

# West Africa

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## Is There a Third World?

For a decade or more the expression "Third World" has performed a useful service. It has drawn the attention not only of the capitalist West but also of the communist east to the existence of a large number of countries which, whether newly independent or not, have special problems in common and are not necessarily aligned politically with either East or West. But has the term outgrown its usefulness? This is a question to be asked as Britain's Fabian Society launches a journal called *Third World*, whose first issue is graced by an article by Mr. Harold Wilson, and which is devoted to the interests of the Third World.

Implicit in the expression is the belief that people of non-European race must be in some way united against the West — in this it differs from the expression "non-aligned" which embraces Yugoslavia, and possibly Sweden, although, it also suggests that the countries of Latin America, definitely Third World, even if people of European origin dominate their politics and economies, are sufficiently multi-racial to justify their inclusion. But this is the time when General Amin is treating with the utmost inhumanity many thousands of non-Europeans, with little protest from his fellow Africans (though far more protest than British newspapers seem to realise). It is also the time when at the Guyana non-aligned conference three very important Asian delegations, those from Indonesia, Malaysia and Laos, walked out when the conference decided to give seats to the Viet Cong and to Prince Sihanouk's delegation.

Although they can get together, with very few defaulters such as Dr. Banda's Malawi, on issues concerning South African and Rhodesian the countries of the third world no longer can be seen to be politically united. But is the division between them and the rest of the world not really that between the rich and the poor, which, no doubt, is the principle behind the Fabian Society's new journal? As we have seen at UNCTAD and other international conferences, this is a division in the world which excites great emotion. Even so it is very far from being clear-cut, since among communist countries Rumania has asked to be included in the group of 77 poor



countries at UNCTAD although being impeccably European, while in the world table of income per head and other measurements of wealth, Trinidad, for example, could rank among the richer countries. Moreover, the UN has now succeeded in identifying a group of countries as the "less developed" among the underdeveloped countries, and another group of handicapped countries, "the landlocked", whose interests may conflict with those of "underdeveloped" neighbours, are also recognised.

It is true that tropical producers of, for example, groundnuts, feel a common cause against those in the West who buy their products, while the oil producing countries, which for the most part are not themselves big oil consumers, have recently achieved notable successes in their negotiations with oil companies in the West. But these are special, and possibly temporary, examples of unity; against them there can be set the failure of poorer countries to present a common front at UNCTAD and elsewhere.

More important, however, is the vast range of social and economic systems to be found in the Third World. There is, at any rate a nominal egalitarianism in countries such as Tanzania and Algeria

Within the Third World, however, there are also countries, of which Nigeria is one, where the gap between the rich and poor is much greater than in the Western world and where inequalities which would not be tolerated in the Western world are abundantly obvious. In the Western world it is as Miss Emecheta, the Ibo writer whose book *In the Ditch* is reviewed in this issue, shows clearly, there is poverty and squalor which might horrify many people in the Third World. And it is not only Professor Bauer (whose recent TV discourse about the irrelevancy of aid is also reported in this issue), who questions whether hard-pressed income tax payers in the allegedly rich countries should have to provide funds for countries some of whose citizens enjoy incomes which would seem princely to most taxpayers in the West. In Britain itself those who now complain about the problem of Uganda's Asians becoming a burden on the social services may soon be complaining that, after all, the Asians turn out to be rich.

Yet the term "Third World" still has a job to do. But it can do it only if it is used to remind us of a salient economic fact in the world, and not to paper over the cracks of ever more obvious disunity and diversity.

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- Acheampong on civilian rule



should also ensure the equitable distribution of essential commodities through state-owned companies and at the same time ensure that the state-owned companies comply strictly with the directives laid down for the distribution of goods".

At the end of the meeting it was decided that officials who could not read and write all Guinea's different dialects would be excluded from office. All Guineans should learn all national dialects by 1977 and in future government papers are to be printed in French and all Guinean languages. State shops are to be reorganised to make them more efficient, and a nationwide census is to be held on November 1.

The President told the National Revolutionary Council that last month's talks with President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast at Faranah were mainly concerned with the question of political refugees in Ivory Coast. He told the Council that the Ivory Coast could choose between "recognising the reality of Guinea or the clique of renegade Guineans in the Ivory Coast who still harbour a desire to slay the Guinean revolution".

The President also told the Council that Cuba is to build two airports in Guinea, at Labe and at Boke, and hangars for aircraft at Conakry airport. Cuba is also to provide Guinea with a large fishing vessel, and 100 Guinean students have been awarded scholarships in Cuba. President Castro visited Guinea in May.

## Cholera and Politics

By a correspondent

It was in August 1970 that the first cases of cholera in Africa south of the Sahara were recorded. Mysteriously, they were in Guinea, and were attributed to an air traveller from either Egypt or Saudi Arabia, where cases had been reported of cholera of the El Tor variety (a virulent brand which spread out from Indonesia in the late 1960s). By the end of the year it had fanned out along the west coast, and was soon considered to be an endemic disease throughout Africa. Cholera vaccinations soon became compulsory for admission to almost every country, and large scale vaccination campaigns began (although the vaccine is a fairly short-lived one). The middle months of the year seem to be those when the disease was at its highest and in the first eight months of 1971 more than 11,000 deaths were recorded, mainly in Chad, Niger, Mali and Nigeria.

Since then cholera has subsided from the headlines, but though the number of deaths fell considerably the disease remained endemic, constantly capable of flaring up. The annual report of Dr. Alfred Quenem, the Brazzaville-based

African regional Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO), says that cholera is now one of the most dangerous infectious diseases affecting the African continent's social and economic development. Infectious diseases were still the biggest health problem affecting Africa and cholera was now "a real menace for Africa where it has shown itself in epidemics linked to migratory movements and bad hygienic conditions". It was as big a danger as malaria, tuberculosis, venereal disease, poliomyelitis, trachoma and smallpox. The WHO's answer to the threat had so far been to step up the availability of vaccines in Africa.

Figures released by the WHO office at the same time as the report, which is to be considered by the next meeting of the African regional committee of WHO in Conakry from September 20 to 27, show that the incidence of deaths from the disease has levelled off considerably since 1971. Since the outbreak began there have been 13,216 fatal cases. As we have already seen, most of these were in the first eight months of 1971. Likewise since 1970 more than 85,000 cases of cholera have been recorded in Africa south of the Sahara, but more than 64,000 of these were in the first eight months of 1971. The statement publishing the figures called on African governments and associations to work towards eradicating the disease by improving living conditions, training qualified personnel and setting up appropriate health facilities.

It could also have repeated the call made at the WHO regional committee meeting in Brazzaville last year for co-ordination among African countries of the fight against cholera. There still seems to be a readiness, inevitable in a continent as bestrewn with frontiers as Africa, to believe that cholera came from "over the border" as a kind of secret weapon. It is the same syndrome as led a number of countries, when the epidemic first broke out, to conceal the extent of its incidence. Also the fact that health services are in different stages of development in different countries can complicate issues.

## Problems of the Nomads

The latest friction over cholera has been a slight ruffling of feelings between Senegal and Mauritania over a renewed outbreak of cholera in the Senegal River valley. Early in August, the Mauritanian government put out a statement saying that they were opening vaccination centres throughout the country in a bid to ward off a new cholera epidemic, which was showing itself in frontier areas, particularly along the Senegal River. There was a real threat to urban areas, especially from nomads, camped around the capital Nouakchott, in an attempt to find forage and water for their cattle, who have been badly hit by Mauritania's four-year drought. Although the Health

Ministry did not specify where the cholera was, reports from Nouakchott, Mauritania's capital named Rosso in northern Senegal as the location of the new outbreak. It was feared that the disease could spread rapidly to Nouakchott along the 200 kms of good road from Rosso.

The Mauritanian statement brought a response from Dr. Papa Gueye, Senegal's Director of Health, who said that eleven people had been under observation at Rosso for cholera since July 25, and one had died. The fatality, however, had not been diagnosed as due to the disease. One of the other patients had been treated specifically for cholera but in the other nine the disease was not confirmed. All were nomads. Vaccinations had been completed along the Mali border, and a similar campaign was under way along the Mauritanian border.

This statement was followed by a further one from the Mauritanian Public Health Department deploring the "lack of co-ordination and co-operation" between neighbouring countries on the control of cholera. There had been some cases of the disease in Rosso, Senegal, which "pose a serious threat to our country". Mauritania had suffered 1,549 cases of cholera in the past twelve months, of which 87 were fatal, but the disease had now been eradicated and there were ample stocks of vaccine to protect the entire population.

## Senegal replies

The Senegalese Health Ministry came back with an even more emphatic repetition of Dr. Gueye's statement, saying flatly that cholera had never been eradicated from Mauritania, as publications of the WHO could testify, and that almost all the first cases in Rosso had just come from Mauritania. Senegal's frontier vaccinations bore testimony to their spirit of co-operation, said the statement, although there was a lack of co-ordination, and Senegal was the first to deplore it; "greater vigilance on the part of our neighbours" might have limited the outbreak in Rosso.

The statement (of August 16) also said that the Rosso epidemic seemed to be completely extinguished. However, nine days later *Le Soleil* in Dakar was carrying as its lead story the death of six people from cholera in St. Louis, the capital of the river region, and of the existence of a further thirty suspects. As St. Louis is in direct contact with Rosso both by road and river, it is not surprising that cholera should have spread there. A mass vaccination campaign has already been carried out there, but as Dr. Gueye points out, the vaccine is only 60 per cent effective. Although a *cordon sanitaire* has been cast around St. Louis (rendered easier by the fact that in the rainy season the island is cut off from the mainland), the question may legitimately be asked, might not the new wave of cholera reach Dakar? One thing is certain: bickering between Senegal and Mauritania as to who started the outbreak is not going to help matters.

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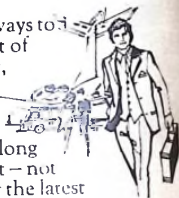
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## The U.S. and the Nigerian war

In both Lagos and Washington it was clear during the Nigerian war that there was disagreement inside the American Government about policy towards Nigeria. Here, in the first of two articles Bruce Oudes, the American journalist who was in Nigeria during the war, discusses one aspect of this disagreement.

It is almost invariably painful to dredge into focus memories of the Nigerian war, the record of US-Nigerian relations during that period is no exception. American diplomacy, especially in 1969 and 1970 after Mr. Nixon took over, was torn between those who thought relief should have priority and those who thought it second to maintenance of close ties with Lagos. The result was ambiguity, distrust, and at times even private hostility.

To most of those American diplomats who were involved in creating that record, it is too soon to air the details of that fighting for purposes of history. However, the decision of the State Department to nominate Mr. Clinton Olson, who was at that time deputy chief of the American mission in Lagos from 1966 to 1970, as new U.S. ambassador to Sierra Leone has caused some to revise their thinking.

The question of the proper stance of an embassy *vis-à-vis* a host government has been around as long as diplomacy itself. However, the US diplomats critical of the wartime American Embassy in Lagos charge that not only did its senior officers squelch reports of events unfavourable to the Nigerian cause, but it also failed to develop a sufficiently candid relationship with the Federal Military Government so as to be able to discuss fully the delicate question of relief. In the view of Roger Morris, who was staff man responsible for Nigerian affairs under Dr. Henry Kissinger in the White House, the "incompetence" of the US embassy in Lagos "deepened the problem of the Department of State in trying to promote a pro-Federal policy".

Morris is the only US official of that period willing to talk candidly for attribution, and certainly one who was in the centre of things. Others ask that their names should not be used. Morris, who began handling African affairs at the White House during the last four months of the Johnson Administration, resigned in April, 1970, in protest against the US invasion of Cambodia. However, his concern with US wartime diplomacy in Nigeria continues. At present he is working with the assistance of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on a book on the process of decision-making in international disaster relief. His case studies include Nigeria, Peru, Bangladesh, Indo-China, and the Middle East.

Morris unsuccessfully petitioned the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in June to delay approval of Ambassador Olson's appointment to Freetown pending a thorough investigation. In two written statements plus oral testimony on June 23 Morris sought to capture the interest of the committee's Chairman, Sen. J. William

Fulbright, who has never been known to show much concern for African questions. In 1967, Fulbright told reporters after being briefed by the then Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, that he had been informed that Nigeria "is a British problem". In hearing Morris out on June 23 — some five years later — Fulbright acknowledged he was "ignorant" of the background to the Nigerian situation. Morris said after the hearing that he was under no illusions that he could persuade the Fulbright committee fully to investigate the US diplomatic record in Nigeria, but that he did not think it right that Mr. Olson's nomination should go wholly unchallenged.

The Olson hearing, as seen in Washington, was another of numerous episodes in the movement to shake up personnel practices and policies in the US diplomatic service. However, the information revealed then plus subsequent interviews with Morris and other principals of that period disclose a good deal about US-Nigerian relations not previously public.

