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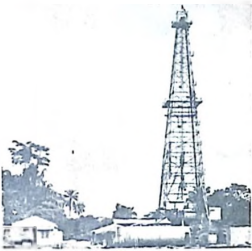
Nigeria Pays in Full

A year ago the "backlog" of payments which Nigeria owed for goods, other than arms, imported during and since the war, but for which payment was deferred, came to some £N220m. At this point the government removed virtually all restrictions on imports, while promising a complete liquidation of the "backlog" within twelve months. It placed all new imports on controlled payments, for the most essential at 90 days, and at 180 days for the rest.

A flood of imports resulted. But since then over some £N180m has been allocated to liquidating the "backlog", while credits for current imports have been met. Now the Federal Government has authorised payment, a month ahead of schedule, of some £N35m outstanding of the "backlog".

Revenues from oil, everybody knows, these revenues taking into account the increase in the "posted" price, and other returns resulting from negotiations between the producing countries and the companies, are now running at a level of some £N350m a year in foreign exchange. They are certain to increase, as is the proportion of Nigerian revenues from oil production resulting from government participation in the industry.

Direct Government revenue from oil increased from £N80m in 1970 to £N270m in 1971. The revenue continues to rise. The proportion of Nigeria's foreign exchange accounted for by oil in 1969 was already 41 per cent. But by 1971 it had reached 71 per cent, partly because of the relative decline in the value of agricultural exports.



Yet Nigeria still is not totally dependent on oil either for government revenues or for foreign exchange. It was not only oil that raised the value of exports from £N443m in 1970 to £N649m. in 1971, an increase of nearly 50 per cent. Imports, it is true, increased from £N378m to over £N538m. Yet, there was a surplus of over £N110m against one of only £N65m in 1970. And these results were recorded after the liberalization which led to such a flood of imports.

In a recent speech Dr. Isong, Governor of the Central Bank, noted that money supply in 1971 rose by less than one per cent over the level of 1970. This compared with increases of 35 per cent in 1970 and 30 per cent in 1969. This was partly due to bank policies, but it was also due to the substantial improvement in government revenue which allowed Nigeria's governments to curtail their credit requirements from the banking

system. In other words, in spite of the constant increases in prices, particularly of food, to which the reports of the Adebayo commission have drawn attention, inflation in Nigeria appears not to have run away.

To have paid off well over £N200m of external debts and with virtually no outside assistance in less than a year is a great achievement. Nigeria now seems to have escaped from the balance of payments jungle in which so many African countries, notably Ghana, are trapped. Nigeria should now be able to make payments on time for current imports and to find her domestic contribution to the £N1,600m four-year development plan. Yet Nigeria cannot relax. While the administrative and social systems of many oil producing countries make it impossible for them to spend their revenues, Nigeria's diversity and standards of social services allow her to spend, sometimes in advance, all the revenues that oil can possibly produce. A recent report on prospects in the Nigerian market from the Commercial Counsellor at the British High Commission in Lagos said that "no end can be seen to the amount of new building in Nigeria". Mr. Hope also emphasised that there would be an ever increasing demand for machinery for Nigeria's growing industry — for example, for the production of fertilisers.

Even if oil has released Nigeria from her immediate foreign indebtedness, and is likely to increase her foreign exchange and government revenues, she still cannot be described as "depending on oil". Only recently has oil taken over from ground-



Pres. Ngouabi

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Dr. Elias

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nuts as the chief net earner of the exchange. Nigeria has become the second cocoa producer, she supplies cotton for her own textile industry, tobacco for her cigarette factories, timber for her plywood factories. Ever poor the quality, she is still a major rubber producer, and has climbed back into the position of a major palm and palm kernel exporter. The failure of her food supply to keep pace with demand has contributed to the inflation of some 50 per cent in food prices. The Adebayo Commission noted that taken place in cities between 1966 and 1970. But she still could be self-supporting in food.

A spokesman for the Central Bank warned Nigerians that there is still a possibility of ending exchange control since the task now is to build up foreign exchange reserves so that a permanent balance of payment surplus can be ensured. Only then can overseas payments be made as they due, only then will the smuggling of Nigeria's currency abroad, to sell at a heavy discount to secure foreign exchange, cease.

The bank spokesman, however, took this opportunity of issuing a warning. He pointed out that before it was discovered Nigeria had relied on foreign exchange earnings on agricultural exports, whose earnings had now fallen badly. Yet the day would come when the oil is exhausted, when Nigerians will once more have to rely on these exports. The test of sound economic management in Nigeria will be the extent to which the revenues from oil are used to improve the efficiency of the rest of the economy.

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GHANA'S SHORT-TERM DEBTS

The Bank of Ghana announced that it will pay in full on the due dates "all inter-bank short-term debts between commercial banks operating in Ghana and their correspondents abroad and between the Bank of Ghana and foreign banks. Liabilities arising out of irrevocable confirmed letters of credits and guarantees will be "converted into inter-bank short-term facilities. Terms for these payments will be agreed after consultation with the Bank of Ghana which guarantees "full settlement". Insured credit for imports are also recognised by the bank, which has started negotiations with the various export credit insurance organisations abroad for payment of overdue bills drawn under insured credit. The short-term debts referred to in the bank's announcement are thought to amount to some £100 million. They rise out of imports into Ghana during the Busia regime.

LETTER FROM GABON

From our correspondent

European travellers have been coming to Gabon since, it is said, the fifteenth century. The name Gabon itself comes from the Portuguese word *gabão*, a Portuguese hooded coat, the shape of the Como estuary on which Libreville is located. Dutch, British and French traders followed the Portuguese in the 16th century, although the actual foundation of Libreville in 1849 came after the two famous treaties of 1839 and 1841 in which the *Mpongwe* kings, Denis and Louis Dowé, signed "cooperation" treaties with Captain Bouët-Willaumez giving France the right to trade and establish missions, and also to use the Gabon estuary as a base against the slave trade. Hence the establishment of a *Hanophone* "Empire" when the slave ship *Elizia* had been captured and its human cargo had to be resettled.

To this day the name change of the city is resented by the descendants of the kings. For the 46 freed slaves from the *Elizia* have very lately long since been, as they say, *Mpongwe* or assimilated by the *Mpongwe* who have a great tradition of assimilation (this leads more particularly to intermarriage with Europeans - hence the numbers of light-skinned inhabitants). The great-grandson of King Denis, Prince Felix Rapontchombo, still campaigns to have the name changed because of the implied insult to the *Mpongwe* who have been living here for centuries. He suggests for example, *Bessouville*, after the bishop who in 1871 helped to prevent Gabon being exchanged with the British for the Gambia (in violation of the treaties with the kings of the estuary).

The mixed European influences can be seen in the place names of quarters in Libreville, such as Gros Bleuquet, London, Glass (legend says that this was where the sailors of old used to drink in excess), and it was in the latter part of the 19th century a great haven for missionaries such as the American protestants known as "the Ogowe Band" Joseph H. Reading, writing in 1890 of the "Ogowe Band", and characters such as "Good old uncle" Adande, and Miss Susie Dewsnap, describes an African congregation of the Gabon church thus: "many of the women had on silk and worsted dresses of fashionable make, with the latest style of Parisian hats, kid gloves, shoes and parasols. The men, too, were many of them, as well dressed as city young men at home, even the Kru-men had on coats and pantaloons, and looked as intelligent as the coloured citizens of America". The probably spurious trader Horn, also wrote about "the Gabon", but it was above all the intrepid Mary Kingsley, with her revolver and her boots, combing the equatorial rivers in search of tropical fish, who made Gabon known at least in Britain, as the centrepiece of her *Travels in West Africa*. By this stage the country was securely under the French influence, although the agents of the British firm of Hutton and Cookson, with whom Mary Kingsley sometimes stayed, still operated freely. This was one of the antecedent companies of the United Africa Company, to which it still belongs.

Today's visitors to Gabon seem a long way from Mary Kingsley, and the rigours that she eagerly underwent "in search of fish and ferns". These recollections, indeed, are provoked by my having coming here to attend the inauguration of the Gabon Intercontinental. This is a modern 150-room hotel block of a kind for which Intercontinental Hotels (a subsidiary of Pan-American Airways) are well-

known, located on the main coast road in Libreville, with a sandy beach just over the road. If, sitting by the open-air swimming pool, or in the *rotisserie*, you could be anywhere, this is how most of the potential users of the hotel, who will either be businessmen or tourists, are likely to want it. The advantage to a hotel has also been stressed of belonging to a large international chain, linked to an airline, who can help in promotion, as well as provide an instant system of room reservation elsewhere.

Intercontinental have been particularly linked with providing accommodation for businessmen this was one of their main functions in going into Latin America, their first area of expansion. They have come to Africa late, but, with the Kinshasa Intercontinental, which opened last October, there are now six (two in Zambia, one in Kenya, as well as the Ducor Palace in Monrovia and the Hotel Ivre in Abidjan) they also, for a time, managed the two main hotels in Accra. In Gabon they have no financial interest in the hotel, only the management contract.



Guests at the opening of the Gabon Intercontinental

The hotel, whose main shareholder is the Gabon government through its own Gabhotel company, has a complicated history as a project

It was born originally in the minds of the Israeli firm of Federmann, who employed as architects the subsidiary of the Israeli construction company, Sotel Boneh. The contract for the hotel passed very early on, however, to the Hamburg firm, Coutinho Caro, who in fact found the full finance for the hotel from West German sources, guaranteed by the West German government export guarantee scheme, Hermes. The hotel was originally scheduled, Coutinho Caro told me, to cost 17.6m Deutschmark (just under £2m) but because of the allocation of the management contract to Intercontinental halfway through construction, thus unavoidably added another 1m DM to the cost. The introduction of Intercontinental followed the decision that this hotel was to be assisted by Hofatic, which was only set up in March last year by the member states of *Aiz Afrique* with a view to promoting tourism in Africa. Intercontinental tend to like having things done their way, particularly because of "promotion", so a number of things on the design and decorating side had to be changed.

Although not as luxurious as the Hotel Ivre (and not as expensive to stay in either, in spite of Libreville's notoriously high cost of living), it is still the major hotel here, and the obvious centre for such activities as confer-

ences, dinners, and other occasions. This has been very short of accommodation some time. I recall during the visit of President Pompidou a year ago having to be accommodated in a modest little *uberge* in the region known as *Dérrière l'Hôpital* (which Americans might call "downtown Libreville"). Some journalists were even put up in Ministry of Foreign Affairs! The hotel could amply custom from businessmen alone, Gabon's oil and timber are booming, and projects are generating interest. But the hotel also out to catch tourists. This is the viewpoint of the Hofatic exercise, as was made clear by the Chairman of Hofatic, M. Alou Kacou, in his speech at the inauguration of the hotel. He went as far as suggesting that a Gabonese might be able, with help from Hofatic and others to create a "Central African Riviera".

What are the prospects of tourism in Gabon? It is, as M. Kacou said, "in a privileged geographical position astride the two hemispheres", that is on the Equator. The means that it has an equatorial climate which at some seasons be extremely heavy. The hot dry season runs, one is told, from May to September. Torrential thunderstorms, it can be argued, lend a little excitement to the proceedings, and during the "little dry season" we are now enjoying plenty of sunshine. There are

number of pleasant beaches, such as one visited at Cap Asturies, where a "mini-hotel" is located, although you can run into rock-patches bathing in the sea. There are also attractions to the interior such as the game-park at Woungou, Woungou (most people only see water buffaloes), Lambaréné, an attractive town on the Ogooué, which deserves a visit quite apart from the Schweitzer hospital, and a number of spectacular scenic lakes around the Ogooué estuary.

Libreville itself is an attractive seaside town with few imposing buildings, but a lot of clean white modern structures. The old low-cave style of building illustrated by Mary Kingsley are now hard to find, however, although they exist in old districts such as Glass. The small traditional markets, such as that of Lalala creole are also worth a look, and visitors can, with comparative ease, make the contacts to witness a session of the still thriving *Bwiti* cult. This may be, on average, what most African countries can offer, one way or another, but it is as many champions of African tourism seem certain, it is a question of providing the service and the promotion, then there is no reason why Gabon should not make it touristically. The real returns for the country are harder to gauge because of the cost of imports to meet the demands of visitors, and in the end it may be the effect on business and businessmen that will make the Gabon government investment worthwhile.

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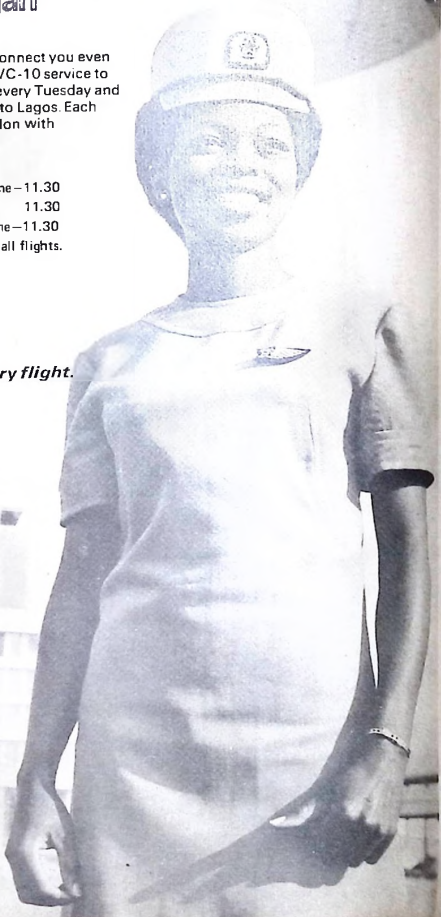
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MATCHET'S DIARY

few lawyers anywhere in the world have a more distinguished academic record than has Dr Faslim Olawale Elias, who, at the age of 57, has succeeded Sir Adesimbo Ademola as Chief Justice of the Federation of Nigeria. A dozen books and innumerable articles bear his name. He has four degrees, including London Degrees. He has been a Scholar of the Inner Temple, a Research Fellow at Manchester and at Oxford, a Visiting Professor at Delhi, and Professor of Law at Lagos. He has been prominent at international legal conferences and is a member of numerous learned bodies. Yet he did not go even to primary school until he was twelve years old (though this was not so unusual in those days in Lagos, where he was born). Even more surprising, it was not until he was almost 30 that he went to a university. After leaving Igbobi College, Yaba, he worked for ten years for the Nigerian Railway.

