

# West Africa

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SECTION

West Africa No. 2733 Saturday October 18 1969

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## Soldiers Still in Power

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For it is still fair to say that Africa is not yet at a "Latin-American" stage of fatalistic acceptance of military rule and palace revolutions. The politicians, it is true, have very often proved failures; initially many military regimes have been welcomed as a chance for a new start, but, because power politicised them, not many were able to retain that "popular" backing for long. "Popular", in any case, needs defining: a government like Soglo's in Dahomey was brought in with limited backing in a few towns, especially among the elite, and fell two years later when it had lost that credit. Dahomey is a classic example of return from soldiers to civilians in spite of unhappy experiences of politicians. The army did not like the unpopularity of being in the political front line; moreover its own unity was threatened (Nigeria is the greatest "awful warning" of what can happen to soldiers in power in this respect). But in spite of their inadequacies there is still a strong impulse to make democracy and politics work.

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extension beyond, although Chief Awolowo sees no reason why local elections could not be held now in Western Nigeria. In Congo-Kinshasa we only have one soldier in the government as president, and General Mobutu, who plans to stand for election next year, should really be counted as a soldier-politician in the Nasser mould. Upper Volta under General Lamizana has always planned a return to civilian rule in 1970, and political parties are due to be allowed to operate before the end of this year. Mali is also committed to an eventual return to civilian rule, but as it is the most recent to fall under the soldiers, this must be some way away. No such commitment is apparent in Central African Republic.

The most ambiguous case is probably Togo. The army initially intervened in politics in 1963, when they were responsible for the assassination of the civilian president, Sylvanus Olympio. They did not at that stage take power, preferring to hand over to the Grunitzky coalition. Four years later, when Grunitzky's government fell apart at the seams, the army again moved it, likewise, they said with the intention of establishing a new and reconciled civilian government as soon as possible. After three months, however, the army head, Col. Eyadema, took over full powers. He has since then presented the spectacle of the apparently reluctant soldier longing to leave power, but forced to stay. Last January the return to politics and parties was dramatically announced, only to provoke such "spontaneous" demonstrations in favour of military rule that the project was abandoned, and Eyadema (now a Brigadier) was more securely in power than before. From his actions, at least, he would seem to have no intention of quitting (he is, perhaps, a Bokassa pretending to be a Lamizana). Quite apart from the fears of Eyadema's own Northerners that a return to politics would mean a return to Southerners in power, the General himself is known to fear reprisals from those who connect him with the death of Olympio. He also has seen and taken note of the fate of Colonel Alley, who was the President of Dahomey, who handed over to civilians, only to find that he could not return to



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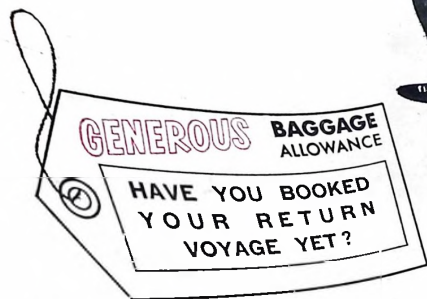
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his job as head of the army and has  
been jailed for plotting.

On the other hand, one might do  
than study the fate of Brig. Juxon-Smith  
who lingered in power in Sierra Leone  
after having completed whatever mission  
he could possibly have had, and was  
thrown out by his own rank and  
Eyadema, it is true, has a powerful  
caucus of regional support within  
army; but the "Juxon-Smith precedent"  
remains a powerful incentive to soldiers  
in power to make plans to withdraw  
Sierra Leone's was one of the least justifi-  
fiable of Africa's coups, although pos-  
sibly it developed a rationale of exposing  
corruption and putting the economy  
straight.

These two factors also operated  
strongly in Ghana, but in few of the  
French-speaking countries have there  
been any anti-corruption crusades. The  
Kouandété regime in Dahomey started  
extending their investigations to civil  
servants and soldiers, but the attempt was  
rapidly abandoned. In Upper Volta  
former President Yameogo has been  
jailed for large scale embezzlement of  
public funds. Clearing up the "economic  
mess" was adopted successfully by the  
austere budget-balancing officers in  
Upper Volta. It is also very much the  
aim in Mali although as Griot reports  
on page 1241 there has been some dis-  
pute about how it can be done. Mobutu  
in the Congo has concentrated on  
improving the economy, and, largely  
because of the domestic peace he has  
introduced, seems to have made great  
headway. In Dahomey, however, the  
Zinsou regime (which it is true, has no  
representative institutions as yet) looks  
more on the right lines economically  
than the military regime which preceded  
it; in Central African Republic it is  
doubtful if the military regime has made  
much difference. It may, indeed, be  
doing politicians a disservice to build  
soldiers up too much as "economic  
messiahs". A mission to put the country  
right can too easily become an excuse  
for power. In individual circumstances  
military intervention may be called for  
may even be unavoidable, especially  
where, in situations in which party  
politics have either got out of control  
or become ossified, the army is the only  
major organised national group. But  
in young nation-states a united army is  
too valuable an institution to be left wide-  
open to the pressures of politics.

## Who wants to go to Nigeria?

From a Correspondent

INTERNATIONAL tourism is today  
the biggest single item in the world  
foreign trade. For some countries it  
their main foreign exchange earner  
almost their main economic activity.  
That is an unhealthy situation for nei-  
countries, distorting their character and

almost inevitably producing in the end an antipathy to foreigners to which an old tourist country like Switzerland is immune. But all the poorer countries look to tourism as an earner of much-needed foreign exchange.

Some newly independent countries in Africa, notably Tunisia and Kenya, have become important tourist attractions. In West Africa The Gambia has a significant tourist trade. But in almost every newly independent African country various kinds of public expenditure can be justified because of their alleged contribution to the tourist trade, even though only Sierra Leone has an expensive, but entirely empty, hotel dedicated to the trade. Even in Nigeria, in the middle of the civil war, 1969—the International Year of African Tourism—has been duly celebrated and the Nigerian Tourist Association has produced a new guide<sup>1</sup>, in English and French, for tourists, together with a list of places to stay (though this is not, as is claimed, a guide to places to eat).

Nigeria undoubtedly has many attractions for strangers. You don't have to be an ethnologist to find the diversity of people fascinating, a choreographer to enjoy the dances, an historian to sense the romance of the mud walls of Zaria, or an art critic to marvel at the Ife heads. The two game reserves, however, cannot compare with those of East Africa, nor the majestic scenery of the Plateau with that of West Cameroon; nor can Nigeria's beaches compare with those of Ghana or Sierra Leone. For many visitors the colour and vivacity of the markets of Lagos, Ilorin, Onitsha (now, alas, not in operation) or Ibadan, are offset by their lack of hygiene. Outside Lagos the war does not seriously interfere with night-life—apart from the cost and scarcity of imported drink. But in most towns there is a danger of highway robbery which makes night excursions less attractive than before.

The end of the war will certainly, however, remove some of the obstacles to attracting tourists, such as shortage of whisky, and the Nigerian Tourist Association is right to attempt to put forward claims now. Some of the obstacles, however, are more durable. For Europeans Nigeria is hot. Compared with the hotels of Italy or Britain those of Nigeria are either very impressive or very bad—or sometimes both. Distances in Nigeria are vast and only the very rich can afford, as tourists, the Nigerian Airways fares to cover them. Other public transport for passengers is of poor standard. Hired cars are reasonable but still out of the reach of most tourists. Taxis in towns need not be expensive if the drivers are moderately honest, but they are often of poor quality.

Public conveyances tolerable to visitors scarcely exist, even near to undoubted tourist attractions. It may be safe, and

is usually amusing, to drink alcohol at small bars. It is seldom safe to eat at small restaurants, so that the over-elaborate and expensive meals of the big hotels and the, very few, luxury restaurants are the tourists' standby. Only carefully organised "package" tours seem able to meet the needs even of reasonably prosperous people—and such tours would probably have to include other West African countries. Tourists from cruise ships contribute little to the countries they visit.

Above all, at present are the simple questions; can a tourist ever get to Nigeria, anyway? And if he does, what impression will he get? In an address the acting Secretary General of the Nigerian Tourist Association, Mr. I. A. Atigbi, pleaded for efforts to make tourists feel "that they are welcomed and that we wish they could extend their stay here. Allowances should be made for their



You don't need to be an ethnologist to appreciate traditional pageantry of the north—like the Shehu of Bornu's body-guard (at his installation last year).

curiosity without necessarily jeopardizing our national security. We must not allow over-zealous officers of the law to get into unnecessary confrontation with these very sensitive visitors. People dealing with the tourist at the ports of entry particularly and in the country generally must realise that these visits could mean as much to our economy as cocoa and crude oil and that courteous treatment given to one tourist could mean more than several pounds worth of external publicity. The whole system of issuing visas and visiting passes to tourists should be re-examined . . .

Mr. Atigbi was stressing the key point. No doubt the present vexatious and arbitrary system of issuing entry permits, which leads many to cancel their planned visits to Nigeria, will be modified when the war ends. (Britain, with the worst system in democratic Western Europe, cannot complain about the Nigerian one, but Nigeria's tourists could come largely

from countries with very liberal entry, though not immigration, procedures). At present it virtually rules out tourism and many visits which might benefit Nigeria commercially and politically.