American correspondents in Lagos during the war were aware of friction within the embassy and between the embassy and Washington, but the full depth of this was not apparent then. It is noteworthy that both Morris, who agreed with the President's view of the priority of relief, and others concerned with maintaining ties with Nigeria agree on the poor performance of the US embassy in Lagos.

### The invasion of the Mid-West

In sum, critics allege that senior embassy officials held up reports to Washington, the most spectacular being firm information on July 27, 1967, that the Mid-West was to be invaded in early August. An urgent telegram sent to the American embassy from Asaba said "You have until John Vianney," which, my source said, meant that the invasion was likely on August 4. The information was not reported to Washington because it was unfavourable to the FMG and also contradicted the conventional wisdom of the day promoted by the British High Commission that any Biafran thrust would be northward, the source said.

Other reports stopped during the first year of the war included atrocities on board the *Niger Tide*, a US-owned vessel, in mid-1967, and reports filed in early 1968 of incidents at Bonny, Calabar, and Asaba. The Nigerian government recognised "quite early" the US embassy's poor reputation in the State Department's Africa bureau, a former US diplomat said,

and therefore regularly sent missions to Washington to speak directly to Joseph Palmer, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs and former US ambassador to Nigeria. Morris said Palmer was "gravely embarrassed" in US government councils by the quality of diplomatic reporting he was receiving from Lagos.

"By the middle of 1969 this government... was in the position of having to rely, and this includes the President of the United States, on reports from the Canadian mission in Lagos for up-to-date intelligence on events in that country", Morris told Sen. Fulbright's committee. He said the US government was "astounded and grateful" at Canada's decision to share information.

Looking back at the incident of the shooting down of the Red Cross relief aircraft, Morris said that if he had had his way he would have made this one reason for slowing US aid to Nigeria "considerably". He said his favourite option throughout 1969 was a major effort by the United States to put intense pressure — public and private — on all parties concerned, suppliers as well as combatants. He said such a step would not have worked out in Biafra's favour since the US had "a lot of leverage" with the Ojukwu régime thanks to the private donations flowing from America. Kissinger didn't agree, Morris said, and whenever he brought up the subject, Kissinger said Morris's approach "wouldn't work". Morris said Kissinger's attitude was understandable. "You've got to remember you were dealing with two Presidents who were never as concerned with Biafra as with British and French relations. Vietnam hung over this like a shadow".

Nixon, Morris said, had an "intense interest" in Nigeria. He knew "a lot more" about the situation than Johnson or Rusk. Yet, of course, he was "not prone to going around kicking Britain or France — particularly at a time when he was flying all over Europe trying to improve relations". Morris said that there was no fundamental difference between his views on Nigeria and the Nixon-Kissinger observance of the "European veto" on US Africa policy. "I was not opposing the policy of the President. Where he failed was in not getting tough enough with the bureaucracy".

Morris told the Foreign Relations committee, "I heard conversations between the President and Henry Kissinger expressing the President's exasperation with what he felt was a pro-Federal Department of State and a sort of lack of responsiveness to his general concern for getting humanitarian aid to suffering people on both sides".

(To be concluded).

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## Sierra Leone's U.N. Mandarin

From a correspondent

From Sierra Leone's London High Commission and the farewell functions, Dr Davidson Nicol, who came to London as High Commissioner last year after being his country's Permanent Representative at the UN, has now returned to the United Nations; this time as a member of the staff. With only a five-day interval with his wife aboard the liner *France* ("an opportunity to polish up my French"), Dr Nicol went straight into the UN machine, where, with the rank of Under-Secretary-General, he succeeds Chief Simeon Adebó of Nigeria, as third Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (Unitar's first Executive Director was M. Gabriel D'Arboussier of Senegal, so Dr Nicol keeps the African record intact).

Although physically it is, I think, the nearest UN agency to the Secretary-General's office, being almost literally across the road, Unitar is the least well-known of these agencies. In a sense it is not an agency at all since it is run as an "autonomous body" by a board of trustees, whose present chairman is Sir Kenneth Younger, former Director-General of Chatham House. Contributions to it from UN members are voluntary. In another sense it is outside the UN machinery since it is charged with responsibility for improving the "capability and the effectiveness of the UN in achieving its principal objectives" — in other words it is supposed to observe the UN with a somewhat jaundiced eye.

How is it supposed to do that? Chiefly through research, resulting in reports on various aspects of UN work — for example, how effective is the UN Economic and Social Council? But the institute's research covers a much wider field — for example it has produced reports on the transfer of technology, and on the "brain drain", made contributions to the great Stockholm conference on the environment etc. It attempts to enlighten members of UN permanent missions in New York on matters such as the international monetary system, and it awards a number of fellowships in international law.

Among its other activities, although this may seem a far cry from its main functions, has been the holding of regional conferences on "international procurement", intended to assist poorer countries to make best use of their scarce foreign exchange (one conference will be held in Dakar later this year).

For a man of Dr Nicol's academic distinction, however, two other aspects of the institute's work must make great appeal. First is the proposed UN staff college, to establishment of which the organisation appears to be committed. A high proportion of the enormous staff employed by the UN are engaged in "development" in different parts of the world and one of the main functions of

the college will presumably be to train these in "development techniques". But there is, no doubt, also a great need for training senior UN officials in UN procedures, UN financial problems and the like.

One other project has not yet secured universal approval from UN members, particularly from the Americans: that is, a United Nations University. There have been preliminary discussions on this project and Unitar has acted as a secretariat for the discussions. The project is still somewhat vague but there is no question of attempting to establish a "super-university"; it is more a matter of using for higher education and research talent already available to the UN or talent which could be attracted, and to assist cross fertilisation among the world's universities. For this year Unitar's budget is some \$2m. which may sound a lot, but



Dr. Davidson Nicol.

it is entirely inadequate for any new major projects, particularly as the institute is already in danger of over-spending.

Chief Adebó is such an exemplary civil servant that he is certain to have controlled Unitar's expenditure most carefully and to have ensured that its administration was economical. So there is nothing to be saved from the present budget as a contribution to new activities. It will, perhaps, now be one of the executive director's main tasks to persuade UN members to increase their contributions to the institute; here Dr Nicol's special combination of diplomatic and academic experience and distinction will be invaluable. He knows the UN intimately and is well known there, having served as president of the Security Council, while apart from being a Fellow and Tutor of his college at Cambridge, and a Beit Fellow, he has been on the staff of Ibadan, has been Vice Chancellor of the University of Sierra Leone, was Chairman of the University of East Africa Commission, has served on academic commissions in India and Zaire, and has lectured at universities all over the world.



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## Letters to the Editor

### Nkrumah the Pan-Africanist

SIR Since his death in April, a spate of literature, (much condemning, some praising Nkrumah's personal attributes and his ideologies) has emerged. It will be the greatest disservice to Osagyefo to blame him, now that he is dead, for the errors which he inadvertently committed while leading Ghana. What many fail to understand is that Nkrumah, being a man of blood and flesh, was liable to make mistakes. The general consensus demonstrates how he dealt with most of the political issues before him in light of the circumstances surrounding them.

Gabriel O. Nwosu (August 4) sums up rather comprehensively all the remarkable achievements of Kwame Nkrumah. I now want to add that Nkrumah's whole life was dedicated to the unification of Africa into a single solid block of states having a common ideology, a common aim and a common goal. What is more, even his actions, utterances, aspirations and mode of living attested to this. It is a different matter if he ever aspired to lead the whole of Africa. His July 600 intended to house the generality of African nations under a single roof. If he took a wife from Egypt, it was not because Ghana lacked more beautiful women than Fatma, but it was because he saw, in that singular act of his, a simple expression of the much-talked-about African unity.

In one of their pieces, the Uhuru Professional Dance Band of Ghana, a State-sponsored orchestra, advise that

"Africa must be free  
Africa must unite  
The youths of Africa,  
Appeal to their leaders,  
To sink their differences,  
And work for the good of  
Mother Africa  
Artificial boundaries,  
Separating brother from brother  
Must perish.  
Africa must be free,  
Africa must unite"  
Total liberation for this continent now"

There is no doubt whatsoever that the composition seemed to belong to Nkrumah, the greatest Pan-Africanist Africa has ever known. The lyric is Uhuru's. Let us not see in Nkrumah's death the end of Pan-Africanism. Africa can still boast many more illustrious sons to continue the struggle where Nkrumah left it off.

OKI OKINE

Bonn

### Nkrumah's 'epitaph'

SIR I have just caught up with reading a backlog of *West Africa* and wish to correct Mr Nwosu's misapprehension in "The Essential Nkrumah", August 4.

The poem at the end of my article: "Nkrumah, Despot or Martyr?" (June 30), was my own dedication to the Late President Mr Nwosu seems to think that it is a Guinean epitaph. I will of course derive enormous satisfaction from any usage of the elegy by any Government or institution, but, so far as I am aware, no one has actually done so.

FRED AGBEYEGI

London

### Materialism ?

SIR I am writing to dispute what appeared to me a total distortion of facts in Mr Igwe's letter (July 21) on the reasons why Nigerians won't go back home. This fellow-Nigerian gave us the impression that the failure of about 8,000 Nigerian graduates in the US was perhaps exclusively due to insufficient publicity and failure on the part of the Nigerian Public Service Commission to offer incentives.

He did not tell us how keen the Nigerians are to leave the high living standards being enjoyed in the developed countries and offer their services at home where they are most needed.

I must argue that the Commission has made sufficient publicity in establishing one of its recruitment offices in the US to cater for any Nigerian wishing to take up appointments at home. It would therefore be unreasonable to speak of communicating to the 8,000 Nigerian graduates individually because even if individual letters were sent, there is nothing to suggest that these graduates would have been more responsive to the commission's efforts.

It is not convincing either that incentives are lacking. While the Commission would be prepared to offer any incentives necessary, the graduates must realise that their long absence from home does not make them different from what they had been before their coming abroad and as such, it would be ridiculous to say that on considering to go back home, the home country would be a new situation to the Nigerian as it would be to his expatriate colleague.

It is sad that those wishing to perpetuate their stay abroad have let materialism overshadow nationalistic obligations. If nationalistic sentiments are not enough to remind us of our obligations, what then is likely to make us understand that our services are needed to help

bring our living standards at home up to expectations?

The high living standards being clung on to in the developed countries did not just come out of the blue, but their attainment was due to many years of hard work with every citizen contributing his quota. On the contrary, our fellow brother's article revealed no similar sense of duty, but loss of patriotism.

J. D. WAYA

London

### Collecting taxes in the Mid-West

SIR—Allow me to congratulate the Mid-West government for its latest move on tax defaulters (June 30). As events have shown, this state has always been in the forefront in such dynamic efforts for others to emulate. So its little surprise that the Commissioner for Finance has mounted one of the most daring and effective ways of collecting taxes from business tycoons. No honest businessman would want to be exposed as a tax evader. So in this obscure task of tax collection I wholeheartedly support Mr. E. K. Clark, for no state can survive without revenue.

The rich man has always had the best of everything. Even in evading tax he could always have his way, while the poor man pays but enjoys little or no amenities.

This laxity in tax collection from businessmen in particular has been caused by inefficiency of the Department of Inland Revenue. I therefore wish that this arm of the government be overhauled in the Commissioner's sweeping changes. More grease to your elbow.

EDUVIE K. AGBAMU

London

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"Doctor of watches" signs can be found in many West African towns but few of the practitioners can have developed their skills as highly as Christopher Herbert Greene, a Sierra Leone horologist who plans to return home in November after five years in Britain. His interest in clocks and watches began as a hobby when he was attending the Sierra Leone Grammar School in Freetown ("I am the sort of person who likes to explore, to strip things down and see how they work"). He worked for the Posts and Telecommunications Department for three years but preferring to be his own boss he opened a clock repairing shop in Kenema. During this period he was an active organiser for the All People's Congress, then in opposition, in the Eastern Region. He completed a correspondence course with the British Horological Institute and later obtained a Government scholarship for a course at Hackney Polytechnic, in North London ("In West Africa, however brilliant you are, you are nothing without paper qualifications"). He followed up his basic three-year course with a further two years advanced study and then joined Thorley and Reed in order to gain practical experience (established in 1830, the company is responsible for looking after "Big Ben"). Since then he has travelled all over England repairing and installing clocks. Among them have been the clock of St. Clement Danes Church in London (which plays tunes including the nursery rhyme "Oranges and Lemons, says the bells of St. Clement's") and the £30,000 clock at the Fortnum and Mason store in Piccadilly. This latter clock is a minor landmark, for it not only plays tunes but has a 4½ ft high effigy of Mr. Mason, who emerges on the hour to be met by a servant bearing a cup of tea, who bows to his millionaire master before the doors close. The clock's action is a tourist attraction and there was considerable consternation when it stopped working, to the annoyance of the waiting onlookers on the pavement below. Mr. Greene devoted almost 45 hours to its repair, and considers that it was the most difficult he has tackled.

