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After de Gaulle

THE place of foreign policy in General de Gaulle's years of power has been so significant, that his departure from office, in a strange act of political gambling, is bound to cause ripples all over the world. His own views of France's role in the world ("there is no corner of the earth where at a given time men do not look to us and ask what France says: it is a great responsibility to be France, the humanising power par excellence") may have been put out of touch with the realities of her position; but such was the force of his personality, and so adroit was his talent for making political capital out of mediocre assets, that he was able to conduct a remarkably independent and distinctive policy in many parts of the world.

Nowhere will his departure be felt more deeply than in France's ex-colonies in Black Africa. An article on page 491 outlines the origins and developments of the special sentimental relationship between the General and the Africans, which no other French personality would seem to be capable of achieving. To this extent the Africans in power have suffered a loss. No-one, not even if Gaullists as a group retain power under M. Pompidou, can achieve the almost mystical rapport which existed between the General and some African presidents, and which made their pilgrimages to the Elysée such an event, indeed such a necessity. M. Pompidou is well-known to them but is like a friendly uncle rather than an awe-inspiring father figure. Gaston Defferre, although one of the architects of decolonisation, could likewise never fill the General's shoes. The psychological shock is bound in the long term to be profound, and has been awaited by other African states for a long time as a necessary event before the ex-French colonies could achieve genuine decolonisation.

Having made this point, it must be said that de Gaulle's going will not be immediately and dramatically felt in Africa. Both French and Africans will want, for different reasons, to demonstrate the continuity of the relationship. In some ways President de Gaulle seemed to be aware of the long-term effect his departure might have, and has prepared the ground for après-Gaullisme while he was still in power, suspecting that there

might be a reaction to his own concern for foreign policy, and a renewal of the Cartierist cry that the French government should concentrate on the less-developed areas of France. Certainly the social problems of France have become magnified since the troubles of a year ago, and while right-wing or a Communist government would be likely to view the whole special relationship in Africa with a dubious eye, even a government of the centre would be inclined towards certain reappraisals.

A slight disengagement from Africa has been observed in the field of aid, which has been contracting in recent years, in the way the EEC has been brought into what was hitherto a protected French preserve, to share the trade privilege as well as the aid load, and in the frequently painful withdrawal of subsidies to comply with Common Market rules. The comforting presence of de Gaulle has enabled such adjustments to be made with little fuss.

The removal of de Gaulle, too, by no means indicates the end of the French interests in Black Africa. French businesses there are relatively more important to France than British interests in the same area are to Britain, and form an important pressure group in France, especially in the Gaullist party. This is a factor that was there before de Gaulle, and will continue. All that may be questioned is how far one part of Africa justifies the priority treatment de Gaulle gave it. It is unlikely, too, that the French would easily forgo their cultural and educational vocation in Africa, a sentiment that the creation of *la francophonie* was shrewdly aimed at.

For the moment, in the immediate hiatus following the eclipse of *Le Grand Charles*, the future is bound to be obscure. So much depends on the turn of events in France, because if France seems to be in for a period of instability, which some have feared with de Gaulle's departure, and de Gaulle himself was wont to prognosticate, the Africans might well question the value of the closeness of their association. Such questionings began after the extraordinary happenings of last May, and would increase if there is no conclusive majority in the forthcoming presidential elections. If the

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health of the franc deteriorates, would the members of the franc zone remain content with the highly centralised arrangements now existing, or would they press for some looser arrangement? Will France now, in any case, not be more willing to join in the International Monetary Fund scheme for Special Drawing Rights, which is supposed to assist those in the developing world as well as the developed who run into financial difficulties? Is there any hope now that the French-speaking Africans might be persuaded that the present parity of the CFA franc with the French franc is not distorted, to favour the French working and trading in franc zone countries, that it is the single most serious obstacle to economic co-operation in West Africa?

On another level, one might equally ask whether, anticipating a more normal government in France, the cold war with the Anglo-Saxons in which the Africans have no interest might be diminished. And may we anticipate a change of policy on Biafra, about which there seemed to be rival factions within the government in the last days of de Gaulle?

Fears of French-speaking African leaders centre on the fate of their own regimes, many of which were modelled on the Gaullist pattern. Would any successor be quite so willing to deploy troops, in a way no other European power does in Africa, to prop up regimes that appear to be in trouble? What is the future of the French military bases, anyway? Are we not now likely to see the true test of French "decolonisation through balkanisation", now that the prop of de Gaulle is no longer there? If the Gaullists continue in power with M. Pompidou, will M. Foccart, the machine-minder of the special relationship, also continue?

Again, is it now possible for Sékou Touré to return from "outer darkness"? Will French-speaking presidents now criticise the French for their supply of arms to South Africa in defiance of UN resolutions? Lastly, what would happen if de Gaulle came back?

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"The Great Decoloniser"

By a correspondent

TO look for a companion to de Gaulle in English-speaking Africa, you have to find a compound of Queen Victoria, Winston Churchill, and the succession of post-war ministers responsible for decolonisation, but even then there are ingredients missing. For de Gaulle was not only intimately involved with Africa during France's worst crisis of the 20th century, but he eventually brought emancipation and independence to those who had saved him, and who in turn he had saved. Those who marvel at the extraordinary relationship which has manifested itself between some African presidents and the old man, should seek an explanation for its origins in the Second World War.

It is not often remembered how much support the Free French received from the African population in the French colonies. De Gaulle himself writes in his memoirs of his visit to Cameroon in October 1940, "the officials, the French *colons* and the African personalities that I met there were in a state of patriotic euphoria", and there had been pro-Free French demonstrations in many West African cities not long after de Gaulle's famous June broadcast. The African élites knew of the racial theories of the Germans, which had penetrated to some extent to the Vichy regime. (Whatever one might say about de Gaulle he has never been a racistist—he has believed in the equality of all men in their inferiority to de Gaulle.) There are plenty of accounts of the unpopularity of the French rulers in those territories forced to stay under Vichy, until liberated in 1943, when the African populations demonstrated enthusiastically for de Gaulle. It was after this period, as Adloff and Thompson record, that a de Gaulle cult flourished to the north of Brazzaville.

African Gaullists

The Guyanese Governor of Chad, Felix Eboué, was the first to respond to de Gaulle's appeal on July 16, 1940, and on August 26, Chad was officially declared "Free-French" and taken over. Cameroon followed a day later, Douala having been taken over by General Leclerc, who became immortalised in Gaullist hagiography with his famous march across the desert. Later Moyen-Congo (site of Brazzaville, then the capital of the Federation of Equatorial Africa) and Oubangui-Chari (now Central African Republic) followed, and de Gaulle set up his headquarters in Brazzaville. The ambitious attempt to take Dakar in September 1940 failed, however, and although Gabon was taken, the West African Federation remained under Vichy for another couple of years. But the psychological

importance of the way in which the *ralliement* to the Free French banner came first from Africa, was sufficient to give the General a particular sentimental attachment to it. The famous declaration of Brazzaville in 1944, in which the way was opened to the reforms which led to universal franchise within the context of the French Union, and the end of forced labour, was a kind of reward, which was sufficient to create even then a body of African Gaullists.

At this stage de Gaulle would have considered independence inconceivable (indeed, his actions in sending a force of 80,000 to reconquer Indo-China was one of the root causes of the Vietnam crisis) but he was out of power, suffering his "crossing of the desert", during the long bitter years of colonial war. Despite his own earlier expressed views on the indissolubility of the French union, and the importance to him during the war of the "Frenchness" of the soil of Equatorial Africa, when he returned to power in 1958 he was realistic enough to grasp that his own destiny lay along the path of decolonisation.

De Gaulle's present status in Africa, indeed throughout the third world, comes from the way in which he grasped the Algerian nettle, in a manner which probably nobody else could have done. There has always been a seamy side to Gaullism, which originates in the cloak-and-dagger nature of the resistance during the war, and bore ugly fruit during the semi-fascist years of the RPF (de Gaulle's party in the years after the Second World War). Many of his supporters were far to the right of the General himself, and brought him to power genuinely believing him to be an *Algérie Française* man, only to be bitterly disillusioned by his emergence as "the great decoloniser."

As far as Africa was concerned, moves towards colonial autonomy had begun under two liberal-minded Ministers for Overseas (who became de Gaulle's leading opponents, MM. Mitterrand and Defferre), but the coming to power of de Gaulle coincided with a wave of demands for "independence now" throughout Black Africa. Rather than provoke new Algeria he launched his plan for the Community, which would have meant virtual independence. Even this skeletal arrangement was sabotaged by Sekou Touré's "No" vote, which made complete independence inevitable. Guinea's subsequent relationship with de Gaulle has been bedevilled by this initial act of defiance. It can be seen in terms of two proud men unwilling to bow the knee to each other; but it has been useful to the French to have Guinea there, in economic disarray, as an "awful warning" to the remaining ex-French colonies of the frightful consequences of defying de Gaulle.

The Community was a non-starter, but the "French sphere of influence" organised itself through a number of different associations, finally settling on



General de Gaulle on his last African tour in 1959.

the Afro-Malagasy Common Organisation (OCAM), which with Mauritania, and increasingly Mali, have enjoyed a "special relationship" with the France of de Gaulle. The strands which make up this relationship are manifold. One can point to the interlocking nature of the franc zone, highly centralised on Paris; to the large numbers of French technical assistants in Africa, and the rigorous preservation of French educational standards in schools and universities; to the defence agreement between France and all the ex-French colonies (Mali, Guinea, and Upper Volta), the most classic invocation of which was the intervention to replace Leon Mba in the presidency in Gabon in 1964.

Personal Relations

The "special" nature of the relationship has come more than anything else from de Gaulle's relations with the leaders of Africa. The African leaders who went to parliament in Paris, some of whom became ministers have always had close ties with French political figures—more than the anglophone Africans ever had at Westminster. This closeness was developed by de Gaulle into a veritable cult, through the medium of his right-hand man on African affairs, M. Foccart, who is the channel by which Africans wishing to see the General have usually passed with an ease that others would envy. The military rulers who came into power in the mid-sixties, have for the most part been even more enthusiastic Gaullists than the parliamentarians. The younger generation of the élite, some of whom cannot remember the war, have seemed restive at the inherent paternalism of de Gaulle, but while the de Gaulle-Africa love affair has lasted it has been an extraordinary experience. One will have to wait until the dust has settled to see a less remarkable but perhaps more realistic relationship can develop.

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Cocoa After the Deluge

By a Correspondent

DELEGATES to the Cocoa Producers' Alliance, meeting in the territory of the Alliance's most productive member state, were naturally promised visits to Ghana's cocoa growing areas. Some Ghana Press reports suggest, however, that if the delegates went to farms away from the tarmac roads, they might well have had to walk.

As the new rains approach, Gill & Duffus' *Cocoa Market Report* speaks of "chaotic road conditions which are still said to be as bad as they were last autumn" (after torrential rains). Stories of cocoa stranded in outlying areas appeared quite often in the *Kumasi Pioneer*, which is published in the heart of cocoa country and takes a particular interest in the crop, and in other newspapers. Early in March, Col. Yarboi, head of the Ashanti Committee of Administration, said 44,000 tons were held up in three districts.

The damage to roads—which construction of new feeder roads is now only just beginning to alleviate—has, naturally, also affected transport of food crops, already damaged in the actual rains (recently there was a report of famine in two Upper Region villages due to this). A farmer has complained about the state of the Kumasi-Nyinahin-Debrafrom-Wansanbire road, saying there was a food shortage, and cocoa farmers were affected. He urged that the roads should be repaired before the next rains. The *Pioneer* had, previously, on March 11, carried an editorial calling for swift action on the Nsuta Junction to Kwamang road, an important side road joining the main Kumasi-Mampong road (itself damaged by rain and landslides last year).

Much work has certainly been done to evacuate cocoa. The Co-operative Marketing Association, which marketed 114,400 tons (a third of Ghana's total) in the 1968-69 season, just ended, has taken responsibility for evacuating 5,700 tons left stranded by destruction of bridges leading to markets, in the areas of Adansi, Sefwi and Kukuom (lying west and south-west of Kumasi), and the Afram river valley further east. And the National Secretary of the Ghana National Farmers' Union, writing to the *Pioneer* to express pleasure at the higher price for producers announced on March 19, said new farms were springing up along the Kibi-Suhum-Nswam-Acra road where farms had been badly damaged (this is, however, a main road). Now a CMB Director, Mr. Kwasi Agyarko, has suggested a Roads Board to expedite the necessary work.

The price rise (to eight cedis per 60 lb load) was announced together with new arrangements for supply of the insecticide Gammalin 20, and was followed by detailed proposals on this from the Ministry of Agriculture's Cocoa Division (which, together with the Cocoa Market-

ing Board, is responsible for distribution now). Mr. M. S. O. Nicholas, of this Division, was misquoted as saying the Gammalin could be applied against swollen shoot; he in fact recommended its increased use against capsids—the insects whose depredations were greatly helped by last year's rains and farmers' lack of the insecticide. Until now farmers have often had difficulty in obtaining Gammalin 20. The NFU National Secretary, in the letter already quoted, said the new distribution arrangements should end some widespread insecticide rackets.