The reception of strangers at Lagos airport has recently improved considerably. But it is still difficult to imagine a tourist who has experienced the mixture of arrogance and begging which many find at the airport, wishing to return; or being converted to the federal cause by being treated as naturally suspicious and hostile characters. In Africa you get very much better treatment in, for example, Ethiopia, Kenya, The Gambia, or Senegal—and you did in Nigeria before the war. In Ghana the friendliness of the officials takes the edge off the rigidity of the rules. In the great tourist countries, with which the tourists Nigeria wishes to attract are familiar—Italy, Switzerland, W. Germany, Holland, Austria, for example—the tourist is scarcely sensible of any formalities.

A new book<sup>2</sup>, of the highest importance to those in West Africa concerned with tourist development discusses many aspects of the question. The vast majority of tourists from other countries—in North America and Western Europe. Tourists from other countries—in Nigeria's case, from neighbouring African countries and the Soviet Union—can be valuable, but no special arrangement need be made for them. On the other hand the main area attracting tourists is still Western Europe; in 1967 only 1.4 per cent of tourists went to Africa, and few of them to tropical Africa. But the North American and West European tourists increasingly search for the sun. Nigeria can take advantage of this search—but certainly not under present arrangements or with present facilities.

Is it worthwhile for a country like Nigeria to devote resources for developing tourism? Mr. Peters fully recognises the fallacy of claiming as a net contribution to the balance of payments expenditure made by tourists—bed linen, cutlery, wine, cars and many other things have to be imported to meet their needs. He concludes, however, that because tourism is a "labour-intensive" industry it can be of the highest value to countries suffering, as most poorer countries do, from chronic unemployment, and if, for example, local handicrafts are sufficiently attractive, tourist spending, quite apart from essentials, can be significant.

The great thing is to avoid "white elephants" like Sierra Leone's Lumley Beach hotel, built without any research into the potential. On the other hand, the new countries have the benefit of the experience of the old, they enter the tourist trade as the customers reach record numbers, as air travel is revolutionised by jumbo-jets. Only extreme rigidity and complacency can exclude Nigeria from some share in this market.

<sup>1</sup> "Nigerian Tourist Guide" compiled by I. A. Atigbi, Nigerian Tourist Assoc., 47 Marina, Lagos.

<sup>2</sup> "International Tourism" by Michael Peters (Hutchinson, 63s.)

## Pearson's 30-year target

By a correspondent

**HARD-PRESSED** and frustrated aid administrators may be pardoned for sometimes wondering whether their programmes will fail because they will run out of carbon paper. This quip on cumbersome aid procedures is the only light touch in the 400-page report of the Commission on International Development invited by the World Bank to study 20 years of development assistance and to propose ways of increasing the efficiency of such help in the future.\*

ITS dryness, however, is not to be equated with pessimism. The tone of the report, described by British Premier Harold Wilson as "one of the most important documents of the 20th century" is that although mistakes have been made, they can be instructive; that development in the last decade has been remarkably successful; and that although aid, as a contributor to development, "has reached a point of crisis" success can be achieved if most of the report's recommendations are acted on. (Maintenance of present growth rates would quadruple income per person in 60-70 years. For countries with per capita incomes of \$400 a year or more, such as Gabon, this would mean teaching levels of income currently enjoyed in Western Europe; for countries with present per capita incomes of less than \$100, such as Mali, it would mean great improvement but neither affluence nor the capacity to assure a wide range of choice to their citizens.)

Success is defined as the point at which a country is able to sustain growth with its own resources. For developing countries to hit this target by the year 2000 they must raise the annual growth rates of their national products from the 5 per cent. of the 1960s to 6 per cent. during the 1970s. This, in turn, requires each industrialised country to increase its resource transfers to low-income countries to a minimum of 1 per cent. of its Gross National Product (GNP) not later than 1975. This 1 per cent. is not strictly speaking an aid target: it includes private investment and loans on commercial terms. But official development assistance—that is, a transfer of resources on concessionary terms—is needed if the developing countries are to avoid impossibly heavy debt burdens, and it is therefore recommended that such aid should form 0.70 per cent. of the GNP instead of the present percentage of 0.39 per cent, which will be most difficult for the US, Britain and Holland, whose aid as a percentage of GNP has been declining. The report, with one dissenting voice, suggests that development assistance loans should provide for interest of no more than 2 per cent.,

a maturity of between 25 and 40 years, and a grace period from seven to 10 years.

Given an international commitment to development, which the commissioners clearly hope this report will help to create, these aid targets could be met. But to expect a return to the 1959-61 period when aid flow increased by 14 per cent. a year, which is what these proposals entail, at the moment when even France has announced reductions in its aid programme, is to be recklessly optimistic. The seriousness of the current decline in aid commitment is that "many developing countries face the prospect of cutting back of their planned rates of growth because they must now assume significant reductions in aid." And although "the correlation between the amounts of aid received in the past decades and the growth performance is very weak," aid has become increasingly effective and in certain cases has been vital—although it represents only about 2 per cent. of the total income of developing countries it has financed about 10 per cent. of investment.

### Aid bias against large nations

Even more important however, is the need for a continuing expansion in world trade: the growth rate of individual developing countries since 1950 correlate better with their export performance than with any other single economic factor. "Foreign exchange is a crucial resource" in development planning, says the report, and makes several recommendations for improving the economic relationships between developing and industrialised countries. None of the 76 recommendations in the report are new and they are not impracticable, although the plea (not an actual recommendation) that aid and disputes concerning foreign investment should be kept separate is perhaps wishful thinking.

The report considers that increased allocation of aid should be primarily related to performance instead of the various other factors by which it is at present conditioned. There is no reason why Sierra Leone should have received \$5.9 per head in aid from 1964 to 1966 while Ghana got \$7.6 and Nigeria \$2.0, or that while Ghana and Nigeria both received aid during 1960-67 amounting to 10 per cent. of their exports, Nigeria had over 30 per cent. in grants, Ghana about 10 per cent. There has been a

general aid bias against large nations which regularly receive smaller amounts of aid on a per capita basis. "It is absurd but true that India would have received more aid in the past if she had split into several independent countries. This irrational imbalance could to some extent be adjusted by multilateral assistance, through which the report recommends the aid-givers should channel 20 per cent. of their official development assistance. Another recommendation urges donor countries to commit the equivalent of one-half or more of their interest payments due them on official bilateral loans from developing countries to the World Bank to subsidise the interest rate on some Bank lending.

On birth control, the report says it would be "particularly unwise" for aid-givers to insist on the adoption of population policies by other countries as a condition for aid, but recommends that pressure is applied in aid negotiations for adequate analysis of population problems and their bearing on development programmes.

The trouble is that these recommendations touch on so many facets of aid, trade and development (on technical assistance, for instance, it is noted that in 1967 developing countries obtained the temporary services of 16,000 foreign advisers but about 40,000 of their own national professionals emigrated to the industrialised countries) but there is no co-ordinating agency, to weld them into a systematic programme. That is why the report's final recommendation is for the President of the World Bank to convene an international conference next year to consider the creation of new supervisory machinery.

At the end of the report is an Annex on the development situation in the various regions of the world, drawn from materials prepared in the course of the Commission's enquiry. The section on Africa says that in general there has been more progress toward national consolidation than toward economic development. Excluding Libya, Congo, Kinshasa and Zambia, where oil and copper control the figures, there was a trade deficit of \$500m. by 1967. "Foreign exchange constraint . . . is beginning to limit capital formation and increase Africa's dependence on external support". The flow of financial resources to Africa is already larger, on a per capita basis, than the flow to Latin America or Asia, Africa receiving 22 per cent. (\$1.6 billion) of total, official bilateral and multilateral flows available to the developing countries from non-Communist sources in 1967. A warning is given of Ivory Coast's growing debt burden, which grew from \$35m. in 1960 to over \$100m. by January 1968 and is expected to double again by 1975. By 1975 Africa should be able to absorb double the amount of aid it receives today, provided it is based on concessional terms. The small states may have no chance of survival at all unless they arrange to create economies, but not necessarily political units, considerably larger than their own boundaries.

\* Former Canadian Premier Lester Pearson was the Chairman and the Commissioners were Sir Edward Boyle, Roberto de Oliveira Campos, Douglas Dillon, Wilfrid Guth, Arthur Lewis, Robert Marjolin and Saburo Okita. The report, "Partners in Development" has been published by Praeger, \$2.50.

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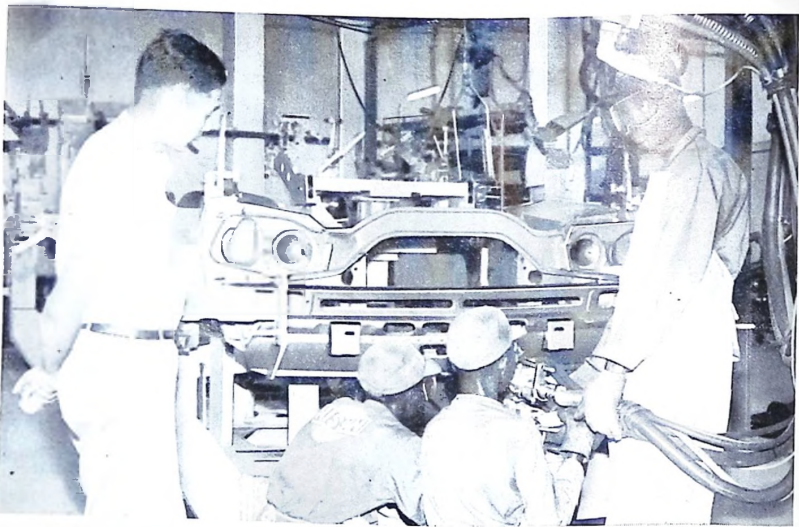
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## Slow Road to Recovery

GHANA had a trade surplus of 24.8 million cedis in 1968 (imports 314m., exports 338.8m.), compared with deficits in the previous two years. But if Ghana had not had to import \$1m. cedis' worth of food in 1968, the trade surplus then would have been much higher—about 75m. cedis, or over £30m. And, of the import programme, drawn up for licensing purposes.