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Greene: inquisitive mind

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# MATCHET'S DIARY

It was a curious coincidence that on the morning when the above news item was being reported Professor Peter Bauer's television performance in which he argued that external aid was "neither necessary nor sufficient" to ensure development in poor countries, they also carried long reports of the contents of the new Fabian Society's "Journal, *Third World*" (particularly an article by Harold Wilson), which appears to be dedicated to the advocacy of aid. Prof. Bauer was speaking at the Royal Institution and this one-and-a-quarter hour TV programme for once gave participants a chance to develop their themes. He did not say anything that he has not said before, but the controversy about Britain's relations with Uganda added force to his contention that it is people and their attitudes which above all determine the pace and nature of economic development, and that the poor would not become rich if the rich were eliminated.

Mrs. Judith Hart who was Minister in charge of Overseas Development under Mr. Wilson, (who says in *Third World* that he would re-establish a separate ministry for this purpose in place of the section of the Foreign Office which Mr. Heath considers adequate) made the mistake of accusing Prof. Bauer of racism, because she appeared to believe that he was saying that people in poor countries were

unenlightened. He was able to reply that among the most enlightened people he had known and written about, were the Chinese in Malaysia, Indians in East Africa, and cocoa farmers in Ghana: it was on the other hand, the advocates of aid who appeared to believe that non-Europeans were incapable of organising and reaping what in his view was sown to them by the richer countries. Lord Lugard who spent his days as Chief Secretary in Nigeria, when he was Sir Hugh Foot, has played so many important UN roles, gave some excellent examples of valuable work done as a result of international aid. But he could not explain why the world would not have been financed by the countries which are benefitting - Prof. Bauer neglected to ask why then, when aid is being at least £100m. on defence equipment of Britain, could not provide a vital lifeline for population control at home. Dr. Basoomdar, a distinguished Indian economist and civil servant, rightly said that Prof. Bauer's attitude to aid was an extension of his attitude to domestic economic arrangements, that he disliked government intervention, and that the world would be not enjoying a free market and he made that Prof. Bauer believed to be the hope of economic development. But that Prof. Bauer could only reply that in the case of India it was of any other country,

external aid was neither "necessary nor sufficient" for economic development whether India adopted a "laissez faire" policy or not. It was up to the advocates of aid to show that "aid" was necessary.

It was probably Dr. Michael Lipton, an economist, who was most successful in answering Prof. Bauer. He asked, for example, whether commercial banks would be available for dams which Prof. Bauer would agree, could be crucial developments. A younger economist who saw aid as a moral obligation could not answer Professor Bauer's point that it came from taxes which the payers had to pay. There was no moral element about it: people could pay money privately and give their consciences. And he insisted in answer to another question, that "helping the poor" at home or abroad however admirable, had nothing to do with economic development; the recipients of such aid were objects of charity, not "partners in development".

## Uganda makes the point

There is no doubt, to convince its own members that it was "doing some good" that the British government sanctioned the "freezing" of a promise of £100m worth of aid to Uganda, for the reason that it had no effect on General Amin's policies. In fact this money was assumed by Mr. Heath during General Amin's visit to London in 1971, and was

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never part of the regular U.K. aid programme. Mr. Heath, whose assessment of African leaders has not been very happy, seems to have decided that General Amin was such an improvement on President Obote, who had threatened to nationalise British interests, that he deserved encouragement. And, no doubt, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, with his tendency to divide African rulers into "goodies" and "baddies", concurred. But the aid officials have never found it possible to follow up Mr. Heath's offer with detailed negotiations, and there seemed little chance, even before President Amin's recent actions, that Uganda would get this out-of-turn benefaction. The announcement of the "freeze", however, is still regrettable and underlines one of Professor Bauer's points — that the relationship of "donor" and "recipient" is an artificial one which can injure both.

## Gambia's opposition withering away?

It is sad to see that The Gambia Opposition leader, P. S. N'jie (always Pierre to me), has lost his seat in the House of Representatives in Bathurst "having been absent from two consecutive meetings of the House without obtaining, before termination of either meeting, permission from the Speaker or other person presiding". If he wishes to dispute this notice, issued by the Clerk of the House, he may, within 21 days of publication of the notice in the *Gazette*, petition the Supreme Court to have the notice set aside. But it is easy to expect that the vacancy will become final and that there will have to be a bye-election in the Bathurst North Constituency which Mr. N'jie has always represented, and which he won with a fairly small majority of 313 at the general election in March this year. The affair of his seat illustrates, perhaps, the demoralising nature of a lengthy period in Opposition not only in Africa but anywhere in the world. N'jie, who has been in Opposition since his party lost the election of 1962, and who was earlier the country's first Chief Minister, never really seemed to accustom himself to the idea of opposition, or to forget that he had once been Chief Minister. This, more than anything, prevented him from accepting a job at Independence, because what he was offered was not what he believed he merited.

The hopelessness of the electoral battle in The Gambia, both in elections and in the two referenda on the republic, with the parties always balanced in a one-third-two-thirds ratio (he is Woloff, Sir Dauda Jawara is Mandingo) must have added to his demoralisation. In a House which only meets a few days each year, the opportunities for opposition are, in any case, limited. In 1969 his United-Party decided that it would be better for its health if "PS" were replaced as leader by his brother E. D. N'jie, but E. D. was tragically killed in a car crash

the following year, and the leadership reverted to his charming, but perhaps indolent, brother. At the last election the UP only won three of the 32 seats, and only contested 14. With the slow withering away of the opposition, the only criticism of the government seems to come from a group of young radicals in Bathurst, reinforced from the ranks of frustrated school leavers. Will The Gambia become a one-party state *de facto* without any government action.

## Prince William and Nigeria

During his term in Lagos as a Third Secretary at the British High Commission, Prince William of Gloucester rightly became very popular. It was not just his royal background; he really was interested in everything and everybody and did his work conscientiously. In no way did he embarrass I as superior and, as I found



John Bull finds a cradle with an African baby on his doorstep. This was a Punch cartoon, in 1894, at the time that Uganda was, reluctantly if one is to believe the Punch cartoon, annexed to the British Empire. Now, it might be argued, the film has come round again.

myself, he studied the economic situation completely. He never lost his interest in Nigeria and during a dinner party given by Alhaji Sule Kolo, Nigeria's High Commissioner in London, for Major-General Hassan Katsina, I learnt that he hoped to return to Lagos to play polo. That, alas, will never happen. But many Nigerians will remember a young man who was both unmistakably royal and yet entirely natural. After he left the diplomatic service to look after his family's estates he served the government on African missions — to Kinshasa Trade Fair, to Libena for President Tubman's funeral. More recently he opened the Manding Conference in London.

● As part of the ceremonies marking the 67th birthday of President Stevens, a number of organisations held a one-day seminar on "The President as father of the nation". There were a 21-gun salute, a special supplement in the *Daily Mail*, thanksgiving services, and a vast banquet.

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## SENEGAL

## Groundnuts still a burden?

By a correspondent

The Dakar newspaper *Le Soleil* has been issuing the first warning signs: "Fifty-five days of drought", said a headline in mid-August. Unless the situation improves, the likelihood is that the weather will once again have an adverse effect on next season's agricultural production, especially groundnuts. Thus Senegal could once again be demonstrated to be caught in the trap of a monoculture, which President Senghor has called "the tyranny of groundnuts". For, despite all attempts at diversification, and building up other sectors of the economy, the pace of Senegal's economic life is still painfully dictated by groundnuts.

This is borne out by the economic report on 1971 produced by the Ministry of Finance in Dakar, which reveals the cumulative effects of three years of bad rain distribution. From 1967 the Gross National Product remained in effect almost stationary. The figures were as follows (in thousand million CFA francs) 1967 - 174.35, 1968 - 189.70, 1969 - 174.08, 1970 - 190.85, 1971 - 176.21. Obviously the weather affected the production of food as well as groundnuts, having a depressing overall effect on the economy. The industrial sector, too, which has registered over the same years a slight improvement, is nevertheless affected by agricultural conditions, if only because of the importance of the extractive side of the groundnut business.

In terms of "value-added", businesses dependent on agriculture, cattle and fisheries showed the same fluctuations as the GNP, beginning at 58.71 in 1967, rising to 66.18 in 1968, declining to 52.32 in 1969, rising again to 62.30 in 1970 and slumping again to 47.32 in 1971 (figures in thousand millions of CFA). Extractive industries and public works, however, show a steady slow rise in value-added, from 31.94 in 1967 to 38.01 in 1971. Overall figures, however, follow more the agricultural sector. It should be noted that revenue per capita also fell from 51,000 CFA francs in 1970 to 47,400 CFA in 1971.

The groundnut production figures over the same period tell the same story. From the high point of just over 1m. tons for 1967-68 the total sank to 830,000 tons in 1968-69, 789,000 tons in 1969-70, and an abysmal 583,000 tons in 1970-71. Happily, with the help of a good rainfall in the previous sowing season, and some governmental reforms, the crop for 1971-72 was a greatly improved 917,000 tons. This should have an overall beneficial effect on the 1972 statistics.

Food production (millet and sorghum, rice, maize and manioc) declined in 1971 to 695,000 tons from 1,068,000 tons in 1970. Efforts undertaken since 1968 to improve cotton production also bore fruit in 1971, and the infant fishing industry has also produced encouraging results.

Where there were two sardine vessels in 1966, there were 10 in 1971: trawlers increased from 36 to 83 and tunny fishing boats from 32 to 46. The value of fish landings in 1971 was 12,000m CFA (an increase of 38.6 per cent over 1970).

One symptom of the depressed state of the economy in 1971 was the fact that the index of industrial production increased by only 0.7 per cent, as opposed to 6.1 per cent in 1970 (in 1969 it actually registered slightly minus, although the year before it was plus 3.7 per cent). An increase of 5 per cent in electricity production is in part due to increased production on the part of the Taiba Phosphates Company (1,207,000 tons of phosphates were exported in 1971 against 960,000 tons in 1970 and 794,000 tons in 1969), although the problem of rail evacuation of increased quantities is still serious. The tunny canning factory showed the most spectacular increase in the year, 62.7 per cent. Cigarettes, flour and beverages all showed comfortable expansion, while cement and chemicals registered a slight decline. The major drop was the 29.4 per cent fall in the production from oil mills.

Ports and airports all registered increases in traffic, both in passengers and freight, and the figure of tourists visiting Senegal (not yet published) seems likely



to be 50 per cent up on the 51,000 of 1970. Interestingly, more visitors came from Britain (29.7 per cent) than from any other country. There were 23.2 per cent from Germany and Austria, 11.8 per cent from France and 11.2 per cent from the USA and Canada. The next tourist season is likely to lead to a further increase in view of coming additions to Dakar's hotel accommodation. But the benefits of tourism are hard to calculate in immediate statistical terms. And in the meantime, in spite of the sophisticated industrial base of Dakar, groundnuts continue to dominate the economy.

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# Books and Publications

## AMONG LONDON'S NATIVES

In the Ditch by Buchi Emecheta (Barricade Books, £1.80)

Few West Africans have done research into the lives and habits of the natives of the British Isles. There is Dr Busia and his research into religious life in the Birmingham area, and that is about all. Externally we have had Dr. Fabunmi's book on the Sudan in Anglo-Egyptian relations, and the growing school of West African historians necessarily apply themselves to an examination of what manner of people the British have been. But Miss Emecheta must be the first West African not just to have studied the British on the ground — many thousands have done that — but to have written about them in this way. She is an Ibo in her late twenties, who was stranded in London during the civil war when her husband abandoned her and their five young children.

Her book, in fictional form, tells of the experiences of Adah, who is obviously the author herself, who lived first in slum rooms in a house owned by a

Yoruba landlord, then in a more spacious, but still slum, municipal flat, and finally in a new council flat. At first Adah had a job in a museum, and was trying to study, but because of the impossibility of finding somebody to look after the children she gave up her job and lived as a client of the welfare state.

Adah is both much better educated and more intelligent than her neighbours, but neither her education nor her race separate her from them, since her problems are their problems. Privately her education allows her to take a more objective attitude to the welfare workers, but in practice she dislikes the "social police", as she calls relief workers, as much as everybody else.

Miss Emecheta is now reading for a degree in sociology in London University and one hopes that when she gets it she will return to do research among the "lower depths" of London. In this book she shows such sympathetic understanding of her neighbours, many of whom are very

trying people indeed, that one feels that she will bring special talent to her research. Above all she understands at first hand the cynicism of "ditch-dwellers" about the welfare state which, while saving them from starvation and degradation still leaves them as modern paupers.