The "package" for farmers announced on March 19 was introduced by Brig. Afrifa as a collection of new incentives,



Ghana farmers take cocoa beans to the licensed buying agent—do they get an incentive price?

lack of which, he said, had caused migration away from farms and lack of new planting (the average age of cocoa trees was now 50 years, he said). It did not, however, include new grants for uprooting of trees infested with swollen shoot (in the Eastern Region the Government has started an uprooting and planting programme). Nor did it offer immediate relief on the road front; though road damage has been one cause of the smuggling of cocoa out of Ghana, which has been estimated at about 25,000 tons a year. This figure—higher than has been expected after the tightening of controls in 1967—may account for the CMB's promised 5,000-cedi programme for improvement of feeder roads in the Volta Region, bordering on Togo, which is now more important than before, compared with Ivory Coast, as a destination for smuggled cocoa.

The new incentives have probably been well received, so far as they go, but, if one can judge by angry letters to the *Pioneer*, more is needed. One letter criticised the reported advice of the Chairman of the CMB to farmers not

to seek short-term loans, and said farmers needed these as an incentive. Another, from the President of the Ashanti Youth Congress (on March 8—before the "package"), raised a more fundamental point. It emphasised that world prices were about 530 cedis per ton higher than the then farmers' price (the difference is now about 500); and it went on: "Is it not elementary justice that the farmer who cultivates his farm out of his own resources with practically no financial assistance from the CMB or Government should get the lion's share of the results of his labour? Or is the CMB trying to tell us that the difference in the two prices goes to cover incidental expenses...? We are entitled to know where the difference of NC530.00 per ton of the farmers' cocoa goes."

World Stocks Shrink

The current world cocoa deficit, which Gill & Duffus has said will probably continue until farmers are satisfied on the subject just referred to, is certain to be considerable this year, according to the same firm's latest *Cocoa Market Report*. "As cocoa stocks shrink, the market will become increasingly sensitive, and fluctuations are probable. A bumper crop will be required next season to relieve the supply situation materially, and even partially to improve the supply demand equation." All main cocoa producers except Cameroon have grown less this season than in 1967-68, while Ghana's official estimate—about 316,000 tons, or 74,000 less than in 1967-68—is estimated to be "over-declared by some 15,000-18,000 tons," says the report. Already Ghana is reported to have sold over 100,000 tons of new main crop, including some 1968-69 cocoa switched into next season.

The Cocoa Producers' Alliance—whose current chairman is Mr. F. R. Kankam-Boadu, chairman of the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board—is reported to have agreed generally at Accra on basic quotas under an international cocoa agreement. It is understood that a message will be sent to the secretary-general of UNCTAD urging him to hold multilateral talks on an agreement about June this year; this will be preceded by informal talks between the Alliance members—Ghana, Nigeria, Brazil, Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Togo. Of these, however, Ivory Coast is still reported to be objecting to some parts of the draft agreement reached in the Geneva talks last June.

On the price range (between the "floor" and the 29 cents per lb. "ceiling"), and on the buffer stock there is now general agreement. What there does not seem to be, at this time of high world prices which make the danger of a serious fall in exporters' earnings rather remote, is a clear sense of urgency about the proposed agreement. But as it seems there will now be more talks in the summer, it is still possible that an international cocoa agreement may eventually be negotiated.

UNITED WEST AFRICA SERVICE ROUNDABOUT

The Congo Miracle

One of the more surprising success stories of the second half of the sixties has been the way stability has broken out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (usually shortened to Congo-Kinshasa and abbreviated by this journal to Congo-K). M. Gervais Bahizi, the Congolese Ambassador in London, speaking at a seminar called "New Light on the Congo" organised by BNEC (British National Export Council), Africa, said that the turning point for the Congo came with the army take-over of 1965. The situation then was disastrous, with a budget deficit of £2,400m., and the country "in the position of a beggar". The ambassador stressed that the Mobutu government had concentrated its attention on re-establishing order and security, but also had "attacked the problem of establishing a really Congolese economy", noting that the Congo now owns 75 per cent of the country's means of production, and controls its own economic policy. Like many other speakers at the seminar, M. Bahizi mentioned the importance of the monetary reform of 1967, which it was now generally agreed was successful, in that the black market had been suppressed, spiralling prices had been stabilised, foreign exchange reserves built up, and the way was open for the liberalisation of foreign payments.

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British Businessmen

This transformed position has started to interest businessmen all over the developed world, and the high attendance from British businessmen at the seminar, which was held in United Africa House (head office of the United Africa Company, which has been in the Congo for many years), was one sign of this. The BNEC sent a mission in 1967, and Manchester Chamber of Commerce went early this year: one from Birmingham is to go in the autumn. Britain's 1968 exports to Congo were just under £7m., or 9 per cent of the Congo's total imports against 8 per cent in 1967. Among the speakers who shared their experiences with the extremely attentive audience were representatives of firms which have recently discovered the possibilities the Congo offers, such as Mr. Roberts of British Leyland, who commented favourably on the speed with which his company's project for establishment of an assembly plant had gone through; and Mr. Jagger of English Calico, which is establishing a textile factory there. He spoke favourably of the trained young men at the controls who seemed very aware of their country's limitations. Mr. A. N. O'Brien, who for the last two years has been general manager of Shell interests in the Congo, spoke on marketing—mentioning the energetic way the Congolese government is tackling the immense transport problems facing it, and Mr. Jackson of the Export Credits Guarantee

Department of the British Board of Trade spoke on export insurance (all the other speakers found a good word to say for the ECGD).

The New and the Old

Of other businesses which have lately shown interest in the Congo, the Standard Bank of West Africa (which now has gone into a bank in Kinshasa) was represented, but there was nobody from Lonrho, which is involved in the £100m. Luluabourg-Matadi railway project, which several speakers referred to with bated breath, as well as in a possible take-over of the management contract of Geconin (the state-owned copper mining company). Nor was there anybody from British-Congo Diamond Distributors (part of the Diamond Corporation), which is currently running diamond buying on behalf of the Congo government. UAC was there in force, however, with its Chairman, Sir Arthur Smith (who is also Chairman of BNEC Africa) introducing and chairing the seminar, and one of its most experienced Africa hands, Mr. L. J. Thomas (recently transferred to Europe for Unilever) giving a most sympathetic and well-informed account of "Trading in the Congo", in which he recalled the pre-independence position when trade in the Congo was carried out by two large expatriate firms, one British, one Belgian, and the rest was in the hands of Portuguese and Greeks. In the turbulent years after independence this pattern became distorted, but there are signs that the wheel has come full circle, and the pre-independence pattern is re-establishing itself, although "for the time being credit is not being granted by importers to middlemen or retailers on anything like the scale it was before

independence". He regretted in particular that "a substantial Congolese trading community has not emerged... if only at the semi-wholesale level", a situation he feels the government should take action to remedy. He also emphasised the fact that, although commercial development was backward from the point of view of distribution, local production in the Congo has always been ahead of most other (west) African countries.

"Muddling-through" footnote for exporters: one of the speakers, referring to the considerable goodwill which exists in the Congo for Britain, unwittingly revealed astonishment that such a situation should exist, when he said: " somehow or other, we have a good name".

Bokassa and Banza

My report two weeks ago about Col. Banza in Central African Republic repeated a widely diffused inaccuracy, that he had held and retained command of the paratroop unit. Had he done so, his eviction might have been a more difficult operation. I see that President Bokassa has been berating the Press for this report, saying he had never been a paratroop captain. He also affirmed that Col. Banza had played a minor role in the coup of December 31, 1965, and that he had belonged to the Baya tribe, and not to the Bandas, as had been reported. "My relations with Col. Banza were more than cordial," he said, "as I was godfather to his five children. I often received visits from them at my Bobangui home."

Griot

Schools for Nigerian Development

EDUCATION'S place in economic development was discussed in a paper given to the conference on national reconstruction and development in Nigeria, held at Ibadan, by Professor Ayo Ogunshye, of the Department of Adult Education at the University of Ibadan. His theme was that education had a much wider role to play in development than merely training of high level manpower. It should make people adaptable, enterprising and rational so that they would be ready to accept change, show initiative, and refuse blindly to accept narrow sentiments and loyalties.

Professor Ogunshye suggested that adult education, on-the-job training, and community education should receive a greater share of resources going to education than in the past. The number of students in universities should be stabilised at about the level envisaged in the last national plan; additional resources going to universities should be used for

research, post-graduate work and extension activities. There should be more emphasis on science in the universities and undergraduate degrees should be broadened.

Lower down the most urgent need was to improve quality, to diversify post-primary education and to increase the facilities for training agricultural extension workers and specialists in adult education and rural development. The indigenous apprenticeship system, if modernised, could offer considerable possibilities. The need for educational research was paramount since development of effective techniques and improvement in syllabuses could contribute enormously to the task of "modifying the original nature of man" which, Professor Ogunshye maintained was the real function of education.

He emphasised, however, that while education was necessary for economic



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development, it could not be used if the jobs were not there. In the 1962-68 national plan it seemed to have been assumed that jobs would naturally be "thrown up". Now they realised that projects which generated high income growth need not generate jobs, and more attention should be given to labour intensive projects. The most serious problem arose from the drift from the farms to the towns, accentuated by the policy of under-paying the farmers while granting continuous wage increases to workers. Unemployment affected not only primary school leavers but all levels of educated people. But since the vast majority of primary school pupils would receive no further education, they should all receive a couple of years at least of vocational training before being unloaded on to the job market. In trade schools there often seemed to be the wrong kind of training and Professor Ogunshye suggested that on-the-job training was probably the best.

Distorted Teaching

Nigeria, Professor Ogunshye claimed, had developed an "excessive appetite" for high level manpower which to some degree distorted the educational system, leading for example to the virtual neglect of adult education for the masses.

Professor Ogunshye also emphasised the paramount importance of the home in education: "Throughout the country, all the schemes for bringing about

universal primary education have been marked by high rates of wastage. For example, among the generation of children who completed primary education in 1965, the average wastage rate was 63 per cent. Empirical studies elsewhere have shown the critical importance of the home for the performance of children in primary school, and that children from homes where the parents take an intelligent interest in their school tend to do better than children whose parents are indifferent. In a local study comparing certain features of childrearing versus elite Yoruba mothers, Barbara Lloyd is reported to have uncovered some striking differences. Asked 'What do you do when your five-year-old brings home a good report or will in future, if he's not yet at school?' nearly all 'elite' mothers answered in terms of praise and/or reward, half using both; this was true of only one-third of the 'traditional' mothers, the remainder saying they would thank God and/or say a prayer. There can be little doubt child rearing practices and lack of the requisite support in the typical Nigerian home in which parents are illiterate must rank high among the reasons why so many children drop out in primary school."

Danish Example

Professor Ogunshye directed the attention of Nigerians to the connection between adult education and economic

growth in Denmark, Japan and Israel. In his recent book "Transforming Tradition of Agriculture" Professor Schultz had explained that the remarkable transformation of agriculture in Denmark in the last quarter of the 19th century could not have been obtained without the education of farmers. "Schooling for all children was made compulsory in 1914 and the 1840s the beginning of a wide-spread system of adult education through residential colleges (folk high schools) for rural youth, supplemented by similar but more vocational agrarian schools. The second case is that of Japan whose phenomenal agricultural growth at the end of the 19th century brought about through investment in research, in the schooling of extension specialists and the schooling of farmers themselves. The third example is that of Israel where rapid agricultural growth took place in the fifties. The most outstanding progress was registered in dairy and poultry both of which require a high level of skills and knowledge, and the high level of schooling of the people concerned made it possible to acquire the requisite skills and knowledge".

The success of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Western State in extending modern poultry keeping methods had been virtually restricted to the wives of the educated elite who had the double advantage of education and capital.

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40 Years of UAC: 2

From a Correspondent

AFTER the post-war boom of the late 1940s, I said last week, UAC, whose 40th anniversary fell on April 29, gradually withdrew from produce trading. It also cut down its merchandise trading, in face of the growing importance of Africans themselves in this trade. But, says Professor Wilson, in his history of Unilever, if UAC was not to be "extruded from Africa, it had to find new functions to perform, new areas of investment in which European money and skill could serve the new Africa that was emerging".

Industry and technical merchandise and servicing have provided the new functions and the new areas, and although the company has withdrawn from so many places, it is still a major enterprise. The group as a whole employs 40,000 men and women in over 30 countries, but the majority of these are in English-speaking West Africa, where there are 1,000 senior and middle managers. Over a decade, the report for 1967 showed, the number of African middle and senior managers had doubled, and the proportion of expatriates had fallen from 79 to 54 per cent, despite the increasingly technical nature of the company's operations.

How technical these can be seen from some of the subsidiary companies of the group in West Africa. There are Niger Motors and similar companies, there is UAC (Technical), there is West Africa Cold Storage of Nigeria, there is Ghana Consolidated Machinery and Trading Companies. African Timber and Plywood, the great plant at Sapele, whose main product is plywood, is still the biggest industrial enterprise in Nigeria, and there is also UAC's plywood factory at Samreboi in Ghana. The Kingsway Stores, which everybody in West Africa knows, are retail trade outlets. They are on such a scale, however, and offer so many services, that they can themselves be called technical. But today the group is concerned directly, or as sales agents, in the manufacture, processing, or assembly, of paint, cement, bedding, household goods, frozen and fresh food, radios, bicycles, sewing thread, textiles, packaging, cigarettes and prestressed concrete. Its West African breweries are all flourishing enterprises, and it still operates its river fleet on the Niger. In Nigeria it is even engaged in pig farming.

Some confusion is caused by the fact that the parent, Unilever, operates directly in some of the countries where UAC operates, chiefly to run plantations. In Nigeria, there are estates in the South East and Mid West States, while the Congo plantations are now at full production.

There are, too, one or two trading companies in the UAC group which maintain separate managements and their original names. Most important are G. B. Ollivant, Swiss African Trading Company and G. Gottschalk. Certain other companies, however, whose names are sometimes written on UAC sites, are simply

an ordinary part of UAC. Examples are Miller Brothers and F. & A. Swazy.

Palm Line, which was originally established to carry Unilever's own merchandise and produce exports, is now a general carrier. It is not, however, part of the UAC group but is a subsidiary of Unilever. The fleet now consists of 15 owned ships and one on charter.

There are UAC interests in East Africa, in Equatorial Guinea and the Canary Islands, North Africa, the Arabian Gulf, and the Solomon Islands. In French-speaking West Africa its activities are of great importance and last year, according to the latest report, there was a record profit, with motors and technical business accounting for the bulk of the increase. This success more than made up for the loss of business in Nigeria caused by the war. A new textile factory is to start work this year in the Ivory Coast and merchandise business in the Congo increased sharply.

UAC subsidiaries operate under various names in French-speaking countries, usually known by their initials. These, too, came together in 1929—CNF, NOSOCO, CFCI, SCKN, R. & W. King, John Walkden, and Hatton & Cookson. In these territories UAC remains an important produce buyer, but it also engages in brewing, vehicle assembly, insurance and many other activities.

The redeployment of UAC in Commonwealth West Africa has not been easy, and it has meant that the group has developed far less quickly than has the Unilever group as a whole. The latest annual report does not give similar details, but, as I noted last week, UAC's share of the Unilever profits had fallen in 1967 to 9 per cent compared with between a third and a quarter (including profit earned by the African plantations) in the late 1940's. But Unilever now, directly or through the United Africa Co., has invested in almost 100 factories in Africa, providing management for most.

The switch of employees from old to new type jobs has been difficult and many of the old employees, particularly in "bush stations," could not be re-employed as the produce buying and merchandise business shrank. Over 2,000 Nigerians of lower grades lost their jobs altogether with a number of Europeans. At the same time there was a new emphasis on education and on technical training and retraining at all levels, both in West Africa and in plants abroad. At Igbobi, near Lagos, young managers have been trained, and it is hoped that by 1980 some 80 per cent. of all managers will be Africans.

UAC can never expect completely smooth sailing in West Africa. But while in the past its problems were to some degree unique and self-imposed, it now shares the problems of all employers in West Africa, and those of all expatriate companies in the "Third World."

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MATCHET'S DIARY

SINCE it was not a news conference, journalists were outnumbered by Members of Parliament. But the "Symposium" on Nigeria arranged last week at the House of Commons by Mr. James Johnson, MP, and Mr. Ben Enwonwu, was a more successful publicity exercise for the Federation of Nigeria than any I can remember since the civil war began. Mr. Enwonwu, an exhibition of whose sculptures and paintings was on show in a nearby lobby, simply said that he doubted whether Nigerians had any business to be tearing themselves apart with the most modern weapons. I felt that by declining to discuss the merits of the present war, and by simply deploring it, he did more good to the Federal case than would have been done by an Ibo, like himself, who had "come over" just to disseminate Federal propaganda. Members of Parliament from both sides of the House urged the need for magnanimity, in the hour of victory, by the Federal Government. Chief Enahoro, who had come to London specially for the occasion, made a considerable impression simply by saying that in his view the British had no business to appear to be "objective" in the conflict; their business, as creators of Nigeria, was to support the Federal Government. But he did recall that Mr. Wilson's recent visit had been of

of Soviet aircraft to Nigeria would not be answered so calmly in London as they would be in Nigeria. In Nigeria they would not feel that they owed apologies to anybody for securing aircraft wherever they could, since the Biafrans had engaged in random bombing of Lagos and other places when they were in a position to do so.

Sheep in Ghana, it seems, do not show the respect for sheep dogs that is shown by British sheep. On the contrary, when a trained Border Collie was first sent round a flock of about a hundred ewes in Ghana, the whole flock, according to Mr. M. Burns of the Animal Research Institute of the Ghana Academy of Sciences, turned to face the dog. "When he sat, preparatory to the lift, one ewe advanced and tentatively butted him. The dog did not move and the whole flock advanced and started to attack him. Although this dog was fairly powerful and had succeeded in turning a smaller flock of untrained Ghana sheep, he was unable to check this larger flock, either by wearing movements or feinted attacks, and was eventually forced to retreat." Mr. Burns, who describes mutual responses of Ghanaian sheep and British sheep dogs in the latest *Tropical Agriculture*, says that it is not clear how far the "general submission" of British sheep to dogs is inborn and how far it is the result of experience and training. But he notes that sheep in Ghana frequently behave rather like goats, wandering as scavengers around the villages as "independent, enterprising and fearless" bands, which ignore dogs and are ignored by them. But he has seen a ewe protecting a lamb against a dog bigger than herself and causing him to flee in terror. Sheep-worrying by dogs is not, then, a problem in Ghana. However, says Mr. Burns, if more productive types of sheep are to be introduced, and permitted to graze at dusk and at dawn instead of being locked up for long periods for protection against animals and thieves, dogs may have to be used to guard flocks as well as to herd the sheep. But he thinks that sheep who act as village scavengers should never be trained for herding which might inhibit their present lack of respect for dogs.

Many industries in Nigeria are, in spite of the difficulties it has created for them, doing well out of the war, and the textile industry is pre-eminent. In a recent issue of the *Federal Gazette* I see tenders invited for the following, among other items, for the army: 500,000 yards of green drill cloth; 100,000 yards of green cord Kano cloth; 100,000 bed sheets; 300,000 square yards of green drill-camouflage cloth. A tender is also invited for 30,000 "Vono" type beds and other items manufactured in Nigeria, such as 1,000 dining chairs with leather seats, 700 easy armchairs, and 30,000 pairs of rubber-soled black boots.



Before meeting MPs: Ben Enwonwu, Chief Enahoro, George Thomson.

considerable help in the reporting of Nigeria's affairs in British newspapers (the *Sun* and the *Sunday Times* have clearly been affected). He also emphasised that the Federal military government simply could not commit Nigeria to any constitutional future; this would have to be decided by the civilian regime, and the constitutional discussions, which followed the war. He also told Mr. Auberon Waugh, one of the most effective of Biafra's supporters in Britain, that questions about the supply

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books and publications

NANA OF THE RIVER

Merchant Prince of the Niger Delta,
by Obaro Ikime (Heinemann, 63s.).

NO people in Nigeria is more easily identified by its ceremonial robes than the Itsekiri. The long train, requiring a pageboy to carry it—which the late Festus Okotie-Eboh, for example, wore on big occasions, together with his straw hat are known to all. What is not so well known is the reason for such ostentation. In this fascinating book about the most famous Itsekiri of all, Nana Olomu, Dr. Ikime explains that the Itsekiri arose to prominence as middlemen in the palm oil trade. For the "trust" system, under which European traders entrusted goods to middlemen, who in turn entrusted goods to the palm oil producers (usually to the Urhobo of the hinterland neighbour country), it was essential to appear credit worthy, and a successful trader would show his worth chiefly by ostentation.

To give a background for Nana Olomu's rise and fall, Dr. Ikime describes the economic, political and social factors at work among the Itsekiri and their neighbours in the latter part of the last century, thus giving us the first detailed study of the Western part of the Niger delta. The Itsekiri are a small people, still numbering only some 50,000, but they have played a role in Nigerian commerce and politics disproportionate to their numbers. To be outstanding among such people requires considerable gifts. These Nana Olomu certainly possessed.

Nana had the advantage of coming from a successful family and succeeded his father as "Governor of the River". The river in question was the Benue River and the appointment of Governor, previously largely ceremonial, became important in the 50s of last century, at a time when there was no Olu of Warri, Paramount Chief of the Itsekiri. The Governor had recognised commercial functions, but since the Itsekiri were a commercial people he was normally an important trader, and his office assumed a political responsibility, recognised by the British Consul who always had a say in his election.

Dr. Ikime is at pains to point out that while the position of governor greatly helped a trader commercially, only a man

already successful could be appointed and successful Nana was. His disgraces by the British, and his exile, Dr. Ikime considers to be due not, as was claimed, to his arrogance and misconduct, but to his independence. The book is, in fact a defence of the last "Governor of the River", deposed in 1893, who died in 1914.

"There seems to be some debate," writes the author, "as to whether Nana and others like him should be described as African nationalists in the context in which they acted. Indeed, T. N. Tamuno has warned that 'Nana's claims to a significant place as a Nigerian nationalist should... be seriously modified'. It is easy to point to the sectarian and almost selfish nature of Nana's resistance and to the fact that he did not command the following or sympathy of the entire Itsekiri. The services rendered to the British by the 'friendly chiefs' furnish incontrovertible evidence of the latter fact. It might even be argued that had Nana been the underdog in the internal political and commercial rivalry in Itsekiriland, he would have played a similar role to that of Dogho, Dudu and the other 'friendly chiefs'. But not even the accusation of self-interest can derogate from the essential truth that in taking his stand against the British Nana was actuated by the desire to maintain intact his economic and political heritage. No nationalism is ever completely divorced from this kind of self-interest."

Not everyone will agree with Dr. Ikime's final judgement. "In fighting to preserve his position and inheritance, Nana typified contemporary nationalist resistance to imperial control elsewhere in Africa. The fact that the interests of certain Itsekiri groups made them decide to join forces with the British to secure the fall of Nana cannot and should not blind us to this central fact." But this is a fascinating book.

A.N.

Campagnes Militaires au Sud-Angola (1885-1915), by René Pelissier. Cahiers d'Etudes Africaines IX-L. Mouton, Paris-The Hague, 1969, 71 pages (not priced).

If the Portuguese have some thirty or forty thousand metropolitan troops engaged in colonial warfare in Angola

today, this is by no means the first time, during their colonial period, that they have carried fire and sword to this African land. A full record of African resistance to Portuguese invasion would show indeed that wars of a colonial type, launched by the Portuguese, have ravaged Angola almost every decade since the sixteenth century. Little can be understood about African nationalism in Angola without taking account of this long resistance to dispossession by the Portuguese.

M. René Pelissier has turned from his very useful study of the Spanish territories in tropical Africa to an analysis of some aspects of the Portuguese occupation and "pacification" of Angola since the famous "share out" of Berlin. His present study deserves a place in every serious Africanist library. Though limited to the most southerly regions of Angola, it has much to tell about Portuguese attitudes and methods in a wide perspective. It describes the many campaigns which the Portuguese were obliged to mount—and not seldom with results disastrous to themselves—in order to make good their claim to be "administering Power" in these vast southern territories. These campaigns culminated in the great expedition of 1915, principally against the Ovambo, in which the Portuguese engaged more than 6,500 troops from the home country, and, in so doing, managed narrowly to make good their disasters of previous years.

Nowhere before, I think, has the myth been so thoroughly destroyed that the Portuguese "have been in Angola for 500 years." Given the facts of African resistance and supremacy until the beginning of the present century, this claim is historically worthless. To admit it, as M. Pelissier aptly says, would mean that the French West African empire dated from 1638, or the British, one may add, from even earlier. All that the Portuguese controlled, until some fifty years ago, were a few footholds along the coast: "it is easy to show," says M. Pelissier, "that the Angola of today was conquered, essentially, between 1906 and 1919." So the greatest of all the wars of Angolan resistance, the one which began in 1961 and continues to this day, only continues a story of self-defence in arms which had ended no more than forty-two years earlier: not counting the fact that smaller anti-colonial revolts filled those intervening years as well.

This small book does us all a service, and, one may hope, will also be read in Portugal—if only to aid in the "dis-intoxication" of Portuguese public opinion after nearly four decades of Salazarist lies and legend-making. It is a book that is all the more useful because it relies upon a rigorously careful inspection of the records of the Portuguese themselves. The history that is told is their history, and it is written from their sources; anyone who knows

M. Pelissier's work, moreover, will know that he is scrupulously honest in the use of his material. If anything, indeed, he is less than fair to the Angolan African nationalists of today. They are not, as he tells us, "almost completely ignorant of the history of their southern borderland." On the contrary, the 150-page *História de Angola (Apontamentos)* compiled and published by their Centro de Estudos Angolanos (Caderno No. 2 of July 1965), under MPLA inspiration, gives several long pages to this aspect of Angolan history, as well as printing two instructive maps on the subject. But there is no doubt, at the same time, that this present work will be of great value to them as well.

Basil Davidson

My People by Credo Mutwa (Anthony Blond, 42s.).

Published a few years ago in South Africa, and now in the UK, this book is subtitled, "Writings of a Zulu Witch-doctor". It appears to be a record of old African legends as learned by a "practising witch-doctor" in a township outside Johannesburg; but it is full of ideas which are quite obviously learned by him from non-traditional sources. For example, he records old legends of white invaders centuries before the Portuguese, and, from his reading about the Phoenicians, deduces that these were the invaders in question. He thus produces a vivid and well-told story, but one in which genuine ancestral memories are clearly mixed with modern (though perhaps plausible) interpretations. In writing about Zimbabwe, the White Lady of the Brandberg, African memories of the Boer conquests, and all sorts of other traditions, Mutwa shows wide knowledge and excellent narrative skill (he does not say where he acquired these). And it seems to my very inexperienced opinion that there may be a great deal of genuine legend here (extending right up to certain tribes in West Africa); but it also seems that Mutwa needs to be taken with many pinches of salt.

J.D.

Year Book of Labour Statistics 1968
(published by the International Labour Office, Geneva, price 75s. paper, 90s. cloth).

This vast tome of facts and figures includes a statistical outline of the forty years of ILO's existence, with figures of industrial and other employment trends in various countries, consumer prices, and wages—fixing of which has been a major preoccupation of the ILO. This outline, like all the rest of the volume, is in English, French and Spanish. Detailed chapters of the latest statistics cover total and "economically active" population, the proportion of people employed in agriculture and other sectors, distribution by status and industry and occupation

group, employment under all sorts of categories, unemployment (figures given for Ghana are below some estimates), hours of work (for which ILO has established international standards), productivity, wages in agriculture and other sectors, consumer prices and accidents. For Africa, inevitably, statistics are often many years old, but the years are always stated.

Our Developing World by L. Dudley Stamp (Faber & Faber, 12s.).

This paperback of Professor Stamp's book (available in clothback, 30s.) is very welcome, as providing a handier version of a useful introductory study of the developing world's situation. There are concise chapters of facts and figures on population and its growth, the world's lands and food production, the "new agricultural revolution," minerals, and other aspects of the developing countries' problems. In conclusion the question of climate and its effects is raised.

From the UNCTAD-GATT International Trade Centre in Geneva come two more publications: **The Major Markets for Unmanufactured Tobacco** (price 43 Swiss francs or US \$10) and **Volume Two of the study of The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Markets in Seven European Countries (SF21 or US \$5).**

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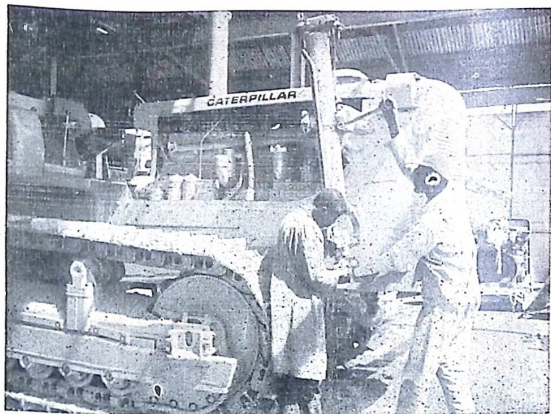
This new and authoritative volume (the first of a series), to be published in May 1969, reviews significant developments in political, economic, commercial and social fields during the whole of 1968.

Written and compiled by Colin Legum (Commonwealth Correspondent of the London Observer), together with John Drysdale, Editorial Director of the *Africa Research Bulletin*, this 800-page survey with 18 maps is divided into three parts: articles on current issues by leading writers; comprehensive political and economic reviews of 49 countries (including numerous tables, trade figures and other statistics); 65 supporting documents, some of which appear in print for the first time.

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letters to the editor

ORPHANS AND THE LAW

SIR.—The Commissioner for National Rehabilitation and his Committee deserve praise for their effort to tackle one of our major national problems today. However, the call of the Commissioner for State Governments to enact adoption laws "so as to ease the sufferings of the orphans," in his address to the International Congress of the Society of Health, deserves some comment.

Such a law is necessary, but what is doubtful is whether such laws should be enacted by the States. Much of our current political impasse is the direct consequence of the preponderance of regional legislations over the national ones during the civilian regime. And some of us who have had the opportunity to examine the impact of regional laws on our national development cannot but be frightened by any revival of "segmentary" legal systems. Besides, the question of adoption affects Nigerian citizens, the appropriate body to rule on such matters is the National Government.

This in no way rules out possible variations in the family customary laws (or norms) of some States. But in that case it is still the National Government which should provide a uniform legal basis, which will take such variations into consideration, for the sake of our national unity and legal certainty, no matter from which state a person may wish to adopt a child. A segmentary and factional legal system is bound to produce factional and parochial sentiments.

ETIM N. E. UDON

(President, Nigerian Union-Holland)
University of Leiden,
Holland.

SIERRA LEONE NOW

SIR.—I note (*West Africa*, April 12) that, after nearly a year in office, Sierra Leone's Prime Minister found it necessary to repeat substantially Juxon-Smith's broadcast blaming the SLPP for the country's economic ills. Juxon-Smith had an excuse for his broadcast. He had just come into power, quite unexpectedly, only a few weeks after the end of SLPP rule. He could claim that all he had had time to do was to evaluate problems in an effort to find solutions. Why is this dead horse still being flogged after two whole years?

The truth is that the APC Government have spent all their time so far trying to take vengeance on those who did not support them in opposition, and to crush opposition likely to stand in the way of APC one-party rule. So Dr. Stevens has suddenly discovered that a whole year has passed without a single original attempt by his Government to solve economic problems. All that has happened is a continuation of the IMF agreement signed by the SLPP Government in 1966, and of projects begun during the rule of the SLPP or the NRC. Dr. Stevens himself could give credit to his Government for only one thing; they have rescued the oil refinery project from the "shambles" in which it was when they came into power.

This rescue operation is worth examining. Dr. Stevens stated that the Shell figures for the project was Le.3m. in 1962: the final price accepted by the SLPP Government

was Le.6.9m., and he has got it going for Le.7.4m. But the Prime Minister did not state that at the time the Haifa figures were accepted, Shell could no longer undertake the project for less than twice their original figure. The position now is: the SLPP would have carried out the whole project and got the whole of the profit for Le.6.9m.; Dr. Stevens has done half of it for half the profit for Le.7.4m. It is not surprising that the Prime Minister followed his broadcast with a cabinet reshuffle in which a prominent scapegoat was sacrificed.

Dr. Stevens is concerned over the lack of money for development. Yet for months he has allowed our greatest single source of revenue to be plundered and laid waste—diamonds in the SLST lease. After all, was it not the same Dr. Stevens who went on the air last November to announce to the world that he had authorised a full scale police and military operation against those political rivals who allegedly used the secret societies to create disturbances in areas where by-election campaigns were going on? Why did he delay to take similar strong action to honour his agreement with SLST? Oxford.

P. L. TUCKER.

SIR.—The coming constitutional changes in Sierra Leone are most welcome. But it is sincerely hoped that republicanism is not simply a euphemism for dictatorship with all its attendant consequences. A free, tolerant society is one of the prerequisites for nation-building. This can only be achieved in a democracy with the essential tripartite of plurality of parties, a free press, and a judiciary, civil service and armed forces all free from political interference.

In addition, the ordinary courts of the land should be empowered to declare certain acts of the executive *ultra vires*, where

these clearly offend the spirit and letter of the Constitution.

At a time like this, when the political life of West Africa looks so forboding and inauspicious, Sierra Leone should stand out as a beacon of light and hope, democracy and tolerance.

E. O. M. MARKE.

SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS

SIR.—I disagree with your views about the possible role of Brig. Africa in the future civilian government in Ghana (editorial, April 12). I think it would be unwise to encourage young army officers in Africa to take the advantage of the opportunity they have to serve their countries as an easy stepping stone to becoming civilian rulers. Soldiers are no politicians. They hold their power in trust for the people elected leaders, and as soon as these leaders emerge the soldiers should retire to the barracks, with thanks from their grateful nations (if they have performed their jobs well). They should not try to retain leadership by allowing themselves to be "persuaded" to run for civilian offices, at least not in the first civilian government they hand over to.

Of course, as a full-fledged citizen of Ghana Brig. Africa is qualified to run for the highest office in the government. But if he wants to do this he should not have any undue advantage over other candidates running for the same office.

His honesty and competence of the Brigadier cannot be doubted, but it is questionable whether a competent military leader would necessarily prove a competent civilian leader, especially when he has to work with seasoned politicians.

Duke University,
Durham, U.S.A.

SHILA SULLY.



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"MONEY" You probably read about or heard of the gentleman who, wanting to get his own back on what he thought was a very mean local government council, wrote them a cheque on the living hide of a cow and led the cow to City Hall. The requisite revenue stamps having been duly affixed, of course, the cow was legal tender! (Its flanks were probably very tender too—after all that scratching about with a red hot quill!) I suppose, in the way that banks return old cheques to their customers, the cow eventually found its way back to home pastures—having been stamped with the Teller's-number of all.

But, joking apart, there was a time when, if they had banks or safety deposits in some pastoral communities, they would in all probability look more like cattle ranches than banks as we now know them. For in such communities cattle would be money—the actual medium of exchange against which goods and services were valued. In other communities, grain, wool, fish-hooks, skins, furs, cowries and shells have been used as currency. Indeed, in parts of Nigeria, cowries and manilla were, less than 100 years ago, legal tender. If you were to lose your cheque book and you decide to write your next cheque on the flanks of a cow, National Bank of Nigeria will honour it—provided you do have an account with the bank and that all legal requirements for valid cheques—duties, etc., are complied with.

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WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

ELDER DEMPSTER LINES

SOUTHBOUND—From Liverpool:—AUREOL sls. Liverpool May 2; DUMURRA sls. Liverpool May 14; OGUASI sls. Liverpool May 22; DARU due Lagos May 3; DUNKWA due Lome May 5.

From London:—PATANI sls. London May 2; ONITSHA sls. London May 8; EBANI due Appa May 4; FALABA due Luanda May 4. From Continent:—KADUNA sls. Rotterdam May 3; FIAN due Tiko May 3.

NORTHBOUND—To Liverpool:—FOURAH BAY due Liverpool May 3; KUMBA due Liverpool May 5; DONGA due Takoradi May 4; OTI due Las Palmas.

To London:—EGORI due London May 1; BHAMO due Freetown May 5; OWERRI due Las Palmas May 5.

To Continent:—FORCADOS due Hamburg May 7; FREETOWN due Douala May 3; KABALA due Amsterdam May 9.

EASTBOUND—From USA/Canada:—DEIDO due Lagos May 3; DIXCOVE sls. New York May 7.

WESTBOUND—To USA/Canada:—DEGEMA due Fall River May 7; DUMBAIA due Fall River May 3; FULANI due Sapelo May 3.

From India/Pakistan/Burma:—GOWANBANK due Douala May 25; BEECHBANK sls. Calcutta Apr. 20.

JAPAN "K" LINE

WESTBOUND—From Japan (via Hong Kong and Cape):—MATADA, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc.—LOUISIANA MARU sls. Japan Apr. 6 due Lagos May 13.

EASTBOUND—From Matsai, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. to Japan (via Singapore):—LOUISIANA MARU sls. Lagos May 18, Tema May 21, Freetown May 25, due Japan June 30.

BARBER WEST AFRICAN LINES

OUTWARDS—FERNWOOD now due Abidjan, thence Tema, Lagos/Appa, Douala and Takoradi; TITANIA due Freetown May 8, thence Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Appa, Douala, Cabinda and Takoradi; TEMA due sail New York May 13, Halifax (NS) May 16 for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Appa, Douala and Takoradi.

HOMEWARDS—TEMA due Norfolk May 10, thence Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York; GORVILLE now due load Ghana (northbound), Abidjan 1st week May, Buchanan/Monrovia 2nd week May; FERNWOOD due load Lagos (southbound) about May 7, Douala May 10, Lagos/Ghana (northbound) mid May, Abidjan 3rd week May, Buchanan/Monrovia 4th week May.

LARRELL LINES

HOMEWARDS—AUSTRALIAN GALAXY sls. Tema (May 7) for Takoradi, Abidjan, Monrovia for US ports; AUSTRALIAN ISLE sls. Abidjan (May 15) for Monrovia for US ports.

OUTWARDS—AFRICAN RAINBOW due Monrovia (May 8) for Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema (May 20), Douala and Sao Tome; AFRICAN GLADE due Monrovia (May 15) for Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema (May 25), Matadi, Luanda and Lobito.

HUGO STINNES TRASOZEAN SCHEFFERT GUMMI
DIRK VON MINDEN sls. Rouen Apr. 28, due Las Palmas May 5, Abidjan, May 13; KONSUL RETLAFF sls. Rouen May 2, due Las Palmas May 8, Dakar May 13, Abidjan May 16.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINES
INWARDS—STRAAT MOZAMBIQUE from China and Hong Kong sls. Hong Kong Apr. 8, due Lagos/Appa May 10, Cononau May 13, Lome May 17, Tema May 19, Abidjan May 22, Monrovia May 25, Freetown May 27, Dakar May 30, Conakry June 3; STRAAT FILEMANTLE from Japan sls. Kobe Apr. 21 due Lagos/Appa optional, Tema May 30, Monrovia June 3, Freetown June 6, Abidjan June 10, Takoradi June 12.

OUTWARDS—STRAAT MOZAMBIQUE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong and Cebu, first half June; STRAAT FREMANTLE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan second half June.

PALM LINE
SOUTHBOUND—From Liverpool:—LOBITO PALM due Lagos May 3.

From Continent:—ILESHA PALM due Dakar May 5.

NORTHBOUND—To London:—IBADAN PALM sls. Takoradi May 4.
To Liverpool:—ELMINA PALM due Pointe Noire May 3.
To Liverpool:—LAGOS PALM sls. Appa May 7.
To Continent:—ANDONI PALM due Douala May 3.

HOLLAND WEST AFRICA LINE
SOUTHBOUND—From Continent:—SENEGALKUST due Douala May 1; LAARDERKERK due Freetown May 1.

NORTHBOUND—To Continent:—LEKKERK due Amsterdam May 6, Bremen May 12, Hamburg May 15; DAHOMEKUST sls. Rotterdam May 12, Amsterdam May 19, Bremen May 17, Hamburg May 19.

NOPAL WEST AFRICA LINE
EASTBOUND—NOPAL LUNA sls. New Orleans Apr. 19 due Takoradi May 5, Lagos May 12, Warri May 16; NOPAL VEGA sls. New Orleans May 2 due Takoradi May 12, Lagos May 25, Warri May 29.

WESTBOUND—NOPAL SUN sls. London Apr. 6 due New Orleans May 3, Hong Kong May 12; NOPAL TELLUS sls. Luanda May 16 due Takoradi May 21, New Orleans June 10, Houston June 14.

HOEGH LINES
HOEGH BEAVER slg. Hamburg May 2, Antwerp May 6, Rouen May 9 due Dakar May 16, Monrovia May 19; HOEGH BISCAY sls. Bremen May 14, Hamburg May 16, Freetown May 30, Abidjan June 1, Tema June 4.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE
SOUTHBOUND—HJELMAREN ldg. Sweden via including South Finland during May 15, West Africa during May 15, West Africa during May 15, West Africa during May 15.

NORTHBOUND—SUNNAREN ldg. West Africa first half May for Scandinavia and May 15 for Scandinavia; MINNESOTA ldg. West Africa Continent and Scandinavia June/early July.

CHARGEUR REUNIS
KERGUELEN due Lagos/Appa May 1, Freetown May 16; CAPRIA slg. Cape May 26.

MAERSK LINE
HENRIETTA MAERSK sls. Lagos/Appa May 2 arr. Tema May 3; JOHANNA MAERSK sls. Luanda May 14 arr. Tema May 15.

HITSUKI OSK LINE
MOTSUKA MARU sls. Kobe Apr. 14, 22, 29, 29; HUDSON MARU sls. Apr. 21 due Lagos May 2; HAVAN MARU sls. Kobe May 4 due Lagos June 1.

NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE
SOUTHBOUND—NNAMDI AZIKWE lds. London May 13; RICHARD DE LARRE lds. Amsterdam May 3.

NORTHBOUND—KING JAJA due Antwerp mouth May 6; ODODUWA due Antwerp May 2.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE
BUENA FORTUNA sl. New Orleans Apr. 30, Houston May 4 for Dakar, Lagos, Freetown; SOPHIA C slg. New Orleans May 1, Houston May 18 for Lagos, Luanda, Abidjan and Freetown.

WOERMANN LINE
PAZIFIK slg. Dunkirk May 5, Rouen May 6 due Dakar May 15, Conakry May 16; LISSABON slg. Antwerp May 5, due Las Palmas May 13, Freetown May 18, Monrovia May 21.

GOLD STAR LINE
SHAVIT sls. Kobe Apr. 29/May 9 due Hong Kong May 13/15, Singapore May 17, Tsedeck slg. Freetown May 1/2, Bahr. May 3/4.

BLACK STAR LINE/SEVEN STAR LINE/OSNIH/WET LINE
SOUTHBOUND—NASIA RIVER Tema Apr. 22, New York May 2, Philadelphia May 10, thence Gulf.

BLAOK STAR LINE-UK/CONTINENT/ WEST AFRICA
SOUTHBOUND—BIA RIVER Hamburg 3, Bremen May 6, Antwerp May 8, Rouen May 10, Dunkirk May 12; BENYA RIVER Hamburg May 27, Bremen May 29, Antwerp May 31, Rotterdam June 3, Dunkirk June 5.

NORTHBOUND—OTCHI RIVER Hamburg May 14; SAKUMO LAGOON Lome May 13.

EDWARD NASSAR LINE
EMIR BECHIR slg. Gibraltar May 1, Freetown May 10, Beirut May 15.

commercial news

COMMODITY PACTS AND AID

ATTEMPTS to stem reduction in demand for primary products relative to that for processed goods and services seem doomed to failure in the long run, warns an editorial in the *Barclays Bank Overseas Review*. "In some cases the possibilities of maintaining prices for an increasing flow of exports by better marketing techniques, export promotion and advertising campaigns have not yet been fully explored and may prove more beneficial than international agreements."

Referring to the apparent economic law working against primary producers, the commentary admits that higher or more stable prices may result from international intervention, but points out that unexpected side effects may later arise, such as the discovery of cheaper substitutes or a restraint on consumption as a result of high prices.

The review concludes that the value of international commodity agreements must be considered on their individual merits: the recent sugar agreement was welcome but "does not provide a model for other commodities, where something more flexible is usually required."

• The net flow of financial resources to developing countries from developed nations and multilateral agencies rose to a new peak of almost \$11,000m in 1967, according to a United Nations report.

This sum represents 0.70 per cent of the gross national product (GNP) of major free-market economies, and the report estimates that if the United Nations' 1 per cent GNP target is to be met, the flow to developing countries must be increased to \$19,000m. in 1972.

Multilateral agencies greatly increased their share of the flow to about 10 per cent of the total, and the socialist countries of eastern Europe and Asia provided an average of about \$350,000m a year in the same period.

The report finds that greatly increased access to private capital markets will be required by multilateral lending institutions to sustain the increases in their activities which are foreseen at present.

• After months of delay, the United States Senate foreign relations committee has sanctioned payment of £200m. to the International Development Association, the World Bank affiliate which provides loans on easy terms to developing countries. The contribution must now be approved by the full Senate.

• West Germany granted a record total of \$1,620m in aid to developing countries last year, the Minister of Economic Cooperation, Herr Eppler, has stated. Governmental and private aid showed a 44 per cent increase over the previous year. The figure represented 1.21 per cent of West Germany's gross national product, he said

—over the 1 per cent. minimum urged by the 1968 World Trade Conference.

The increase was chiefly due to a quicker flow of private capital exports, whose share of total aid reached 63 per cent. In previous years the private share lay between one-third and one-half of the total.

Technical aid to developing countries increased to \$140m from \$125m in 1967.

• A rough preliminary estimate of developing countries' growth in 1967 is 5.5 per cent, higher than in previous years, says the OECD's *1968 Review of Development Assistance* (summarised in *West Africa*, Mar. 29). Income per *caput* in Africa rose by much less, however: though export earnings rose 8 per cent, owing chiefly to new North African oil. "Development planning in the continent has in most cases still to demonstrate its ability to achieve the social and economic targets envisaged." The *Review* points out development must be qualitative (not just a higher GNP) and that aid alone, though mutual, may not suffice to ensure "immediate economic growth."

Rice conference

West African countries will hold a conference under United Nations auspices next September designed to lead to the setting up of an international organisation to increase rice production in their region. The venue has not yet been chosen.

Rice production in Africa for the 1968-69 crop is still estimated about one per cent above the 4.2m tons recorded for the previous year, reports the Commonwealth Secretariat's rice bulletin. A small increase is recorded for Sierra Leone, and although the harvests in Ghana and Nigeria are slightly smaller, the report says that the long-term trend in both countries is for a considerable expansion.

• The Ghanaian Enterprises Committee has released the names of 202 enterprises which fall within the category of enterprises to be reserved for Ghanaians; it was not claimed to be an exclusive list, and those enterprises not on it were warned that they would have to comply with the decree of enterprises if they fell within the categories listed there. The list includes Pfizer, a pharmaceutical firm involving US interests; Edward Nassar & Co., British owned; Bust and Stephenson (also British); Ashanti Auto Parts (British-owned) of Kumasi; and the Lebanese-owned City Food Supply. Nearly all the others are Lebanese, others being Syrian and Indian particularly.

• Ghana and France have signed an agreement on French technical assistance in education, administration, development and research.

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commercial news

Shippers optimistic

Our Liverpool correspondent writes:

Trade with West Africa in the first five months of this year will be 20 per cent up on the corresponding period of last year, the United Kingdom—West African Line Joint Service, representing six shipping companies, revealed in Liverpool. The increase will put trade back to its 1967 level.

Mr Peter Earlan, assistant director and commercial manager of Elder Dempster, told a news conference to mark a two-day sales symposium that there were signs of a diversification from the traditional business in Ghana and Nigeria.

"We are encouraged to see the increase in British exports to such places as the Congo and the greater interest being taken in the ex-French West African countries, such as Ivory Coast," Mr. Earlan told 70 salesmen studying the facilities offered by the West African service's six member lines—Elder Dempster, Palm, Guinea Gulf, Black Star, Nigerian National and Hogh.

"Clearly the figures would have been much better but for the Nigerian war and the continued closure of Port Harcourt which increases operational problems."

The advent of the oil industry in Nigeria and Angola had produced extra cargo to compensate for the reduction in consumer goods now produced in West Africa or discouraged by licensing restrictions. "Most encouraging" was the flow of cargo to Ghana where exports were approaching 250,000 tons a year. "We believe that our efforts have encouraged British exporters to give greater attention to the growth potential of the West African market," he said. It might soon prove necessary to increase the service to the Congo and the first service from London and Liverpool direct to Lobito with one or two intermediate calls would be speeded up to decrease transit times.

On operations, Mr. Earlan explained that it had proved difficult to operate an efficient service from London and Liverpool, partly due to a labour shortage arising from the container revolution. Joint Service vessels had sailed on average three days late on advertised sailing dates this year, compared with seven days late in 1968. Fast mail services to Apapa had sailed on time. There were also problems in West Africa itself: in Apapa, Nigeria, ships sometimes had to wait up to 10 days for a berth, and lack of berths at Freetown would remain a problem until the completion of the four new berths presently under construction. West African ports in recent years had made great strides in modernisation but problems of organisation, supervision and control of labour ashore remained. "Those responsible are doing all they can to help improve overall conditions," he said.

TANKER WILL ACT AS OIL STORE

A 110,000-ton tanker is to be moored at Ogula in the Forcados Estuary to act as an oil store until Shell-BP's storage terminal there is completed in 1971. The terminal, which will be at the end of a 60-mile, £173m, pipeline from Ughelli and Warri in the Mid-West, will be able to handle 365,000 barrels a day.

The Lagos Chamber of Commerce reports that the country's oil production will soon exceed its pre-war level. February production totalled 558,737 barrels a day, almost where it stood when fighting started in July 1967, after which production plummeted to 61,823 barrels a day last year.

● Talks are being held between the Federal Government and Dunlop Nigerian Plantations about the future of the company's estates in Calabar, which ceased functioning in September, 1967, as a result of the civil war. In Dunlop's annual report, the chairman, Sir Reay Geddes, says that the talks began after a survey indicated that a substantial amount of money would be required for rehabilitation and to bring the estates to maturity, but with uncertain profitability.

The report says that although the war also caused difficulties for Dunlop Nigerian Industries (tyre manufacturers), sales and profits were again satisfactory.

Cocoa stocks lowest for 10 years

After four consecutive seasons of production shortfalls, which have only been met up to now by heavy drawing on stocks held by consumer countries, cocoa stocks are lower than they have been for 10 years and represent less than three months consumption, reports a European Economic Community bulletin on produce from developing countries.

Although there are some trends helping to unsettle the market—grinding figures in large consumer countries are slightly down, for instance, while retail prices are up—these factors alone will not be enough to act as a break on rising, if fluctuating, prices in the months ahead. Suggestions that first quarter grind was sustained by wholesalers' accumulation in anticipation of higher prices indicates that second quarter grinds could show greater declines than last year.

● Ghana's State Cocoa Marketing Board is to pay a total of NC387,564 as a bonus to producers throughout the country, Mr. N. A. Dennis, the chief marketing officer, announced.

● Rubber seedlings worth NC 100,000 will be given away to farmers in Ghana in an attempt to boost output, and plantations in the Western Region formerly administered by the State Farms Corporation have been handed over to Firestone (Ghana) Ltd. Trial production has started in Bonsaso on a NC 2.7m. tyre factory which aims at producing 90 per cent of the country's requirement.

Guaranteed minimum prices for rice and maize have also been increased, and the Government is considering the establishment of a Grains Development Board.

● Four US experts are to study a planned new highway between Accra and Abidjan.



Two per cent of Ghana's foreign currency earnings come from one timber firm. Gliksten a London-based Ghanaian company, which has tripled its exports in the past decade. Now the company is about to embark on a new venture: a £500,000 plywood and veneer factory built alongside its main saw-mill (above).

Mr. R. T. S. Macpherson has been appointed deputy chairman and managing director of William Mullinson and Sons. Mr. G. C. Hughes has been appointed assistant managing director with particular responsibilities for plywood and board materials.

The appointments were made on January 24 but publication has been delayed pending the outcome of the recent offers for Denny Mott and Dickson. On completion of the acquisition of Denny Mott and Dickson it is intended to appoint to the Mullinson Board two directors of Denny, Mr. R. S. Jeffries (as joint managing director in conjunction with Mr. R. T. S. Macpherson) and Mr. H. C. Hine (as an assistant managing director with particular responsibility for softwood).

● The 10 per cent of Nigeria's land area which has been designated forest reserve is inadequate to meet the country's timber requirements: 25 per cent would be desirable, according to the Midwest Chief Conservator of Forests, G. A. Ogbu, who pointed out that one in 10 people in his state was connected with forestry.

GOMB surplus

As a result of high market prices, the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board estimates that its trading surplus will amount to £720,000, and sales tax collected by Government will be £400,000 compared to £610,000 the previous season.

● George Wimpey's annual report says its building of 150 miles of roads in The Gambia made "such excellent progress" in 1968 that "completion is expected near a year ahead of the contract period." In Sierra Leone Wimpey is extending the Sierra Leone Development Co.'s jetty at Pepel (it is necessary to allow bigger iron ore ships to dock at the port, which is at the terminus of a railway, also run by Delco, from Marampa mine). In Nigeria it has helped in a rehabilitation survey of the Nigerian Petroleum Refining Co.'s installation at Port Harcourt.

● A 13-man committee headed by Mr. R. A. Quarshie, Commissioner for Trade, is to be formed to advise the Trade and Industries Ministry on matters relating to the issue of import licences in Ghana.

● A loan of CFA Francs 175m. has been granted by France to Cameroun for the construction of automatic telephone centres.

CDC EXTENDS ITS ACTIVITIES

A Bill seeking to allow the Commonwealth Development Corporation to borrow more money and operate in countries outside the Commonwealth has been given a second reading in the British Parliament.

During the debate, the Minister of Overseas Development, Mr. Reg Prentice, said that in 1969/70 the Government expected to provide £10m for the Corporation out of a total aid programme of £227m. Its enlarged borrowing facilities were expected to cover operations for the next 10 years.

Mr. Prentice stressed that the Corporation would remain Commonwealth-orientated for a long time, so there was no need for a change of name. But there might be an extension to countries geographically close to Commonwealth countries in which the Corporation already operated and in which its regional staff had experience. "A successful hotel in Nigeria now almost entirely staffed by local people" was cited during the debate as an example of the Corporation's work.

In addition the Commonwealth Development Finance Company (eight per cent of whose interests are in West Africa) is to concentrate more on providing equity capital and less on making loans. It will widen its scope of operations to "wherever it may serve British or Commonwealth interests in to do."

British Leyland's truck and bus division recently won contracts for 490 vehicles worth £1.5m. from six African countries in a single week. Largest of the contracts, worth £636,000 was from Nigeria for the supply of 120 Super Beaver, 24 Chieftain, 20 Clydesdale and 14 Comet vehicles.

A new service, Associated Railway Consultants, has been formed to provide up-to-date expert advice on every aspect of railway design, construction, operating and management to any country in the world.

It is jointly promoted by the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations and a British firm of consulting engineers, Livesey and Henderson, but will operate independently of its promoters, as a company registered in the United Kingdom.

Shipments to Africa of apple and other Sussex fruit wines by the Merrydown Wine company are running at three times last year's levels. The British company's managing director, Mr. Ian Howie, sold 3,000 gallons of assorted fruit wines in Lagos on a single day during a recent two-week trip to West Africa.

A colloquium in Abidjan has called on the heads of state of the Afro-Malagasy Common Organisation (OCAM) to adopt a declaration setting out ways and means of achieving the Africanisation of executives in the private sector. The colloquium, which was organised by OCAM, called for regular meetings on the subject, and underlined the necessity of founding a policy of Africanisation on common principles accepted by all OCAM states, and the inter-professional associations in those states.

Seven years after Liberia and Japan agreed to exchange envoys, a Liberian ambassador, Mr. Roland Henry, has presented his credentials in Tokyo.

Sierra Leone mining

Purchases at the Sierra Leone Government's Diamond Office in February had an export value of Le2,902,602 compared to Le1,694,444 in the same month last year—the highest February figure since the Office was established 10 years ago. This brings the total value of diamonds bought for the first two months of 1969 to Le5,045,549, almost double the figure for the same period in 1968.

Taylor Woodrow of Sierra Leone has been awarded a Le200,000 contract for a diamond treatment plant, following the completion last year of two plants at Yengema for the Sierra Leone Selection Trust.

The Sierra Leone Development Co., which mines iron ore at Marampa and forms most of the Mining Division of the UK firm William Baird, "achieved a significant recovery" in 1968, says an announcement by the Board of Baird; the improvement, it adds, was "less than expected" mainly because some shipments scheduled for 1968 were not called forward by customers until early 1969.

Mining profit rose from £1,342,000 to £1,759,000, and group pre-tax profit from £2,917,000 to £3,783,000.

In the annual statement of Alusuisse (Swiss Aluminium Ltd.), of which Sierra Leone Ore and Metal Company is a wholly owned subsidiary, bauxite production for 1968 is reported to have been 400,000 tons, 23 per cent up on the previous year. The Sierra Leone mine is now the major supplier of bauxite to the company's alumina plants. Alusuisse has plants in Germany, Italy, France and Guinea, where the company participates in FRISA. Alusuisse is itself the biggest customer of the Guinea plant, where over 4 m. tons of alumina were produced in 1968.

A loan of Le ½m. has been approved by the UN Development Programme for the Sierra Leone Electricity Corporation. The Corporation, which already has a World Bank loan, is spending some Le 8m. on expansion and improvement in the next 3-4 years. Freetown's King Tom power station will be extended and new stations will be started at Kenema and Koidu. The Corporation made an operating surplus of Le 2m. in 1967-68.

Japan in the Congo

The first copper exports to Japan mined by the recently established joint Japanese-Congolese firm, Societe Development Industrielle et Miniere du Congo, are scheduled for 1972 say the company officials, who are reportedly confident that cobalt diamonds and uranium will also be found in the areas of Katanga in which the company will be operating.

Copper deposits of over 130m. tons have already been confirmed by Japanese mining experts, who are spearheading their country's first attempt to develop overseas copper resources with its own capital and technology.

Congo-Kinshasa's next cotton crop should meet the country's requirements, reports the Standard Bank. Since 1960 the country has been importing cotton from the United States.

Production of robusta coffee, cocoa, palm oil, tea and rubber is expected to rise this year, and new development should result from the improvement in world prices for palm oil.

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NOTICES

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wishes to inform all its members that there will be a

General Meeting and Election
on Sunday, 4th May, 1969,
at Nigeria Centre, 20-22 Inverness
Terrace, London, W.2.

At 2 p.m.

PLEASE BE THERE.

N. M. Sule, Publicity Secretary,
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NIGERIAN STUDENTS
ACTION COMMITTEE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There will be a general meeting of the Action Committee today, Saturday May 3rd 1969.

Place: Nigeria Centre and Hostel
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Time: 4 p.m.

Agenda: Election of Officers.
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GHANA

Politics Decree: CPP Leaders Banned

A DECREE permitting the revival of political parties was published on April 28. It bans several categories of people, in addition to the 152 disqualified from public office by a decree of last February, from being founding members of a political party or holding office in it. These include all who at any time after July 1, 1960, were members of the central committee of the CPP, Secretary General of that party, Ministers of State, Special Advisers to the President, Regional or District Commissioners, or holders of certain other specified offices.

No political party, according to the decree, may be formed on a tribal or religious basis, and none may have a name intended to arouse tribal or religious feelings. Before a party is registered by the Electoral Commissioner a list of the full names and addresses of the first 54 members will be required. At least three of the founding members must reside, or be registered as voters, in each of the regions of Ghana, but no more than six of the founding members may belong to any one tribe.

Mr. John Alex Hamah, a former trade unionist and exiled opposition leader who intends to form a new political party, has protested to the Attorney-General's office against its failure to invite him to a meeting with prospective political leaders in Accra. This meeting was reported to have discussed the proposed decree legalising political activities (one report suggests that the new ban on forming of parties by certain people had not been decided then). An official of the Attorney-General's office said there had been a "mere oversight" in Mr. Alex Hamah's case. The *Pioneer* had an editorial on the meeting, asking why it took place and how it was decided who were political party leaders.

On April 21, in the *Pioneer*, Kwame Kesse-Adu said it seemed there would be nine political parties, headed by Messrs. K. A. Busia, K. A. Gbedemah, P. K. K. Quaidoo, M. Apaloo, J. Alex Hamah, J. Egala, K. de Graft Johnson, J. Bilson and K. Boison; with possibly another added, under Mr. Joe Appiah. Kesse-Adu said Mr. Modesto Apaloo seemed to be forming his own organisation, and he accused him of betrayal of the "Danquah Faithful."

● Dr. John Bilson, a medical practitioner who has headed the grouping called the "third force," has announced that the party he intends to lead will be called the All People's Congress (APC).

● Mr. Modesto Apaloo, formerly a leading UP politician, has denied that he was one of the politicians who allegedly received from General Ankrah money from the sums paid to the General by businessmen. He said the former NLC Chairman had canvassed him about his (Ankrah's) hopes for the presidency, but Apaloo had said this was a matter for the party to which he (Apaloo) would belong.

Mr. Apaloo has been replaced as chairman of the Water and Sewerage Corporation in a reshuffle of the board. He has called for an enquiry into the Corporation, to cover purchasing, award of contracts, and distribution of materials and equipment. While he was chairman, he said, there had been rumours of irregularities and malpractices, but when the board ordered an enquiry the Commissioner then responsible had tried to stop it. He said he drew the NLC's attention to some allegations, but his board had been dissolved prematurely and prevented from taking remedial action; some allegations had been investigated and confirmed, however. He suggested his actions might have caused displeasure.

A reply on behalf of the Government said the board of the Corporation had been reconstituted because of a "breach of confidence" between the managing director and the board. It added that Mr. Apaloo had set up a committee to investigate allegations against the managing director, but that he should now apologise to the managing director, as the committee had cleared him; the Government had not interfered with Mr. Apaloo's running of the Corporation.

Lt.-Col. E. A. Yeboah of the NLC and Commissioner for Works and Housing has now asked the Auditor-General to investigate the alleged malpractices and irregularities in the management of the Water and Sewerage Corporation.

The new chairman of the Board of the Corporation is Mr. J. E. Boukye-Mensah, a businessman.

● The *Pioneer* has called for publication of the names of politicians to whom General Ankrah allegedly passed on sums of money paid to him by companies.

Mr. B. A. Bentum, TUC Secretary-General, has said in a letter to the *Pioneer* that the Ankrah affair explains the bad state of labour relations. Ankrah's administration, he says, "stood behind employers even in the light of naked injustice . . . against the workers." He added, "Justice must return. The high cost of living, the grave unemployment situation and the other social injustices are to be seriously looked into and remedied."

The Students' Association for National Integration has called for the deportation of Mr. F. A. Nzeribe, the businessman who allegedly acted as intermediary between General Ankrah and certain businessmen said to have paid him bribes.

● The Constituent Assembly has decided to adhere to the procedure accepted last February, under which amendments must be channelled through Committees, after which any that are accepted are processed through the Business Committee. Mr. Justice Azu Crabbe, chairman of the Business Committee, said the House should adopt a procedure that would not confuse

members, if it was to complete the Constitution on time.

No part of the land of Ghana may be sold freehold to any alien, though the alien can lease property, the Assembly has decided in its discussions of the "Public Lands and Other Property" section of the constitutional proposals. The provision is to be entrenched in the constitution.

Two members of the Assembly have called on the Government to postpone the legislation of political parties, and one—Mr. J. Mercer—an NLC nominee—said it should be postponed until next January, and a civilian programme to Sept. 1970. Mrs. Sylvia Boye, another NLC nominee, said the current dearth of members at some Assembly sessions suggested that would follow after lifting of the ban.

The Assembly reached deadlock when it discussed the clause laying down conditions under which killing may be lawful (suppression of riots, for example); some members feared it might give too much licence to the police. The whole question of individual rights, then under discussion, was referred to a small committee for further discussion. The Assembly has discussed clauses on Finance, the Armed Forces and the Prison Service. In discussion of individual rights an amendment on the rights of women and children was carried, it says, among other things, that all children, legitimate or not, shall have the same right to special care and assistance.

The Assembly has accepted the Constitutional Proposals' section on the police service, with some amendments on the proposed Police Council. On the Prison Service Commission, it decided that an MA appointed to the Commission should resign his seat.

An amendment by Mr. Joe Appiah to enable aliens who marry Ghanaians to obtain Ghana nationality, was rejected by the Assembly.

Airways' First Crash

● A DC3 of Ghana Airways crashed when coming in to land at Takoradi on April 28. One person—Mr. C. Moss, an Englishman working in Takoradi for the distilleries of A. Laing—was killed, and most of the other 31 people aboard, including the crew of three, were injured. They included the pilot, Captain David Tait, the flight officer and stewardess: Mr. S. Arthur, supervising editor of *The Pioneer*; Mrs. Nancy Tsioboo, proprietress of the Happy Home Institute of Kumasi; Mr. J. K. Agyeman of the Chieftaincy Secretariat; Mr. Abiu Jackson, lecturer of Kumasi University; Miss Gertrude Chamberlain, a Canadian tutor at the Takoradi Polytechnic; and several businessmen. Ten were quickly discharged, and, while some others were detained in hospital, there was said to be no cause for alarm.

The Government ordered an enquiry immediately to examine the cause of the crash, which was the first in Ghana Airways history. According to a *Daily Graphic* report the aircraft from Kumasi radioed Takoradi Airport after one of its engines had stopped, and jettisoned 300 gallons of fuel before circling the airport and landing on a cassava farm. An editorial in the same newspaper pointed out that DC3s were very old aircraft.

● Mr. David Andoh, group legal adviser to UAC of Ghana, has been appointed Commissioner for Lands and Mineral Resources

in succession to Mr. P. D. Ann, who after a short period in that post was reappointed Commissioner for External Affairs. Mr. Andoh, who comes from Sekondi, was educated at the Legon and Southampton. He has been made a member of the Economic Committee of the NLC. Mr. E. N. Ombao, Economic Affairs Commissioner and a member of the Committee, has become its vice-chairman and convener.

Alhaji Abu Wemah has been appointed Commissioner responsible for Secretariats and Special Departments and for State Protocol (this post is not one of those included in the Executive Council). Burn in Tamale, he has been ambassador to Upper Volta, Bulgaria, UAR and, most recently, Mali.

Part Three of the Report of the Electoral and Local Government Commission has been published, together with a White Paper: they deal particularly with local government (and include some allegations of fraud and defalcation in the accounts of some local councils).

Chiefs are to receive 40 per cent of their stool lands' revenue, the rest going to district councils after deduction of administrative costs assessed at 7.5 per cent, under recommendations by the Enquiry, which was into the Electoral and Local Government Reform and was headed by Mr. J. Siriboe.

Salary Changes Suspended

The implementation of the Mills-Odoi Report on salaries in the public service has been suspended. Brig. Africa announced this after receiving a delegation of civil servants' associations, he told them a committee would enquire into the Report's salary recommendations. The salary rises provided for by the Report (published last May) were to be enforced in several stages, one stage was passed on April 1 (The increases have been criticised as insufficient).

The NLC has reorganised the Civil Service Commission to conform with the establishment of a unified public service organisation. The new organisation will be responsible for training, recruitment, appointment, promotion and discipline for the senior grades in the civil service, the police and prisons services, the teaching service, the fire service and the local government service.

Mr. K. Amoako-Atta, last Minister of Finance in the old regime, has been acquitted, together with a prison warden charged with him, on a charge of conspiracy to smuggle things out of prison.

Canada has provided Ghana with a 2m.-seed grant for purchase of 25,000 metric tons of wheat from Canada. Wheat is said to be needed this year because of damage due to last year's unusually heavy rains.

SIERRA LEONE Stevens to visit US

The Prime Minister will pay a two-week visit to the United States and Japan later this month. It is reported from Freetown that Mr. Stevens told the Japanese Ambassador there that he was anxious for Sierra Leone to learn technological lessons from

Japan. Sierra Leone will also take part in the 1970 World Fair in Japan.

Mr. M. S. Mustapha, the Freetown business man and Muslim leader, is now National Chairman of the opposition SLPP. Mr. Mustapha, a former Minister of Finance, was returned to the House of Representatives in a recent by-election, for a Bo constituency (six people have been charged in Bo Magistrates' Court, following the



Mrs. Joyce Welsh, Secretary to the Governor-General, receives her MBE from Mr. Justice Banjo Tejan-Sie, Acting Governor-General.

alleged kidnapping and maltreatment of Mr. Mustapha during the election campaign). Mr. Jusu-Sherriff, also a former Minister, who is an accountant by profession, is Parliamentary Leader of the Party, which now has 12 MPs. (He is facing charges arising out of political disturbances.)

The party leadership has also announced that if the party has to fill the office of Prime Minister, it will call on the National Chairman Dr. D. M. Yilla is National Treasurer, Mr. Julius Cole remains General Secretary, and Mr. Darany Rogers is Assistant General Secretary. The party also announced that elections to all these offices will be held annually.

During celebrations of the eighth anniversary of independence last week, the Prime Minister promised that Sierra Leone could now expect economic improvement. Key points were closely guarded by troops and police during the celebrations, but no incidents were reported.

At the regional meeting on the rôle of women in national development at ECA's headquarters in Addis Ababa, the Sierra Leone delegation's paper gave the latest available education statistics, those for 1967. There were 135,615 in primary schools, of whom 59,998 were girls, an increase of 7.33 per cent over the previous year. 1968 figures showed a similar increase. In 1967/68 there were 22,129 girls in secondary schools, an enormous increase over 1965, when there were only 3,505, a quarter of the total. Sierra Leone has 950 primary and 76 secondary schools, all co-educational. A few primary schools in remote areas have been closed and the pupils transferred to other schools, for economy. There are nine teacher training colleges, all residential except for the Freetown one, which trains mainly serving teachers. There were nine technical and trade educational institutions. For reasons of economy the pupil-teacher ratio has been raised from 1-20 to 1-25.

For the first time, says the paper, there are now industries in Sierra Leone where the majority of employees are women. These include the knitting, match, cosmetics and clothing factories. One woman automobile electrician holds a grade "B" certificate. There is no discrimination in rates of pay or in opportunities for training. In the police force women could rise to any rank, "except probably that of Commissioner." Fifty per cent of government clerks were women, who could rise to the position of Permanent Secretary.

The report claims that women marrying under Muslim law are "gradually becoming disenchanted with its attitudes and customs." Under native law and custom women can be married at 18, but the minimum age for civil marriages is 21. Even illiterate women in most parts of the country want a degree of independence, which they achieve through petty trading.

A further French-Government backed credit of Le 1m. has been advanced to the government by the French Degremont company for completion of the provincial water supply scheme. The original estimate for the scheme, Le 5,400,000, has been considerably increased as construction proceeded. Thirteen towns in the provinces have been provided with piped water since work began in 1964. Eight more installations are to be completed.

Sixty foreigners are reported to have been expelled from the Kono diamond district in the latest move against "strangers," alleged to be mainly responsible for illicit digging. The government has warned all people living in the area without valid documents to move immediately.

Mr. Oliver Shaw, QC, who was appointed Attorney-General last year, has resigned. A British lawyer, he is about 58.

CONGO-K

President Mobutu has laid a wreath at the grave of the late Joseph Kasavubu, his predecessor as President of the Congo. President Mobutu had been criticised for not returning to Kinshasa from a European tour when M. Kasavubu died in March. On his return from Europe (and from the OAU meeting in Monrovia) the President denounced those who spread rumours that he had been responsible for M. Kasavubu's death.

In an interview in *Al Akhbar*, the Cairo newspaper, Col. Boumedienne, Algerian head of state, has disclosed that several attempts have been made recently to rescue M. Tshombe, former Prime Minister of the Congo, who is detained in Algeria "in the interests of the Congolese nation." It had not been decided what to do with M. Tshombe, said Col. Boumedienne.

Col. Leonard Munga, the Katangese officer, who was head of a rebel government set up by the Schramme mercenaries in Bukavu, has been executed.

Mildefonse Masonga, former Health Minister of secessionist Katanga, later a participant in the 1964 rebellion in North Katanga, has been shot in Lubumbashi (formerly Elizabethville). Among crimes he was said to have committed was the assassination of the Balubakat leader Jason Sendwe in 1964.

SENEGAL

Smuggling Talks with Gambians

The first Extraordinary session of the Senegalo-Gambian Ministerial Committee was held at Dakar on April 21 and 22. The aim was to consider interim measures to combat smuggling, until such a time as a Senegalo-Gambian customs union could be realised. The ministers accepted the report of the Senegambian secretariat on the Committee of Experts which met in Bathurst on April 8 and 9, and studied in detail the question of administrative co-operation between Senegalese and Gambian Customs services. They also considered a project for a "quota agreement" submitted by the Senegalese, and a Gambian proposal to grant, on a reciprocal basis, preferential tariff to Senegalese manufactures (this subject, it was agreed could be discussed at a future meeting after studies had been made).

In his closing speech, M. Karim Gaye, Senegal's Foreign Minister, spoke of the "frankness and understanding" which had characterised even the talks, and Mr. Sheriff Dibba, Gambian Finance Minister said that even if total agreement had not been reached the exchange of views had contributed to a greater understanding of mutual problems. The Gambian government, said Mr. Dibba, gave supreme priority to Senegalo-Gambian co-operation in the framework of African solidarity and the special relations which can exist between states.

The visit of Sir Dauda Jawara to Senegal, which was to have followed the meeting, was postponed, first for two days, then to a later date. No reason was given, but it was thought likely to be connected with the disturbed social situation in Senegal, arising from the school and university strike, which has now carried on for more than a month, and which last week led to a number of violent incidents at schools in the Dakar area.

● Members of the National and Development Club, whose members include several leading political figures, have suggested that a Prime Minister should be appointed, and that there should be measures for decentralising the government. Senegal has had a presidential constitution since 1963, after the crisis in which Mamadou Dia, the Prime Minister challenged the authority of President Senghor.

OERS

Following his visits to Senegal, Lt. Moussa Traoré, Mali head of state at Nema near the Mali frontier, visited Mauritania, for "frank and brotherly" talks with President Ould Daddah at which "a complete identity of viewpoint" was registered. These have been the Mallian's first meetings with two of the three heads of state who are his colleagues in the Senegal River States Organisation (OERS). He has yet to meet President Sekou Touré of Guinea.

Guinea radio has broadcast a Guinean version of the crisis in OERS, attributing the postponement of the extraordinary summit at Conakry in March, to an apparent unwillingness on the part of the Malian leadership (installed after last November's coup), to reply to communications sent to Bamako by President Sekou Touré as Chairman of OERS who was, for example, "still awaiting the opinion of Mali on the newly proposed date of March 27."

PORTUGAL

Portuguese Prime Minister Dr. Marcelo Caetano has been on an eight-day tour of his country's African possessions, Portuguese Guinea, Angola and Mozambique. In Bissau, Portuguese Guinea, his first stop, he told the legislative council: "Peace is the essential condition for the territory's progress. We have to win peace..." He pledged to switch military expenditure, now at an all-time high of £93m, to local development and the next day at Luanda, Angola—richest of the territories—he welcomed outside capital, new schemes and expertise, although Portugal would not end its "own style of humanity."

Similar calls were made at Beira and Lourenço Marques in Mozambique, but Dr. Caetano did not leave the main towns on this first African trip by a Portuguese Premier.

TOGO

President Sekou Touré of Guinea has told Togo's President he wants normal diplomatic relations between Togo and Guinea. Relations were suspended after the January 13, 1963 coup in which President Olympio was assassinated. Since then President Touré has frequently grouped the late Olympio as one of Africa's martyrs, and, by implication, strongly criticised the Togo-leslie military.

● A violent explosion occurred at an ammunition dump in the Tokoin Camp, Lomé, headquarters of the 1st Infantry Battalion of the Togo army. The cause was said to be accidental. The explosion caused damage to several civil buildings around the camp, which also comprises the home of the President, Gen. Etienne Eyadéma.

CAR

Bokassa Warns Foreigners

"Foreigners settled in the Central African Republic, taking advantage of the facilities given them, are ceaselessly interfering in the internal affairs of the country," President Bokassa has said. Their aim was to shatter national unity by setting nationals against one another, said the President, adding that the government would go as far as making the authors of "this Machiavellian practice" appear before a popular meeting to answer for their acts: "I intend this warning to be the last." Col. Banza had tried to win support for last month's abortive coup by saying he had French backing, said the President.

● The Secretariat-General of UDEAC (the Central African Economic and Customs Union) has moved from Brazzaville to Bangui, in accordance with a decision taken at last December's summit. The statistics and customs departments will continue to work in Brazzaville.

GUINEA

After the OAU Committee meeting in Monrovia, Emperor Haile Selassie paid a two-day visit to Conakry. He had talks with President Sekou Touré, and drove with the Guinea President in an open car through crowded streets.

● U Thant has said he has no information to confirm the report that Achkar Marof, former Guinea Ambassador to the UN, has been sentenced to death in Conakry.

UPPER VOLTA

Yameogo Trial Begins

The Upper Volta special tribunal met April 28 for the trial of former President Maurice Yameogo, on charges of embezzlement and wrongful use of public funds. He is said to have embezzled 721,841 CFA francs (about £1.2m). Heavy charges have been imposed in Ouagadougou on the trial which is being held in Bamako. Defending M. Yameogo are MM. Paul Bartoli and Bertin Borna (of the Colon bar) and M. Anani Santos (of the Loubar). It is understood that M. Yameogo is likely to call on President Houphouët-Boigny and President Hamadou Doucoure.

A correspondent writes: It is surprising that the Upper Volta government should have decided to try M. Yameogo at a stage, over three and a half years after



Ex-President Yameogo—stopping his charge of a comeback?

original army coup of January 3, 1966, he fell from power. President Lamizana had always seemed to resist stirring up political controversy by such a trial, although there were frequent calls for punishment of the ex-President, especially from the nationalists whose demonstrations had been a significant cause of the coup. The issue has been affected at this stage by the apparent resolve of the military to continue with their programme of civilianisation in 1970, reaffirmed last month. It was supposed that those in the government are against a possible return of M. Yameogo, have been anxious that the issue should be decided. His own party, the UDV, seemed to have jettisoned him in 1967 before the banning of parties, but he still reported to have some following among the Mossi of Koudougou, his home town. He is also still seen by some as the favourite candidate of President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast, who was his closest political colleague in the days before the coup. It should be noted that concern has been stated from time to time about his state of health, especially as he has twice tried to commit suicide since he was taken into house arrest after the coup. The last suicide bid was reportedly an overdose of Aspirin, taken during the OCAM summit in Niamey in 1968, in an attempt to win sympathy. Just over a year ago the military government called a special meeting of chiefs, political leaders, etc. to discuss the possibility of releasing the ex-President, which apparently decided negatively.

dateline Africa

NIGERIA

Biafrans Retake Owerri

OWERRI, the important crossroads town captured from the Biafrans by Federal forces of the 3rd (Marine Commando) Division last September, is now in Biafran hands again, except possibly for the outskirts, to which Federal forces have retreated. The recapture of the town was announced by Biafra on April 25, and confirmed on April 28 by a Federal statement, which said that "for tactical purposes the Federal troops at Owerri have been ordered to withdraw to a good defensive position on the outskirts of the town." The Biafran claim to have recaptured Owerri admitted that Federal forces had withdrawn, but on April 28 Biafra radio claimed 1,000 of the Nigerian force of 1,500 which had withdrawn had later been killed in an ambush eight miles to the south. (Another report put the Federal forces at Owerri at 5,000 men.) The earlier claims about Owerri had been denied in Lagos as a "blatant lie."

After their capture of Owerri the 3rd Division forces were apparently encircled by a Biafran pincer movement, and from January or February onwards they were under fairly constant siege, except for a short time when some Federal troops broke through along the road from Ahoda. The garrison was supplied by air drops.

Col. Adekunle (3rd Division commander) and two other divisional commanders, Col. Shuwa (1st) and Col. Haruna, went to Lagos on April 28 for talks with the Chief of Staff, Brig. Hassan.

Biafran reports of the recapture of Owerri said large numbers of people had been to the town, some of them to see whether they could return to their homes there, and that the retreating Federal forces had destroyed many weapons. Some foreign journalists reportedly visited the town after the capture which was said to have taken place on April 25, and were told by Col. O. Kalu, commander of the 14th Biafra Division, that Federal forces were more than five miles out of the town.

On April 29 the Biafrans claimed to have crossed the Niger into the Mid-West and captured Aboh. There had earlier been a Nigerian report of "rebel attack" on Asaba, driven off by Federal forces. Neither of these reports was admitted by the side allegedly defeated. (There have been Biafran infiltrators in the Mid-West for the past year, though recently they have suffered severe defeats.)

A report from Biafra territory in the *Scotsman* says that two or three aircraft—DC7s and Constellations—are still bringing arms and ammunition to Uli every night.

A correspondent writes: Failure of air supply seems to be one reason for the fall of Owerri. If reports that two DC7s had been used to supply the Federal troops in Owerri were correct, this is further confirmation of the present weakness of Federal forces in transport aircraft. The airlift of supplies to Port Harcourt during the rains last year was seriously affected when one DC4 crashed, although one would have expected that the loss of one, or even two or three, aircraft should not affect supplies for any army numbering some 100,000.

Federal strategy appears to have been to leave the Federal troops in Owerri, where



Major General Gowon with his wife Victoria and his 95-year-old father. After the wedding, Broad Street, the major commercial centre in Lagos, has been named Yakuwa Gowon Street.

they were commanded by a first-class soldier, Lt-Col. Godwin Ally, and thus both to tie down a number of Biafrans and to refuse to divert from the attack on Umuahia and other centres troops of the Third Division. This calculation has gone astray because of the failure to hold Owerri.

Owerri now stands between the Third Division and Uli airstrip, which surely remains the most important Federal objective. Uli is on the main Owerri-Onitsha road, and the roads to Port Harcourt and in Aba meet at Owerri.

One wonders if, as was the case with Enugu, Federal strategists have not put too much faith in the "psychological" effect of the fall of Umuahia. This must have disrupted, if not brought to a standstill, the civilian administration. But so long as arms and ammunition can be flown in to Uli airstrip, as well as food, the Biafran troops seem likely to continue to fight. With their very short lines of communication they are, ironically, better off than the Federal forces who are now greatly extended. Moreover, in front line troops Colonel Ojukwu is probably better off than are the Federal commanders who have to leave large numbers, even of their infantry, to guard the lines of communication, refugee camps, etc. Uli is still what matters to the Federal forces.

Whether reports that the Biafrans have actually captured the Mid-West town of Aboh are correct or not, there is little doubt that, in spite of the Federal patrols, the Biafrans can still cross the Niger and that, from their point of view, it is sound strategy to embarrass the Federal government in this way. Since the Biafran forces were driven back over the Niger, there has been some guerrilla fighting in the Ibo areas of the Mid-West and this may well be starting again.

Umuahia was the least damaged of the towns captured by Federal forces so far, the international military observers reported, after a visit. They saw no evidence of heavy bombing and Queen Elizabeth hospital was intact. In Afikpo they saw 2,000 refugees whose condition seemed fairly good. The concern of some mothers over the health of their children had been brought to the attention of a Federal military commander. They noted that, except where there was danger from shelling, the 1st Division seemed to be adopting a policy of leaving villagers in their own homes

rather than trying to move them to camps in the rear.

The fall of Umuahia had broken the back of the secessionist attempt, Major-General Yakubu Gowon said in Kaduna, where he and his new wife, Victoria, had spent their honeymoon. When he arrived back in Lagos, he forecast that Ojukwu's advisers would see reason and return to the Federal side, and said they would be forgiven.

Newspapers devoted their front pages to stories and pictures of the capture of Umuahia under banner headlines. The *Daily Times* described the "liberation" of the town as "One of the greatest feats of the civil war" and "the crowning glory of a string of successes." The *Morning Post* spoke of the "gallant troops of the First Division" who took Umuahia and looked on the success as "a final mortal blow" for Col. Ojukwu's regime.

Tax riot report accepted

Nearly all the recommendations of Mr. Justice Ayoola's Commission on the Western State tax disturbances have been accepted by the State Government. Brig. Adebayo, the Governor, said in a broadcast that they included a 50 per cent. reduction, effective from April 1 this year, in water rate for private consumers; a general 5% reduction in flat water rates paid by others; and change in the range of flat rate payers to extend from £50 to £100, with the flat rate, however, remaining at £3 5s, including the development contribution. The State Marketing Board will adopt a deliberate policy of building up its reserves for at least three years, as recommended by the Ayoola Commission, so that cocoa farmers can be paid adequate prices; and it will make a direct annual grant of £250,000 to Local Government Councils on a divisional basis, for improvement of feeder roads.

The Government rejected recommendations that income tax payments by the lower income group should be staggered; it said the farmers who formed most of this group could easily pay at harvest time. It also rejected suggestions of a commission, under the Riot Damages Law, to consider compensation for losses during the tax riots which took place in Ishara, Ijebu-Igbo, Oghomoso and elsewhere in December and January; and for an Ombudsman-style Public Complaints Commissioner, which the Government thought unnecessary because Local Advisory Committees, to be established all over the state in accordance with the report's proposals, would allow ventilation of grievances.

Brig. Adebayo said the Government agreed that council officials charged with misappropriation of funds should be prosecuted more quickly; that the Tax Nominal Roll (which was outdated and facilitated evasion, said the report) should be reviewed; that a committee of four, including State Commissioners and officials, should review the local government structure and report back in three months (this has now been set up); and that there should be an enquiry into the Ishara Communal Land Trust, to see that the Odemo (the Oba of Ishara, against whom riots were directed) paid any money he might owe to the Local Council.

Assets of field Local Council and Government officials throughout the Western State are to be investigated; anyone found guilty of improperly enriching himself will be made to disgorge the sum involved.

The Government, said Brig. Adebayo, has denounced "caretaker committees" created

NIGERIA—continued

in certain areas after the riots, saying it had never recognised any of them and they should all be disbanded.

Famine "Under Control"

Biafra's famine problem was under control, Mr. August Lindt, chief Red Cross Co-ordinator for Nigeria reported, though tuberculosis and protein deficiency were rife. The Red Cross was feeding 2m. people in Nigeria and Biafra, but another half million were inaccessible in the bush. Forty per cent. of the aid went to Biafra and 60 per cent. to Nigeria but it was hoped to balance the operation soon. The ICRC had half the funds needed for its six month relief programme which would run to the end of August and was costing about £1,400,000 a month.

Meanwhile the Red Cross is drawing up a programme for the delivery of food, medical and other supplies to an anticipated 1½m. Biafran refugees when the war ends. There are fears over the chaos which may occur as Biafra collapses, particularly of the dangers of epidemics.

The International Red Cross has said medical teams in places like Enugu and Abakaliki could now hand over hospitals to Nigerian staff completely at short notice and then move on to new areas. But, says a *Guardian* report, food and medical teams have been excluded from some areas on the grounds of danger from mines. The measles epidemic in the war areas is "causing anxiety," says this report.

Lord Hunt, who headed a British mission to study relief needs last year, is helping organise the programme, which will be implemented by hundreds of teams from different countries, and which one ICRC

official said would be "the biggest operation of its kind ever carried out."

● The European Common Market will contribute 4,500 tons of cereals to the food aid programme in Biafra, and an equivalent or possibly larger quantity will be provided for distribution on the Nigerian side, it has been announced by Joint Church Aid, which will handle the transport and distribution in Biafra, and the International Red Cross.

The War and the World

The OAU Secretary General, Mr. Diallo Telli, has dismissed accusations that he sabotaged the meeting of the organisation's Nigerian committee in Monrovia by usurping the functions of chairman and ruling out discussion on compromise formulas which might have led to a solution of the problem not exactly in accordance with the 1967 Kinshasa agreement. Such an action, he said in reply to an allegation by Biafra's Home Affairs Minister, Christopher Mojekwu, was impossible, because the heads of state had thoroughly discussed every possible formula in an attempt to bring about peace. But, he said, the Monrovia meeting had moved closer to finding a solution.

● The French Secretary of State for Information, Joel Le Theule, has said that France's attitude to Biafra has not changed. A cabinet meeting, he said, confirmed the previously stated French view that "the Biafran people have the right to self-determination." M. Debré, Foreign Minister, told the meeting that the Monrovia meeting had never looked like succeeding. (This meeting was before the resignation of President de Gaulle.)

● Chief Enahoro warned in London, introducing a Nigerian artistic "symposium" at the House of Commons, that unless the

Biafran leaders agreed to talk soon with the Lagos Government the prospects of negotiated peace would be reduced. He said, "The war is not over. But we have made rapid strides in the last fortnight as we think we may be reaching the time when we can begin to see round the corner. The feeling in the rest of Nigeria will be that the rebel leaders represent nobody and that there is therefore no point in talking to them."

● Portugal's Foreign Minister Alberto Nogueira denied in New York that his country was aiding Biafra. Although Portugal had allowed free transit of goods through its territory, it would not allow the formation of a Biafran government to exile on its territory.

● One of the reasons that H.M.S. *Fearless* was sent to Lagos was that if talks with Colonel Ojukwu had appeared possible—and it looked likely at one moment—it would have needed an area in which to be held secure and away from Federal control. Mr. Harold Wilson told the House of Commons. He considered that his visit, which cost £50,000, had been "generally welcomed in Africa."

● Sir Leslie Glass, Britain's deputy Permanent Representative at the United Nations since 1967, has been tipped by a British newspaper as the next High Commissioner in Nigeria, in place of Sir David Hunt, who leaves this year.

News From the States

Mr. Lateef Jakande, managing director of the *Nigerian Tribune* of Ibadan, who was detained by the police three weeks ago for undisclosed reasons, has been released.

● The Military Governor of the Benue Plateau State, Mr. Joseph Gombalk, has warned that his Government will deal ruthlessly with any person or group of persons engaged in activities capable of causing tribal unrest in the State. He said he was simply the capital of the State, and no ethnic group could claim possession of it.

● Mr. Stephen Giwa-Amu, Selective General of the Mid-West and Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, has been released from the detention centre by the Omo-Eboh commission, which he had been engaged into the Biafran occupation of the Mid-West.

● The new Rivers State ship *MV Alamo* has gone to Lagos with its first cargo of 1,000 tons of produce evacuated from the State. It is also to engage in rehabilitation programmes and convey equipment and machinery for reconstruction in the State.

● Officials of the Inland Revenue division of the Western State have been accused of "dishonesty, favouritism and poor administration" by the *Daily Sketch* of Ibadan.

● Assets of senior officers of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company (NPMC) are to be subjected to an internal investigation by a Lagos lawyer, Mr. S. A. S. Sowemimo. The officers include the secretary, the establishment officer, senior accountants, sales officers and shipping officers. The NPMC is the sole exporter of Nigerian produce. According to a circular letter signed by the secretary to the company, Mr. O. Nathaniel Marsh, the probe has become necessary because of allegations against some officers of "accumulating wealth" and "actual trading with and making indefensible profits."



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