This is one result, noted in the Standard Bank Group's recent Economic Review of Ghana, of the poorly developed state of Ghana's agriculture. The volume of agricultural imports has trebled in a decade, and local food prices have doubled since 1963. And last year was a bad one because of the weather: floods hampered the harvesting and marketing of crops; rice production was 17 per cent down and maize production 12 per cent down in 1968-69, compared with 1967-68. Prices rose because of damage to the (already poor) feeder roads.

The Bank comments, "To a certain extent Ghana will always remain a food-importing country. For example, import substitution of wheat and dairy products is not currently feasible. However, the bulk of imported foodstuffs could be produced locally—i.e. sugar, rice, maize, millet, edible oils, livestock and fish." Recent steps in this direction include guaranteed prices for rice and maize (raised in 1969), a cut in the price of fertilisers, and reorganisation of the State Farms Corporation which now operates only 45 farms.

On cocoa, the review suggests an immediate increase in production after last year's sharp decline (due partly to the 1968 rains), "in order to reap the benefits of higher prices", and, in the longer run, increased yields in proportion to the growth of world demand. Higher short-term output "depends on the success of an intensified disease eradication campaign and on the government's producer price policy", says the Bank, while in the long run the Cocoa Division's extension services and farmer training programmes need to be restored and widened, with Government subsidies.

Read problems affected not only cocoa and food crops, but also timber, whose output rose in 1968—exports of both logs and sawnwood were up—but would have risen more but for the transport difficulty (exporters have had no difficulty in selling Ghana's wood). The review records the concessionary rail freight rates offered for "secondary" species of timber, and the plan for a £2.2m. sawmill and veneer and plywood factory at Fumes near Kumasi.

The plans to raise gold production both at the Ashanti Goldfields' Obuasi mine and at the two most important of the nationalised mines, and to expand bauxite output with a view to a possible alumina industry (see article in *West Africa*, Oct. 4) are recorded in the review. It notes that production of both bauxite and manganese has recently fallen, while gold and diamond output rose slightly in 1968. British Aluminium has had difficulty in finding enough railway trucks to evacuate bauxite to port by rail from Awaso, while the manganese mines are nearly exhausted.

The squeeze of the past few years, one cause of the poor showing of some other sectors, has halted almost all new development in the industrial sector. But import

restrictions have positively helped one already existing factory, the Textile Manufacturing Co. plant at Tema, which is engaged in nearly doubling its output. And some new enterprises are planned—Lonrho's pito factory at Tamale, an evaporated milk plant near Kumasi, a ceramics plant at Saltpond, an asbestos cement factory. Some older enterprises have come to fruition: the Drevici group's food complex at Tema is now producing. Import restrictions, however, have cut private investment more than at first expected, and foreign private investment has been "low relative to the potential attractiveness of the Ghanaian market", so that the private sector "has reached the stage of transition from stabilisation to development not appreciably stronger than it was early in 1966".

This "stage of transition" has not progressed so well as hoped; less money was available for development in 1968-69 (first year of the proposed interim Development Plan) than estimated, because of the low cocoa crop. Consultants are at work on studies of possible investment in rice, sugar, etc., and plans such as the new one for Volta Lake transport are afoot: expansion of electrical and water supplies is planned. The National Investment Bank intends to encourage new industrial and mining enterprises, and increases in agricultural output, to cut imports. There are also the road improvement plans. But all these plans must be affected by the dashing of hopes that 1968 would be a "year of transition".

The review supports Mr. Mensah's appeal for another debt rescheduling: under the agreement of a year ago Ghana must pay 20m. cedis in repayment of medium-term debts this year, and 50m. in the next two years. Ghana has cut back government spending and delayed development, at a cost of high unemployment, to be able to pay debts and "avoid as far as possible inflationary pressures arising from definite financing"; but, says the Bank, it is unlikely to be able to meet its obligations without a further squeeze, even though the balance of payments improved in 1968. Reserves, at 22.3m. cedis, were "uncomfortably low" at the end of the 1968.

The budget for 1968-69 was too optimistic, and at the year's end the deficit was 500,000 cedis, while a surplus of 40m. had been expected. As exports and imports were below expectation, so was revenue from duties. This year, however, a 40 per cent increase in imports of investment goods is intended, to help raise investment from 13 per cent of DP in 1968 to 16 in 1970.

The Ghana Government estimates there will be a gap of some NC64m. between the minimum import requirements for 1969 (some NC347m.) and the resources available locally to finance them. Cocoa receipts might help, but, says the review, "Ghana... continues to require substantial financial assistance and will continue to do so beyond 1970." The outlook for the next 12 months is "for a gradual increase in the rate of development with imports of non-investment goods still strictly controlled and with consumer demand in Ghana remaining depressed." Recurrent expenditure must continue to be watched carefully if planned development spending is not to be jeopardised. The growth rate for the next 12 months "is likely to be about 2.5-3 per cent—the real growth rate in 1968 not having risen above the 2.4 per cent of 1967.



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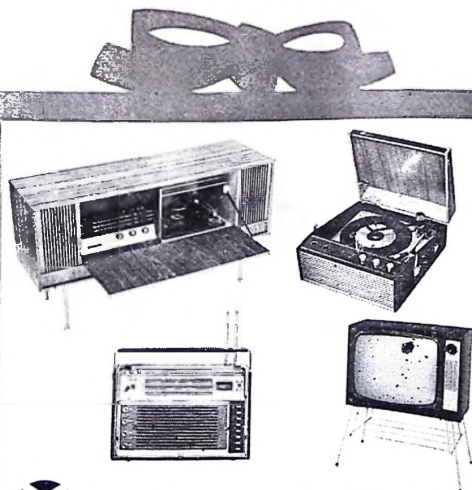
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## ROUNDOABOUT

### What's Happening in Mali?

News coming out of Bamako is scarce these days, for example, travellers arriving in Dakar in the middle of August spoke of an abortive coup on the night of August 12-13, but there was no follow-up. The attempt was never officially admitted. A month later, however, the Foreign Minister Jean-Marie Koné, the most eminent civilian member of the government, was dropped from the government without explanation, to be replaced by Sory Coulibaly, former Ambassador to Moscow. Clearly something was afoot at a high level. Then, a week later Lt. Moussa Traoré, hero of the November 19 coup, and chairman of the CMLN (Military National Liberation Committee), moved in to take over the running of the government from his fellow coup-maker Capt. Yoro Diakité, who was demoted to become Minister of Transport. Mamadou Aw, the Minister of Planning was replaced by Robert Ndaw (up till then an Assistant Secretary-General of the Senegal River States' Organisation), and two other ministers Henri Corenthin, and gendarmier officer Balla Kone were also dropped. All this happened again without explanation.

More light is cast on events by Joel Hang in *Jeune Afrique*, and by the French Marxist historian Jean Suret-Canale in *L'Humanité*, the Paris Communist daily. M. Hang gives an account of the coup attempt of August, which he says was plotted by the former warden of the prison camp at Kidal in the Sahara, Capt. Djibi Sylla Diarra, who had been made governor of the province of Gao by the CMLN. Diarra was sometimes described as pro-Chinese because he had returned from a visit to Peking wearing a Mao tunic, says M. Hang. He and other officers, including a Captain Ouologuem, former ADC of President Modibo Keita and commander of the post at Nara on the Mali-Mauritanian border, were arrested. The aim had apparently been the restoration of the Keita regime. M. Hang sees the replacement of Koné by Coulibaly as an example of replacement of a moderate by a leftist (Koné, a known ally of President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast, was the man the French most like to deal with, while Coulibaly's reputation depends on his tough anti-colonial line when he was chairman of the special travelling mission of the UN Decolonisation Committee).