Dr. Elias is a QC, but has had little time for court work since, apart from his academic appointments, he has been Attorney-General of the Federation ever since independence. Even before that he acted as legal adviser to the NCNC in the Nigerian constitutional conferences in London and was adviser in similar conferences to delegations from Somaliland and Malawi. Although as Attorney-General he was also Minister of Justice, and was therefore in theory a politician, politics never appealed to him. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa relied heavily on his advice, and he has been on very close terms with General Gowon. His advice has been crucial on highly important occasions, and he has never tolerated imprecision or woolly thinking. Elias' invaluable the wrote several articles for this journal which were later articles for this journal which was later published as a booklet by Sweet and Maxwell under the name *Makers of Nigerian Law*. His insistence on precision applies to himself. I have never known him late for an appointment nor so disorganised that he could not devote the agreed time for a meeting in the vast Attorney-General's Chambers in the "Old Secretariat" on the Marina.

Dr. Nabo Graham-Douglas, who takes Dr. Elias' place as Attorney-General, is a very different type of lawyer. He comes from the old town of Abonema in the Rivers State where the family has long been prominent — the well-known surgeon, Dr. Melford Graham-Douglas, is his brother. The new Attorney-General had for many years a most flourishing practice in Port Harcourt, and was a leading advocate. When the then Colonel Ojukwu became Military Governor of the Eastern Region, he appointed Graham-Douglas as his Attorney-General. But in September, 1966, he resigned because, he explained in a pamphlet which he pub-

lished later, he was opposed to the secession which he felt was coming. After resigning he went back to Abonema and led a quiet life. After secession he was placed under restriction by the rebel regime. When the Rivers State government was finally formed he became Attorney-General, and was a leading influence in its policies.

If his forth-coming book reinforces the argument of his lecture at London's African Centre, Professor Peter Bauer is going to give those responsible for "aid" in Western governments a serious headache. For Professor Bauer wants to stop aid to "underdeveloped" territories not because, as a taxpayer, he dislikes his money being used in this way, he thinks that aid does positive harm to the recipients. The very idea of this aid, he reminds us, would have seemed unnatural even ten years ago, and today it strikes him as insufferably patronising. But, more important, he thinks that it leads to misdirection of resources and efforts in the recipient countries, where politicians tend to direct their policies and objectives to attract aid from abroad. But since this aid normally is channelled through governments it also greatly intensifies government intervention in economic affairs, and this, as readers of Professor Bauer's standard book, *West African Trade*, and his articles on the Marketing Boards, in this and other publications, will know, he greatly deprecates.

For, Professor Bauer maintains, the governments in countries which receive aid can normally scarcely carry out the basic functions of government — preserving law and order, looking after public health, providing roads and the like. They have no business to attempt economic planning for which they have not the talent. Economic development is best left to the initiative of individuals, as West Africa's cocoa and groundnut farmers have proved. Professor Bauer even goes so far as to question the value of scholarships given by foreign governments. It is training for which your own government or better still your own family, pays that is likely to be directed into the most fruitful channels.

In answer to those who say that rich countries have a "moral obligation" to supply aid, Professor Bauer first denies the possibility of subjecting a modern economic relationship to such a test. He then points out that aid is normally financed from taxes which are taken from the tax-payer, whether he likes it or not. He could supply the names of a large number of reputable private charities for those whose consciences urge them to relieve need in the poorer countries.

As for aid from Communist countries, Professor Bauer is quite clear. They, at any rate, have a definite political purpose, which he cannot detect in Western aid.



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Letters to the Editor

Gen Ocran and the Coup

We have received so many letters in reply to General Ocran's letter on the Ghana Coup (Feb. 11), and must arc so long, that we can publish only extracts from some of them. EDITOR

Nobody in Ghana will deny that Col. I. K. Acheampong is as human as Dr Busia or Kwame Nkrumah, or you and I, and that the gallant soldier is also as Ghanaian as Busia or Nkrumah or you (if you are a Ghanaian) and I know no reason why Col. Acheampong or any of his gallant officers and men may not be as bad as political leaders as Dr Busia or Kwame Nkrumah, no natural reason why the brave soldier cannot be a worse or a better political leader than Busia or Nkrumah. A human being nowhere becomes honest, upright, incorruptible or even disciplined merely by donning a uniform. The habit, they say, does not make a monk.

There is no cause for anyone to despair of the goodness in the Ghanaian and of his ability to conduct as worthy politics, as any persons anywhere. The Armed Forces have the privilege and perhaps the right to intervene, on their own initiative, to save the people from calamitous events including a government by predatory and political minions of imperialism and neo-colonialism and to assume effective control of the administration as they did on January 13. But it becomes equally the duty of the Armed Forces to be prepared to surrender the reins of power to a constitutionally elected Government as soon as practicable. They should then retreat with honour and dignity and with the nation's eternal gratitude and blessings to resume their equally honourable and normal duty and role.

KWAME SANAA-POKU JANTUAH
Accra

If Busia failed to provide the all important stimulus that was needed for Ghana's economic recovery, his military predecessors hardly did any better - perhaps for the same reason.

This reason seems to be in the assumption implicit in General Ocran's conclusion. If he sees the army as the only remaining safeguard for freedom in Ghana, it is because he erroneously gives that all important role, which belongs to the Ghana people, to their army. The mistake that Ocran, and others like him in Africa and elsewhere, are making is to fail to see that the people have always been and will continue to be the best guarantee of their own freedom

Nkrumah was no doubt nearer the truth here than his successors. If he failed it was probably because the Ghana people did not realise that they would be denied their rightful role under his successors much more than they were in his regime.

There is, however, a saving paragraph at the very end of General Ocran's letter. He seems to realise - no doubt a contradiction to his "divination" of his former colleagues - that the ordinary Ghanaian is, in the last resort, his own saviour, when he (Ocran) declares in that paragraph that he (the ordinary Ghanaian) must be prepared to put his back to the wheel - "to starve just a little and even to die a little for the future good of the country".

OLUSOLA OKE
University of Bordeaux

Events in Ghana after the first coup, 1966, give reasons to reject the idea that it was made to save Ghana from the so-called tyrannic rule of Nkrumah, from economic ruin, etc. What do you people sitting in Ghana know about democracy? There was, and is, much talk about the word coupled with the same tactic used by the whites when they first landed in Africa, namely the name of God. What have we gained so far from them (God and Democracy)? Only half-witted, complex-filled pseudo-Europeans who are ready to do everything to justify their claim for the name "Godfearing gentleman", and those who used this cloak enrich themselves. Nobody, not even the NLC, ever practised democracy in Ghana and Nkrumah was honest enough to call a spade a spade. What the NLC together with Busia's PP practised could only be called "Selloutocracy".

General Ocran exhorts Ghanaians in the name of "democracy" to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. How many of us could afford even the boots? The so-called manna cannot fall from heaven, says the General, yet, I wonder how a bare-footed man could do any bootstrap lifting?

PAA KWESI
Dusseldorf, West Germany

at the tail of the letter, the General identified the real problem of the average Ghanaian and prescribed a most useful solution - he appealed for hard work and called us "to be prepared to starve just a little and even die a little for the future good of the country". I cannot agree with him more.

When a man resorts to gun law, arguments become pointless. One can only offer sensible advice and hope that it will be taken in good faith... military take-overs generally solve nothing. But from any bad situation, some good can be extracted - if the men in charge are willing and determined to turn good out of evil.

It is too early to say whether the new rulers of Ghana possess the guts and drive to pull Ghanaians out of their habits of laziness, apathy to national endeavours, greed and dishonesty.

If Ghanaians are hungry, they should grow more food. If they are in debt should cut spending on imported goods. If they are poor, they should improve productivity. Ghanaians have to learn hard facts of life; that national salvation does not lie with a military person that the good life can only be realised by an honest determination of all Ghanaians to work hard. It is about time Ghanaians in different walks of life cultivated a sense of belonging to the same society - soldiers, senior servants, junior civil servants, businessmen, farmers, university dons, student union leaders, and labourers.

Above all, the Ghanaian man should understand that the concerted efforts of all, without exception, add up to the national wellbeing. It is they require the threat of the gun to do this simple but essential fact of life them? I hope not.

The real problem is that the Ghana society has been sick since Independence. And the public had been reluctant to submit itself to cure. Ghanaians appreciate the fact that the "redemptive" Col. Acheampong claims to have brought about, is not there for the taking. Col. alone cannot bring "redemption". But all Ghanaians, including the Col. working hard together, can.

HENRY THOMPSON

London

Ghanaians have now realised damage both the NLC and the B governments did to the nation. No hope General Ocran will realise this admit his faults if he is an honest offi. This has also shown NLC members' allegations of corruption, and maladministration against Nkrumah by the B were not true. It is shameful of Gen Ocran to condemn Dr. Busia and regime while he was a party to installation. Both General Ocran and Busia have contributed to the humiliation and deprivation of all Africans Ghanaians in particular and damn Ghana's world reputation which created by President Nkrumah.

NANA SATO AGYEM

London

If the General's reasons represent the thinking of the average Ghanaian, what one can understand that is that Ghanaians do not want human being to rule them; they are looking for a "holy angel" with no fault. Well, we shall never get one.

Very soon, we shall find in C. Akyeampong, like Dr. Nkrumah, Gen. Ankrah, General Africa and Dr. B. before him, that there is much to admire and more to abhor, so where shall we find them?

If the present trend of rejection of leaders continue, we shall reach a stage where even human beings would come forward to accept leadership, alone holy angels.

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K. MAR

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People

The Macbeth industry is booming in London. A South African version, *Umhamba*, has been selected to launch the Aldwych Theatre's annual World Theatre Season in April. Playboy Productions' film version, complete with nude sleep-walking scene, was recently given its premiere, and *The Black Macbeth* opened at the Roundhouse at the end of last month. Set in Barotseland ("Scotland is a country of the mind" pointed out one scholar) the production is an attempt to find an up-to-date setting for the play. Explains director Peter Coe "The most difficult of Shakespeare's plays to translate into modern terms is Macbeth, principally because of the importance of it of a belief in witchcraft. Witches are, after all, fairly few and far between in Europe and America. However, they still operate in Africa and with considerable force. Next to the chief in any African tribe the witch doctor is the most powerful and influential person. If he predicts death for a member of the tribe, so powerful is he believed to be, that the man in question will die, possibly by willing himself to death. Therefore, this makes Africa an appropriate setting for Macbeth" — or, as he becomes in this production, Mbeth. The attempt at cultural transfer — "the devil damn the white though black-faced loon" — does not quite succeed, its self-consciousness further hindered by Coe's device of freezing the actors while soliloquies and asides are delivered by a spotlight actor. The acting is uneven, but Mona Hammond's Lady Mbeth is excellent by any standard. Although the cast is predominantly West Indian there are a number of West African performers, including Salami Coker from Sierra Leone, Christopher Asante and Kwesi Kay from Ghana and Gordon Tialobi, Benita Enwonwu, Elkan Ogunde and Tom Kapo from Nigeria.

The new captain of England's rugby team, Peter Dixon, has an unusual connection with West Africa. Currently living on national assistance because he no longer gets a grant from any educational authority, Dixon is working on a thesis on social anthropology for a B Litt at Oxford. His subject — which he admits "sounds a bit grisly" — is Some Mortuary Rites in West Africa.

After being told by Premier Edward Heath that he had no plans to visit Commonwealth African countries, Labour MP Sir Geoffrey de Freitas claimed in Parliament that these countries "appear to feel that they are forgotten 'today by Britain' and still had a great



Salami Coker as Mushasha (Macduff)

respect for Britain "in spite of Rhodesia". Mr Heath replied that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas Home "has it in mind to visit some of the countries of West Africa, certainly", and it might be possible for him to visit others. Denying that African countries felt forgotten, or had justification for such a feeling, he listed the African travels of his Government colleagues: the Minister of Overseas Development, Mr. Wood, visited Zambia

and Malawi in October 1971, and under secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Lord Lothian visited The Gambia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Ghana in 1971, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, 1971, and Zaire, Swaziland, Botswana and Lesotho in January 1972. "We have also been able to welcome to London almost all the heads of government from black African Commonwealth countries in the last 18 months".

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inspired to demand of the government that it should issue "a list of Heads of State who are insulting and non-insultable", and to ask why, if a book insulting Mobutu was actionable in France, the same was not true of writings that have insulted Mao Tse-Tung, Fidel Castro, etc. — and, one might add, General Gowon and other leaders of the Nigerian Federation?

Indeed, the more you look at this affair the odder it gets. One of the motives for prosecution is reported as being a phrase in Mr Maspero's preface which describes the Mobutu regime as "Mobutu's dictatorship, a dictatorship really of high finance, above all American". On the first point in that phrase, it will be interesting to see how the prosecution means to defend the democratic nature of the Mobutu regime. It will be even more interesting to see how the prosecution will deny the second point — the predominance of American financial interest — for what serious observer has so far questioned it?

That the Americans have called the tune in the Congo may or may not be a good thing: one can argue about that. What one cannot argue about is that they have called it: in fact, I doubt even if responsible Americans would argue on this point, or even wish to do so. But if asserting what appears to be a manifest truth is tantamount to "insulting" President Mobutu, we are going to be in a very strange position. What, in this case, must Penguin Books expect to see for

circulating Mr Kanza's book in France? For what Mr Kanza says, in this respect at least, is no different from what Messrs Maspero and Kamitatu say.

"Having agreed to pay a third of the cost of the UN operation", writes Mr Kanza on page 305, "to say nothing of all the 'invisible' expenditure needed to keep the country within the Western sphere of influence, the Americans were in command. The Congo became rather like a business company in which the largest shareholder could determine how the governing board was to act... From September 13 (1961) on, the Congo openly became a satellite country of the Western bloc..." Mr Kanza's book being on sale in France, must Penguin Books now await prosecution for insulting a foreign Head of State?

For the rest, the affair seems very far from farcical. Whatever one may think of Mr Kamitatu's record as a politician, his book is a significant and even important contribution towards understanding the tangled fabric of recent Congolese history. It is the kind of testimony, like Mr Kanza's, which we need to have if we are to measure the meaning of the last decade. In acting to suppress it one cannot help thinking that the French authorities have embarked upon an episode they will regret as will all those, surely, who think that French civilisation is also about lucidity, courage, and the search for truth.

Basil Davidson

Robert's People by Robert Hudson and George Martelli (Chatto and Windus, £31).