The book is cast in the form of documentary novel and Miss Emecheta makes her characters live, but her talent lies in her descriptions of hopelessness and in her ability to convey the similarities and differences between the culture and outlook of her white neighbours and herself.

One small point: if Miss Emecheta has lived in a luxury flat in Kensington she would not be so surprised at the "disappearance" of milk bottles which the rightful owner did not collect quickly enough.

D.W.

Bangwa Kinship and Marriage by Robert Braum (Cambridge University Press, £5.20)

The Bamilekes are well-known in Cameroon as the country's largest, most enterprising tribe, whose homeland lies mainly on the eastern slopes of the mountains separating East and West Cameroon, but who have, like the Ibos in Nigeria, emigrated all over the country to work, particularly in business and trade. They speak widely varying dialects of one language, and were only given the collective name of "Bamileke" by the Europeans, and one branch, the only living west of the mountains in the

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former British Cameroons (in the then name, Bangwa) may include both the

The mountainous Bushah where the Bangwas live is the same as that where the Bamilekes generally live, but they do not emigrate, and the customs which Dr Brain describes in this book are basically Bamileke customs, such as the *fangkap* system by which a man has certain rights over several generations of offspring of a marriage to which he acted as a lord of marriage. Dr Brain describes this system in some detail, showing that among the Bangwas it is different from the general Bamileke version. But he also says, "Bangwas do not derive from any kind of political union, and are, indeed, specifically not those Bamileke chiefdoms incidentally brought on the British side of the French-British trusteeship boundaries, after the defeat of the Germans in the 1914-18 war."

Dr Brain adds that the border had important effects, since over forty years the differences between French and British colonial policy caused the Bangwas to develop very differently from the other Bamilekes. In fact his study illustrates very well how different the two parts of former German Kamerun became before reunification. The British left the Bangwas with their traditional society of chief, slaves and (traditionally) slaves largely absent apart from the abolition of slavery, admittedly an important change for the people. British officials had good working relations with Chief Asungway, the beloved Fon of Fomtem (the chiefdom which Dr Brain examined most closely), on the basis of "live and let live".

French colonisation weighed much more heavily on the Bamilekes, the chief power being directly reduced among them by the first imposition of the traditional system, being thus removed, then came the first reaction and the great sufferings of the Bamilekes in the subsequent war. These uprisings over the border from Bangwa," says Dr Brain "were a direct result of the French policy in the Cameroonian region. Refugees living in slums, permanently guarded by a military force, and so-called terrorists hide in the bush and are occasionally rounded up, a few shot in the market as a warning to their inhabitants and their heads stuck for a day or two on a pole in the central square". Since his stay that date in the Cameroonian history seems to have come to an end, and prospects have returned to the Bamileke homeland of Ifafoussam as a new growth area.

This development may continue to more peaceful transformation of the Bangwas, who traditionally had contacts with Banyangs and other tribes to the west, but now, says Dr Brain, look eastwards. To speak the language of the Yaoundé administration, French, to drink wine instead of Guinness, to treat with *préfet* and *gendarme* instead of district

officials and policemen. (Another change since Dr Brain's visit is that Guinness has become popular in ex-Guinea.) This has become popular in ex-traditional Bangwa culture also. But much of the traditional Bangwa culture survives, and Dr Brain has made an interesting and readable study of it. He describes the traditional importance of slavery and the slave trade; the Bangwas say they are partly descended from slave women from other tribes, and formerly they sold slaves to the oil-palm plantations and slave ships in what is now Eastern Nigeria.

Like all anthropological descriptions of African peoples (and I think this is sufficient answer to criticism made of such studies) this one shows how rich, complex and subtle the customs of people with an economically simple existence can be. The Bangwas' witchcraft beliefs, their legends of *were-djinnats*, their sexual rules and ideas, their elaborate hierarchy, illustrate this. Their upper class is as aristocratic as the Hausas, or more so as it despises trade, leaving that, as well as much farm work, generally to women. The system of relationships, particularly the *uten* (loose clustering of kin) related to the individual through his mother, are certainly subtle and elaborate. Some readers may find them too much so for easy study, but they will find that Dr Brain has an easy and interesting style, which makes his study readable. It is a pity that this work of under 200 pages costs so much; a paperback version would be worth considering.

**Annals again**

Africa South of the Sahara 1972 (Europa Publications - £9.50). L'Afrique d'Expression Française et Madagascary 1972 edition (Europa France, Guinter, Paris, 50 French francs). L'Année Politique Africaine, 1972 (Pierre Bourge, White, Dunlop, and Pierre Rondot, Société Africaine, Edizioni, Dakar, 6,000 CFA in Senegal, 1,000 in franc zone and Malgreh, 160 French francs all other countries). Africa: Annual Review, 1972 (published by Africa magazine, London, £2.50). Africa 71-72 (Jeune Afrique, Paris, 50 French francs). Memento de l'Economie Africaine, 1972 (Edulrite, Paris, 142 French francs).

The second edition of the Europa volume uses the same essential formula as the first (1971) and is just as valuable. Unlike *Africa Contemporary Record* (see below), it is not simply a survey of the year just passed. It has a more historical survey going back to colonial times, prepared by well-known writers, and therefore has to be slightly revised from year to year. It is a good and reasonably reliable reference work, although not perhaps updated as scrupulously as it might have been (it is a pity that the UKAAMN, however, is not so scrupulous). It is a curious mix of the two, but in a given country the first, but not the country's own representation overseas.

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The Europe-France-Outremer volume, now in its twelfth year, has long been commended by this reviewer as being the best reference work on francophone Africa, simply by virtue of being the one which he uses the most. It has the most immediately relevant information for anyone working in the field, and it is accurate and extremely up to date. For example, although it appeared in July, you can find information in it on the Senegalese reshuffle of June 19, the OAU summit of mid-June, and even the nomination of M. Messmer as French Premier on July 6.

For different reasons, the *Année Politique Africaine* edition (also in French) is to be commended for its summaries of events in all African countries last year. Although the same publishing house now bring out a separate annual on the "African Economy", there is still a fair amount of economic information. But it is the snappy, informed accounts of 1971 in, say, Equatorial Guinea or Central African Republic, which command the attention. The level of the sections on English-speaking Africa also seem improved, in spite of a few wrong spellings of names, and a tendency to see Gambian politics through Senegalese spectacles.

The volumes produced by "Africa" and "Jeune Afrique" are reasonably competent, with a useful emphasis on economic material, but the cornucopia of advertising sprinkled throughout is irritating, and diminishes their usefulness

as reference books. The English language volume has a good wall map as bonus. The *Memento de l'Economie Africaine* is but one of a whole series of comprehensive reference works on francophone black Africa - infinitely more detailed and loving than anything in English covering only the thirteen countries of the former French colonial federations, plus Togo and Cameroonless Guinea, (and not Madagascar or the former Belgian territories). Although English language reference works on Africa are improving, I know of nothing to touch this as a minutely worked-out run-down on all aspects of the economies of the thirteen countries, from agriculture, mines, industries to budgets, foreign trade and investment.

K.W.  
*Africa Contemporary Record Annual Survey and Documents 1971-72*, edited by Colin Legum (Rex Collings £12.50).

Every year, says the publisher's blurb, this annual is completely re-written, and not just revised. This is true, and the fourth edition offers, as well as the usual country-by-country surveys, a valuable collection of essays on topics of importance during the year, such as the new importance of China in African affairs. The most valuable of these essays is that by the editor himself, "The Year of the Students", which draws together reports of the conflicts throughout African universities between the students on the one hand and the university authorities and African governments on the other. As

Mr. Legum says, no clear pattern emerges from these student protests, except that opposition to French cultural domination has been a theme in Francophone countries; but one easily forgets now the extremely critical stand taken in Ghana by the students towards the Busia régime, and the troubles which affected Nigeria's universities in spite of military rule.

In his survey of the continent Mr. Legum, however, regrets the overthrow of Dr. Busia's government because of the effect it must have on the "the habit of democracy" in Ghana, and he makes a powerful attack on the military rulers of Uganda (an attack written long before the current controversy).

The country sections are now largely purged of the mistakes and mis-spellings which used to characterise them, and they are a valuable guide to the important events in each country during the year.

Purely as books of reference - for trade statistics and the like - these volumes are somewhat unsatisfactory. But for anyone wanting to know what has been going on they are invaluable. The present one contains many useful documents such as, for example, speeches of French, American and Chinese leaders on their policies towards Africa.

Since there are well over 1,200 pages one cannot complain about the price, even if that puts it out of the reach of most individuals. One can, perhaps, be grateful that it has gone up so little since 1968-69, when the volume cost £9.45.

L.A.M.

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# Commercial News

## Cocoa prices rise £40 a ton

Well-disciplined selling by the main West African producing countries has been the main feature of the world cocoa market in the last two months, says Gill and Duffus' latest *Cocoa Market Report*. In the 10 weeks to mid-August prices have risen by £40 a ton and are now at their highest level since December 1970, although this is a period when traditionally the marketing organisations of the West African producers are getting ahead with their new crop sales. "They have been able to take advantage of the rising market and generally have not been prepared to follow the market down on the set-backs" notes the report. "By now, they can be considered to have established a reasonable sales position for this stage of the season".

The report forecasts production for the 1971-72 season, drawing towards its close, at 1,533,000 long tons, a decline of 21,000 tons since the company's last estimate. This fall is attributed to a further deterioration in the temporo crop in Brazil. Grindings for 1972 are forecast at 1,528,000 long tons, and a state of approximate equilibrium in supply and demand "now seems to be assured".

The level of world production in 1972-73 "is likely to be of decisive importance for the level of cocoa prices for some time to come". The upward trend in consumption was expected to continue in 1973, as prices had not risen to the level at which they would normally discourage usage. "It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that consumption in 1973 will be higher than in 1972. An increase in world production in 1972-73 will, therefore, be necessary to maintain supply and demand in balance, otherwise the cocoa economy will be moving into a period of deficit".

Looking at the producer countries individually, Gill and Duffus pointed out that in Ghana the 1972 mid-crop had continued to come in at a slow rate. Purchases up to August 17 were officially reported to have totalled 8,656 tons, which compared with purchases to the same date last season of 20,517 tons. The season closed on 24 August, and it was unlikely that the crop would out-turn at much "more than 12,000 tons".

No figure had been announced for the final out-turn of the 1971-72 main crop but it seemed likely that the crop would total rather over 440,000 long tons, and would prove to have been the second

highest main crop on record. "Such reports as have been received on the prospects for the new main crop, due to be harvested this autumn, have suggested that weather conditions generally have so far been fairly reasonable, particularly earlier on in the growing season. However, for the past two months, it has been rather dry in the southern growing areas and this has resulted in heavy cherrille wilt". The new crop season started on September 1 - the earliest starting date for a main crop in the past 30 years, although in the 1964-65 season, the Ghana Farmers' Council did continue to buy cocoa between the close of the mid-crop and the opening of the main crop. The price paid to the farmer is unchanged at 10 cedis per headload of 60 lbs. for Grades I and II cocoa, or the sterling equivalent of £118.90 per long ton (at a nominal exchange rate of 3.14

cedis to the £ sterling).

In Nigeria, overall gradings of main and light crop cocoa was unofficially estimated to have totalled about 246,500 tons by August 10. Overall production in Nigeria during this current season was likely to reach about 278,000 tons. Additionally, it was estimated that about 11,000 tons had moved over the border into Dahomey - this figure being based mainly on official export figures from the port of Cotonou. "The early reports on the prospects for the new crop, due to commence in September, are generally favourable at this stage. The weather so far is reported to have been most satisfactory for the development of the crop (it will be recalled that the harmattan ended early). The farmers are actively spraying and conditions on the farms are said to be good. At the moment, the indications are that the new crop will be higher than the 1971-72 crop although here again it must be stressed that unfavourable weather conditions over the next few weeks could change the situation".

The 1972 intermediate crop in Ivory Coast totalled 9,972 metric tons up to August 11. The nearest comparison for last season was to July 30 when purchases totalled 12,865 tons. Unless there was a sharp increase in the rate of purchase, it seemed unlikely that this year's crop would come up to last year's out-turn of 20,000 tons. Overall production for the current season was estimated at 222,000 metric tons.

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# WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

**ELDER Dempster Lines**  
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To London: FULANI due Sept. 10; BIAMO due Sept. 8. MANO due Sept. 1. To Avonmouth: KUMBA due Tema Sept. 1. To N. Continent: FREETOWN due Rotterdam Sept. 6 for Hamburg. KABALA due Rotterdam Sept. 9 for Amsterdam, Hamburg. PATANI due Takoradi Sept. 1. To Southampton: AURFOL due Las Palmas Sept. 3.