### Socialism Adapted?

M. Hang also writes that the departure of Mamadou Aw represented a victory for the Minister of Finance Louis Nègre, who had lost the Planning portfolio to Aw in a reshuffle earlier this year. Aw

was said to have been responsible for writing a report recommending the abandonment of all Mali's "socialist structures", particularly the state enterprises, while Nègre was in favour of "socialism adapted to Malian realities", that is a rationalisation and improvement of the existing system. The ILO had been invited to help in the improvement operation. A particular bone of contention appears to have been Somiex, the state monopoly of the import-export business, which was the subject of much argument in the Franco-Malian talks, but which has so far been maintained as a guarantee of price levels. The Franco-Malian agreements provide, however, that state industries which could not balance their budget should either close or be deprived of bank funds, and decisions had to be taken. This should not really be seen too much in "left-right" terms, as Nègre is respected in France, and, at the end of September, was in Paris talking about the mechanics of integrating Mali fully into the franc zone, with membership of the West African Monetary Union. Presumably the question of the state industries was high on the agenda. M. Suret-Canale's article is purely denunciatory, condemning the military first of all for taking over, then for their vacillations and arbitrary arrests, with a plea for all the well-known political detainees beginning with Modibo Keita, Madeira Keita and

Ousmane Ba. What is interesting is the way he links recent events with the conference of civil servants at the end of July, at which the military found themselves faced with lengthy denunciations of corruption and inefficiency on the part of the new ministers, as well as calls to renewed socialism, and release of former leaders, which Lt. Traoré found "hateful, rude and sometimes insulting". After saying a consultative committee on the return to civilian rule would be set up shortly, he quoted from a "flexible" statement of Lenin on socialism and capitalism, suggesting that if the former regime had been so flexible, the present difficulties would not have occurred. For there is no doubt that economically Mali is still in parlous shape, although attempts are being made to reduce the budget and trade deficits, prices are still rising, and smuggling is still a serious problem. M. Hang stresses notable efforts to improve production, but there is clearly still a long way to go.

### Coup-Maker Dies

Reports from Libreville say that Sub-Lieutenant Daniel Mbene, one of the instigators of the abortive coup of February 1964, died in the capital's general hospital on September 24. He has been in jail since the coup, and on September 18 underwent surgery.

## Griot

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## "B.A."—THE NEW I.G.P.

From a correspondent

"WE are being accused openly time and again of being corrupt. Let us admit that we are corrupt and give the Naton the assurance here and now that we will turn over a new leaf in the wake of the Second Republic." Forceful words, but not surprising, for they were spoken by Mr. Bawa Andani Yakubu when he addressed the forces under his command as Ghana's new Inspector-General of Police.

Not surprising because B.A.—as everybody calls him—will always speak openly on subjects he feels strongly about. And he feels very strongly about the Ghana Police Service. He joined in 1945 at a time when the people from the Northern Territories were lucky if they received anything but an elementary education. Those who did succeed in reaching a secondary school were expected to return to the North as clerks in the local government. A Northerner tended to be regarded with a suspicious eye by the authorities, with usually a blanket condemnation that they are illiterate, rebellious or both.

B.A. was by no means illiterate but he was certainly rebellious as far as his own career was concerned. He was determined not to be a clerk and he immediately accepted the suggestion made by police friends in Tamale that he should join the Force. But there was a snag. Northerners at that time joined the Escort Police. If they were lucky they could transfer after the passage of time and acquisition of education to the General Police. The highest rank in the Escort Police was Sergeant Major—and there was only one of them.

There was another important objection. The Escort Police uniform includes a red fez, and under no circumstances could B.A. as a Prince of the Dagombas, wear a red fez. His determination not to be an Escort Policeman made the result inevitable. The British superintendent of the police in the North gave Yakubu a letter. He travelled from his village outside Yendi (he was born in Gushiegu in 1926, and was educated at Yendi and at Tamale Government Senior School) by foot and truck to Accra, presented his letter, was again adamant in his refusal to become an Escort Policeman, wrote an essay about his journey which was highly impressed one of the officers, and so finally sat the examinations and was recruited into the General Police.

He had made his point. A point which was important not only for himself but for the whole of the North. From his determination came the realisation by others that Northerners should have the same opportunities as other Ghanaians, and it crystallised his own sensitivity and devotion to the Police Force and to what he feels is right for his people. Now that

he is Inspector-General one is bound to ask whether the "class distinction" of the Ghana Police will continue, with Northerners set aside for the Escort Police, or whether the two forces will be merged. This was recommended as long ago as 1952 by Colonel Young (in the news today as the newly appointed head of the Royal Ulster Constabulary), but his report was never implemented, because the CPP at the time found the separate existence of the Escort Police useful. But it has irked



Northerners, and in spite of the problems of lower educational standards of Northerners it involves, is clearly an overdue reform.

At the passing out parade for recruits B.A. received the baton of honour, and from then onwards the success of his career was never in doubt. He was the first Ghanaian to become a gazetted officer in under 12 years, with just an ordinary middle school leaving certificate. He was the last inspector to benefit from the Government scholarship scheme for subordinate colonial officers, and so spent six months at the Police College in Hendon.

He tells magnificent stories of his time at Hendon and the two weeks spent in Z-cars in Sheffield and Wakefield, where his primary interest was in training methods. A friend of his during these six months was a Fijian. The two of them enjoyed wearing traditional dress—and also enjoyed the interest caused when they appeared in it. One day but puzzled drunk who encountered B.A. in full flowing smock, trousers and boots in Piccadilly and who looked, looked again said "D'yer know yer wearing yer pyjamas." He tells this amid great handclapping shouts of laughter.

One of B.A.'s most obvious characteristics is his laugh, which is as big as he is and as all-embracing. His humour is also shown in his dancing which he loves. From time to time he holds a Durbar at his house with the drums talking in the middle of the circle. As the stars take over from the sun the horse tail switch is passed from hand to hand as each dancer responds to the drums. Yakubu dominates it with his enjoyment, a huge figure in traditional dress.

After he returned from Hendon he was gazetted and in 1961 he superseded about 40 senior officers to become Deputy Commissioner of Police. Another post he held at one stage was second-in-command at Elmina Castle, which no doubt accounts for the fact that there are a couple of cannons from the Castle outside the police officers' mess at the Police Training Depot in Accra.

In 1966 came the coup, the National Liberation Council and the start of B.A.'s service on it. Now that the civilian government has taken over the NLC are beginning to get the recognition they deserve as a remarkable administration. Of course they made mistakes, of course they had their difficult moments, but their concern was the welfare of Ghana, their desire was democratic and financial recovery, and their achievement was the laying of solid foundations.

B.A. was honoured and pleased to serve his country, but in carrying his share of all state problems and duties it was impossible to concentrate solely on the police. Now that difficulty has disappeared and he can continue to serve his country through his police, and he gives the impression of being a happy man because of it.

He has already made it clear that he is not satisfied with the police image at the moment and that things are going to change. And with his usual clear sight he has pointed out that the very real grievances of the police will only be rectified "upon production of satisfaction in our duties." He knows that the police will have to do their share first, and he is the man to ensure that they do.

To a large extent B.A. is the epitome of his people. He is supremely dignified, regal and reserved, and at the same time full of exuberance and hospitality and personal bravery. He is honest, scornful of corruption and utterly unwavering in his principles and his decisions. It would be unwise to take liberties with him, as with so many of his people. He is proud to have reached the top of his career and part of the satisfaction is because a Northerner is now Inspector-General of Police. But, in spite of his pride in the North and in any Northerner who does well, he would never jeopardise the welfare of Ghana for that of his own people. He believes in efficiency and in having the best man for every job.

He is unlikely ever to become pompous in his rank. He still turns out for the Veterans Hockey Team and there is always his dancing. But there is something else. Many an unsuspecting motorist has been shattered as, glancing at the traffic cop, he sees it is the Inspector-General. B.A. is not the man to wait for a constable to sort out a traffic snarl-up. If he comes across one he's out of his car and in there, getting everything moving.

On taking up his appointment he said to his men, "You know me and what I stand for." They do, and so does Ghana.



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# books and publications

## DE GAULLE'S AFRICA?

French-Speaking Africa Since Independence, by Guy de Lusignan (Pall Mall Press, 63s.)

THE scope and complexity of this particular subject make it extremely difficult to know how to treat it as a standard work in a series like the Pall Mall Press Library of African Affairs. A major problem is the organisation of material in a work considering fifteen countries, and at the same time their relationships with each other and their former metropolis. M. de Lusignan, who has worked in Brazzaville, Lagos and Algiers among other places, has travelled widely in Africa, and now works for an "international financing and development organisation," divides his book into three parts.

The first deals with the transition to independence, especially the years 1958-60; the second is a country-by-country survey of the independent nations, and the third is a section of "Final Clarifications and Conclusions," in which he looks at their international relations and "economic and political realities." This is probably the only way it can be handled, although the centre section on individual countries is unsatisfactory. On the one hand the format forces the inclusion of a heap of "guide-book" details ("the country is fairly large, covering an area of 95,000 square miles"), and on the other hand the need for compression leads to simplification and patchiness.

This is not to say there are not frequent flashes of illumination, for M. de Lusignan's background knowledge is considerable, and we are reminded of some of those episodes of recent political history which have faded most quickly. His section on Cameroon, for example, is good, recalling the mastery with which Ahidjo stole the UPC's clothing in demanding full independence (Cameroon was also the only member of the Brazzaville group to attend Lumumba's Pan-African Conference in August 1960). He works the reader up to a Dumont-like irritation with the follies of Fulbert Youlou, although he overdoes the strings of adjectives (in one place "shrewd, crafty, pleasure-loving Youlou" and in another "the diminutive, megalomaniac [sic], champagne-loving Abbé").