One fear of Africans in Rhodesia that if the settlement with Britain through there will be a great influx of European immigrants, whose numbers will make even more difficult the path to African majority rule. Such immigrants would come not as pioneers, but for most part to seek the comforts of climate and cheap domestic service: somebody like Sir Robert Williams, subject of this biography, a true pioneer such an outcome of his work would seem preposterous. A Scottish engineer who had played a leading role in the introduction of deep mining in the African mining field, he became associate of Rhodes and was the originator of the discovery of the copper belt on either side of the Zambezi frontier.

Very rich men like Rhodes himself, Lord Randolph Churchill (who travelled in style when he represented a London newspaper in the then new Rhodesia) were able to travel in reasonable comfort after the railway was left behind: there was disease and danger for everybody and Williams did not escape. Although he never ceased to be an engineer and frequently showed his interest for the world of high finance, he became a concessionaire and was responsible for the building of the Benguela Railway which provided a direct outlet for the copper belt to the Atlantic Ocean.

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co-founder with Leopold II of Union Minière, and the book is fulsome about the value of this enterprise to Zaïre. The work's title recalls the name which Williams' workers gave to themselves, and the authors are right to see him as a pioneer in the development of welfare and training for African workers.

This biography is based on Williams' own memoirs, and although it is very effusive and determined to show the value of the mineral pioneers to the territories where they operated, it is a useful contribution to history. It includes some unexpected personalities such as the Countess of Warwick, King Edward VII's niece, who managed to play a part in the concession story.

There are a number of interesting photographs. Mr. Martinelli has completed the text of the biography left, when he died in 1969, by Mr. Hutchinson, Williams' grandson, and has also drawn on Sir Robert's unpublished memoirs.

D. W.

Liverpool impressions

The Climate of Darkness by Naiwu Oshon (di negro press: unprinted)

This book, its publishers tell us, "is from a region of [the author's] mind conditioned by experiences of his morning in England". They add that he now lives in Lagos. Perhaps his experiences there will produce a book that carries more conviction than these impressions of present-day Liverpool.

The Climate of Darkness is, in the author's words, "about the strange world of blacks and whites" and its theme is racial prejudice and discrimination as they have affected him. He attacks his material with gusto, and the message is seldom confused by over-subtlety. As a picture of the seamy side of life in Liverpool's back streets it is extravagant enough to be considered in the category of caricature - except that even the most exaggerated rendering of a subject must be recognisably based on careful observation and respect for fact. Unfortunately Naiwu Oshon does not give the impression of having observed his chosen scene or checked his facts with sufficient care. The result is that the reader cannot always identify with (and therefore have sympathy for) Rudolf, the hero of this story, and his particular misfortunes, simply because in the main they don't quite ring true.

It is hard to believe, for example, that someone with an M.Sc. in Industrial Relations would walk into a Labour Exchange and ask a clerk if he can arrange a loan to set up in business: nor can we feel as concerned about Rudolf's living conditions as we should when he refers to "being condemned to die in an airless cell" in one chapter and complains about the "sharp draught" in the same cell in another. These may be no more than slips of the pen but each time they

occur authenticity flies out of the window. It is also unfortunate that a writer so unquestionably anti-racist should not have realised that, in the context in which they appear, references to "a Jewish Extortioner's shop" and "my Jewish Landlord [who] had never bothered to give me a carpet," etc., are liable to be misconstrued as anti-semitic, and must inevitably take the edge off his attack on racial prejudice.

There is much, however, to suggest that in *The Climate of Darkness* there is a lively imagination at work, but that the author has not yet found his proper meter. Every now and then we get a glimpse of a wry comic talent, as in his comments on the "lodgers" he has to share his "airless cell" with

"... the rats are still in conference. They never seem to need any breaks. I am beginning to feel I have rented a rat-hole. If I can get them to agree to a share of the rent it would probably work out at a penny a head between us."

It is on the few occasions when he invites us to smile with him at his troubles that he most successfully enlists our sympathy - and indignation. Could it be that inside Naiwu Oshon there is a humourist waiting to be let out? If so, the sooner this *alter ego* is released the better.

Terry Bishop

Fictional Dahomey

The Man from Dahomey, by Frank Yerby (Heinemann, £2.40)

This ambitious and unsatisfactory novel is set in the early 19th century Dahomey of King Guezo, by the black American author of such lush romances of the deep south as *The Foxes of Harrow*. This is an unusual departure for him, and the solid use that he has made of Herskovitz's *Dahomey: An Ancient West African Kingdom* shows the worth of his intentions (Incidentally, after fictionalised Herskovitz can we expect Meyer Fortes set to music?) In spite of the author's craftsmanship as a novelist, the blend of social anthropological detail and hokum (of which there is plenty in the Dahomey of Guezo, with its battles and bloodshed, its Amazons and plotting princes), do not succeed. The characters are mainly cardboard, and only occasionally does Yerby achieve the epic grandeur such a book needs. The tragic end, where the noble Hwesu is betrayed and sold to slavery, is one such moment. One fears, alas that this novel is more likely to be devoured in the lending libraries for its sex and violence than for its undoubted appreciation of the cultural richness of an old African civilisation.

K. W.

A Visual Geography of Sierra Leone by Marilyn Awoonor-Renner (Evans Brothers Ltd, 45p.)

One of the Visual Geography and History series from Evans, this book uses maps, diagrams, photographs to give an introduction to Sierra Leone.

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Marketing Boards in Question

From a Correspondent

Nigeria's Commissioner for Finance, Alhaji Shehu Shagan, said recently that the failure by farmers to increase their productivity could be traced to the poor prices paid by the marketing boards. Producer prices should be raised to preserve traditional commodity exports.

Ironically, for inefficient boards are the major factor militating against better producer prices, the day on which the comments appeared also saw publication of criticisms by Police Commissioner Joseph Gomwalk, Governor of Benue-Plateau State, on the position of the Northern States Marketing Board. The board, he said, was running at a loss because it was "too large".

Groundnut production in his State, the Governor pointed out, had dropped from 15,000 tons in 1968 to 500 tons in the current season, which had resulted in a considerable loss of revenue to the State Government. To counteract this trend, the State was establishing its own marketing board.

A number of State Governments are looking at the problem, particularly the Western State, whose revenue has been badly hit by the reduced cocoa crop and low world price. Bad weather is partly responsible for the former, but commodity dealers Gill & Duffus commented in a recent report that "the crop was somewhat later than at first anticipated and this resulted in a delay in gradings, which to some extent were even further held up by a shortage of cash in certain areas". About 10,000 tons of cocoa are believed to have been smuggled into Dahomey, and this, too, is connected to the marketing board situation because people do not risk smuggling unless they can get a considerably better deal.

It is in the north, however, that much of the marketing board controversy has been staged this season, largely because of the strains imposed on the Northern States Board by "statism", the desire by state governments to control and maximise the earnings from their crops.

At the beginning of the year it was reported that the representatives of the North Central State Government on the Marketing Board had been boycotting directors' meetings, and the State's Finance Commissioner, Alhaji Umaru Dikko, argued that the Board's policy had pushed poor farmers to the wall as a result of which they had been encouraged to smuggle. Much of the problem, he said, arose from the appointment of unsuitable licensed buying agents.

This stand was in turn attacked by the Kano State Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malam Muhammad Dutsa, who admitted that the Board had lost its revenues through theft, over-declarations, overpayments, conspiracy, illegal loans and bad debts. He also claimed, "profits realised from the sale of groundnuts to the tune of £1.2m yearly have been used to subsidise other crops such as cotton".

Since, then, however, the Board had been reorganised and was headed by Alhaji Yahaya Gusau, "one of the most outstanding Nigerians of our time".

"It would have been more meaningful", suggested Malam Dutsa, "if the Commissioner had appealed to the Federal Government to review the question of export duty on scheduled crops, in order to enable the marketing board to pay higher producer prices."

"This concession can then be remedied by the imposition of import duty on wheat which now comes in free of duty."

But simultaneously, the Secretary to the North Central State Military Government, Alhaji Garba Abdulkadir, recommended complete decentralisation of the Board's operations, to enable the states to take over some of its functions, such as the appointment of buying agents.

Noting that his Government expected to derive £305,000 from the sales tax on groundnuts, sheanuts, cotton seed and benniseed, Alhaji Larbe recalled that of an estimated revenue of £291,000 last year, the State Government received only £161,295 from the Board.

The criticisms were fuelled by the Secretary of the Amalgamated Northern States Merchants Union, Alhaji Umaru Trader, who claimed that his organisation had been trying to draw the attention of the Board's "guardians" to its shortcomings. "It has now become clear that the farmers in the six northern states are suffering as a result of the new policies embarked upon by the new management."

Support for the Board came from the North Western State Agriculture Commissioner, Alhaji Yahaya Maccido, and a moderating influence was exercised by Kano State Governor Audu Bako, who considered that the problems of the Board had to be solved, but that the type of controversy which had been going on would do more harm than good to the six northern states who own the Board.

But the Governor raised another aspect of the problem - marketing - by calling for an "urgent review" of the Government's export policy on agricultural crops. Export duties should be scrapped, he said, and duties imposed on imported agricultural products.

Addressing the annual agricultural show in Kano, Governor Bako suggested that the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company (which has been without a Chief Executive for three years and which is responsible for the overseas sales of Nigeria's crops) should be merged with the Federal Ministry of Trade.

That is, indeed, the crux of the situation. If producer prices could be increased to encourage production, and marketing could be improved to maximise earnings, Nigeria's revenue from export crops could be boosted significantly. It appears that this cannot be achieved without a complete reorganisation of the Marketing Boards.

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Books and Publications

SUPPRESSION IN PARIS

La Grande Mystification du Congo-Kinshasa: Les Crimes de Mobutu, (by) *Césaire Kamitatu Maspéro, Paris 1971. Cahiers Libres 207-208, not priced.*

What remains mysterious about what happened in Africa during the great tumultuous 1960s. But where has mystery remained as opaque as in the republic now renamed Zaïre? Are we sure, even now, that we know what really happened in those frantic early months when Patrice Lumumba fought for elbow-room to rule, and was then overthrown, murdered, and followed into power by those who had overthrown him? Or who it was that really pulled the strings which moved the subsequent governments of Adoula, Tshombe, Kimba? Or in exactly what circumstances the youthful General Mobutu made his military *coup d'état* of November 1965? And what kind of regime Mobutu's has proved to be?

Such questions have more than local significance. They bear closely on that whole wide field of foreign influence and interference that has counted for so much, if with varying impact, in every African country's experience of the 1960s. Like Mr Thomas Kanza's new volume in the Penguin African Library *Conflict in the Congo*, these memoirs of Mr Kamitatu's help to tell the story from a Congolese standpoint. No memoirs of this kind are impartial, and Mr Kamitatu's form no exception to the rule. But they are unquestionably valuable to the record. They give the author's version of events in often fascinating details, and throw a strong circumstantial light into many dark corners. Frankly partisan, they are continuously informative, and their very partisanship, never concealed, is even one of their most useful features. For it may be weighed in the scales of an objective judgment against the partisanship of other or official versions - a partisanship none the weaker for not being admitted.

Few Congolese have been as well placed as Kamitatu to see the story from the inside. In January 1960, right at the beginning, he was among those Congolese who went to the Brussels "Round Table" confrontation which opened the way for Belgium's sudden decision to withdraw direct political control. In the following May he came third highest in winning votes for the projected national assembly. Thereafter he was governor of the crucial Leopoldville Province, and then, for more

than two years, a senior minister in the Congolese central government. In 1965 he was appointed foreign minister in a new government overthrown by the Mobutu *coup d'état*. A year later he was imprisoned by the new President, Mobutu, but released in 1967. He tells us that he fled the Congo in February 1970 to avoid further arrest. His testimony is therefore that of an active and closely involved participant with access to the "inmost circles". It is also, clearly, that of a very alert observer. Future historians will not fail to read his book.

First published last May by the distinguished Paris house of Maspéro, the book itself already has a history that is almost as curious and emotive as the tale it has to tell. From Mr François Maspéro's prefatory note to the second edition, it appears that President Mobutu made a determined effort to prevent the book's publication, and then to buy up all copies remaining with the publisher. Given Kamitatu's harsh and very hostile judgment on Mobutu's character and actions, such efforts may not seem extraordinary. But what followed on their failure can only raise the eyebrows of astonished wonder.

On July 1, some six weeks after the book had gone on sale, the French government abruptly decreed its complete suppression, making it an offence to sell or circulate the book, and presumably even to read it. At the same time, piling Pelion upon Ossa, official approval was given for legal proceedings against the publisher, the author, and the printer. These proceedings were instituted upon a demand by the government of Congo-Kinshasa (Zaïre). The main item of accusation, it appears, was defined as "insult to a foreign Head of State".

Suppression of books for political reasons is not of course entirely new in France. It is seldom done, but the law permits it. Yet its exercise at the request of a foreign Head of State appears to be an entirely new infringement on the sovereign dignity of the French Republic. Other foreign Heads of State may have been able, in the past, to decide what the citizens of France may or may not read, if so, I cannot myself recall the occasion. The Great Man of the Congo seems to have succeeded where all others have failed.

One can only find this very surprising, even, from a certain standpoint, farcical. For where is it to begin and end? A satirical Paris journal, commenting on that question, was not unreasonably

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Why No Cocoa Agreement?

Yet another attempt to conclude an International Cocoa Agreement being made on the eve of UNCTAD I. Talks of one kind or another have been proceeding intermittently for about fifteen years with no result. Negotiations of a coffee agreement in the early sixties fared well for other commodities and its apparently successful operation in fairly recent years certainly encourages hopes for cocoa. But coffee is a more important commodity in world trade - it earns more foreign exchange for the less developed countries than any commodity except petroleum; the value of cocoa in world trade is only about one-fifth that of coffee - and the agreement was hurried along by President Kennedy in the fear that without "free world" support for the coffee market, Latin America would follow Cuba into socialist perdition. The fortunes of West African nations have never loomed large in the list of vital US political and commercial interests and cocoa has not had so powerful protection: the American government showing indifference, even hostility, to the idea of a cocoa pact.

At Punte del Este, the Americans laid down the main guidelines for the proposed coffee agreement: maintaining the price at its current level was stated to be as important as ironing out price fluctuations. This emphasis has been reaffirmed at UNCTAD I and II where resolutions have been passed to the effect that commodity schemes should aim only at stabilisation but at price support as well. While it is obvious that although consumers may have an interest in stabilisation, they have no interest in permanent price support, it may not be so obvious that not all producers have an interest in maintaining high prices for their goods. A tendency for high prices implies diminished sales, and so for producing countries struggling to enlarge the size of their markets will have an interest in lower prices. But so long as an Agreement exists, they must belong elsewhere have difficulty selling to member countries and the artificially high price inhibits a significant expansion of exports (through the quota system) and effective competition with high cost Brazilian and other Latin American producers. While the threat of disruption of the Cocoa Agreement comes from Washington rather than African governments, the latter may not at first be unhappy to let the agreement go, though the long term effect of a sudden American withdrawal from co-operation in such a high



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organised market may well prove disastrous to the many less developed countries who rely heavily on coffee for export revenues.