**WESTBOUND** - To USA/Canada: DUMURRA due Baltimore Sept. 1. **EASTBOUND** AKOSOMBO due Chicago Sept. 1. FIAN due Dakar Sept. 4. **EASTERN SERVICE W.A.:** WAVEBANK due Apapa Sept. 1.

**BARBER Lines**  
**OUTWARDS** - to FERNLAND due Lagos Sept. 5, thence Calabar and Douala; FERGATE due Monrovia Sept. 12, thence Abidjan, Tema, Lagos, Apapa and Douala.

**HOMEWARDS** - FERNLAND due Lagos Sept. 5, thence Calabar Sept. 8, Douala Sept. 10, Ghana and Sept. 12, Abidjan/Monrovia 3rd week Sept. FERGATE due Lagos Sept. 5, thence Calabar Sept. 18, Douala Sept. 21, Ghana 4th week Sept. 24, Abidjan/Monrovia end Sept/early Oct.

**K Line**  
**DOMINICA MARU** due Japan Aug. 5 due Lagos Sept. 11. **FR** from Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. **FL SALVADOR MARU** due Lagos Aug. 29, Abidjan Sept. 9, Freetown Sept. 14 due Japan Oct. 11.

**WOERMANN Line**  
**LOUGA** due Havre Sept. 2 due Dakar Sept. 10, Abidjan Sept. 14, Tema Sept. 17; **ROLAND RUSSE** due Rotterdam Sept. 1 due Libreville Sept. 16, Port Gentil Sept. 18, Matadi Sept. 20. **DAFRA Line**

**EASTBOUND** - **SEIWA** due Monrovia Sept. 27 due Apapa Oct. 1. **WESTBOUND** - **FRANKR** due Calabar Sept. 10 due Takoradi Sept. 12, Abidjan Sept. 14, Charleston Sept. 30.

**GOLD STAR Line**  
**WESTBOUND** - **GEDIRA** Lobito Sept. 10, Luanda Sept. 12, Matadi Sept. 18. **EASTBOUND** - **NOGAI** Singapore Sept. 8, Kobe Sept. 22, Yokohama Sept. 28.

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**NORTHBOUND** - **NAKWA RIVER** Bremen Sept. 8; **SOBIN RIVER** Rotterdam Sept. 9, Amsterdam Sept. 15. **AL RAM RIVER** Middlesborough Sept. 25, London Oct. 2.

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**PALM Line**  
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**HODAKASAN MARU** s/d. Kobe Aug. 19 due Lagos Sept. 20; **SEIKAI MARU** s/d. Kobe Aug. 4 due Lagos Oct. 14; **SALAMBRI** s/d. Kobe Sept. 19 due Lagos Oct. 21.

**MAERSK Line**  
**INWARDS** - From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst Abidjan: **JOHANNES MAERSK** due Lagos Sept. 11 due Luanda Oct. 8. **OUTWARDS** - From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi: **JESPER MAERSK** due Abidjan Sept. 10 due Takoradi Sept. 11.

**FARRELL Lines**  
**HOMEWARDS** - **AFRICAN CRESCENT** due Luanda Sept. 2 for Lobito, Matadi, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports. **AFRICAN STAR** due Lagos/Apapa Sept. 14 for Port Harcourt, Douala Sept. 18, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports. **OUTWARDS** - **AFRICAN STAR** due Freetown, Monrovia Aug. 31, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Sept. 8, Lagos/Apapa Sept. 10, Port Harcourt Sept. 15, Douala; **AFRICAN MOON** due Monrovia Sept. 6 for Abidjan, Tema Sept. 12, Matadi, Luanda, Lobito.

**NEDILLOY - SWAL JOINT SERVICES**  
**BATU** due Rotterdam Sept. 15, Rouen Sept. 15 due Boma/Matadi Sept. 28, Pointe Noire Sept. 30. **AMSTELSTAD** due Hamburg Sept. 22, Rotterdam Sept. 25; Rouen Sept. 27 due Boma/Matadi Oct. 13; Pointe Noire Oct. 15.

**NERIGIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE**  
**SOUTHBOUND** - **NSAMDI AZIKIWE** due Lagos/Apapa Sept. 12, Port Harcourt Sept. 17. **NORTHBOUND** - **ILLENA M** due Amsterdam Sept. 10.

**SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE**  
**NORTHBOUND** - **CUMULUS** due W.A. end Sept. Oct. for discharge Sept. end Oct. early Nov. **INDIANA** due W.A. mid/early Nov. for discharge Sept. mid/Nov. early Dec.

**HOLGH Lines**  
**HOLGH BISS** due Dakar Sept. 13, Abidjan Sept. 6, Apapa Sept. 8; **HOLGH BENIN** due Rotterdam Sept. 5 due Dakar Sept. 13, Abidjan Sept. 17.

**ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINE**  
**INWARDS** - **STRAAT FRAZER** from Japan, s/d. Jul. 22, due Port Harcourt Aug. 29, Lagos/Apapa Sept. 1, Takoradi Sept. 6, Abidjan Sept. 9. **STRAAT TOWA** from Hong Kong, s/d. Jul. 4 due Lagos Sept. 26, 11, Abidjan Sept. 28, Dakar Oct. 29.

**OUTWARDS** - **STRAAT FRAZER** from Nigeria/Libya to Singapore, s/d. Hong Kong, Japan, Shanghai and Aug. early Sept. **EAL EUROPE - AFRIKA Line GmbH**

**HELIARIX 1** due Dakar Sept. 12, Abidjan Sept. 17, Lome Sept. 20, Lagos/Apapa Sept. 27. **BLICKLAND** due Rouen Sept. 6 due Santa Cruz Sept. 12, Las Palmas Sept. 13.

**NOPAL Lines**  
**WESTBOUND** - **NOPAL TELLUS** due Colon Sept. 10, Abidjan Sept. 11, Monrovia Sept. 14; **NOPAL LUNA** due Luanda Sept. 27, Dibia Sept. 30 due Takoradi Oct. 2.

**WESTWIND AFRICA Line**  
**WESTWIND** due New Orleans Sept. 4 due Tema Sept. 24, Lagos Sept. 28, Luanda Oct. 2. **SOUTHWIND** due New Orleans Oct. 2, Houston Oct. 7 due Tema Oct. 29, 26, 20.

**THE E.A.C. Lines**  
**SOUTHBOUND** - **SIMBA** due Hamburg Sept. 4, Antwerp Sept. 7, Rotterdam Sept. 9, Rouen Sept. 12 due Dakar Sept. 19, Monrovia Sept. 22, Abidjan Sept. 24, Cotonou Sept. 27, Lagos Sept. 29, Douala Oct. 3. **SARGODHIA** due Copenhagen Sept. 13, Aarhus Sept. 15, Bremen Sept. 17, Hamburg Sept. 19, Antwerp Sept. 22, Rotterdam Sept. 24, Cotonou Sept. 27 due Dakar Sept. 30, Freetown Oct. 7, Monrovia Oct. 10, Tema Oct. 10, Lome Oct. 12, Cotonou Oct. 14, Lagos Oct. 15. **PANAMA** due Lagos Sept. 23, Abidjan Sept. 24, Bremen Sept. 26, Hamburg Sept. 29, Aarhus Oct. 1.

# Union leaders meet in Freetown

For the whole of September, the union leaders from Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Gambia are taking part in a course on trade union research which is being organised by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions at Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone. In co-operation with the Sierra Leone Labour Congress, the course's programme includes lectures on statistics, economics, cost-of-living calculations, development planning, West African economic problems as well as specific union subjects such as collective bargaining. The course will be directed by Mr. Paul Kanyago, Director of the ICFTU African Research Office in Addis Ababa, and Mr. Grace Muwonge, ICFTU Field Representative for West Africa. Lectures will also be given by professors of Sierra Leone University. This will be the third ICFTU training course in trade union research for African trade union leaders. The two previous ones took place in 1963 and 1965, both at Kampala, former site of the ICFTU African Labour College. A similar course for East, Central and Southern Africa is planned by the ICFTU for November in Addis Ababa. Trade union leaders from Ethiopia, Rhodesia, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, Botswana and Mauritius have been invited.

In co-operation with the Gabonese trade union federation (FESYGA), the ICFTU is undertaking a series of training courses for union leaders in Gabon. Directed by Mr. Abdou Salam Gaye, ICFTU Field Representative for French-speaking Africa, a first course for Port Gentil from 24 to 29 July had 17 participants, the second in Moanda from 31 July to 5 August had 23 participants and the third, in Libreville, from 8 to 12 August, brought together 15 trade union officials.

By 1980 unemployment in developing countries could be as high as 300m., according to projections prepared by UN specialists.

Mr. Justin Ojadian Agunbiade, a fisheries officer in Nigeria's Western State, is one of 15 trainees from 14 developing countries who are visiting Britain's Tropical Products Institute, to see the work which the Institute has done on fish handling and processing. A statement issued by the Overseas Development Administration noted: "It is hoped that the students will continue to keep in contact with the Institute when they have returned to their countries to work as Fisheries Officers, as past experience has shown that this can lead to successful collaboration of fishing problems."

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# mod

## Company engaged for Gambia Basin project

A British engineering firm, Howard Humphries and Sons, has been engaged by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as subcontractors in the Gambia River Basin Project, which started in 1970. The firm, in turn, is enlisting a French firm, ORSTOM. The Project Director, Mr. Henri Cartier, explained that the purpose of this project was to assist the governments of The Gambia and Senegal in carrying out hydrological and topographical studies for the final formulation of multi-purpose development programmes for the Gambia River Basin.

In the longer term, it is also intended to bring the Gambia River Basin countries closer to the planning of multi-purpose development of the Basin's resources, including rice, animal husbandry, hydro-electric power, and navigation.

The project's personnel have already installed nine automatic limnographs in The Gambia and 12 water gauges in Senegal for systematic measurement of the water level. Mr. Cartier emphasised that this task consists of carrying out proper observations of the River Basin and its tributaries for a period of at least ten years. He said that the principal job of this project, which should cover three years, is to effect these graphs so that in the future they could serve permanently

as a guideline for determining the relationship between rain and waterflow without necessarily resorting to anything other than simple means of observing water levels.

Mr. Cartier is being assisted by a Gambian Co-Manager, Mr. Malick John, who is doing a post-graduate hydrology course in France, and a part time Senegalese Co-Manager, Mr. Musa Jeng.

• In its report on the economy of The Gambia in 1972, the Standard Bank says that it appears that the government is well aware of the problems facing a "mono-crop economy" and steady progress has again been made over the past 12 months. After consultations with the IMF the Minister of Finance was able to report that the Fund had welcomed the government's efforts to diversify the economy and increase agricultural productivity and had noted that credit and monetary expansion in recent years had been generally consistent with the growth of the economy. "Financially, the government has been consistently successful in balancing its current budget, and the external aid necessary for development has been forthcoming in sufficient amounts".

## LITTLE PROGRESS AT COFFEE TALKS

Little progress was being made at the meeting of the International Coffee Council in London at the time of going to press last week. An attempt to break the deadlock between the positions adopted by the consumers and the producers was made by the former group, who presented proposals suggesting that provision should be made for the suspension or export quotas in the event of prices rising beyond a certain point; they also suggested that provision be made for price adjustments in the event of changes in currency parities. The United States however, later objected to the concept of compensation for parity changes, and this suggestion was therefore dropped. The consumers' proposals were set out in general terms and a spokesman for the producers said that they could not make detailed comments until actual figures for prices and quotas had been filled in. Without these statistics, he said, the consumers' proposals were "a body without a soul".

After a private meeting, the consumers announced that they stood "absolutely firm" in their determination that the producers should accept the principle behind their proposal on marketing arrangements for the next coffee year before the figures for quotas and prices were filled in. The talks were sticking on this obstacle, because the producers did not wish to accept the principle of no quotas as this would effectively destroy the system of supply retention which they have been successfully operating this year, and which has pushed up prices to record levels.

## CDC in Togo

A study of the feasibility of establishing a manioc plantation in Lome has been made by a three-man mission from Britain's Commonwealth Development Corporation. Lack of manioc, which is used to make starch and tapioca, is jeopardising the existence of a Togolese manioc processing factory which processes the product for export.

• Niger's Director of Economic Affairs has told *Le Niger* that the cost of living had risen significantly in recently months. The price of meat had almost doubled over the past two years because of a drought in 1969 which killed half the country's livestock.

• ENI, Italy's national oil company, announced in Rome its agreement in principle with the Ghana Government's take-over of its Accra-based subsidiary. The final terms of the change-over are to be worked out later, according to ENI officials.

• The Swiss Government has decided to support the African Development Fund (organised by the African Development Bank) and is to ask Parliament to ratify a contribution of £1.25m.