He has not much use for the ex-leaders of Dahomey, although he enthuses for Zinsou, "the most

respected politician of his country." Those in power emerge better than those out, although he is indulgent, perhaps too indulgent, towards Yameogo ("somewhat dictatorial, but he meant well"). While accepting the author's admiration for the political skills of Felix Houphouët-Boigny, I cannot agree with his comment on the presidential palace in Abidjan, whose "opulent offices, huge air-conditioned rooms, marble steps and statues" he describes: "Who could object? The standard of living has improved for many in the Ivory Coast and the country could afford this luxury, and more." Dumont would never have written that.

Had he been writing a little later, he might have radically revised his comments on Chad. Although Tombalbaye's longevity in power may be a "credible achievement", would he still say that Tombalbaye was "the best type of leader for Chad today"? The book pro-

vides a good reminder, however, of the instability which has been Chad's experience since independence.

There is a useful section on the Touareg revolt in Mali in 1964, about which little was written at the time, and his appreciation of the consolidation in power of Moktar Ould Daddah makes a neat essay. He only nibbles, however, at the problem of Ivoirien chauvinism, and surprisingly, manages to write about the Council of the Entente without mentioning the failure of Houphouët's "double nationality" scheme in 1966, which was a turning point if not a stopping point in the history of that organisation. It seems unfair to say of Olympio that he "was considered to be without human feeling," and it is surely superficial to take the lack of popular reaction to the fall of Olympio as evidence that he was without popular support. Yoro Diakité did not become head of state after the Mali coup, and the 14-nation West African Community was hardly pioneered by Ould Daddah alone.

There is more meat to be had from M. de Lusignan's opening and closing sections. He rightly dwells on the major role of General de Gaulle in the decolonisation process, and although he goes on a bit too much about the undeniable "devotion and trust" of African crowds to the General, he is quite blunt in his criticisms of the General's attitude to Sekou Toure. Although written from a point of view broadly favourable to France and the

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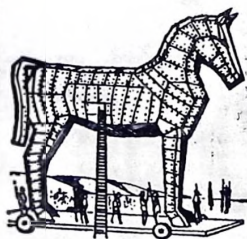
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way she decolonised, he is some-  
admirably frank. Businessmen,  
example, were gratified to find  
"French-speaking Africa was  
French-buying Africa" and was  
dependent on the French mon-  
system. He works over the franc  
although not with any especially en-  
eye, and his piece on economic rea-  
shows admirable thoroughness.  
clearly, is what he likes writing ab-  
and he does it well. He also cons-  
carefully, although at perhaps too  
a length, the degree to which  
French-speaking states have sh-  
themselves independent of France  
their foreign policies, especially on  
issues of Israel and China. He has  
good and highly informative section  
armies, with a useful table.

The value is spoilt to some extent  
a lack of follow-up on French poli-  
dealt with in detail in the first part,  
not in any coherent way thereafter. P-  
haps it would have been better to ha-  
had one book on French policy  
francophone Africa (which could be-  
truly be called de Gaulle's Africa, as  
suggests as an alternative title), as  
another on the countries themselves.  
it is, the author, and thus the read-  
falls between two stools. It is fascinat-  
to be told, for instance, that when  
abortive French community was set  
there was an "external security serv-  
under the control of the French Pri-  
Minister, to coordinate the polic-  
police in each country of the com-  
munity. Does any remnant of this  
exist? In spite of the useful milit-  
data he provides on the countries,  
on the French troops and the Afri-  
military network is thin. And Y-  
Foccart, the second most import-  
Frenchman after de Gaulle as far  
Africa was concerned, is only mentio-  
once, to record his appointment.

M. de Lusignan's good paris lea-  
one tantalised, and all the mo-  
irritated by the inadequate parts. It  
unfortunate, certainly, that he has be-  
overtaken by the fall of de Gaul-  
which would provide an obvious point  
conclusion, where his book seems  
taper rather frantically trying to  
the impossible and keeping abreast  
events such as the UDEAC-UEAC aff-  
the Mali and Brazzaville coupes.  
Better not to have tried, and conc-  
trated instead on, for example,  
illusions which remain in the Fran-  
African relationship, or exploring  
searchingly than he has done the me-  
and demerits of the balkanised  
process. K.

Report of the Director of Audit  
the Accounts of the Government  
West Cameroon. (Published in Bue-

West Cameroon authorities show  
no lack of enthusiasm in erecting seco-  
ary school buildings in 1967-68. In-  
it over-spent by 60 per cent the amo-  
provided for them. This is one of m-  
such cases to which this report dr-  
attention. 18 other projects exce-

October 18, 1969

the intended expenditure, though usually by no more than a few million CFA francs (the offices and quarters for the prisons, however, cost about 47m. instead of the intended 30m.).

The Director of Audit, however, mentions an increase in the consolidated revenue funds. In other directions, too, he is optimistic—such reports, though effective in certain countries (such as Ghana and Sierra Leone) for revealing irregularities, also record routine happenings. In Cameroon the quality of accounting staff needs to be improved. There is a long list of losses of funds due to fraud, theft, or negligence, ranging from 6,000 CFA francs' worth of lottery funds from the district office at Kumba to a water revenue fraud amounting to nearly 1.3m. francs at the same town.

Altogether, however, nearly every government department saved money in the year (when revenue, at 2,839,000 francs, was 21m. francs above the estimate). The Prime Minister's office spent 15m CFA francs less than estimated, the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Finance spent less than half the appropriated 48.7m. francs. Total net savings were about 232.5m., so this is no spend-thrift government. **J.D.**

The *Boletim Geral do Ultramar*, containing some useful information from the Portuguese aide about Angola, Mozambique and other "Overseas Territories" of Portugal, has in its January-February 1969 issue the latest New Year message from President Tomaz: promising celebrations of the fifth centenary of the birth of Vasco da Gama, and recalling his visit to Portuguese Guinea (which "continues to fight terrorism which neighbour states shelter, protect and aid . . ."), but where "thousands of Portuguese of all races and religions" greeted him) and other colonies. There is also an article on São Tomé in the 18th century. In the March issue there is a detailed and useful analysis of the foreign trade of Angola in 1968, and a note on the 84th anniversary of the Simlambuco Treaty under which Portugal annexed Cabinda, the enclave north of the Congo river estuary. Themes of the photographs (of good quality) range from the tragic (half-dead Biafran children arriving in São Tomé for treatment—which, however, had considerable success) to the lightweight (an exhibition of posts, telegraphs and telephones work in Angola, on the feast day of the Archangel Gabriel, patron saint of telecommunications). Dr. Salazar's progress is, of course, recorded in these pages, and nurses who tended him are pictured receiving decorations in Lisbon. (*Publication obtainable from the Agencia Geral do Ultramar, Lisbon.*) **D.J.**

This guide lists the published government records from 1872, the date of the first Gold Coast *Gazette* held by the Library of Congress, to 1968. It includes publications of the Gold Coast and Ghana governments, and a selection of British government documents relating specifically to the Gold Coast, Ghana and former British Togoland. Also included are League of Nations and UN publications on British Togoland. The emphasis is on official documents held by the Library of Congress and other American libraries. In the Ghana section there is also a selection of titles not located in American libraries, gathered primarily from various bibliographies. **P.N.**

**Fabled Tribe**, by Clive Cowley (*Longmans*, 36s.)

Popularised anthropology in the Okavango swamps of Botswana. A team of scientists from Witwatersrand University discover survivors of the Tannekwe, a legendary lost tribe of river dwellers. Mr. Cowley was the "official chronicler" and he discharges his duties competently, with the clichés about "Africa the Dark" standing revealed as one might expect. **J.K.H.**

The HCR Bulletin, published by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, records in its April-May-June 1969 issue the Inter-Agency Meeting on Assistance to Refugees in Africa in Geneva; agreements on the Haut-M'Bomou settlement scheme (for Sudan-

ese refugees in CAR; the first emergency allocation (\$16,000) for Nigerian war refugees in Equatorial Guinea; recruitment of social workers to aid refugees in Dakar; and the signing of the UNHCR-OAU agreement on "close co-operation and regular consultations". The UNCHR is the coordinating body for aid to refugees, including those in Africa, whose number has risen to 900,000, according to the High Commissioner (this excludes Nigerian war refugees and others who do not cross frontiers).

**Sport and Society** by Dennis Brailsford (*Routledge and Kegan Paul*, £2 5s.); a history of the growth of sports and various attitudes to them in England between the ages of Elizabeth I to Anne.

## Books and Publications Received

**Manual of Industrial Project Analysis in Developing Countries: Volume I methodology and case studies** (*Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*, £4 5s.) sets out for reference the techniques of project analysis for those confronted with practical problems and who are not theoretical economists.

**We Killed Mangy-Dog** by Luis Bernardo Honwana (*Heinemann Educational Books*, 6s.).

**Twenty Snobs and Mao**, by Colette Modiano (*Michael Joseph*, 35s.).

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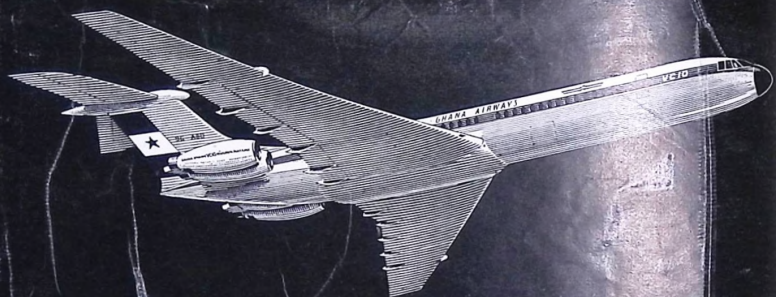
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**BARBER STEAMSHIP LINES LTD.**, General European Agents, Salisbury Square House, Salisbury Square, London, E.C.4.