The uneasy status of the International Coffee Agreement is bound to raise misgivings about the viability of a cocoa agreement. But the interests of cocoa producers are not necessarily so sharply divided. Cocoa is a much more specialised crop than coffee and is therefore much less widely cultivated. As is well known, Brazil is the leading coffee exporter, accounting for over one quarter of world exports. Colombia the runner-up, accounts for less than one tenth. Most of the remainder is provided by nine much smaller Latin American, African and (one) Asian producers. Coffee is easy to grow and these small producers are often heavily dependent on its export; moreover most of the African producers are newcomers to the field and had not had time to reach their optimum production level before the onset of the Agreement. The pattern of concentration in the cocoa trade is significantly different. The two largest producers, Ghana and Nigeria, between them normally account for just over half the trade and the runners-up, Brazil and Ivory Coast and Cameroon between them normally make up about one quarter. There remain only a few other very small producing nations. Ghana is of course heavily dependent on cocoa revenue and falling world prices can be held at least partly responsible for the downfall of its two elected governments. Nigeria, as a whole, has never been so reliant on cocoa - traditionally, its most important export crop has been groundnuts - and in any case, in recent years petroleum has completely overshadowed other commodities. (In 1964 crude petroleum earned £N32m, in 1969 £N136m, in 1970 £N255m, cocoa earned £N40m in 1964 and £N67m in 1970.)

Nevertheless, cocoa is of crucial importance both economically and politically in Yorubaland in spite of (or perhaps increasingly because of) intimations that the industry is running down. Although Brazil is the third largest producer, its dependence on cocoa revenues is very small. As for the Ivory Coast, although cocoa accounts for as much as one fifth of its foreign earnings, it is more heavily dependent on coffee and timber. About half of Cameroon's export earnings are derived from cocoa and coffee while coffee used to be the more important export crop, it has in recent years been overtaken by cocoa. From this brief description of the structure of the supply side of the cocoa market, it can be inferred that the conflicting interests of large and small producers which weaken the links of the coffee Agreement are not likely to be reflected in a similar way in a cocoa pact.

The current interest in a cocoa pact originates from the UNCTAD which meets again in Santiago in April. Because of the general despondency which surrounds thinking about the Third World and its relations with the richer countries,

there is anxiety that this next conference should register at least one success in the form of a new commodity agreement. Cocoa is the favoured candidate as the rise and fall of its fortunes are dramatic and well-known and it can hardly be argued that the cost to consuming countries as a whole will be very great. On the other hand, as already noted, there are only a few producing countries to benefit and some of these could benefit greatly. Sectional interests in the consumer countries do however stand to lose from a pact which would stabilise prices at a higher level than free market ones and, not surprisingly, arguments are being turned out designed to influence the UK government amongst others against an Agreement.

Best interests

A well publicised document was recently issued (*West Africa*: January 28) arguing that the continuance of a free market in cocoa is in the best interests of producing and consuming countries alike. The tenor of this paper is that producers benefit from low prices as chocolate consumption is thereby encouraged to such an extent that net revenues would rise as a result rather than fall. Yet a simple analysis of the facts shows that revenues almost always rise when prices rise (i.e. when world production falls) and fall when the price falls. Furthermore, in an earlier report, the same source is quoted as arguing that changes in cocoa prices have become less important to the confectionery industry because of the increase in all its other costs. A falling cocoa price, therefore, need not lead to an increase in demand. The report also suggests that the market is more stable than would appear from a reading of the world cocoa price since 1959. "Aggregate producer revenues", it states "have not been stable, although the variation has been manifestly less extreme than the fluctuation in market prices". This is not true. Year-to-year changes in the market price have ranged from zero to 50 per cent and in producer revenues from 3 per cent to 66 per cent and the average change in price from one season to the next has been 17.9 per cent and in revenue 18.2 per cent. Price changes do not necessarily influence the correct production decisions since they so often lead to planting policies which only bear fruit several years later when the new trees come into production. This price-induced investment cycle is itself an important and well-known cause of market instability. Finally, the report argues that producer revenue has recently been on a rising trend: this is quite true but it is bound to have been reversed by the collapse in price and this monetary setback is reinforced in real terms by the rising prices of imports due to strong wage inflation in industrial countries. The cocoa crop is attracting less money and money is buying fewer goods. Clearly, hostile literature put out by the trade should be treated with considerable



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scepticism.

There is no doubt that internationally supported cocoa would be of great assistance to producing countries, especially in West Africa provided that their governments pursue internal policies which would as far as possible stabilise production in the long run. This means correcting the destabilising investment cycle. To do much more knowledge is required about the existing tree population - its structure and productivity. With this information, more rational planning policies can be pursued through the leverage of the marketing board. Short-run production stability can be aided by greater expenditure on pest control and over disease and improved purchasing arrangements for transport. The aim here is not so much to increase production (except to keep pace with growing consumption) as to increase efficiency. The proposed Agreement would work through a buffer stock and export quotas. If exports are allowed to expand in an orderly way and the price maintained at a reasonable level, governments should be enjoined to use cocoa funds to enforce the production policies just outlined and to use the resources released in this way to encourage local food production.

One of the wider policy objectives of the Agreement should be to encourage exporting countries to process their product and to manufacture chocolate themselves. A greater liberalisation of trade is called for: it is not enough to abolish consumer countries to abolish revenue duties on the raw material alone discourages local manufacture. It makes the export of the bean more profitable than the manufactured chocolate - the aim should be to do away with protective duties on imported chocolate. Such action would lead to a significant improvement in the allocation of resources in the World Cocoa Economy to the benefit of the producing and consuming communities.

Unfortunately, whatever the outcome of the talks over the next few months this issue is unlikely to be raised. The experience of coffee has shown that nothing is more likely to encourage established manufacturers in developing industrial countries than the desire of commodity producers to manufacture and export and this can threaten the very fabric of an agreement. This battle is being fought within UNCTAD and COW where business representation is immediately evident. The objections of representatives of the industrial countries probably find the shifting battle lines less intellectually embarrassing for the antagonists of commodity agreements are quick to argue the advantage of a "free market" when it comes to their manufactured goods. This advantage "softly and suddenly vanishes away".

Edward H

Senior lecturer in Economics
at the University of Bath

Commercial News

Three countries miss Fair opening

A call for the creation of regional market communities in Africa has been made by Gen. Gowon in a message congratulating Kenya on hosting the first All-Africa Trade Fair. Rockets carrying the flags of the 34 participating nations soared into the air after the official opening by President Jomo Kenyatta, who stressed that the object of the Fair "is to encourage and step up the volume of intra-African commerce... the aim should be to exploit a fundamental spirit of true African brotherhood". He noted that although it had been said that language barriers might frustrate the flow of trade within Africa, such barriers had never in the past held up the flow of worldwide commerce. As regards communication difficulties, he pointed to signs of positive initiative, such as the Mombasa-Lagos highway.

"There must be greater co-operation with an element of pan-African planning,

in regard to production priorities, the output of crops and the siting of industries, so that commerce is not frustrated by the fact that too many countries are all producing the same thing", he added.

With him on the dais were Emperor Haile Selassie, President Mokhtar Ould Daddah, of Mauntania, President Idi Amin of Uganda, Vice President Rashidi Kawawa of Tanzania and Queen Mamohato Seiso of Lesotho.

President Ould Daddah, the current OAU chairman, said that the Fair was an exceptionally important occasion, it was unique in that it was limited exclusively to Africans although it was not a show of hostility towards African partners. It was a testimony to the fact that the OAU was not solely dedicated to political problems although these must have priority while South Africa, the white minority regime

in Rhodesia, Britain, Portugal and of powers continued their present policies. He hoped the Fair would give the African people another reason for self-confidence and realisation of their economic potential.

After the opening ceremony a police helicopter landed in the main arena with a message from UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who said it was especially appropriate that the Fair should take place at the outset of the Second Development Decade.

Thirty-seven OAU countries out of the organisation's membership of 41 had agreed to participate, but on the eve of the Fair the exhibits from Sierra Leone, Niger and Central African Republic had not materialised.

- One of the two Nigerian pavilions at the Fair, a two-storey structure, is to remain as a permanent stand on the Jamhuri Park site.

- African Labour Ministers will meet in Kampala for a week in March to discuss a common stand for the International Labour Conference to be held in Geneva next June. An OAU statement said that they would also discuss assistance that African governments could give workers in order to speed up the formation of an all-African central trade union.

- Mr. A. A. Baba Gana, permanent secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed a director of the African Development Bank for a two-year term.

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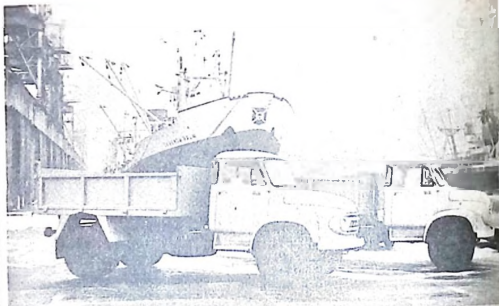
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Biriye attacks fishing consultants

The opinion of some foreign consultants that fishing harbours are unnecessary in Nigeria in the foreseeable future has been dismissed as "hypocritical and absolutely inimical to the economic progress of Nigeria" by Chief H. J. Dappa-Biriye, Rivers State Commissioner for Agriculture. Addressing a meeting of the National Fisheries Development Committee in Port Harcourt, he said that the Rivers Government had decided to have a modern fishing terminal erected in the State. "The terminal will be open to all users in the world strictly on economic terms. To this end the Rivers State is willing to go into partnership with other investors in the ownership and management of the project so as to ensure fair treatment to all users irrespective of nations of origin".

An expert report on a site for the terminal had been prepared, but a pre-investment survey of an access road to the site still had to be made.

Noting that shipping and navigation on tidal waters and main waterways like the Niger were exclusive Federal matters, the Commissioner urged that fishing with motorised boats on such waters should be left for States to legislate on, as should the issuing of licences for the erection of fishing terminals, piers and jetties along the banks of such waters. "Progress of practising fishermen would be most painfully retarded should the Federal Government continue exclusively to control these measures".

Another area of exclusive federal control which was causing hardship to peasant fishermen, he said, was the problem of mineral oil pollution of fishing waters and grounds. "Mineral oil disasters in oil bearing States during and after the recent civil war in this country have led to considerable spillage of oil into surrounding waters and have exterminated marine life upon which fishermen live. Apart from occasional disasters there is the incidence of snags permanently created by oil pipes which

destroy the fishing gear of peasant fishermen. This situation is now considerable hardship in the occupation. It is, therefore, necessary for the Federal Military Government through effective representation by a Committee, to recognise pollution liability in the oil industry, as a growing nuisance to fishing communities in Nigeria, as a new problem deserving of state compensation to its victims."

CAR diamond moves

President Bokassa has announced that only Central Africans would be allowed to collect diamonds in the CAR. Firms would be allowed to deal in diamonds only if they showed willingness to give priority to supplying rough stones to Central African diamond cutters. He pointed out that legal exports of diamonds had fallen from 638,172 carats valued at £7.2m. in 1968 to 458 carats worth about £4.6m in 1970. Government revenue from diamonds had fallen by almost 50 per cent in the same period. The President attributed the decline to an enormous increase in smuggling, the presence of too many foreign collectors who had no intention of investing their profits in the country and the poor techniques of collectors who contented themselves with the easily found stones instead of venturing the diggings systematically. To overcome the last difficulty, Central African collectors would be given technical assistance.

• Hunting Geology and Geophysics British company, has been hired to carry out a five year mineral exploration programme in a concession area in the north awarded to Bishop Oil and Refining the USA. Geological, geophysical remote sensing techniques will be used to prospect in the 15,000 square mile area of the Air Mountains.

ECGD withdraws cover to Ghana

Cover for British exports to Ghana has been withdrawn by the Export Credits Guarantee Department since February 20, it was disclosed in London last week. A spokesman for ECGD was quoted as saying that the measure had been taken for "purely commercial considerations," because of the deterioration in trading conditions since mid-1971. ECGD's equivalents in other European countries with which Ghana trades have already cut off credit, the spokesman added.

Following a newspaper report that work on the NC3m Saltpond Ceramics Factory would have to stop unless the company was given a Government loan, the National Redemption Council instructed the National Investment Bank to provide "the necessary finance for the project." About 75 per cent of the machinery has been installed and it has been reported that the suppliers, Praginvest of Czechoslovakia, plan to ship the rest this month, to allow production to begin in July. Earlier Mr. E. Rudiaff, the project manager, had blamed the factory's slow progress on "inordinate delays" in equipment supplies.

Log shipments from Takoradi totalled 503,414 tons in 1971 compared with 394,988 tons in 1970, sawn timber shipments amounted to 137,180 tons compared with 148,499 tons the previous year.

Cumulative main-crop cocoa purchases in Ghana after 19 weeks totalled an estimated 405,881 tons compared with 366,392 tons at the same time last year.

Ivory Coast, Brazil coffee accord

Following talks in Brasilia, Ivory Coast and Brazil have agreed to maintain close contact in defence of coffee producers' interests and to strengthen the International Coffee Agreement. The Ivory Coast Agriculture Minister, M. Abdallah Sawadogo, told reporters that the talks had concentrated on problems connected with increasing coffee prices to compensate for dollar devaluation.

After two weeks of discussions in London, the working group set up by the International Coffee Council to examine problems connected with the renegotiation of the coffee pact decided to reconvene on April 17. A new coffee agreement is due to come into effect in October 1973.

After talks in Nairobi between the EEC and the associated East African states it was agreed that Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania will cut by more than one-third the charge on movement certificates for coffee exported to the EEC in exchange for a doubling of their quota for the export of duty-free tinned neapple.