## 'No unanimity' among developing countries

The failure of UNCTAD III has revealed that deep divisions of interest exist both between the developed and underdeveloped blocks and also within these groups, said Mr. C. M. Kirkpatrick, lecturer in economics at Manchester University, writing in the latest issue of *National and Grandlays' Review*. "For example, disparities in bilateral trading agreements imply that the adoption of multilateral arrangements may erode the relative advantages currently enjoyed by a minority of developing countries — this clash of interests became evident at UNCTAD III when the African Francophone countries refused to support the motions criticising the policies of the European Economic Community towards developing nations". Again, the immediate benefits of preferences on manufactured goods would be limited to the small group of developing countries who presently accounted for the bulk of manufactured exports from the Third World. Within the group of 77 there existed vast disparities in the level of economic development: "this was reflected at UNCTAD III in Brazil's desire to be regarded as part of the developed bloc, and its subsequent reluctance to be associated with many of the Third World proposals".

UNCTAD III had confirmed that the belief that progress could be made on the basis of unanimity was no longer tenable. Indeed, the Group of 77's acceptance of the concept of a sub-grouping of "least" developed countries might mark the first explicit recognition of the widely

diverging interests and needs that existed among the poor countries. "While UNCTAD may continue to provide a forum for discussing and publicising of the needs of the less developed countries, the failure of UNCTAD III will have made the poor countries acutely aware that their progress will rest largely on selective bargaining with the industrial world as individual countries, or at least as smaller groups of developing countries with clear, common interests", the author observes.

• An attempt to "break the power monopoly of the rich world" must be made in the interests of the survival of mankind, Mr. Maurice Strong, secretary general of the UN Environment Conference, told the World Assembly of Youth in Manchester. He welcomed efforts by developing countries to "strengthen their hands on the levers of power", citing the example of moves by the oil producers to control the use of their natural resources. Such moves, he said, might be uncomfortable for the rich nations but they were essential if equity and justice were to be achieved for all the people of the world.

• A three-year investigation into land registration techniques in various countries, which should be of particular value to governments of developing countries, is being financed by Britain's Overseas Development Administration. This study follows a recommendation at the Commonwealth Survey Officers Conference at Cambridge last year that a new, authoritative work on mapping land boundaries was needed.



## SITUATIONS VACANT

## THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL VACANCIES FOR DATA PROCESSING STAFF

The West African Examinations Council, an International Government-financed organization responsible for the conduct of a wide range of public examinations below University level in Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and The Gambia, is looking for persons — preferably West Africans — with requisite training and experience and proven record of success in data processing to fill the important positions indicated below in its Data Processing Department. The persons selected would be expected to assume duty early in 1973.

### 1. SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

(a) **Duties** To be the Administrative and Technical head of all E.P.D. activities of the Council for the two computer installations, in Lagos and Accra. In that capacity, to be responsible for the fulfilment of all data processing performed within the Council, including equipment selection, systems analysis and programming, and to develop improved techniques and methods. Also to develop and train personnel.

(b) **Qualifications** (i) A degree, or similar professional qualification.  
(ii) Experience of IBM Systems 360 and/or 370.  
(iii) Several years' data processing experience, the last three of which must have been in a Senior Management position in a thoroughly professional environment.  
(iv) Ability to present data processing proposals to all levels of management, up to and including Board level.

(c) **Salary** (a) In Ghana: ₵6,406 x ₵343.20 - ₵8,122.40 (Under Review)  
(b) In Nigeria: ₦2,480 x ₦120 - ₦2,720, ₦2,900 x ₦120 - ₦3,140

### 2. DATA PROCESSING MANAGER

(a) **Duties** To be the Administrative and Technical head of one of the Council's computer installations, in Accra or Lagos, and to be responsible to the Systems Development Manager for the provision of technical and analytical assistance in the identification of systems problems and the provision of solutions.

(b) **Qualifications** (i) A degree, or similar professional qualification.  
(ii) Experience of IBM System 360 and/or 370.  
(iii) At least 3 years' experience of two of the following areas: systems analysis, programming, computer operations management.  
(iv) Ability to deal on a day-to-day basis with other departmental heads.

(c) **Salary** (a) In Ghana: ₵5,434.00 x ₵286 - ₵7,436 (Under Review)  
(b) In Nigeria: ₦2,080 x ₦100 - ₦2,180, ₦2,340 x ₦100 - ₦2,740, ₦2,900.

### 3. SYSTEMS ANALYST

(a) **Duties** (i) To establish objectives, scope, project steps and manpower required for each newly assigned computer system.  
(ii) To provide services in systems investigation, problem analysis, system and/or procedural solution, system design and development for new or revised systems, preparation of policies, procedures or departmental job instructions for assigned data processing projects.

(b) **Qualifications** (i) A degree, or similar professional qualification.  
(ii) Experience of IBM System 360 and/or 370.  
(iii) At least 3 years' experience of systems analysis.  
(iv) A working knowledge of at least one programming language.  
(v) Ability to plan new projects in collaboration with other departmental heads.

(c) **Salary** (a) In Ghana: ₵5,434.00 x ₵286 - ₵7,436.00 (Under Review)  
(b) In Nigeria: ₦2,080 x ₦100 - ₦2,180, ₦2,340 x ₦100 - ₦2,740, ₦2,900.

### 4. SENIOR COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

(a) **Duties** (i) To provide the technical expertise for the programming development of new or revised computer systems within the Council.  
(ii) To communicate with and assist subordinate programmers with new and conventional programming techniques.  
(iii) To consult with the Systems Analyst, Data Processing Manager, and Operations staff, and relay new programming methods.

(b) **Qualifications** (i) A degree, or equivalent professional qualification.  
(ii) Fluency in both the Assembler and R.P.G. languages for System 360/20 with tapes (or any higher model in the 360/370 series).  
(iii) Ability to advise systems analysts on technical programming problems, and to communicate with and assist subordinate programmers.  
(iv) 2-3 years' recent, continuous programming experience.

(c) **Salary** (a) In Ghana: ₵4,447.30 x ₵243.10 - ₵6,635.20 (Under Review)  
(b) In Nigeria: ₦1,735 x ₦85 - ₦2,160, ₦2,305 x ₦85 - ₦2,560.

### 5. FRINGE BENEFITS

Fringe benefits for all the posts include 25% of salary contribution towards staff retiring awards, car maintenance allowance, children's allowance of £100 per annum per child up to a maximum of three children who are separated from their parent by reason of the officer being posted outside his own country, overseas allowance ranging from ₦100 to ₦300 to officers posted outside their own countries, furnished quarters at subsidised rents.

### 6. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applications (typewritten in sextuplicate), stating full name, age, educational institutions attended (with dates), academic and professional qualifications (with full details), details of present and previous employments (showing periods and posts held), present salary, and giving the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent to

The Registrar,  
West African Examinations Council,  
Headquarters Office,  
P.O. Box 125,  
Accra.

to reach the Registrar by 30th September, 1972.

(V. Chukwuemeka Ike)  
Registrar

## SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

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# Dateline Africa

## GHANA

### When will power be handed over?

The military would only hand over power to a civilian government after a firm social and economic foundation had been established, said Col. Acheampong at the annual National Festival of Arts in Kumasi. He appealed to all tribal groups to think of themselves as Ghanaians first and members of a tribe second. He asked politicians to think of themselves as Ghanaians first and politicians second. "I want all members of past political parties and groups to forget about the past and think about the nation and of their children who will live to suffer the adverse effects of their disunity which stems from nothing but selfish interests. We of the NRC will only hand over power when we are satisfied that a firm foundation has been laid both economically and socially for our people."

• Lt. Col. William Bruce Konuah, Commander of the Sixth Battalion of the Ghana Infantry Regiment, has confirmed to the military tribunal trying four civilians and five soldiers on subversion charges that he was approached to carry out a coup against the NRC and to restore Dr. Busia to power. Another prosecution witness, Lt. Joseph Boateng Danquah, alleged that Corporal Beryl Ophelia Mensah told him that she had attended a meeting at the former French Ambassador's residence in connection with an attempt to overthrow the government. She had also alleged that Emil Adzima, former Press secretary to Dr. Busia, and one of the men arrested, was at the meeting. Corporal Mensah, he added, had told him

of another meeting at the house of Dr. Yaw Twumasi, a Legon University lecturer, which she attended, and she had claimed they were expecting to receive a letter from Dr. Busia through the French Embassy.

As a witness for the prosecution Corporal Mensah had said earlier she was told by Mr. Adzima, her boyfriend, that the US, Britain, France and the Ivory Coast had promised help. Britain was to have provided £6m. The US was to have provided troops if the need arose and also jet fighters to transport them to Ghana; the Ivory Coast was also to have provided troops. Led in evidence by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Gyekye-Darko, Corporal Mensah said that the plotters were to have struck when essential commodities became scarce, when the public began to grumble and when there was general dissatisfaction with the NRC. Some time last March, she continued, Emil Adzima told her that he was going to visit Dr. Twumasi, who had then returned from Oxford. He claimed when he came back that Dr. Twumasi had met Dr. Busia in Oxford and that the former Prime Minister wanted people to overthrow the NRC and release former ministers from protective custody. He also wanted the report on the economic situation since the coup to be sent to him either through the then French ambassador, M. Pierre Antoniaz, or through Dr. Twumasi. Corporal Mensah told the court of several meetings she had on Mr. Adzima's behalf with other alleged plotters, she had

seen a copy of a report sent to Dr. Busia and had met a man who said he had visited him to arrange for financing the operation. The plotters had believed that the public would be behind them when the NRC presented its budget. Corporal Mensah alleged that she had persuaded an army lieutenant to take part in the plot after mentioning the name of her boyfriend, Emil Adzima, to him. He had agreed to help and later said that he had been able to win the help of some soldiers under his command. She denied a suggestion that her visit was "more a romantic and sentimental one" which had nothing to do with the alleged plot.

A former security officer to Dr. Busia testified that he had carried a letter written by Dr. Busia from Abidjan to Accra, in which the former Prime Minister talked of a plot to overthrow the government.

Earlier the Judge Advocate, Mr. Justice Daniel Annan, dismissed an objection by the defence that the president of the tribunal and its members should not sit because they were interested parties (see last week's issue). He said that there was no evidence to support the objection that there was a likelihood of bias on their part, apart from the opening statement of the Attorney-General, which was not a sworn testimony.

• The NRC has withdrawn the passports of Dr. Busia and his wife, Naa Morkor, and the Ghana Police have placed a £20,000 price on the head of the former Prime Minister. A police notice said that Dr. Busia was wanted for conspiracy to commit subversion and preparing to overthrow the government. The NRC claims that he was behind the plot to overthrow them. Dr. Busia said at his home near Oxford that he had not been told of the price on his head.

• The "Ghana Movement for Civil Liberties" has sent a protest note to the NRC through the Ghana High Commission in London after a two-hour demonstration. Among the demands the movement made were that the detainees should be released and the subversion decree be repealed immediately. It also asked that the ban on the *Pioneer* and *Echo* be lifted and the newspapers given the same rights as the *Ghanaian Times* and the *Daily Graphic*. The government, it said, should resign because the NRC had seized power on the pretext of economic problems, but had failed to solve the problems.

• Chairman of the Taylor Assets Committee, Mr. Justice Taylor, has warned that all witnesses who had told lies were being given two weeks to correct their evidence or face imprisonment for perjury. Documentary evidence received, he said, had made it clear that most of the witnesses had told "blatant lies". "If within the next two weeks those who have given evidence before us do not correct their mistakes and tell the truth we will have no scruples this time in sending them to prison".



The nine accused before the tribunal. Left to right: Staff Sgt. Sandey Johnson (Opom-Nyantakyi), Daniel Owusu Darkwa Attakora, Emil Wilson Kofi Adzima, George Kofi Anshah Oboasi-Amuah, Pte. Charles Adu Boateng, Sgt. Wilberforce Agvare, Pte. Kwaku Oduro, Sgt. Kwaku Nimak and David Ajful Bimpome.

● Mr. J. H. Frimpong-Ansah, Governor of the Bank of Ghana, called for an immediate survey of government investments in the productive sector of the economy. He told the annual dinner of the Institute of Bankers in Accra that the government should establish as accurately as possible the true value of its involvement and the net benefit to the people. His studies of profit levels indicated very low productivity of government investment. "The saddest commentary of all is that the greatest contributor to this little revenue is the Bank of Ghana which earns a substantial proportion of its profits from the government itself and a few companies with relatively little initial equity investment by the government". He spoke of the very poor downward trend of revenue from profits Government realised from its enterprises, saying that the share total of government revenue of such income ranged from 1.6 per cent in 1965 to 5.3 per cent in 1967, but has since fallen back to 4.8 per cent.

There were a number of irregularities in the business sector which needed remedying, Mr. Frimpong-Ansah added. In some cases he had discovered that the last audited accounts were for three years back and he had encountered unrealistic data on stated capital, inflated value of fixed assets and machinery. As public companies account to their shareholders annually so the government should be able to account to the taxpayer, on an annual basis, the results of its operations in terms of material benefits to the people, i.e. the contribution to real GNP and in terms of social benefits.

Mr. David Andoh, deputy chairman of UAC (Ghana) Ltd, said at the same dinner that while businessmen applauded efforts being made to stamp out the evil practice of over-invoicing imports and under-invoicing exports, they would wish the government to reconsider the cancellation of buying commissions. Ghana would benefit if importers shop around for the lowest price.

● Col. Acheampong has announced that the government plans to overhaul top management in key productive ministries and enterprises. Only those qualified for top posts in technical ministries will be allowed to run them. The NRC chairman was opening the national operations room of a special action unit to implement government announcements.

The NRC had directed that special action units be set up in all regions to review the budget performance monthly and give "military-like" support to the development effort. "We are fully aware of the fact that the fundamental problem facing the economy today is not the much-publicised balance of payments crisis, as some experts would make us believe, but rather under-production and under-utilisation in all sections of the economy".

● The Inspector-General of Police, Mr. J. H. Cobbina, has told police officers that he will not tolerate apathy. He advised those who had lost interest in the service to resign before he took action.

● Col. Acheampong has appealed to the police to help track down enemies of the state. He told regional and district police commanders that the stability of any government depended greatly on the preservation of law and order. "It should therefore be your duty to ensure that the processes of law and order are not interfered with by any forces of evil".

## SIERRA LEONE Prospects for the "Star"

Answering a question in Parliament the Minister of Lands and Mines confirmed that the diamond, "Star of Sierra Leone", found in a Diminco separator last February, and said to be the third largest diamond yet to be found in the world, has not yet been sold. He said it had cost the government nothing to publicise the stone, since the Central Selling Organisation in London (Diamond Corporation) is responsible for the sale and charges no commission or fee. Tenders made for the stone in July, it is understood, were considered inadequate by Diminco and the Sierra Leone government. Although the quality of the stone has been well known to diamond merchants throughout the world, it is believed that no single merchant is ready to put forward the sum considerably greater than £1 million which the owners expect for it, and that it has been difficult to put together a group for this purpose, particularly as it will be a long time before the money returns when the stone has been finally cut and polished.

In the meantime the Central Selling Organisation, to which most of Sierra Leone diamonds go for sale on world markets, has announced that it is paying, from September 5, an average increase of 6 per cent for gem stones. Increases last November and in January this year were chiefly the result of currency changes but the present increase is believed to reflect a real improvement in the diamond market.

The Minister of Lands and Mines told Parliament that Diminco's net profit during its first year's operation exceeded Le7m. From this the government took Le4,800,000 in tax while from the net profit the government, as shareholder, also took 51 per cent.

● Speaking to the Japanese Ambassador to Sierra Leone, who is resident in Ghana, the Minister of Development said that the government intended to establish full trade and diplomatic relations with Japan.

● On the return of the delegation which he led to North Korea and the Soviet Union the Mayor of Freetown said that the Koreans would present a civic centre to Freetown to replace the burnt-out Town Hall.

● During a tour of Nigeria's states Sierra Leone's High Commissioner in Lagos Dr. William Fitzjohn, said that Sierra Leone was following the states in taking over voluntary agencies' schools.



President Stevens cuts his 67th birthday cake

● Cuba's news agency is reported to be planning establishment of African Offices in Dar-es-Salaam and Freetown. Dr. Castro visited Sierra Leone on his African tour and it is believed that Cubans regard Freetown as an effective point from which to report events in Portuguese Guinea, in which Dr. Castro is particularly interested.

● A feasibility report on a new road connecting Liberia and Sierra Leone has been studied by representatives of the two countries at the Abidjan head quarters of the African Development Bank, which financed the study. The Minister of Finance has also said that the government intends to construct a new road linking Sierra Leone with Guinea.

● The United Bible Societies report that bibles in Kuranko, spoken in the northern province, are being printed in Czechoslovakia.

● Freetown's 2m-gallon reservoir has been extended to increase the city's supply from 6m. to 12m. gallons a day.

## LIBERIA Development crusade

A national crusade to raise \$10m. for development has been launched by President Tolbert. At a rally in Monrovia the President urged everybody to contribute \$10. He himself promised to give a quarter of his salary for next year in agriculture, he said, the main object would be on agricultural extension services which would particularly be concerned with rice growing. There was, said the President, "an exploding school population" which needed schools and equipment. It was also necessary to move the University in Monrovia to a more spacious site. Feeder roads for agriculture were essential if farmers were to enjoy the benefits of the market. The President emphasised that Liberia still had to employ a large number of foreigners in the health services and had to buy drugs and medical equipment abroad. A national committee, under the chairmanship of the Vice-President, has been established to collect and administer funds collected during the crusade. The

President said that 25 per cent of the money would go to the re-siting of the University.

- Liberia and Ivory Coast have signed in Monrovia an agreement setting up a joint ministerial commission on co-operation in the fields of trade, agriculture, telecommunications, transport, education and health. The two delegations were led by foreign ministers Arsene Usher (Ivory Coast) and Rochefort Weeks (Liberia). The latter described the agreement as "the beginning of true co-operation in West Africa".

- Continuing his early morning visits to government departments the President found everyone at the Ministry of Postal Services at work, including the Postmaster General Mr. McKinley DeShield, who is Secretary-General of the ruling True Whig Party. Mr. Tolbert said that if the Postmaster-General had not been there he would have asked for his resignation.



McKinley DeShield, early to work.

- Mr. Francis Dennis, former Ambassador to the Ivory Coast, is expected to be Liberia's first Ambassador to the Soviet Union. A Soviet Embassy is expected to open in Monrovia soon, but the Liberian Government is reported to have asked the Russians to reduce the staff suggested for it. An agreement to exchange embassies between the two countries was first announced in 1956, but was never implemented during Mr. Tubman's term of office.

- The Norwegian building firm Widelbetong has offered to finance a \$10m. two-year low-cost housing project. Executives of the firm have had talks with officials of the Ministries of Finance and Public Works. The businessmen, who came on the initiative of attorney A. B. Tolbert, youngest son of the President, said they could start the project within three months. Widelbetong has already built 3,000 low-cost houses in the Ivory Coast.

- President Tolbert will pay an official visit to Greece this month at the invitation of the Government. He will break a holiday in Geneva for the visit.

## CHAD Action Committee moves

An "action committee" has been set up in Fort Lamy. A communiqué issued by the committee says that the members, after a week's meeting, had decided to "wage war on colonialist and imperialist activities" and on all mercenaries who wanted to bring about a national crisis; the committee would confront any person, regardless of origin or nationality, who undermined this sovereignty; such a person would be dealt with immediately according to law, and the committee would take measures to facilitate the smooth operation of public services and improve the financial position.

The action committee, which is presided over by President Tombalbaye, and includes top men of the Political Bureau of the ruling RPT has begun to order the release of the hundreds of top Chadian political personalities and civil servants arrested in recent weeks, although no mention has been made of the three leading politicians, Antoine Bangou, Mate Douma and Ahmed Koullamallah, who were taken to their home regions, and made to "confess" publicly to having plotted. The radio broadcast many appeals for them to suffer the death penalty.

It has been denied that those arrested included Foreign Minister Baba Hassane, a Director of the State Cotton Company, Abdoulaye Lamana, and the Director of Chad News Agency, Salek Kebzabo.

The Action Committee has disclosed that the Chadian state owes about \$7m. to private companies operating in Chad. The figures represent all unsettled bills for government services for the period from January 1 1970 to March 31 this year. The companies (mainly French) owe about \$3m. to the Chad treasury, says the Committee. Major firms in Fort Lamy, such as petrol companies, no longer accept orders from the government and many departments have come to a standstill. The Action Committee also instructed the Finance Ministry to reach agreement with the Chamber of Commerce on repayment of the debt.

## NIGER

In a government reorganisation and reshuffle, President Hamani Diori has moved his Foreign Minister and Education Minister, and introduced three new faces into the government without sacking anyone. Foreign Minister Maidah Mamadou becomes First Secretary of State to the Presidency, and is replaced by Boukari Saho, former Minister of Labour. Dicko Dan Koulodo, a new entry, becomes Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, replacing Harou Kouka, who becomes Minister of Public Works. Noma Kaka, former Minister of Rural Economy, has the new post of Minister of Mines. Leopold Kazienne, formerly Minister of Economic Affairs,

becomes Minister of State for Defence another new portfolio. M. Mai Mai Gana former Secretary of State to the Presidency becomes Second Secretary of State to the Presidency. Another new entry is Boubacar Moussa, former head of the police, who becomes Secretary of State for the Interior.

President Diori is on a private visit to France, which will include his annual visit to the spa at Contreville, and talks with government officials on co-operation. The visit is reported to mark a thaw in French-Nigeria relations, said to have been cool since the President had obliged the French to withdraw their ambassador earlier this year. Prior to his departure a French aid agreement was signed providing for 1,000m CFA for various projects, and the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Maidah Mamadou, announced that the "misunderstanding" was over.

## ZAIRE

Swiss police have detained former Foreign Minister Losembe Batwanyele (formerly Mario Cardoso) for questioning in connection with allegations by the Zaire government that he embezzled about £300,000, and placed it in Swiss banks. The Zaire government has asked the Swiss government for his extradition. He is being held in the St. Antoine prison in Geneva. Mr. Losembe, who was Foreign Minister for nearly two years until he was dismissed in a reshuffle earlier this year, is a former Ambassador to the UN and the UK.

- President Mobutu has denied Belgian press reports that Zaire wanted to buy more from the US because dollar devaluation had lowered prices there. "The Americans play frank with us, we want to be sincere with them, but we are not their lackeys". Since the creation of the Zaire currency five years ago the parity with the dollar (two dollars equal one zaire) had not changed, he said, adding that the day the Americans quoted the zaire at less than two dollars "there is going to be big trouble, as there already is with certain other countries".

## LIPTAKO-GOURMA

The Presidents of Mali, Niger and Upper Volta have held a second summit meeting of the Liptako-Gourma authority in Ouagadougou. A communiqué said that the heads of state stressed "for the information of friendly countries and international organisations", the importance they attach to the financing of the grouping's projects, drawn up at their ministerial meeting in Niamey in June, such as the railway from Ouagadougou to Niger, the regulation of the flow of the Niger River between Timbuctoo and Niamey for the building of hydro-electric dams, and the construction of inter-state roads. They also reaffirmed the importance they attach to the study and exploitation of the mineral deposits in the region, such as the manganese deposits of Tambao and Bassango, copper and precious stones deposits at Shira, and

phosphates, and to the implementation of a programme for improving animal husbandry and the living conditions of cattlemen in the region.

The Presidents instructed the group's ministerial council to work out plans for programmes in health and agricultural development by irrigation, a system for cereal marketing and an education programme. They also decided to establish a Liptako-Gourma Development Fund.

President Hamani Diori of Niger, on his return to Niamey, said that because of the energy of its secretariat, the Liptako-Gourma Development Authority will achieve great things for the three countries concerned. Director-General of the authority is a Malian, Cyr-Mathieu Samake.

## GUINEA

Mme. Jeanne Martin Cissex has been appointed Guinea's permanent representative at the United Nations. A former schoolteacher and headmistress, she is the mother of six children. She was formerly the Secretary-General of the Conference of African Women and First Vice-President of the Guinea National Assembly.

- Trade between Iraq and Guinea is to be increased by £2m per annum under an agreement signed in Baghdad. Guinea's principal imports from Iraq are oil and associated products, sulphur, soap, tobacco, dates, vegetable oils and refrigerators. The Guinea delegation was led by Hussein Ismail of the Foreign Ministry.

- Major Alfred Raoul, former Vice-President, imprisoned for 20 years for his part in an abortive plot in February, has been pardoned and released. The sentences on several others, including former Premier Ambroise Moumzalay and former party secretary-general Claude Ndalla were reduced.

## CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE

### Raoul released

President Nguabi, commenting on the new full reconciliation between Zaire and People's Congo, said that a "hot line" is to link the presidencies in Brazzaville and Kinshasa. He and General Mobutu would telephone each other whenever "lying rumours" threatened security in the area. The agreement did not mean that Brazzaville was abandoning revolutionary socialism, he said. "We did not choose the socialist way in order to harm others. We must not export revolution like a product".

- M. Fugier, French Director of the United Nations Rural Development Project in the Congo, was ordered to leave the country immediately after being accused of "speaking about the President in an irresponsible and malicious way". Sources said M. Fugier refused to show President Marien Nguabi the projects for rural development projects in the Kinkala region south of Brazzaville when the President toured the area recently.