**A Guide to Official Publications 1872-1968—Ghana.** (*Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402: \$1-25.*)

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October 18, 1969

## MATCHET'S DIARY

Last weekend, on October 12 (Hispanity Day) Equatorial Guinea celebrated its first independence anniversary. The great drama of the post-independence crisis and power struggle which erupted at the end of February, and which led to the mass withdrawal of Spanish citizens from the country, has now cooled down. But the anniversary comes as extremely sober reassessments are being made of the damage the crisis caused, and of the acute needs, some of which were there anyway. The organisation of African Unity has been especially aware of the problem in Equatorial Guinea, and sent a mission to investigate, which reported to the heads of state conference in Addis Ababa in September. This had found that after the crisis the country had been "on the brink of social, economic and political chaos and the most inextricable disorder", and that OAU members had fallen short in the aid they have made available to the infant state. However, with the anniversary, there are signs that, at any rate, enough is being done to prevent the breakdown the OAU mission feared. To begin with talks with Spain produced an agreement in August, first for the provision of budgetary aid, to the tune of £2.4m., and a commitment by Spain to buy a certain percentage of the cocoa and timber crops, secondly for a new Spanish-backed currency, the Guinea peseta to be launched, which happened on October 12. A National Bank was opened on the same day. Spanish technical assistance personnel have to a limited extent returned, as have a few workers of the private companies, but there is still a serious shortage of trained people. This is where African states are beginning to fill the gap: Cameroon signed a co-operation agreement at the end of August and when Diallo Telli, OAU Secretary-General, arrived in Santa Isabel (from Calabar in a special plane), he brought with him two Ethiopian military advisers who are to help train the Equatorial Guinea army, and a five-man Egyptian medical team; Congo-Kinshasa is also to give assistance. The World Food Programme is sending 1,600 tons of food to Equatorial Guinea to help tide over a breakdown in school and hospital feeding: more than £145,000 worth of wheat and maize flour, dried fish and vegetable oil will feed 40,000 school children and more than 1,600 patients for six months. The shortage arises from the poor cocoa crop.

Nigeria, which opened a telecommunication link between Lagos and Santa Isabel on October 12, is taking a deep interest, for obvious reasons. President Macias has, since last December, been pursuing an actively pro-Federal line and only a few weeks ago Biafra radio was complaining bitterly that Biafrans on Fernando Po were being victimised

(there is a large indentured labour population on Fernando Po recruited in the former Eastern Nigeria, 75 per cent of which is Ibo, the rest from the minority areas: they constitute fifty per cent of the island's population). Another country which has been taking an extreme interest in Equatorial Guinea is the USSR, which has just opened a large embassy in Santa Isabel the size of which has been giving food for thought to those who worry at possible extensions of Soviet influence in this area of Africa. Students of political form in Equatorial Guinea have also noted that President Macias, who moved to Bata after the troubles in which he eliminated all his major political rivals, has of late been paying visits to Fernando Po. He is still based on his own home ground, however.

It is good news that the Federal Government has decided to establish Dr. Azikiwe, for his brief time in London, in one of the residences of the former Regional Agents-General. It provides suitable accommodation for an ex-President to live and entertain. Dr. Azikiwe seems likely later to return to Nigeria to settle down and write his memoirs—the custom of ex-statesmen, as he himself said at his London news conference last week. In the meantime, it is possible that he will visit one or more West European capitals to put the Federal case. The number of representatives of Embassies and High Commissions who attended his London conference shows

that foreign countries are still interested in what the ex-President has to say. The pro-Biafran demonstrators outside the Nigerian High Commission during the news conference seemed subdued compared with the atmosphere inside—though they had gone back as far as the Foster-Sutton tribunal to find something to say against Dr. Azikiwe.

For Nigeria, the most important diplomatic post at present may be Paris. French arms are the mainstay of Biafra, but France continues to deny that they are sent, and there are important groups, particularly those with commercial interests in Nigeria, who are very anxious for the most cordial relations with the Federal Government. The French Government of Pompidou is no more likely than it was under De Gaulle to listen to third parties (except, perhaps, President Houphouët-Boigny, with whom Nigeria has no diplomatic relations) on the Nigerian issue. There is therefore a great opportunity for Nigerian diplomacy in Paris. Since the unhappy death of Alhaji Abdul Maliki, there has been no Nigerian Ambassador in Paris. Mr. Tayo Ogunselie, an experienced diplomat and a French speaker, is fully capable of running the embassy but he lacks the necessary status. I have no news, however, of any replacements for Alhaji Abdul Maliki although it can be argued that now is the time for Nigeria to send to Paris, if only for a year, a man of outstanding calibre, from whatever field

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International diplomacy seems to have blinded us of the golden rule of not doing to others what one wouldn't like others to do to one. How would Mr. Folsom, the British and the Americans respectively feel if some Ghanaian springs out, seizes a Ghanaian province and proclaims himself "General"; or a Welsh Nationalist proclaims the Independent Republic of Wales; or a crazy group of cowboy vigilantes seize one of the fifty American states and proclaim it independent? Would they be happy if foreign radios referred to such rebels by the rebels' assumed official titles?

For every mention of the words "General" Ojukwu, and "Biafran" government, the Nigerian arch-rebel feels a ray of false hope and jumps for joy, blinding himself to the hopelessness of his cause.

The VOA, BBC, Radio Ghana and other countries' radios cannot claim to be so independent as to act contrary to their governments' official policy. If these governments who are Nigeria's traditional friends still allow their press and radio to refer to Nigeria's arch-rebel as "General" and his fake republic as "Biafra", then every Nigerian may likely agree with Mr. Okojie that they are not Nigeria's true friends.

E. OBIUWEMI

Calabar.

### OIL IN POLITICS

Sir.—The suggestion by the former Nigerian Minister of Mines and Power, Alhaji Maitama Sule (*Commercial News*, Aug. 30), that Nigeria's territorial waters should be taken out of the hands of State Governments in order to prevent the recurrence of oil politics which led to the present crisis, sounds very unreasonable in the light of all the circumstances.

If what he said should be so, then Nigeria's lands should also be taken out of the hands of the State Governments in order to prevent the recurrence of land politics which also led to the present crisis. What then would be the purposes of the creation of the new states?

Will the annual quotas which the States are required to contribute to the general pool for governmental activities not be sufficient for the Governments' requirements, so as to allay the fears of monopoly by states with territorial waters? These waters are as purely natural to the states where they are found as territorial lands are to all the states.

L. G. J. KOKO

### LEADERS ON THE ROADS

Sir.—I read with interest "Sierra Leonean's" letter (Oct. 4). It might interest readers to know that Sir Dawda Jawara travels unaccompanied by even an orderly, let alone dispatch riders, when off duty. I hasten to add that he travels several miles outside Bathurst.

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M. D. N'JIE

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### FRIENDS OR FOES?

Sir,—Mr. Sparkle Okojie (9/8/69) hit the nail right on the head, and Mr. J. H. Folsom (23/8/69) did nothing but expose the out-of-diplomacy methods of the countries concerned. What else but this can explain how Radio Ghana, BBC, VOA and the radios of many other countries which don't recognise the Nigerian rebels still continue to refer to Ojukwu as "General" and his dream empire as "Biafra"?

International diplomacy seems to have blinded us of the golden rule of not doing to others what one wouldn't like others to do to one. How would Mr. Folsom, the British and the Americans respectively feel if some Ghanaian springs out, seizes a Ghanaian province and proclaims himself "General"; or a Welsh Nationalist proclaims the Independent Republic of Wales; or a crazy group of cowboy vigilantes seize one of the fifty American states and proclaim it independent? Would they be happy if foreign radios referred to such rebels by the rebels' assumed official titles?

For every mention of the words "General" Ojukwu, and "Biafran" government, the Nigerian arch-rebel feels a ray of false hope and jumps for joy, blinding himself to the hopelessness of his cause.

The VOA, BBC, Radio Ghana and other countries' radios cannot claim to be so independent as to act contrary to their governments' official policy. If these governments who are Nigeria's traditional friends still allow their press and radio to refer to Nigeria's arch-rebel as "General" and his fake republic as "Biafra", then every Nigerian may likely agree with Mr. Okojie that they are not Nigeria's true friends.

E. OBIJUVI

Calabar.

### OIL IN POLITICS

Sir,—The suggestion by the former Nigerian Minister of Mines and Power, Alhaji Maitama Sule (*Commercial News*, Aug. 30), that Nigeria's territorial waters should be taken out of the hands of State Governments in order to prevent the recurrence of oil politics which led to the present crisis, sounds very unreasonable in the light of all the circumstances.

If what he said should be so, then Nigeria's lands should also be taken out of the hands of the State Governments in order to prevent the recurrence of land politics which also led to the present crisis. What then would be the purposes of the creation of the new states?

Will the annual quotas which the States are required to contribute to the general pool for governmental activities not be sufficient for the Governments' requirements, so as to allay the fears of monopoly by states with territorial waters? These waters are as purely natural to the states where they are found as territorial lands are to all the states.

L. G. J. KORO

### LEADERS ON THE ROADS

Sir,—I read with interest "Sierra Leonean's" letter (Oct. 4). It might interest readers to know that Sir Dawda Jawara travels unaccompanied by even an orderly, let alone despatch riders, when off duty. I hasten to add that he travels several miles outside Bathurst.

On official occasions, he travels with the minimum entourage, invariably only an orderly.

M. D. N'JIE

Information Office,  
Bathurst.

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# commercial news

## Hackman pleads: Keep politics out

**A**N appeal for a reappraisal of the role of the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board is made in the Board's *Newsletter*. An editorial comment says that changes in the Board's status after 1952 turned it into "a machinery to carry out the whims and caprices of the ruling party." In 1965 the Board was precluded from keeping any reserves "and therefore unable to carry out as it should projects of development such as the building of village post offices and halls, clinics, construction of drainage, bridges and culverts which it handled in the past to improve the rural areas." A reappraisal was needed to avoid "the sad mistakes" of the past.

Because of cocoa's unique position in the economy, says the editorial, the relationship between the Board and the Government of the day should be clearly defined. While Government had the prerogative to lay down a general policy outline for the industry, the Board should be given "a measure of freedom in the discharge of its duties."

In an article in the same issue, the Board's managing director, Mr. U. K. Hackman, takes up the theme, arguing that if the Board was expected to operate free of any bias, the period between 1947 and 1951 was the only time when the organisation's operations could be regarded as ideal. He recalls the forecast of Prof. P. T. Bauer that the Board, as a strong economic monopolist in whose coffers were concentrated the collective savings of the nation, could become an instrument which could be nurtured to further the interests of dictators. This had happened in other countries as well as in Ghana.

He stresses, however, that it is "rather uncharitable" to put the blame on the administrative officials rather than the system of government. Although the CPP completely overreached itself, a good deal of what happened was possible under any other political party: "It is, in part, a general shortcoming of the party system and we have to be forewarned." Appealing for "a political truce" on cocoa, he concludes that

cocoa's contribution to the economy will depend on the finding of an institutional expression for the idea of "national interest in the affairs of the industry."

● An inquiry into the activities of some of the licensed buying agents at the end of the 1968/69 season had revealed "an outstanding, shocking and scandalous fraudulent breach of trust," Mr. Hackman claimed at a press conference. Some agents, he said, had overdeclared the amount of cocoa they had actually delivered to the Board; in some cases, money paid to agents was so used for buying cocoa-but was instead spent on the purchase of cars, trips to London and personal remuneration and diverted to oil palm research, loans to pig farmers and several other uses.

He said that police were looking into the affair. There would be no loss to the Board because if it was unable to obtain the thousands of cedis owed to it by agents it could take over the buildings owned by the companies. Investigations were also being carried out into the issuing of the licences as there appeared to be "something fishy."

## More cocoa talks

Objections by Cameroon and Ivory Coast to proposed quotas for international cocoa agreement was one of the main topics at the 13th assembly of the Producers Alliance meeting in Yaounde. The proposed quotas are based on previous production figures. Ghana would have a quota of 500,000 tons although its production has been around the 350,000 ton mark for several years while Cameroon's quota would be only 86,010 tons, although last year's production topped 100,000 tons. The proposed price for the agreement was also cause for considerable debate—it was when Brazil changed its mind on this point as well as on a number of others, that the preparatory technical meeting in Geneva broke down in June.

## Pile-up continues

Nigerian Railways announced that because of a coal shortage it could ship neither 30,180 tons of groundnuts stored in the north nor 70 full wagons of crop presently standing in a Northern station. The next shipment of coal from Poland is not due to arrive until the end of the month (the Enugu mines have not been functioning since the outbreak of the war and work at those at Okaba in Kwana State has been hampered by flooding).

● More efficient produce evacuation from the northern states was discussed at a meeting of the Transport, Fuel and Power Coordinating Committee in Kaduna.

● During a visit to Poland, Nigeria's Transport Commissioner, Mr. Tarka, said that country was interested in obtaining trains for merchant seamen and in buying outgoing, coastal and river vessels, and would also like to charter Polish ships and Polish rolling stock and railway equipment.

● A £450,000 order for 150 steel-covered railway wagons has been placed with Indian company, Braithwaite of Calcutta by the Ghana Railway Authority. A statement by the Indian High Commissioner in Accra said that the price was about 40 per cent. lower than that quoted by European firms.



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## FRANC ZONE URANIUM BODY

A new organisation, Uranex, has been set up to sell uranium produced by the Franc zone countries: France, Gabon, Niger and the Central African Republic. Mines in these countries account for about 10 per cent of the world's known reserves. Presently, the United States, South Africa and Canada have been the only sellers.

The new company, which expects to sell about 2,000 tons of uranium a year, was formed by the French Atomic Energy Commission (34 per cent.), the Compagnie Minière (33 per cent.) and the Compagnie Minière Mokka (33 per cent.) of uranium (33 per cent.). Total franc area production is expected to be about 4,300 tons a year by 1974, about double France's needs, which have failed to grow as fast as was previously anticipated.

French production is already 1,600 tons a year, Gabon's 700 tons and the CAR's 500 tons, but it was discovery of the extensive deposits in Niger—which should be producing 1,500 tons annually by 1974—which is expected that a large surplus would be available. World prices have fluctuated in recent years but Uranex officials hope that it will settle down in the \$6-8 a lb. range, gradually climbing higher. Several observers have forecasted that if no large deposits are found in the next few years, demand will force up prices by the mid 1970s.

As soon as the formation of the new company was made public, it was announced that negotiations were already in progress for supplying Japanese company on a long-term basis. A single selling agency in place of four producers is expected to prove a more efficient selling method.

■ A Japanese ship, *Skandafu*, one of the biggest carriers in the world, has carried 36,330 tons of iron ore from Sierra Leone to Japan, where three steel companies have a contract with Sierra Leone Development Company for the supply each year of 1.1 million tons of ore.

■ A cement factory in Diemou, Mali, has begun production. All the equipment for the factory, which has a production capacity of 50,000 tons a year, has been sent from the USSR and over 50 Soviet experts are helping to run it.

## Agricultural planning

Ghana is among the countries represented at a conference in Poland which is discussing how a centrally planned economy can most profitably direct agrarian development.

■ Japan's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. Tanaka, has visited Ghana on his African tour. The four-man trade delegation from Thailand has also been there. It discussed the possibility of Thailand selling rice to Ghana and buying Valco aluminium ingots.

■ Foreign Agriculture, the journal of the US Department of Agriculture, has forecast that the world rice situation will move away from the pattern of scarcity and relatively high prices to one of adequate export surpluses and significantly lower prices.

■ Austria has acceded to the International Coffee Agreement, the 62nd country to do so.

■ A \$20,000 agreement has been signed by the Ivory Coast and the FAO for the supply of cheap solar dryers for crops in villages in all parts of the country.

## WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

### ELDER DEMPSTER LINES

**SOUTHBOUND**—From Liverpool:—DEIDIO s/g Liverpool Oct. 27; AUREOL s/g Liverpool Oct. 27; DEGEMA s/g Liverpool Nov. 6; KOHIMA s/g Liverpool Nov. 6; OBUASI s/g Liverpool Oct. 30; DUNKWA s/g Tema Oct. 19; KUMBA due Burutu Oct. 19. From London:—EGORI s/g London Oct. 16; ONITSHA s/g London Oct. 23. From Continent:—OVERRI s/g Bremen Oct. 27; FORCADOS s/g Rotterdam Oct. 18; KADUNA s/g Bremen Oct. 22. From South Wales/Dublin/Glasgow:—PERANG s/g South Wales Oct. 30. From Hull/Middlesbrough:—OTT s/g Middlesbrough Oct. 17.

**NORTHBOUND**—To Liverpool:—DONGA due Las Palmas Oct. 19; FOURAH BAY due Liverpool Oct. 19; BHAMO due Freetown Oct. 22; DALLA s/g Lagos Oct. 18; PFGU due Capetown Oct. 18. To London:—EBANI due Madeira Oct. 21. EBOE due Takoradi Oct. 19; FALABA due Abidjan Oct. 18; KABALA s/g Takoradi Oct. 17.

To Continent:—FIAN due Freetown Oct. 18. To Hull/Hamburg:—FREETOWN due Appa Oct. 18.

To Glasgow:—DUMURRA due Glasgow Oct. 18.

**EASTBOUND**—From USA/Canada:—EUBA due Douala Oct. 19.

**WESTBOUND**—To USA/Canada:—DIXCOVE due New York Oct. 26. DUMBAIBA due Lomé Oct. 21.

From India/Pakistan/Burma:—TEVIOTBANK s/g Bombay Oct. 19. TWEEDBANK d/c Matadi Nov. 4; SHIRABANK s/g Rangoon Oct. 12.

### BARBER LINES

**OUTWARDS**—TITANIA due Monrovia Oct. 21. Hence Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Appa, Warri, Douala and Takoradi; TEMA due sail New York Nov. 4. Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Appa, Douala, Takoradi; CORNEVILLE due sail Monrovia Nov. 7. Halifax NS Nov. 10 for Abidjan, Douala and Takoradi.

**HOMEWARDS**—TEMA now due Philadelphia due Carteret and Norfolk; CORNEVILLE due Carteret and Norfolk; FERNSWOOD now due load Abidjan, Buchanan/Monrovia fourth week Oct.; TITANIA due load Lagos 5 hours ahead Oct. 26, Douala Nov. 1, Lagos/Ghana N. bound first week Nov. Abidjan, Buchanan/Monrovia second week Nov.

### JAPAN K.K. LINE

**WESTBOUND**—From Japan (via Hong Kong) to Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc.—FLORIDA MARU s/d. Japan Oct. 7 due Lagos Nov. 12.

**EASTBOUND**—From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc., to Japan:—TEXAS MARU s/d. Lagos Oct. 24, Tema Oct. 26, Freetown Oct. 30, due Japan Dec. 5.

### PALM LINE

**SOUTHBOUND**—From London:—KANO PALM due Appa Nov. 2.

From Liverpool:—ELMINA PALM due Las Palmas Oct. 20. From Continent:—ANDONI PALM due Tenerife Oct. 20.

**NORTHBOUND**—To Liverpool:—IBADAN PALM s/g Appa Oct. 22; ILORIN PALM s/g Appa Oct. 16.

### HOLLAND WEST-AFRICA LIJN

**SOUTHBOUND**—From Continent:—BLITAR due Abidjan Oct. 21; OLDEKERK due Monrovia Oct. 26.

**NORTHBOUND**—To Continent:—RATSDYK due Rotterdam Oct. 23; KOTSDYK due Rotterdam Oct. 26; DAHOMYKUST due Amsterdam Oct. 21, Bremen Oct. 23, Hamburg Oct. 25.

### NOPAL WEST AFRICA LINE

**EASTBOUND**—NOPAL TELLUS s/g Lagos Oct. 26 due Warri Oct. 28, Sapele Nov. 1; NOPAL LUNA s/g New Orleans Oct. 25, Takoradi Nov. 14, Lagos Nov. 17.

**WESTBOUND**—NOPAL SUN s/g Luanda Oct. 20 due Houston Nov. 2; NOPAL TELLUS s/g Luanda Nov. 17, Takoradi Nov. 26, New Orleans Dec. 13 due Houston Dec. 17.

### GOSWAMI STAR LINE

**WESTBOUND**—GOGAI s/g Durban Nov. 4/6, Capetown Nov. 12/14, Lobito Nov. 17, Luanda Nov. 18/19.

**EASTBOUND**—SAHAR s/g Singapore Nov. 8; Japan phosphates ports Nov. 18/22, Kobe Nov. 21/22, Yokohama Nov. 24.

**BLACK STAR LINE/US/NW/WEST AFRICA WESTBOUND**—SAKUMO LAGOON Abidjan Oct. 24. New York Oct. 4, Philadelphia Nov. 7, hence Gulf.

**BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT WEST AFRICA**

**SOUTHBOUND**—NASHA RIVER Hamburg Oct. 21, Antwerp Oct. 23, Rotterdam Oct. 24; Dunkirk Oct. 25; LAKE BOSCHUWE London Oct. 28; KORLE LAGOON Liverpool Oct. 17. **NORTHBOUND**—NAKWA RIVER London Nov. 15; OTI RIVER Antwerp Oct. 28; Rotterdam Oct. 30, Bremen Nov. 1, Hamburg Nov. 4.

### ROYAL INTERCOASTAL LINES

**INWARDS**—STRAAT MOZAMBIQUE from China and Hong Kong s/d. Hong Kong Sept. 15 due Lagos/Appa Oct. 18, Cotonou Oct. 26, Lomé Oct. 27, Tema Oct. 28, Abidjan Oct. 30, Monrovia Nov. 4, Freetown Nov. 7, Dakar Nov. 11, Conakry Nov. 14, Takoradi Nov. 17. **STRAAT FRANKLIN** from Japan s/d. Kobe Sept. 21 due Lagos/Appa Oct. 22, Tema Oct. 29, Monrovia Nov. 1, Freetown Nov. 3, Abidjan Nov. 9, Takoradi Nov. 12.

**OUTWARDS**—STRAAT FREMANTLE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan second half Oct.; ROTTERDAM DIEP from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan first half Nov.

### SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE

**SOUTHBOUND**—MANGARELLA Idg. Scan. including Fingert, first half Oct. for discharge WA end Oct. first half Oct. for discharge HON Idg. Scan. including Finland, Bordeaux second half Oct. for discharge WA second half Nov.

**NORTHBOUND**—HUELAREN Idg. WA first half Oct. for discharge Scan. end Oct. early Nov.; INDIANA Idg. WA S. route Oct. for discharge Continent early Nov. and Scan. second half Nov. YARRAWONGA Idg. WA late Oct. early Nov. for discharge Scan. early Dec.

### CHARGEURS REUNIS

**SCIROUF** due Lagos/Appa Nov. 15, Tema Nov. 20, Conakry s/g. Kobe Oct. 26.

### MAERSK LINE

**INWARDS**—From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi; JESPER s/g Japan Nov. 7.

**OUTWARDS**—To Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi to Japan via US Pacific ports:—JOHANNESS MAERSK s/g Abidjan Oct. 31, Tema Nov. 3, Takoradi Nov. 6.

### MITSUI OSK LINE

**AWAJIAN MARU** s/d. Kobe Oct. 4 due Lagos Nov. 9. **CHICAGO MARU** s/g. Kobe Oct. 20 due Lagos Nov. 18; **ARIZONA MARU** s/g. Kobe Nov. 4 due Lagos Dec. 7.

### WOERMANN LINE

**PICARDIA** s/d. Rotterdam Oct. 8 due Dakar Oct. 28, Abidjan Nov. 1, Lomé Nov. 5; **NATAL** s/g. Antwerp Oct. 13 due Dakar Oct. 23, Abidjan Oct. 26, Lomé Oct. 28.

### HOEGH LINES

**HOEGH AURORE** s/g. Bremen Oct. 22, Antwerp Oct. 24, Rotterdam Oct. 28 due Dakar Nov. 5; **HOEGH BISCAY** s/g. Rouen Oct. 30 due Lagos Nov. 6, Conakry Nov. 9.

### WESTIND AFRICA LINE LTD.

**BUENA FORTUNA** s/d. New Orleans Oct. 8, Houston Oct. 12, Lagos Oct. 31, Pointe Noire Nov. 5; **SOPHIE** s/g. New Orleans Nov. 1, Houston Nov. 5, Lagos Nov. 24.

### HUGO STINNES

**SCHIFFAIRT GMBH** **HENRIETTE RETZLAFF** due Dakar Oct. 18, Conakry Oct. 20, Abidjan Oct. 25, Douala Oct. 28, WILRU due Dakar Oct. 22, Abidjan Oct. 27, Lomé Oct. 30, Cotonou Oct. 31.

### NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE

**SOUTHBOUND**—RIVER NIGER s/g. London Oct. 23; **KING JAJA** s/g. Dunkirk Oct. 22; **ODUBOWU** s/g. Antwerp Nov. 7.

**NORTHBOUND**—FRICA s/g. Lagos due Hull Nov. 13; **WESTERN PRINCE** due Hull Nov. 4.

### FARRELL LINES

**HEMORIAN AUSTRALIAN GEM** s/g. Appa Oct. 16 for Abidjan Oct. 18, Monrovia for Montreal and US ports; **AFRICAN RAINBOW** s/g. Lobito Oct. 29 for Luanda, Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia and US ports. **OUTWARDS AFRICAN**—CAFRENT due Monrovia Nov. 1 for Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Nov. 9 and Appa Nov. 11; **AUSTRALIAN REEF** due Monrovia Nov. 5 for Abidjan, Conakry, Tema Nov. 14, Douala, Matadi, Luanda and Lobito.

## commercial news



### GHANA GETS EXPORTS COUNCIL

An Export Promotion Council was set up as one of the last acts of Ghana's National Liberation Council. It will consist of a chairman and representatives appointed by the Ghana Manufacturers Association, the National Chamber of Commerce, Timber Federation, Timber Producers Association, Timber Marketing Board, Bank of Ghana, National Investment Bank, Agricultural Development Bank, Cocoa Marketing Company, Cocoa Marketing Board and the National Standard Board.

### Textile take-over

A new joint company is to take over the State Textile Corporation at Tema, which is producing about 13m. yards of printed cloth a year. The participants in the company, Tema Textile, are Winner of Hong Kong, textile manufacturers, the Ghana Industrial Holding Corporation and the Ghana National Trading Corporation. The factory employs about 1,000 workers and imports over 1,500 tons of cotton a year from the United States.

● Nigeria's North-Central State Government has signed an agreement with an American company for the construction of a textile mill in Zaria, with annual capacity of 15m. yards of high quality cotton and synthetic fibres.

● A record 60,000 tons of cotton was processed at cotton ginneries in Cameroon in 1968-69. The yield per hectare rose to 675kg. The current year's crop is expected to exceed 70,000 tons.

● In the first six months of this year the UK exports of woven man-made fibre piece goods to the four Commonwealth West African countries totalled 340,000 sq. yd. valued at £62,000, writes our Manchester correspondent. Nigeria took 179,000 sq. yd., Ghana 91,000 sq. yd., Sierra Leone 43,000 sq. yd. and The Gambia 27,000 sq. yd. