.

• The first General Manager of the Bong Mining Company, Hart Kurt Zepher, paid a visit to Liberia recently after ten years away. He is now managing director of a limestone mining company near Dusseldorf.

• Contracts totalling \$4.7m. have been signed for building work at the College of Agriculture and Forestry. Fendell — dormitories, academic buildings and staff houses — and Zwedru and Yonjuman Multilateral High Schools.

BENIN

Revolutionary accountancy?

A "national seminar for the revolutionary reorganisation of the colonial and neo-colonial structure of the public account departments" was held in Cotonou from August 16 to 23 with the blessing of President Kerekou.

• An irrigated farm project in Pahan has been completed by North Korean technicians working under the co-operation agreement signed on 1 July 1975. The farm, which has workshops, community buildings and its own pumping station, has been completed in record time.

ZAIRE

US officials expected

Mr. William Schaufele, the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, has held talks in Lusaka with President Kaunda on the first stop of his African tour. Mr. Schaufele, who is accompanied by Mr. William Rogers, head of the economic affairs section of the State Department, will also visit Tanzania, Mozambique and Zaire.

• Trade between Zaire and South Africa is likely to be hit by Zambia's decision to increase cargo tariffs by 25 per cent for traffic in transit through Zambia. Although the Rhodesian-South African border is still closed for trade between the two countries, Zambia has allowed Zaire to send and receive

trains of goods across the Victoria Falls bridge.

West Germany is to finance several projects in transport and information in Zaïre under a DM72,000,000 agreement. The projects include the reconstruction and expansion of the Matadi and Kinshasa ports, supplies of material to the Zaïre National Railways, and assistance to school radio and television.

CAR

Bad company?

President Bokassa, the only black African leader prepared to attend the celebrations marking the independence of the Transkei on October 26, has been deemed unacceptable by the South African Government, according to the opposition *Rand Daily Mail*.

Because of Marshal Bokassa's "poor international reputation", the Government would not invite him, the newspaper said.

South Africa has economic relations with the Central African Republic.

CAMEROON

Shipping agreement

Campship Lines, the Cameroon national shipping corporation has signed a co-operation agreement with SITRAM, its Ivory Coast counterpart. The agreement will allow both companies to make optimum use of their facilities and equipment.

A regional congress for the training of primary school teachers has been held at Yaounde under the auspices of ECA. Thirty-two representatives from Cameroon, Senegal, Mali, Niger, the Ivory Coast, CAR and Burundi attended the conference which is expected to last until September 26.

CHAD

Northern Roads

The Chad government has asked for further studies to be made of the proposed road from Ndjamena to Mao, north east of Lake Chad and some 220 kilometres away.

The road, which is expected to carry 278,000 tons per year, will go via Massekoury and Ngourou, which are at present linked by improved roads. The project is expected to cost some 90m. francs.

Dr Christoph Staewen, the German doctor kidnapped along with Mme. Claustre in northern Chad in April 1974 but released after West German intervention, has appealed to Mme. Claustre's abductor, Hissene Habre, to release his hostages.

Dr Staewen appealed to Habre to release Mme. Claustre, reminding the bandit leader that his men had accidentally killed Mme. Staewen during the abduction, and of the regrets for this action expressed by the Touhouas.

This appeal, writes a correspondent, may well be addressed to the wrong quarter for recent reports indicate that Mme. Claustre is now in the custody of Goukouni, a son of the Derde, another rebel leader in the Tibesti.

TOGO

Nigerian economic mission

A Nigerian delegation led by the head of the Economic Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, discussed strengthening cooperation between Togo and Nigeria at a meeting with the Minister of Economy and Finance in Lome.

President Eyadema has received the Papal Nuncio to Togo, Mr. Bruno Wuerstemberg, and discussed "problems existing between the Church and state in Togo."

These problems, writes a correspondent, almost certainly concern the affair of the bishopric of Aiaikpame, whose replacement by Mr. Kpodzro was the occasion of riots in Lome Cathedral earlier this year.

The Information Minister, M. Kwavi Benyi Johnson, has visited Tripoli to discuss Togo-Libyan relations.

The IMF has authorised SDR facilities for Togo of \$8.5m. The money is to be made available in francs. Chad has also been granted facilities of 6.5m. SDRs.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Hopes for self-sufficiency

After the next harvest Guinea-Bissau hopes to be once again self-sufficient in rice, her staple food, President Luis Cabral said in an interview with UNHCR's deputy chief of information. He recalled that before the war of liberation Guinea-Bissau imported no rice, but since independence a limited quantity had had to be imported. On fisheries SR. Cabral said that the price of fish in Guinea-Bissau was the lowest in the world.

A "mixed commission" to regulate and encourage trade between Guinea and Guinea-Bissau has been agreed by the two countries. At a meeting in Bissau earlier this month, both countries signed scientific, telecommunication, navigation, health and various economic agreements, including provision for the reservation of \$500,000 in each of their Central Banks to finance trade.

IVORY COAST

CEAO agreement

An accord between the Ivory Coast and CEAO, the francophone economic grouping, has been signed by the Ivory Coast Minister of Finance, M. Konan Bedie and the new Secretary-General of CEAO,

M. Moussa N'Gom. The accord provides nearly 52m. frs. CFA for the setting up of 18 livestock markets in the Ivory Coast. The project is part of the CEAO's larger stock rearing scheme, whose total cost will be more than 400m. frs. CFA.

Shortly after the signing of this agreement, the Meat and Livestock Committee of the Conseil de l'Entente held its latest meeting in Lome. The meetings confirmed the resolutions taken at the July conference of CEDEAO (ECOWAS) livestock promotion specialists and, in addition, called for the setting up of a technical directorate for livestock improvement and marketing. Documentation will in future be available in English and French for all producers, to facilitate intra-regional trade.

Drought in Katiola province, in the north of the Ivory Coast, has been reported, even though the southern zones of the country have had unusually heavy rains this year.

UPPER VOLTA

Financial reassurances

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the sixteenth anniversary of independence, President Lamizana reassured his audience, urging them to abandon "a certain pessimism about the strength of our national finances". Upper Volta was perfectly capable of honouring her commitments, the President said, and workers could labour with "hope and security".

President Lamizana spoke about "centrifugal tendencies" within the country, and censured particularly regionalism and sectarianism. Apologising for the slow progress of the committee working on the new constitution, President Lamizana said that secrecy was necessary to spare those considering the subject from "certain importunities from outside".

Upper Volta, which is the second most important exporter to the Ivory Coast, is rapidly becoming indebted to her neher neighbour. Since, the price rises in oil and manufactured goods, Upper Volta's favourable trade balance with the Ivory Coast has become a deficit, which in 1974 was 1,786m. frs. CFA. The Ivory Coast now sends 2.5 per cent of her exports to Upper Volta.

The Ouagadougou government has taken measures to curb the sudden increase in crime in the capital. Police patrols, staffed by military units, now make regular checks of the city's streets at night and an interministerial committee has been charged with the speeding up of the judicial process for thieves.

Reports from Ouagadougou note that the population, incensed at the thefts, has on occasion taken the law into its own hands, and several suspected thieves have been discovered dead or seriously injured in the capital.

GUINEA

"Foulaah plot" denounced

President Sekou Toure, in a personal broadcast on Conakry Radio, has denounced "Foulaah racismism", against which, he continued, the full strength of revolutionary rigour "would be exercised". The President went on to announce that, in future, no Foulaah students would be allowed to study outside the country at government expense.

The President's announcement came after the radio broadcast of the statements of five of those accused in the recent plot to overthrow the PDG government. The conspiracy, which was to have replaced President Sekou Toure with the former Justice Minister, M. Diallo Telli, has implicated a large number of Foulaahs, and was supposed to have begun in the Fouta Djallon, a part of the country where Foulaahs (Peulhs) are a majority of the population.

M. Telli, reportedly confessing his role in the affair, has, however, denied that he intended any violence to other members of the government, but wished solely to detain them.

M. Telli is accused of having been working for the CIA, the US intelligence agency, into which he was recruited, again according to Radio Conakry, by the Liberian ambassador to Guinea.

The PDG has called for the expulsion from Guinea of all the nationals from countries alleged to have been implicated in the plot against President Sekou Toure. So far France, West Germany, the Ivory Coast, Senegal and the United States have been accused of complicity in the abortive plot. The PDG has also called for the breaking off of diplomatic relations with all these countries.

M. Alioune Drame, former Minister of the Plan, has confessed, according to a report on Radio Conakry, to being involved in the plot against President Sekou Toure.

SENEGAL

FESTAC accepted

Senegal will participate in the Festival of African and Black Arts in Lagos after all. Senegalese Culture Minister Alioune Sene announced.

Last March President Senghor decided to suspend his country's participation at the Festival, saying it should be reserved exclusively for black African communities, excluding those in Arab countries. But Nigeria sent out invitations to all members of the Organisation of African Unity, including the Arab states.

M. Alioune said: "The realities of Lagos show us that all has returned to normal. The communications received so far in Lagos have been sent exclusively by black intellectuals and artists".

Third party legalised

The *Parti Africain de l'Indépendance* (PAI), the long-clandestine opposition party in Senegal, has been legalised as the third and last party allowable under the revised Constitution of Senegal. The PAI, dissolved in July 1960, has accepted the "Marxist-Leninist or Communist" label prescribed for the third party under the constitutional revision of March 1976 and will continue to be led by M. Mahjoud Diop, who returned last January from 14 years of exile, many of them spent in Moscow.

The PAI, writes a correspondent, will certainly be the focus for many strains of opposition to the rule of President Senghor's UPS. Already there are signs that Prof. Cheikh Anta Diop, whose *Rassemblement National Démocratique* failed to achieve government recognition, will give some aid to the PAI, whose historic reputation will make it easier to avoid "contamination" from the "labels" insisted upon for the parties by President Senghor. (The UPS has the obviously popular "social democrat" label). However, the call for the total liberation of the political arena is unlikely to be answered by the legalisation of the PAI and M. Mamadou Dia, who recovered his political rights in April, has reiterated his intention to remain outside the three party structure.

Moreover, the call of the PAI, after its August 7 conference, for legalisation hardly represents the conversion of M. Diop or his followers to the political experiment initiated by President Senghor. Few observers in Senegal expect that the UPS intends to hand over power to either of the other parties nor, despite the founding of new trades unions independent of the UPS, to relax its hold upon other facets of Senegalese life. Rather, President Senghor appears to be seeking the revitalisation of his party and his political following by the intensification of a political struggle largely deadened by the eight years of one party rule which effectively began in 1966. The danger to the UPS as a whole, if not to the careers of individual politicians, is thus more apparent than real.

Senegal tops 5m. mark

Senegal's population, according to the provisional results of the April census, has a population of just over 5 million. The estimate for the population in 1967 was only four million and, though the figure of 5,085,388 is only approximate so far, the earlier totals seem to have been inaccurate.

• SOSAP, the Senegalese state-owned tunny fishing company, is to be dissolved as a result of its poor economic performance in recent years. In 1975, the company was responsible for almost 50 per

cent of all tunny landings in Senegal but its profitability record did not match this achievement. The company's assets are to be incorporated into a fresh venture.

NIGER Superstitious officials denounced

President Kountche has attacked civil servants for their "indifference, absenteeism and obsession with manoeuvring for position", remarking that such behaviour was a serious obstacle to economic development. The President also attacked "leaders who destroy their judgement by crediting the grossest charlatanism of magicians and ventriloquists".

• Col. Henri Dupuis Yacoubi, the most senior officer in the Niger armed forces, has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier, thus giving Niger her first general. Brig Yacoubi is at present Counsellor of the National Order of Niger, and holds cabinet rank.

• The Sahel still faces acute problems of water supply for agriculture, Niger's Transport and Public Works Minister, Mr. Moussa Bako, said in Bamako. Arriving for talks with the Mali authorities on projects for the region which Niger hopes to initiate, Mr. Bako said obtaining and conserving water for

agriculture, and especially livestock rearing, were still unsolved problems.

GABON Cabinet reshuffle

President Bongo has reshuffled his cabinet, demoting M. Paul Okamba d'Okwaissique from Minister of Foreign Affairs to that of Tourism. The former Minister of Education, M. Omar Bongo (no relation) is to be the new Foreign Minister.

• South Korea has agreed to cooperate with Gabon in building a large office block in Libreville, costing over 3,00m. frs CFA.

• OAU assistant secretary general, Kamanda Wa Kamanda, visited Gabon to discuss preparations for next year's OAU summit conference, which is due to be held in Libreville.

• The British government has withdrawn passport facilities from several British subjects working for the former Affreirair air corporation, now part of Affreirair. A detailed list of Affreirair employees has been passed on to the UN Sanctions Committee, giving the names of over twenty persons, including Capt. Charles Goossens, the former pilot of the French presidential aircraft.

Affreirair has been accused of trading illegally with the Rhodésian regime, against UN sanctions regulations.



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