- Under an agreement signed by French Ambassador Marc Bonnefous and the Congo Minister for Higher Education, Thistère Tchicaya, France will continue financial and technical assistance to higher education, especially to the new university in Brazzaville.

- An East-German delegation has visited Brazzaville to discuss construction of a Congolese national printing press. The GDR will send technicians and machinery to the Congo in 1973. The printing machines and other equipment are estimated to cost about 150m CFA.

## SENEGAL

The droughts which occur in Senegal periodically and the damage they inflict on the economy have made small dams and irrigation works essential, said the Minister of Information. He pointed out that dams on the Senegal in the area of the Mali town of Mamantali and in the delta would be built in the first place within the framework of the OMVS. This would make it possible to start irrigated farming in three countries.

- President Senghor said that the West African Nations could not group together because they had so many different monetary systems, when he received the credentials of the new Ghanaian Ambassador, Colonel Joshua Mahamady Hamidu. The best solution, the President said, was "to multiply our bilateral commercial agreements and for the anglophone countries in West Africa to associate with the common market".

- Premier Abdou Diouf has been on a ten-day private visit to the UK, spending most of his time on holiday in Scotland and Wales.

- Abdoulaye Sene, Secretary at the Senegalese Embassy in Kinshasa, has been declared *persona non grata* and expelled, after being implicated in diamond smuggling. 700 diamonds in a bag containing \$120,000 were reportedly found at M. Sene's home. A court has sentenced two alleged accomplices of his to 20 years imprisonment and ordered confiscation of all their property in Zaire.

## IVORY COAST

President Houphouët-Boigny's 86-year-old elder sister, Madame Ahoan Ala, has died at Zahakto in central Ivory Coast. The President attended her memorial service, in the company of the Vice-President of Liberia, Mr. Green, and the Premier of Upper Volta, M. Gerard Ouedraogo.

- The ruling Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast has announced that it intends to replace its existing ethnic committees by district committees. The decision was taken by the party's Political Bureau.

- The UNDP granted aid worth \$20m, to Ivory Coast in the ten years from 1961 to 1971. More than \$4m went to the financing of TV programmes for use in primary education.

## ZAIRE

A Belgian Catholic missionary of the White Fathers has been expelled for performing a "reactionary baptism" following a government decision to tighten-up on the authenticity campaign by forbidding the use of Christian names even in brackets or in private conversation.

- General Nkulula, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Zaire Ministry of Defence, has been appointed Ambassador to Israel.

## In Brief

The next conference of heads of state of non-aligned nations is to be held in Algiers in 1973. This was decided at a meeting of foreign ministers of 16 states at Georgetown in Guyana. A number of resolutions were adopted on such subjects as decolonisation and Zimbabwe; there was a special resolution calling on Spain to decolonise Spanish Sahara. The meeting was attended by 39 of the 41 member states of the OAU. The only two absentees were The Gambia and the Ivory Coast.

- It is now confirmed that a South African two-engined Piper Comanche private aircraft crashed at the end of July in Guinea. The two men on board, one South African, one German, travelling to Munich for the Olympic Games, were killed. Guinea civil aviation authorities reported wreckage in the sea off Kansar, near the Portuguese-Guinea border. The body of one man was washed up at a fishing village nearby. The aircraft was between landings at Abidjan and Bissau. No explanation has been given as to why it came down.

- African students who had refused to leave their hostel in the university campus in south Paris were expelled by the police. The campus, the Cité Universitaire, has a number of hostels, each named after a country or a region. University authorities said that the Africans refused to let them close the hostel for the summer although they had been offered alternative accommodation.

- Comair, the Cameroon national airline, has taken delivery of its first Boeing 737 airliner. The aircraft, identical to one currently on hire from Air France, will be followed by a similar one in October and a Boeing 707 inter-continental in December.

- France has handed over about \$1.7m, for the financing of the operations of the OCAM Computer Institute in Libreville. The Institute, opened in October last year, trains computer specialists, and the new aid agreement will permit an increase in the student intake to 75. The institute had 20 students in the 1971-72 academic year.

- President Bokassa's half-Vietnamese daughter Martine is to marry a Central African doctor studying in Paris.

## NIGERIA Courts and politics

Customary courts had been "instruments of political tyranny" in the past and there was no longer any need for their existence because legally qualified people now administered native laws and customs without difficulty. This recommendation was made in a document presented for discussion at the Nigerian Bar Association conference in Port Harcourt. The document also said that the present method of appointing and removing judges threatened their security of tenure. Commenting in a recent Constitutional Amendment Decree, the document noted, "The Nigerian Bar Association feels that to deprive the head and most influential member of the judiciary of his security of tenure and make him removable at will is not only a direct blow to the dignity and independence of the judiciary as a whole, it is a direct threat to the Rule of Law." The power to remove the Chief Justice should be given only to the Judicial Service Commission. Addressing a news conference, the president of the Association, Mr. Richard Akinjide, described as "wrong and dangerous" the concentration of all arms of government in one man. Another recommendation due for discussion was the provision of a full salary for life as a pension for retired judges in return for which they would be obliged to renounce legal practice for ever and never accept a directorship or employment in any form with a company.

Addressing the conference, Mr. Akinjide condemned "a campaign of calumny dished out from high places through the mass media against Nigerian lawyers". He criticised the order banning lawyers with less than seven years practice from appearing before the Supreme Court.

• An Ilorin High Court judge, Mr. Justice James Adesiyun, has accused the Kwara State Governor, Col David Bamigboye, of interfering with the judiciary in the state. Before reading a judgment in court, he recalled saying in 1971 that there was no interference with the judiciary and commented: "I will be failing in my duty if I do not seize this opportunity to say here and now that in this state the situation has changed since I gave my ruling on an *ex parte* motion in May 30 1972". He said it was "an open secret" that the Governor was not pleased with the outcome of the motion and he claimed that the Governor and his secretary, when visiting Kaduna for a meeting of the Interim Common Services Agency, had spoken to the legal draftsman whom they requested to amend the Local Boundary Settlement Edict 1970. "The legal draftsman told them that he could not do it," Mr. Justice Adesiyun concluded, "I am now appealing to the powers that be in this state to leave the judiciary alone."

• All civil commissioners in the Rivers State are to declare their assets "forthwith", the Governor, Lt. Cdr. Diete-Spiff, announced. He said that forms had already been sent to the Commissioners. He disclosed that the establishment of salary review commissions affecting all grades of civil servants, teachers and other workers in federal and state corporations had been discussed at the recent meeting of the Supreme Military Council. He also explained that the recent abandoned property edict had been promulgated to give more power to the Abandoned Property Authority to enable it to deal with recalcitrant tenants and to help the authority solve "certain problems".

Answering reporters' questions, Lt. Cdr. Diete Spiff said that the proposed boundary delimitation commission would have to wait until the four-year plan period was over.

• The co-inventors of cocoa wine in the South-Eastern State, Messrs O. L. Eguete and E. J. Ekanem, have appealed to the Federal Government to curtail the expenditure on cocoa wine research by the Cocoa Research Institute, to set up an enquiry into their dispute with the Institute and send representatives to see their wine in Calabar and that of the Institute's director, Dr. Opeke, so as to "bring the controversy to an end and do away with academic dishonesty". They said that they had taken out patents in Nigeria and Britain for their invention.

• A Decree is to be promulgated reconstituting the National Universities Commission into a statutory body responsible to the Federal Government through the Ministry of Education, the Cabinet Office announced. The statement noted that the Commission currently lacked the legal powers necessary for the effective performance of its duties and had been doing little more than to share out funds made available.

• Commenting on the announcement by Mr. Ukpabi Asika, Administrator of East Central State, that the Federal

Government would soon assume full responsibility for higher education throughout the country, a Federal Government statement said it would be impossible to realise the educational objectives in the Four Year Plan unless it came to the aid of state governments in accelerating development in this field.

• Alhaji Sule Kolo, the High Commissioner in London, said in Nigeria that the High Commission had completed a comprehensive registration programme of Nigerians in higher institutions of learning, industries and professional bodies in Britain. The list would be sent to federal and state public service commissions who would then inform the Nigerian office in London of their manpower needs.

• Complete control over the siting and promotion of new industries should be taken by the Federal Government, Mr. Sam Ikoku, East Central State Commissioner for Health and Social Welfare, has suggested. This would halt the tendency among state governments of setting up "merely reproductive uneconomic versions of enterprises already established by sister states".

• Mr. George Bell, Head of Information at the British High Commission, has died at his home in Lagos. Mr. Bell, who was 57, was deputy High Commissioner in Benin when the rebel invasion overran the Mid-West.

• Accommodation problems in prisons have been worsened by too many suspects on remand, according to the director for prisons, Mr. J. I. Adapoyi. He said that about 1,500 suspects were in various prisons awaiting trial and that some had been in custody for over three years. Some condemned prisoners had to wait in prison for as long as a year before execution. Mr. Adapoyi appealed to the police and the courts to speed up investigations and trials of suspects.



The six northern states have given the Pestalozzi Childrens Village in Sedlescombe, Sussex, £N6,000. The cheque was handed over by Mr. Garba Ja Abdulkadie, Secretary to the North Central State Government as a mark of gratitude for the twelve Nigerian children who have lived in the village since 1968. The picture shows: Nigeria's House-mother, Mrs. Hajija Hauwa Iludan, from Kano, talking to three of the children (left to right) Ashatu Abubakar, 16, from Patigi, Elizabeth Sheshie, 17, from Bida, and Joseph Kwanashe, 17, from Lokoja, outside the Nigerian House in the village.

## From the States

Col. Musa Usman, Governor of the North Eastern State, has warned that the behaviour of some contractors towards vital projects had adversely affected the state's four-year development plan. The Government's experience with indigenous contractors "has been very bitter" and he warned that the indigenisation and companies decrees would be failures if there was no change of heart from contractors who abandoned or failed to finish projects properly.

● The £900,000 tomato purée factory at Dadin Kowa, in Nigeria's North Eastern State, is expected to begin production next May. It will produce 6,000 tons of purée annually.

● Private hospitals in the North Eastern State are to be taken over by the state government. When this exercise was completed, the Governor, Col. Musa Usman, announced, consideration would be given to the take-over of voluntary agency schools. He also said that the establishment of newspapers by some northern states was no threat to the existence of the *New Nigerian* (which is owned by the six northern states).

● An assurance that all constitutional means would be applied to achieve a just settlement in the Ofofa-Ennle land dispute has been given by the Olofa of Ofofa in Kwara State. He appealed to Ofofa people to remain calm and law-abiding over the issue.

● Consumers stores are to be set up throughout the North Western State in an effort to make food available at subsidised prices and thus reduce the cost of living.

● A reminder has been issued in possession of firearms in the three northern states is absolutely prohibited until January 15, 1974.

● Eight Nigerian children who were flown out of Nigeria by the secessionist régime during the civil war have been flown home from Geneva and reunited with their parents.

● £80,000 has been spent on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of St Mary's Catholic Hospital in Urua Akpan, South Eastern State.

● Thirty-two houses abandoned by the Port Harcourt during the civil war have been formally handed back to the owners. They are the first properties to be handed back to Ibo in Port Harcourt since the civil war. Some 250 other houses have been declared ready for release to their Ibo owners. Many other cases have yet to be settled.

● One hundred and twenty candidates have been offered admission to the Advanced Teacher Training College, Port Harcourt.

● A "Keep Port Harcourt Clean" committee has been formed.

● The Rivers State Third Festival of Arts is to be held from October 22 to 28.

- To minimise delays in court cases, no police officer below the rank of inspector will now prosecute in any court of law.
- The Customs and Excise Board has been ordered by the Lagos High Court to pay £25,400 to Mandilas Ltd for seizing 20 ambulances at the outbreak of the civil war. The Board was also ordered to pay five per cent interest on the sum, plus £600 costs. Mr. Justice Taylor said that some officials of the Board had acted in a high-handed manner unsupported by law, causing loss of goods to citizens.
- About 3,000 squatters on Bar Beach lost their homes as city council bulldozers flattened the village in enforcement of a government order served on the dwellers in July. Armed troops and riot police stood by during the demolition, but there were no incidents.
- The flagship of the Nigerian Navy, *NNS Nigeria*, has returned to Lagos after an extensive refit in Britain. This is the first time the ship has undergone refitting since she was commissioned in 1965. Two frigates recently acquired by the Nigerian Navy are due in Lagos early next year. They are the *NNS Dorina* and *NNS Oriole*.
- Mrs. Victoria Gowon, the wife of the Head of State, has given birth to a baby girl. The couple already have a son, born in 1964.
- Mr. Yves Saunier, an official of the French airline UTA, has been deported for allegedly violating immigration laws.



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