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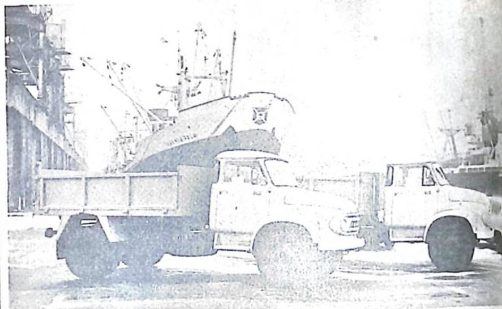
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Some of the 77 vehicles which the Liverpool branch of CFAO is shipping to Congo in fulfilment of a £450,000 contract negotiated directly with the DRC Government. The vehicles include cement emitters, hearses, fire appliances, tankers and road sweepers

Biriye attacks fishing consultants

The opinion of some foreign consultants that fishing harbours are unnecessary in Nigeria in the foreseeable future has been dismissed as "hypocritical and absolutely inimical to the economic progress of Nigeria" by Chief H. J. Dappa-Biriye, Rivers State Commissioner for Agriculture. Addressing a meeting of the National Fisheries Development Committee in Port Harcourt, he said that the Rivers Government had decided to have a modern fishing terminal erected in the State. "The terminal will be open to all users in the world strictly on economic terms. To this end the Rivers State is willing to go into partnership with other investors in the ownership and management of the project so as to ensure fair treatment to all users irrespective of nations of origin".

An expert report on a site for the terminal had been prepared, but a pre-investment survey of an access road to the site still had to be made.

Noting that shipping and navigation on tidal waters and main waterways like the Niger were exclusive Federal matters, the Commissioner urged that fishing with motorised boats on such waters should be left for States to legislate on, as should the issuing of licences for the erection of fishing terminals, piers and jetties along the banks of such waters. "Progress of practising fishermen would be most painfully retarded should the Federal Government continue exclusively to control these measures."

Another area of exclusive federal control which was causing hardship to peasant fishermen, he said, was the problem of mineral oil pollution of fishing waters and grounds. "Mineral oil disasters in oil bearing States during and after the recent civil war in this country have led to considerable spillage of oil into surrounding waters and have exterminated marine life upon which fishermen live. Apart from occasional disasters there is the incidence of snags permanently created by oil pipes which

destroy the fishing gear of peasant fishermen. This situation is now causing considerable hardship in the fishing occupation. It is, therefore, necessary for the Federal Military Government to take through effective representation by the Rivers State Government to the Federal Committee, to recognise pollution factors in the oil industry, as a growing menace to fishing communities in Nigeria and to provide a new problem deserving of statutory compensation to its victims."

CAR diamond moves

President Bokassa has announced that only Central Africans would be allowed to collect diamonds in the CAR. The CAR firms would be allowed to collect diamonds only if they showed willingness to give priority to supplying rough stones to Central African diamond cutters. He pointed out that legal exports of diamonds had fallen from 638,172 carats valued at £7.2m in 1968 to 454 carats worth about £4.6m in 1970. Government revenue from diamonds had fallen by almost 50 per cent in the period. The President attributed the decline to an enormous increase in smuggling, the presence of too many foreign collectors who had no interest in investing their profits in the country and the poor techniques of collectors who contented themselves with the easily found stones instead of working the diggings systematically. To overcome the last difficulty, Central African collectors would be given technical assistance.

● Hunting Geology and Geophysics British company, has been hired to carry out a five year mineral exploration programme in a concession area awarded to Bishop Oil and Refining Co. The U.S.A. Geological, geophysical remote sensing techniques will be used to prospect in the 15,000 square mile area of the Air Mountains.

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ECGD withdraws cover to Ghana

Cover for British exports to Ghana has been withdrawn by the Export Credits Guarantee Department since February 20, it was disclosed in London last week. A spokesman for ECGD was quoted as saying that the measure had been taken for "purely commercial considerations," because of the deterioration in trading conditions since mid-1971. ECGD's equivalents in other European countries with which Ghana trades have already cut off credit, the spokesman added.

Following a newspaper report that work on the NC3m. Saltpond Ceramics Factory would have to stop unless the company was given a Government loan, the National Redemption Council instructed the National Investment Bank to provide "the necessary finance for the project." About 75 per cent of the machinery has been installed and it has been reported that the suppliers, Pragomest of Czechoslovakia, plan to ship the rest this month, to allow production to begin in July. Earlier Mr. E. Rudiaff, the project manager, had blamed the factory's slow progress on "inordinate delays" in equipment supplies.

Log shipments from Takoradi totalled 503,414 tons in 1971 compared with 394,988 tons in 1970. Sawm timber shipments amounted to 137,180 tons compared with 148,499 tons the previous year.

Cumulative man-crop cocoa purchases in Ghana after 19 weeks totalled an estimated 405,881 tons compared with 366,392 tons at the same time last year.

Ivory Coast, Brazil coffee accord

Following talks in Brasilia, Ivory Coast and Brazil have agreed to maintain close contact in defence of coffee producers' interests and to strengthen the International Coffee Agreement. The Ivory Coast Agriculture Minister, M. Abdulah Sawadogo, told reporters that the talks had concentrated on problems connected with increasing coffee prices to compensate for dollar devaluation.

After two weeks of discussions in London, the working group set up by the International Coffee Council to examine problems connected with the renegotiation of the coffee pact decided to reconvene on April 17. A new coffee agreement is due to come into effect in October 1973.

After talks in Nairobi between the EEC and the associated East African states it was agreed that Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania will cut by more than one-third the charge on movement certificates for coffee exported to the EEC in exchange for a doubling of their quota for the export of duty-free tinned mappale.

WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

ELDER DEMPSTER LINES

SOUTHBOUND - From Liverpool: DEIDO slg. Glasgow Mar. 3; DUMBAIA slg. Mar. 9; DUNKWA due Lobito Mar. 4; OII due Monrovia Mar. 3

From London: FULANI due Tema Mar. 5; FALABA slg. Mar. 9; FBOF slg. Port Harcourt Mar. 3

From Southampton: PEGU slg. Mar. 9.

NORTHBOUND - To Liverpool: AUREOL due Mar. 6; FOURAH BAY slg. Apapa Mar. 5; PERANG due Fiko Mar. 6

To London: KABAIA due Mar. 23.

To Avonmouth: FBANI due Mar. 21.

To Glasgow: FIAN due Mar. 4

To Le Havre: FREETOWN slg. Port Gentil Mar. 5

To El Ferrol: KADUNA due Freetown Mar. 6. **To N. Continent:** PATANI due Bathurst Mar. 3.

WESTBOUND - To USA/Canada: CALCHAS slg. Lobito Mar. 3; DALLA due Portsmouth Mar. 4; DONGA due Abidjan Mar. 4.

EASTBOUND - From USA/Canada: DFGEMA due Freetown Mar. 4; ONITSHA due Dakar Mar. 4.

EASTERN SERVICE: LAURELBANK slg. Dakar Mar. 3; SHIRABANK due Apapa Mar. 8.

BARBER LINES

OUTWARDS - FERNGATE due Douala Mar. 12; FERNLAND slg. New York Mar. 10 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala, VESSEL slg. New York Mar. 20 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala.

HOMEWARDS - FERNGATE idg. Ghana mid Mar. Abidjan/Monrovia 3rd week Apr for US North Atlantic, FERNLAND idg. Lagos S. Bound about Mar. 27, Ghana Apr. 4, Abidjan/Monrovia 2nd week Apr for US North Atlantic.

"K" LINE

WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong to Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown etc.: JAMAICA MARU slg. Japan Feb. 6 due Lagos Mar. 19

EASTBOUND - From Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. to Japan via Hong Kong: JAMAICA MARU slg. Lagos Mar. 26, Tema Mar. 30, Freetown Apr. 4 due Japan May 15.

WOERMANN LINE

KARROO slg. Le Havre Mar. 21, Bordeaux Mar. 24 due Lome Apr. 4, MARIL DELMAS due Dakar Apr. 1, Abidjan Apr. 5, Douala Apr. 17.

DAFRA LINE

EASTBOUND - AFRICA slg. New Orleans Mar. 29 due Monrovia Apr. 12, Warri Apr. 19. **WESTBOUND** - FRANKRIG slg. Angola Mar. 17 due Houston Apr. 15.

GOLD STAR LINE

WESTBOUND - TSEDEK Nagoya Mar. 28, Kobe Apr. 7, Keelung Apr. 9.

EASTBOUND - BEERSHEVA Durban Mar. 16, L. Marques Mar. 19.

BLACK STAR LINE/USNH/WEST AFRICA **WESTBOUND** - BENYA RIVER New York Mar. 4, Philadelphia Mar. 7.

BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT/WEST AFRICA

SOUTHBOUND - Rotterdam Mar. 6, Dunkirk Mar. 8, BIA RIVER London Mar. 2.

NORTHBOUND - BIA RIVER Bremen Feb. 21, KLORTE LAGOON London Mar. 1, Avonmouth Mar. 9.

DELTA LINE

DELTA PARAGUAY slg. Dakar Apr. 21, Conakry Apr. 23, Freetown Apr. 25, DEL RIO slg. New Orleans Apr. 5 due Houston Apr. 2, Takoradi Apr. 17.

PALM LINE

SOUTHBOUND - From Liverpool: ILORIN PALM due Lobito Apr. 28.

From Continent: IKEJA PALM due Tema Apr. 18.

NORTHBOUND - To London: KATSINA PALM slg. Abidjan Mar. 2.

To Continent: ANDONI PALM slg. Cotonou

Mar. 2.

N.Y.K. LINE

WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong, Labite, Matadi, Lagos, Abidjan, etc.: SA MARU slg. Kobe Mar. 5 due Luanda A. Boma Apr. 4.

EASTBOUND - From Lagos, Tema, Tak Abidjan, Lome etc. to Japan: SAIKYO M due Lagos/Apapa Apr. 11, Douala Apapa Japan first port Jun. 3.

CHARGEURS REUNIS

JOINVILLE due Lagos Mar. 11, Tema Mar. 13, JOUVILLE slg. Kobe Mar. 28.

MITSUI OSK LINE

PHILIPPINE MARU slg. Kobe Mar. 2. **Lagos Apr. 28, MONTEVIDEO MARU** Kobe Mar. 13 due Lagos May.

HODAKASAN MARU slg. Kobe Mar. 24. **Lagos May 11.**

MAERSK LINE

INWARDS - From Japan via Hong Kong, Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan: JESPER MAERSK Kobe Mar. 5 due Luanda Apr. 1.

OUTWARDS - From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan: MAREN MAERSK slg. Lagos/Apapa Mar. 16 due Tema Mar. 17.

FARRELL LINES

HOMEWARDS - AFRICA CRESCENT Matadi Mar. 24 for Lobito, Luanda Apr. Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports. **AFRICAN ST.** slg. Lagos/Apapa Apr. 16 for Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports.

OUTWARDS - AFAICA STAR due Dakar Mar. 24 for Freetown, Monrovia, Mar. Buchanan, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Apr. Lagos/Apapa Apr. 8, Douala; AFRICA LIGHTNING due Monrovia Apr. 9 for Abidjan, Tema Apr. 15, Matadi, Lobito, Luanda.

KONINKLIJKE NEDLLOYD NV EUROPE WEST AFRICAN SERVICES

HOEGH EYOLDER Antwerp Mar. Rotterdam Mar. 15, Bordeaux Mar. 20, BATH Hamburg Mar. 22, Antwerp Mar. 2 Rotterdam Mar. 27.

NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE **SOUTHBOUND** - KING JAJA due Lagos/Apapa Apr. 11, Port Harcourt Apr. 18.

NORTHBOUND - DAN FODIO due Avonmouth Mar. 9.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE **SOUTHBOUND** - "XXX" slg. Scan. first hal Mar. for discharge WA end Mar/early Apr. **BANDA** slg. Scan. mid Mar. for discharge W/early May.

NORTHBOUND - CUMULUS slg. WA mid Apr. for discharge Scan. May; HJELMAREN slg. WA end Apr. for discharge Scan. May.

HOEGH LINES

HOEGH BREEZE due Tema Mar. 21, Apapa Mar. 24, HOLLG BEAVER slg. Rotterdam Mar. 17 due Teneriffe Mar. 23, Bathurst Mar. 26.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINE

INWARDS - STRAAT FREETOWN from Japan slg. Feb. 17 due Monrovia Mar. 21, Freetown Mar. 23, Tema Mar. 26, Port Harcourt Mar. 29, Lagos/Apapa Mar. 31, Takoradi Apr. 5, Abidjan Apr. 8, STRAAT TOWA from Hong Kong slg. Feb. 2, due Lagos/Apapa Mar. 12, Cotonou Mar. 21, Lome Mar. 22, Tema Mar. 23, Abidjan Mar. 24, opt. Apr. 3, Conakry Apr. 7, Takoradi Apr. 18.

OUTWARDS - STRAAT FREETOWN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong and Japan early April; STRAAT TOWA from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong, Japan and Shanghai March/April.

EAL EUROPE - AFRICA LINE GMBH **GERDA SCHNELL** due Douala Mar. 17, Libreville Mar. 19, Port Gentil Mar. 21, Douala Mar. 27.

CHRISTEL VINNEN due Lome Mar. 23.

NOPAL LINES

WESTBOUND - NOPAL VEGA slg. Monrovia Mar. 10 due New Orleans Mar. 27.

EASTBOUND - NOPAL LUNA slg. New Orleans Mar. 13 due Monrovia Mar. 27.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

BUEVA FORTUNA due Lagos Mar. 14, Freetown Mar. 20; **NORTHWIND** due Lagos Mar. 29, Freetown Apr. 4, New Orleans Apr. 20.

UK exports to Commonwealth top sales to EEC

With the help of a £50m. increase in exports to Nigeria, British exports to Commonwealth countries in 1971 overtook exports to European Common Market countries. The Commonwealth purchased £2,009m. worth of British goods, the EEC £1,926m. and EFTA £1,391m. The previous year British exports to the EEC amounted to £1,753m. and to the Commonwealth £1,695m.

Exports to African countries (see accompanying table) increased by 25 per cent last year (about 19 per cent allowing for the inflationary factor). Apart from South Africa, Nigeria is easily Britain's best customer in Africa. Purchases from Nigeria are also on the increase. The principal exports to Nigeria are (£'000):

Machinery, non-electric - 11,356 (1969); 18,135 (1970); 35,060 (1971).

Electrical machinery and apparatus - 6,658 (1969); 13,871 (1970); 14,982 (1971).

Transport equipment - 11,862 (1969); 17,352 (1970); 27,348 (1971).

Imports from Africa continued their downward drift. Fewer diamonds were purchased from Sierra Leone and there were lower cocoa shipments from Ghana as well as reduced purchases of aluminium. Imports from the countries shown fell by 21 per cent and the fall would have been far greater but for a large increase in imports of Nigerian oil. This situation was apparently caused by the recession in Britain and by the drop in commodity prices.

Commenting on the growth of exports to Africa, the Standard Bank Review notes: "The encouraging feature for the UK is that, even excluding Nigeria and South Africa, her exports to the other countries listed grew at a higher rate than did her exports to the other major trading blocs. The prospects for repeating this performance in 1972 must be good in view of the exchange rate advantage sterling now has over some of its competitors, but to offset this several of the African countries are experiencing economic problems which could result in a reduction in their imports in 1972".

• Nigeria's new decimal coins, which will be introduced on January 1, 1973, are being struck by Britain's Royal Mint at Llantrisant in South Wales. Many of the coins have already been shipped and the order is due to be completed by next September. The coins being minted in Britain include: 10 kobo - 200m. pieces, 1 kobo - 500m. pieces, ½ kobo - 300m. pieces. In addition, blanks ready for striking in Nigeria are being produced as follows: 25 kobo - 200,040,000; 10 kobo - 157,167,000; 5 kobo - 40,800,000. The 25, 10 and 5 kobo coins are of cupro-nickel and the 1 kobo and ½ kobo coins are in bronze. The Nigerian order also includes the production of dies and collars.

U. K. Trade with African Countries (£'000)

	Exports (including Re-exports)					Imports				
	1969	1970	1971	1969	1970	1969	1970	1971	1969	1970
The Gambia	2,588	2,110	2,707	2,024	4,139					
Sierra Leone	13,574	12,530	12,673	36,165	31,448					
Ghana	37,475	38,380	44,636	43,304	38,948					
Nigeria	78,131	114,385	165,009	104,489	123,874					
Cameroon	3,991	3,728	4,010	2,247	2,018					
Mozambique	11,740	13,131	16,411	4,019	5,859					
Zaire	11,444	12,033	18,050	22,834	18,872					
Lesotho	88	67	63	1	1					
Botswana	347	426	1,486	835	3,153					
Swaziland	134	353	230	9,830	9,411					
Zambia	35,075	37,866	49,338	105,519	101,384					
Malawi	7,632	7,983	8,587	10,658	12,135					
Rhodesia	816	503	697	68	49					
Kenya	49,954	52,827	65,619	25,706	27,064					
Uganda	10,110	9,960	15,665	17,466	17,652					
South Africa	190,880	332,896	395,406	302,322	258,366					
South West Africa	1,639	1,583	1,656	16,429	26,052					
Angola	11,118	13,819	17,350	3,639	8,920					
Total (a)	566,796	654,875	820,093	717,555	689,308					
Total U.K. trade (b)	7,298,008	8,062,750	9,175,335	8,315,141	9,051,466					
Total (a) as % of total (b)	7.8	8.1	8.9	8.6	7.6					

TRADING LULL IN NIGERIA

Following a spurt in trading activity during the Christmas season, the Standard Bank Review reports a lull in Lagos State, where the situation at the ports has deteriorated as a result of two short strikes and congestion in the transit sheds. (Emergency measures announced by the port manager were reported in West Africa, w/e February 18). The State Government is organising its first agricultural show as part of its attempt to increase cash and food crop production. The Bank also notes that in the Western State the price of locally-grown food is "substantially above the seasonal normal" because an unusually poor wet season has resulted in low crop yields. In the Northern States, too, there has been no real improvement in trading conditions which are described as the worst for many years. Textiles have been hardest hit, with many men thrown out of work as a result of cutbacks in production. Even building materials have failed to find a steady demand. In the Rivers, East Central and South East States, traders report that business has not been as brisk as usual at this time of year.

• Sir Adetokunbo Ademola, who retired this month as Chief Justice of Nigeria, has been appointed deputy chairman of the United Bank for Africa. Lady Kofo Ademola is already a director of UBA. The Bank's new £6m. offices in Lagos have been opened.

• A net profit of £148,000 was made by John Holt Investment Company of Nigeria last year.

• The US Export-Import Bank authorised a direct loan of \$3.8m. to finance the sale of \$8.6m. of machinery to Aba Textile Mills Ltd. It also authorised the issue of a £1m. guarantee of a separate \$3.8m. loan by First National City Bank.

• Requests by the Nigerian and Black Star Lines for a bigger cargo traffic were considered at a quarterly meeting in Tema. Shipping conferences - UK West Africa Lines, the West Africa Conference and the Conference des Lines Navigables.

• About 40 per cent of the Bank of Nigeria's loans are to Nigerian businessmen, although the requirement is only 35 per cent. Mr. C. P. Johnston, the chairman, was at the conference in Lagos.

• A profit of 970,000 was made by Guinness (Nigeria) in 1971. The company has paid £6m. in import duties on the current financial year, and is expected to pay more on company tax.

• An extraordinary meeting of the Breweries decided in Lagos to increase the authorised share capital from £4m. and to issue 8m. new 5sh. 5d. shares.

• A net trading profit of £92m. was made by the Nigerian Tobacco Co. in 1971 compared with £81.2m. in the previous financial year.

SITUATIONS VACANT - cont L

PHOTOGRAPHY

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NOTICES - cont

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STUDENTS LAW SOCIETY**

Regrets announcing that as a result of electricity power cuts the Executive Committee has been requested to postpone their 'MAIDEN DANCE' scheduled to take place on February, 1972. The dance will take place on Saturday 18th March, 1972. Details remain unchanged. Tickets already bought will be valid.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Secretary General, Messrs. M. J. & R. J. Evans

A. E. & R. J. EVANS

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NIGERIA****THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS:
IN THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
1972/73 SESSION**

Applications are invited from Graduates with at least a second class upper division degree or its equivalent, and from final year degree students expecting to graduate in June, 1972, for admission to the University of Ibadan for MASTER'S DEGREE course in Economics, Geography, Political Science and Sociology. Ten scholarships are available, financed by an external grant to the Faculty of the Social Sciences; the awards are open to graduates of all African Universities.

METHODS OF APPLICATION

(i) Application must be made on the prescribed forms which together with normal application forms for postgraduate study are obtainable from:

THE ADMISSIONS OFFICER
(POSTGRADUATE AND SCHOLARSHIPS)
THE REGISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN
IBADAN, NIGERIA.

Envelopes should be marked "Social Sciences Postgraduate Award".

(ii) Applications from within Nigeria must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope (9½" X 6½") together with three shillings in crossed Postal/Money Order for a copy of the University Postgraduate Prospectus

Applications from outside Nigeria must be accompanied by an International Reply Coupon for \$1.50 to cover the cost and air postage of the university Postgraduate Prospectus.

(iii) Completed application forms together with the appropriate fee must be returned to the address in 2(i) above, not later than 30 April, 1972.

S. J. OKUDU, AG. REGISTRAR.

NOTICES

**THE CHURCH OF THE LORD (ALADURA)
CALLING**

There will be a Revival Service of the South London Branch of the above named Church on Sunday 19th March, 1972 at the South London Tabernacle Baptist Church, Peckham Road, S.E.5.

Time: 12.30 pm prompt.

Come one, come all and witness the wonderful work of God.

Buses: 12, 36, 36A, 171.

NOTICES - cont.

BUSINESS IN NIGERIA

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Lagos - Nigeria.

UGHELL DESCENDANTS UNION

(London Branch)

This is to inform the general public, particularly the Ughello community in London and in Nigeria, that the protracted rift within the Ughello Descendants Union, London Branch, has been amicably settled.

The settlement was effected by Chief D. O. G. Ughello, The Otolali of Ughello, during his recent visit to the United Kingdom, when representatives of the two factions were summoned for discussion. On behalf of this Union, may I thank Chief Ughello for the noble role he has played in this matter. Consequently, the following officers were elected for the 1971/72 term -

President	Mr. A. B. E. Metiri
Vice President	Mr. E. O. Eze
General Secretary	Mr. Y. O. Regatewee
Asst. Secretary	Mr. G. E. Amajie
Treasurer	Mr. S. I. Mukoro
Soc./Pub. Secretary	Mr. K. M. Edeybie
Welfare Officer	Mr. G. O. Onomijegbe

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, Mr. Y. O. Regatewee, 38 Tressilian Road, London, S.E.4. Telephone 01-692 6697.
K. M. Edeybie, Publicity Secretary

WEST AFRICA —1971

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SITUATIONS VACANT - cont.

Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

VACANCIES FOR

MEDICAL OFFICERS

IN THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointment to the vacant posts of Medical Officer Grade II in the Epidemiological Unit of the Federal Ministry of Health.

SALARY: Scale A EN1,830 - EN2,070 per annum

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:-

Applicants must be registered in Nigeria as Medical Practitioners. All qualifications by British Medical Council are acceptable.

DUTIES:-

The Medical Officers will work in the Smallpox Eradication and Measles Control Project and carry out Epidemic Investigation and Control. They will also undertake the training of Medical personnel.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:-

(i) The posts are pensionable for Nigerians, and in the case of a new Nigerian entrant into the Government Service, the appointment will be on probation for three years.

(ii) When an Officer is occupying government quarters, rent is paid at the rate of EN150 per annum.

(iii) Free outward and return passages at the completion of tour for officer, wife and children passage allowance up to EN230 per tour.

(iv) Leave at the rate of 5 or 7 days for each completed month's service.

(v) Car basic and mileage allowance will be provided in accordance with the government's regulations in force from time to time.

(vi) In addition to the above, successful candidates who are British or Irish Nationals may be eligible for a tax-free British Supplementary allowance of E800 sterling per annum paid into the officer's bank account in the United Kingdom. Note - EN1 = E1.17 sterling.

(vii) Income Tax is at Nigerian rates and these are substantially lower than those prevailing in the U.K.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:-

Applications in duplicate/triplicate, on Federal Public Service Commission form obtainable from the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commissions, should be completed and returned to the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Private Mail Bag 12586, Lagos, on or before 15th March 1972.

Application forms are also obtainable from

Recruitment Attache,
NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION,
9 Northumberland Avenue,
London, W.C.2.

SITUATIONS VACANT - cont.

NOTICES - cont.

Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

VACANCY FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR

Centre for Maintenance & Repair of Scientific Equipment

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the above position.

SCALE OF SALARY

Group 7 - £N2,532 p.a.

QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates should possess a good honours science degree, preferably in Physics, or in a relevant field of Engineering and have had considerable experience of science teaching in a post primary institution. Experience in the maintenance and repair of scientific equipment and production of simple science apparatus would be an advantage.

DUTIES

The Director would be responsible for administering the Centre and establishing an effective repair system for servicing school science apparatus. He would liaise with curriculum development units and develop prototypes of apparatus suitable for modern science teaching. He would be required to establish an effective central production unit and distribution system for science equipment throughout the country.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

(i) The post is pensionable and in the case of a (Nigerian) new entrant to the Public Service, his appointment will normally be on probation for three years.

(ii) When an Officer is occupying government quarters, rent is paid at the rate of £N150 per annum.

(iii) Free outward and return passages at the completion of tour for officer, wife and children passage allowances up to £N230 per tour.

(iv) Leave at the rate of 5 or 7 days for each completed month's service.

(v) Car basic and mileage allowance will be provided in accordance with the government's regulations in force from time to time.

(vi) In addition to the above, successful candidates who are British or Irish Nationals may be eligible for a tax-free British supplementary allowance of £800 sterling per annum paid into the officer's bank account in the United Kingdom. Note: £N1 = £1.17 sterling.

(vii) Income tax is at Nigerian rates and these are substantially lower than those prevailing in the U.K.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applications from candidates not in Government Service should be completed on the prescribed forms obtainable from the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission.

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SITUATIONS VACANT—cont.

**Government of the Mid-Western State
of Nigeria****VACANCIES FOR
SENIOR STATE COUNSEL
GRADE II**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointment to the post of Senior State Counsel Grade II in the Ministry of Justice, Midwestern State of Nigeria.

2. **SALARY SCALE:** Group 8 (EN1,950-EN2,070 per annum).

3. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must be legally qualified to practise as advocates in any court of law in Nigeria and must have had not less than 7 years suitable post-call practical experience.

4. **DUTIES:** Performance of Legal duties without close supervision but in consultation with more experienced officers when in doubt or difficulty. A Senior State Counsel Grade II, by virtue of longer experience, would be assigned more important legal work than a State Counsel Grade I.

5. **CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:** Appointment is permanent and pensionable and in the case of new entrants into the Public Service, appointment will be on probation for three years.

6. **METHODS OF APPLICATION:** Applications from candidates not in Government Service should be submitted in duplicate on Form M N P S C. 1 (Midwestern Nigeria Public Service Commission 1) which may be obtained from the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Benin City, or the Administrative Attache (Recruitment) Office of the High Commissioner for Nigeria, 9, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2. Applications from candidates in the Midwestern State Government Service should be submitted in letter form through the normal departmental channels. An applicant in a Civil Service other than that of the Midwestern State of Nigeria should route his/her application through the Secretary of the appropriate Public Service Commission who should forward it with copies of the candidate's Confidential Reports for the last three years.

7. **CLOSING DATE:** All applications should be forwarded to the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Benin City, so as to reach him not later than 20th March, 1972.

J. O. Ihonor, Secretary,
Public Service Commission.

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SITUATIONS VACANT - cont.

Government of the Mid-Western State of Nigeria

VACANCIES FOR PRINCIPAL STATE COUNSEL

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

2. **SALARY SCALE:** Group 6 (i.e. EN2,736 per annum).

3. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must be legally qualified to practise as advocates in any court of law in Nigeria and must have had not less than 9 years suitable post-call practical experience.

4. **DUTIES:** Taking charge of the litigation section of the Legal Division as well as undertaking law reporting activities in the Ministry. Could also appear in court in important cases.

5. **CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:** Appointment is permanent and pensionable and in the case of new entrants into the Public Service, appointment will be on probation for three years.

6. **METHODS OF APPLICATION:** Applications from candidates not in Government Service should be submitted in duplicate on Form M.N.P.S.C.1 (Midwestern Nigeria Public Service Commission 1) which may be obtained from the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Benin City, or the Administrative Attache (Recruitment) Office of the High Commissioner for Nigeria, 9 Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2. Applications from candidates in the Midwestern State Government Service should be submitted in letter form through the normal departmental channels. An applicant in a Civil Service other than that of the Midwestern State of Nigeria should route his/her application through the Secretary of the appropriate Public Service Commission who should forward it with copies of the candidates Confidential Reports for the last three years.

7. **CLOSING DATE:** All applications should be forwarded to the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Benin City, so as to reach him not later than 20th March, 1972.

8. This supersedes my earlier advertisement on this matter.

J. O. Ihonor, *Secretary, Public Service Commission.*

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SITUATIONS VACANT - cont.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PORT HARCOURT VACANCY SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Senior Accountant in the College.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must possess the final Certificate of at least one of the following bodies: (a) Institute of Chartered Accountants, (b) Association of Certified and Corporate Accounts, (c) Institute of Costs and Works Accountants, (d) Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors, (e) Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants OR a good honours degree in Accountancy.

In addition, candidates are required to have had at least 7 years post-qualification experience and must have held a Senior Management position in Industry, Government or an Institution of Higher Learning.

DUTIES: The selected candidate will head the Accounts Department of the College and will be the Principal Financial Adviser to the College Council.

SALARY: EN2,515 x 75 - EN2,665, EN2,800 x 75 - EN2,875

METHOD OF APPLICATION: Ten copies of typewritten applications should be prepared, each containing a curriculum vitae which should include the following: (i) full names; (ii) place and date of birth; (iii) nationality; (iv) marital status; (v) number, (vi) names, sex and ages of children; (vii) permanent home address; (viii) educational background - degrees/certificates including institutions attended and dates; (ix) working experience - stating details of former and present posts including dates and addresses of THREE REFEREES; (x) Probable date of assumption of duty if selected; (xi) any other relevant information. One photostat copy of each qualification stated, educational or professional should be enclosed.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE: The appointee will be on probation for three years in before confirmation. Other conditions of service are the same as those obtaining in the other Institutions of Higher Learning in the country, for instance, superannuation scheme, medical attention, children's and car allowances, part-furnished accommodation.

CLOSING DATE: The ten copies of application and supporting documents should be forwarded in an envelope marked "SENIOR ACCOUNTANT" to reach the Registrar, College of Science and Technology, Private Mail Bag 5080, Port Harcourt not later than 20th March, 1972.

C. J. Pkeme for Registrar

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In Loving Memory of Our Dear Beloved One
GODWIN AYODIMEJI OMOGBEHIN

Whose sudden death on the 6th March 1971
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The tragedy of that unforgettable day in March can never be forgotten.

Your life, all that you stood for, and all you gave us during your rather short life, we begin to cherish.

Your place in the family, none can ever fill. May your soul find eternal peace. Father in thy care we commend thy servant.

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In memory of Our Dear Friend

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died 6th March, 1972, a day of sorrow,
no need for words. We shall never forget.
God bless you AYO

Taiwo Akidele & Alade Lawal

In Affectionate memory of our beloved
husband and father

Rufus Moyinlorun Fadoju

who died on the 9th of March, 1971.

It is not only today we remember you,
but every day brings memories of you.
Your sudden death has left indelible
marks behind, which years cannot
remove.

Running tears can always be wiped off,
but broken hearts can never be mended.
Only God knows the secret behind your
death. You were too precious to love and
too dear to be forgotten.

Son re O Okomi Oluwu Abayeki

Bunmi Fadoju, Wife
Olusegun Fadoju, Son
Ayodele Fadoju, Son
Rayode Fadoju, Son
And Family and Friends

Dateline Africa

GHANA

All Assets "Presumed" Unlawful

Assets of members of Dr. Busia's Government will be presumed to have been unlawfully acquired unless they prove the contrary, the chairman of the Assets Committee, Mr. J. N. K. Taylor, a High Court Judge, said at its opening session. Other members of the committee are Maj. George Luri Bayorbor and Mr. Sharrow Abara Ali, of the Accountant-General's office. Under the decrees the Committee is empowered to probe the assets of three categories of people: Dr. Busia, Cabinet Ministers, Ministerial Secretaries, General Secretary of the Progress Party, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Treasurer of the PP and their wives; any person whose assets are affected by the Restriction on Transfer of Assets Act of 1970 or the Assets and Bank Accounts decree of 1972; any other persons.

Mr. Taylor said that assets in this first category have already been forfeited and vested in the state. "we are empowered to presume that all their assets were unlawfully acquired." Until they prove to the contrary "we shall be constrained to conclude that their assets have been unlawfully acquired and report our findings to the NRC, making such recommendations as we see fit." "It will be no use for any of them or anyone on their behalf to make submissions to us on the ground that a particular property was acquired 20 years ago or so, before the alleged owner entered politics. It is evidence establishing its lawful nature which should be advanced." Anyone served with a questionnaire in connection with the enquiry (by publication in the *Gazette* or any newspaper published in or outside Ghana) should arrange to be represented or appear in person, he added. The *Gazette* containing the questionnaire order warned that failure to comply, or submission of false answers, would constitute an offence punishable by ten years imprisonment. The NRC ordered that a questionnaire be served on Dr. Busia and his wife, who are both in Britain, and Mr. Henry Djaba, Treasurer of the Progress Party, and Mr. Mohammed Abdul-Saarka, deputy Minister of the Interior, both believed to be in Europe.

• The Registrar-General has been appointed custodian of assets frozen by the military government. A decree states that his functions include the making of an inventory of frozen assets, collecting any rent due for immoveable property

and such other monies due as the government may direct. It provides for a penalty not exceeding 1,000 cedis or imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or both for anyone who in any way delays or obstructs the custodian in the exercise of his powers. No civil action can be brought against the state or the custodian over any act done in good faith in accordance with the decree. Since the January 13 coup the assets of over 100 persons and 49 businesses have been frozen.

• Cuts of 65.14m. cedis in the current budget have been announced by Col. Acheampong. Among cuts are 2.3m. cedis for a 12-storey Ministry of Foreign Affairs building. Other "non-productive" building projects totalled 14.9m. cedis.

Col. Acheampong announced that government departments could not import cars during the year and banned import of luxury cars. Roads being built for "political purposes" were to be stopped and more attention paid to roads useful for food distribution and the checking of smuggling. 2.4m. cedis would be saved through reorganising purchase arrangements for hospitals. Savings would be made by stopping the building of luxurious residential accommodation in educational institutions. The NLC chairman stated that as a result of the devaluation announced in December the current budget, excluding debt servicing charges, was raised to 440.5m. cedis. Debt servicing, estimated at 55.7m. cedis would have been raised to 126.3m. as a result of devaluation.

Total current and capital expenditure plus debt servicing rose to 727.1m. while total revenue remained at only 400m. cedis. Revaluation of the cedi by 42 per cent announced by the new government had lowered the budgetary increase brought about by the previous devaluation.

It has been possible, the Colonel said, to reduce the current budget to 331.1m. cedis. Other measures were being considered to reduce both current and capital expenditure. Col. Acheampong declared that 1972-74 would be regarded as "agricultural years" in which the country would strive to feed herself. Some 20.2m. cedis would go into the programme this year. Interest on agricultural loans had been reduced and was not to exceed 6 per cent. Customs duties on agricultural machinery, spare parts and implements had been waived. Steps were also being

taken to complete agricultural facilities started by the Nkrumah but since left uncompleted.

Col. Acheampong ordered manufacturing industries now dependent solely upon imported raw materials into farming to produce their own materials.

• Colonel Acheampong "wants" to order the take-over company found guilty of the evasion of customs duties, especially was found that this was aided by the Ghana, he said, lost several million cedis annually through the evasion of import and export duties, in many cases through official collusion. The Customs and Excise department was the first to suggest ways to strengthen the law against corruption, one of the major evils of Ghanaian society. The 100 members of the Customs and Excise department that the armed forces drew up a plan for the inspection and investigation of all imports and exports. They would also review port procedures to speed clearance of goods from the port. "to do something is done". He added that the nation stands at the crossroads. It exists as a sovereign nation and it behoves every Ghanaian to whether to help the national government to undermine it for his own selfish interests. After three generations of leadership has come to put an end to the destruction of our national resources of our national economy. Turn over a new standard of morality and public duty."

• All catches of fishing vessels operating in Ghana will have to be reported in the country to assure a constant supply of fish. The Commissioner for Fisheries, Maj. Gen. D. K. Addo, has set a "Reasonable" catch target of 100,000 tons established for all servicable vessels. "any defaulting operator who fails to meet this target without a valid explanation must forfeit his right to his boat, which, under the new emergency condition, must be turned over to a more efficient operator on his behalf." To increase catches the State Fishing Corporation has concentrated under one management agency.

• Those unemployed who have been days away at employment centres will be drafted into the Food Corporation, the Commissioner for Agriculture announced at Bolgatanga.

• Major A. Selormey, responsible for national unity and social interests when he inspected the Broadcasting Corporation. He urged the staff to develop a sense of identity and confidence. He said tribalism showed lack of confidence in the national cause. Several of the 100 employees were drafted into the officer for turning up late for

• The Commissioner for Trade, Industries and Tourism, Brig Ashley Larsen, explained to the executive committee of the Ghana Manufacturer's Association that the import licence system had been reintroduced in order to ensure the supply of essential goods and also to help solve Ghana's foreign exchange problems. The Commissioner appealed to Ghanaian industrialists to avoid unnecessary waste and to take a new look at their production methods to reduce the cost of their products.

• The NRC has taken steps to normalise relations with China, which became strained after the 1966 coup which ousted President Nkrumah. "It is impossible to be concerned about world peace without according to China her rightful role in international relations," said Col. Acheampong. President Nixon's visit to Peking marked one of the most momentous developments in the cause for world peace.

• Ghana National Trading Corporation has been given 16.7m. cedis worth of import licences for essential and consumer goods. A five-man committee has already submitted its memorandum to the NRC on how a new single agency - the Central Purchasing Depot - can best be established to handle imports.

• The Centre for Civic Education, established under the NLC as a preparation for the return to civilian rule, and the National Service Corps, which the French government helped to form to encourage rural development, have been disbanded.

• The Navy has been given full responsibility for the operations at Tema and Takoradi ports, to try to increase the pace of work and improve security.

• The police have started a recruiting drive to bring the service to a strength of 20,000.

SIERRA LEONE

According to the Bank of Sierra Leone's balance of payments estimates for 1970, the surplus of Le5.5m. on merchandise account in 1969 was converted into a deficit of Le1.5m. in 1970 by lower exports and higher imports. Net receipts from transfer payments were larger, but the net deficit on invisible widened somewhat. So, the net deficit on current account rose from Le8.3m. in 1969 to Le14.9m. in 1970. Net inflow of private capital was slightly greater at Le14.4m. while net inflow of Government capital showed no change at Le1.9m. Consequently, the net surplus on current and capital account was reduced from Le7.2m. to Le4m. During 1970, the balance of stand-by credit amounting to Le3.7m. was repaid to the IMF and Le2.5m., being 25 per cent of the increase in quota, was paid in gold to the Fund. These transactions were financed mainly by drawing upon the central bank's balances with banks abroad and the Special Drawing Rights allocated at

the beginning of the year. Taking into account the decline of Le0.5m. in the net foreign liabilities of the commercial banks, monetary movements resulted in a net outflow of only Le1.0m. in 1970, against Le9.2m. in 1969.

• Cumulative exports for the period January to September, 1971, amounted to Le58.3m. or a drop of Le9.2m. (13.7 per cent) on the corresponding figure for the same period in 1970. Imports for the nine months, valued at Le68.7m., were Le3.3m. down on the corresponding figure for 1970. The visible trade balance for the period January to September was in deficit to the tune of L10.4m., compared with a deficit of Le4.5m. for the same period in 1970.



The captain of the H.M.S. Yarmouth, which recently berthed at Freetown, describes the ship's equipment to Mr. Siaka Stevens. In front is the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Mr. S. J. Oliver, talking to Minister of Finance Mr. C. A. Kamara-Taylor.

• After the visit to Saudi Arabia of the Minister of Social Welfare it has been decided that his Ministry will have responsibility for Sierra Leone pilgrims. The Minister's visit followed the imprisonment of two Sierra Leoneans on drug charges in Jeddah. The Minister said that many of the Sierra Leone pilgrims he saw were in sad circumstances and he had had to give them financial assistance.

• Following the discovery of a 969 carat gem stone, a record for Sierra Leone, in a Diminco separator, the director-general of Israel's Diamond Research and Development Company has flown to Sierra Leone. It is understood that he was to value the stone which is expected to be offered for sale by international tender.

• In an editorial the *Daily Mail* alleges that smuggled petrol is being sold freely up-country at 27 cents a gallon against the recommended price of 66 cents. The Minister of Finance has said that smuggling might "strangle" economic growth in the young republic.

• During a visit to Sierra Leone the Vice-President of North Korea has been to provincial centres, made courtesy calls in Freetown, and addressed students at Fourah Bay.

• A government committee has invited views from the public on honours awards appropriate to the republic. Under Sierra Leone became a republic citizens were awarded honours and decorations by the Queen.

• Parliament has approved bills increasing penalties for unlawful possession of arms and explosives. Another bill passed strengthened the regulations controlling employment of non-Sierra Leoneans.

• The French Government has offered 17 scholarships to Sierra Leoneans, nine at French universities and eight at the universities of Dakar and Abidjan.

• A loan of Le1.5m. is to be made by the French Government to extend the water supply scheme being undertaken in the provinces by the French company Degremont.

LIBERIA

President Tolbert has rejected allegations that one of his projects had been undertaken to help his brother, who is Secretary of the Treasury. The President told members of the Legislature at the Executive Mansion that the assertion was absurd. The *Liberian Age* had reported that the President rejected rumours that Monrovia's most congested slum area, West Point, was being cleared so that Mr. Stephen Tolbert could buy it to convert it into a dockyard for his fishing boats.

President Tolbert said anyone who had visited the area and had seen living conditions there would appreciate the need for slum clearance. To identify himself with the problems of the people he had slept at West Point before he had slept at the Executive Mansion itself. When the new low-cost housing for resettling West Point residents was completed, he would sleep there again to identify himself with the people.

• Half the tuition fees and all text-book costs at the University of Liberia and Cuttington College - the country's top education centres - will now be paid by the government. President Tolbert, in a television and radio broadcast, also said that high school students will not have to pay tuition fees in 1972. The government will continue to provide free education for pupils at government elementary schools.

• Strong criticism of the treatment of Angela Davis, the American black militant who has been released on bail after spending nearly 16 months in jail on murder, kidnapping and conspiracy charges, has been made in an editorial in the True Whig Party Newspaper, *Liberian Age*. The paper said: "Here is an intellectual who, because of the pigmentation of her skin and because of her ideological leanings, was denied her rightful pursuit of her vocation as a teacher..."

CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE - Putsch suppressed

The confused picture of the power struggle of the early morning of February 22 became clear in the light of subsequent events and declarations. The first sign of disorder was a broadcast put out on the Voice of the Revolution accusing the army Chief of Staff, Major Joachim Yhombi-Opango, of leading "right-wing tribalist elements" in putting down left-wing elements. While Major Ngouabi was in Pointe Noire, the broadcast said, Major Yhombi had arrested members of the Political Bureau of the Congolese Labour Party. Major Ngouabi, said the broadcast, seemed unaware of the true nature of Major Yhombi-Opango's action. The broadcaster had admitted that Major Ngouabi, from Pointe Noire, has said there had been an army rebellion and had appealed for a return to barracks, especially to infantry and airborne units. "Should the revolutionary forces and patriots just fold their arms and allow themselves to be taken unaware in their beds by right-wing tribalist elements of the army mobilised by Major Yhombi?" asked the broadcast. "Everyone in the Peoples Republic of the Congo knows that Major Yhombi is after the post of President of the Republic. Comrade Ngouabi knows full well the facts of the problem and was not surprised by the situation which has arisen in

Brazzaville. This is the sole reason urging the valiant combatants of Brazzaville to control the military situation and shoulder their responsibilities Revolution or death. We shall overcome", the broadcast concluded. This statement was put out several times until forces loyal to Major Yhombi cut the power supply to the radio station and the mutineers fled. At the same time Major Ngouabi returned to Brazzaville from Pointe Noire and appealed to mutinous troops to return to barracks.

In a broadcast on February 22 the Head of State appealed to plotters in flight to surrender because all was lost. "While I was in Pointe Noire" he said "an extremely serious situation developed in Brazzaville. What happened was that several wayward infantry battalion men, under Lt. Ange Diawara backed by several members of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labour Party, seized the radio station and broadcast the seditious message which you all heard. On my return to Brazzaville I received Major Yhombi-Opango who immediately reported on the entire situation. He told me of the rout of the ambitious elements. Many of them have been arrested and are now being questioned. No segment of the population may act in the people's name and try to take away the rights of

the majority. Power must only be in the people and be destined to the benefit of the people. No segment of the population can maintain the possession of revolutionary power. Congolese people are alert. Neither the arms nor the ambitions. The sense of camaraderie pervades me forces me to people from bloodletting." The infantry battalion had now other units of the Peoples Army. Political personalities kidnapped. Plotters were released when they fled, including Foreign Minister Lopez, Vice-President M. Mombeng, and Pierre Nee of the Bureau.

A full search was made. Diawara, the leader of the attempt to go to press he had not yet been arrested. Seventy eight of his alleged accomplices were arrested over the next few days including several army officers. Vice-President Major Albert Nze, former Premier Ambrose Nze and former head of the Socialist Party the Congolese Labour Party Combo-Matsiona. The younger Lt. Diawara, Kader Diawara of the Forests was arrested in Pointe Noire. Former Information Minister Matoumpa Mpolio was reported to have been killed.

DAHOMY - Assassination foiled

Early in the morning of February 23, there was an assassination attempt on the Chief of Staff of the Dahomey Army. Colonel Paul Emile de Souza. The attempt was foiled when the Colonel, with his bodyguards, was able to shoot one of the assailants. This was announced in a broadcast by President Maga, who cancelled a scheduled trip to France, put the army on a state of alert and broadcast a mobilisation appeal to the people. "The government has the situation under control", he said. "However, we ask the people to mobilise, to organise a vigilant armed guard round all suspected individuals, and to report them to the authorities". The President said that the artillery company at Ouidah had mutinied a few days earlier, and that although the mutiny had been put down without bloodshed, it was soldiers from the same camp who had tried to kill Colonel de Souza and occupy key national points.

It was later announced that the assailant who was killed was Sergeant-Major Daouda Mounmouni, the leader of the raid on Col. de Souza's house. Col. de Souza had been wounded in the hand during the attack but was otherwise unhurt. Sources in Cotonou said they regarded the attack as serious, but it was a conflict within the army between Col. de Souza and the company concerned

rather than an attack against state institutions. The Ouidah company had mutinied to try to have their commander replaced. Their mutiny brought a reaction at Army headquarters, which ordered the company to be disbanded and to have its men transferred to the North, a decision taken personally by Col. de Souza.

Later, infantry units loyal to Col. de Souza supported by armoured vehicles occupied the Guezo barracks in Cotonou, where it was believed that some anti-government troops were holding out. The troops moved into Guezo without firing a shot after shouting warnings through loudspeakers.

Eight soldiers were arrested in connection with the plot: Captain Lucien Glele, Captain Pierre Dani, Captain Josiah Afounda, Lt. Arcade Romuald Kitor, two adjutants (Vincent Sedagondji and Marcellin Glele) and two sergeants (Fabien Agboton and Charles Coummando). Captain Glele was ADC to former President Zinsou, overthrown in a coup in 1969. It will also be remembered that the Ouidah company was the main-spring behind the coup of December 1967 in which General Soglo was overthrown.

President Maga made a subsequent broadcast in which he said that all the members of the three-man Presidential Council and the government condemned

the "mutiny". Mr Maga denounced certain members of the regime behind the incidents which were described as an abortive attempt. A member of the council wanted to overthrow the country for himself and to freely promised on his honour to reform the system work. "It is up to you to act on proven facts, to reserve judgement, he deserves to whoever committed a deliberate act of betrayal. The President also thanked God that the coup of February 23 took place while he was at the spot. He paid proud tribute to the "large proportion" of army units which promptly dealt with the senseless mutiny". He warned the forces that since the Presidential Council took over, all coup attempts had failed. This was proof that "certain elements were leading the rest astray".

A few days before these events, Mr Maga made a pledge to abide by the charter of the Presidential Council and hand over the Council chairman, Mr Justin Ahomadegbe on May 15, if scheduled. The President was also accused of making allegations by underground circles that he would try to take power. At the same time the Ministry banned the newspaper *Populaires* which generally supported Ahomadegbe.

NIGERIA

"Indiginisation" decree

From 31 March 1974 aliens will be barred from 22 categories of business, the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree stipulates. The Decree was published on February 29, seven months after the intention to legislate was announced by the Supreme Military Council.

The Decree also bars aliens, from the same date, from being owners or part-owners of 33 types of enterprise, where the paid-up share capital is less than £N200,000 or the turnover is less than £N500,000, whichever the newly-established Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Board considers to be appropriate; or if the paid-up share capital is more than £N200,000 or the turnover exceeds £N500,000 but equity participation by Nigerians or associations is less than 40 per cent. The introduction of turnover as a possible qualifying factor had not been previously announced, nor had the creation of a Board to supervise the hand-over.

It was originally stated that 26 types of business would be totally barred to foreigners and 22 categories partially-banned. Printing has been transferred from the totally-banned to the restricted industries list, which also includes wholesale distribution.

Britain and Nigeria are holding consultations following Nigerian threats to review its membership of the Commonwealth if its opposition to the Anglo-Rhodesian settlement terms was not heeded. External Affairs Commissioner, Dr Okoi Arikpo, hinted in an interview with the Mid-West government-owned *Sunday Observer*. Africans, he said, could not be members of a Commonwealth in which "some people because of the colour of their skin occupy a status inferior to that of ours". Blacks in Rhodesia were being put in a position where they may never enjoy the fruits of self-determination and exercise their human dignity like all other people. "I think that the effectiveness of the struggle has to be inside Zimbabwe itself and our duty is to do everything, and we are doing everything possible, to assist the freedom fighters to make their presence felt in Zimbabwe, not on Nigerian soil".

Riot police dispersed workers at University College Hospital, Ibadan, who were demonstrating against the arrest of a number of leaders of their union. The men were held for question after an 11-day go-slow action.

Work at the hospital was brought almost to a standstill by the strike, and the Federal Government appointed Mr. A. C. Boardman, a principal labour officer, as a conciliator in the dispute, which was caused by allegations of non-payment of the Am awards and demands for better conditions.

Answering allegations that money earmarked for students' accommodation at the University of Ibadan had been

diverted to other sources, the acting vice-chancellor, Prof. G. M. Edington, said that the cut in the allocation from £0.9m to £0.4m, followed a reduction in the University's estimates by the Federal Government. The University, he said, had budgeted £7m. for various projects during the current year, but this had been cut to £5m.

Ibadan University authorities have rejected demands by students for a refund of £20,000 for the meals and lodgings they missed when the University was closed for two weeks because of disturbances last year over food and accommodation at Azikiwe Hall, during which one student was shot. The University Council has however agreed in principle to allow students to serve on committees and boards to cater for their interests and welfare. The students voted no confidence in the Council and said they would no longer be bound by its decisions.

The Federal Military Government has announced pay increases for members of the Nigeria Police Force. The increases, which take effect from 1st September 1971, are higher in the lower ranks of the force. The salary of a recruit has been raised from £144 per annum to £261. A graduate assistant superintendent of police will now earn £846 instead of £690 as before. There is also a lump sum award of £34 for policemen who earned less than £510 between April 1970 and August 1971.

Mr. Abraham Ordia, president of the Supreme Council for African Sport, has said in Lagos that New Zealand should go ahead with the 1974 Commonwealth Games "and forget about us". Mr. Ordia has threatened that black African nations will boycott the games if the South African rugby team tours New Zealand next year. He was reacting to a statement by the Chairman of the Games organising committee, Mr. Ron Scott, who said that the games would be held as planned. "New Zealanders", said Mr. Ordia, "think that they can divide us in Africa. They certainly can not." He spoke for Africa in his capacity as president of the council. "I have the mandate of the Supreme Council - this is not a Nigerian problem alone." He added that he did not speak for Asian and Caribbean countries, but "I can assure you that they will support us without asking."

A two-week go-slow by workers at the Midwest Textile Mill, Asaba, has cost the factory about £15,000, the general manager, Mr. William Yu, estimated. The workers were apparently demanding better conditions, payment of the Adebho award and an end to dismissals on allegedly flimsy grounds.

Shortage of funds and skilled personnel are holding up development plans in Kwara State, the State Commissioner for Economic Planning, Mr. A. Fojule, has said. He told the American ambassador that work would have started on a number of projects but for delays in preparing feasibility surveys and design work.



Mr. C. Orike, Rivers State Commissioner for Lands and Housing, members of an Italian trade mission which recently visited Port Harcourt. Dott. Segni, centre, and M. Miel Evignati, are both directors of Italcons, an Italian company with the Rivers State Government has signed an agreement the establishment of a jointly-owned engineering company to carry out construction work in the state.

Since the enactment of the Forests Act in 1970 revenue from the timber industry in the Midwest has increased 74 per cent, the State Commissioner Agriculture, Chief T. A. Salubi, told an annual conference of the Nigerian Timber Association in Benin. The improvement had been brought about by improved forestry administration.

About 200 Nigerians are currently working in Zambia, the deputy High Commissioner, Mr. E. Kapotwe, said in a newspaper interview. A recruitment team had been stationed in Nigeria, the other African country in which this had been done, apart from a team that visit Egypt to recruit railway personnel.

Inaugurating the governing council of the Nigerian Industrial Training Fund, the Federal Commissioner for Industry, Mr. J. Adetoro, said that the continued operation in Nigeria of foreign firms would be conditional on their taking a active part in training Nigerians.

Dr. Adchayo Adedeji, Federal Commissioner for Economic Development and Reconstruction, has urged the Soviet Union to step up preparatory work on the proposed iron and steel complex "as we are anxious to go ahead with the project". He was talking to the Soviet ambassador, Mr. Boris Vorobyov.

Gen. Gowon has told the visiting Greek Vice-President, Gen. Pattakos, that he has accepted an invitation to visit Greece.

The Vice-President led an 11-man delegation on visits to Nigeria, Cameroon and Gabon.

A former school teacher and his mother have been sentenced to death in Onitsha for a murder committed during the civil war.

A call for the revival of Latin in secondary schools has been made by the eastern State Commissioner for Education, Mr. Olaniwun Ajayi. "The Nigerian pupil of today", he commented, "wants a dose or two of Latin to reform its attitude to work and end his contempt for and disobedience to constituted authority".

The Federal government is formulating a proposal for scholarship bursary and bursary loans schemes for certain students at home and abroad, said the Commissioner for Education, Chief Eke, before leaving for the UNESCO talks in Paris.

More than £2m. worth of produce has been smuggled across the northern Nigerian border in order to obtain the better Niger prices, it has been alleged. An additional reason for the smuggling is an alleged shortage of cash on the part of the marketing boards.

Mr. Anthony Whitfield, one of the two new members of the Pearce Commission in Rhodesia, served in pre-independent Nigeria for ten years, becoming a senior administrator in the Northern Region in 1959. Lord Pearce had asked for additional manpower to investigate the allegations of intimidation, and the two extra commissioners will be concerned solely with the intimidation problem rather than the testing of the acceptability of the proposed settlement.

The Federal Government is to guarantee loans from the Central Bank to State Marketing Boards for the purchase of agricultural products.

About 30 people were injured when an engine sent to tow a passenger train which had broken down near Jagundi collided with the stationary train.

More than half the beef in Nigeria comes from the North Eastern State, the Governor, Col. Musa Usman, told a seminar on land resources in Maduguri.

Nigeria is to finance the reconstruction of a 16 mile stretch of road linking Porto Novo in Dahomey with Idiroko. The project, costing almost £1m. is to be executed under Nigeria's Inter-African technical assistance programme.

Lagos' water supply was cut for almost three days when the lift water-works were closed for 24 hours while engineers installed machinery to increase the output.

LEPRA, the British Leprosy Association, has undertaken a £6,000 resettlement farm project in the East Central State to benefit about 3,000 discharged lepers.

Measures for tackling indiscipline will be on the agenda of a conference of chairmen of states' school boards to be held in Lagos next June.

Chief Charles Abangwu, East State Commissioner for Information and Home Affairs, said the State Government expected to spend about £800,000 on the reactivation of television which would probably be achieved by the end of the next financial year.

General Gowon left Lagos for a day state visit to Guinea. He was accompanied by top military officials, civilian leaders including Chief Awolowo, and External Affairs Commissioner.

Revenue from import duties in Nigeria between August 1971 and January 1972 was £15,040,000, more than estimated.

The Port Harcourt flour mill was officially opened. It started production on January 15 with an output of 3,000 bags a day.

A British accountant working for the Commonwealth Development Commission, Mr. Wilson Brown, had cerebral malaria in Lagos.

A team of consultants is working on a feasibility study of a second oil refinery. The Federal Finance Commission, Lagos, announced that Chief Sheshu Shagan, announced that.

The South Eastern State Government has begun recruiting lawyers for the Central State to act as state counsel.



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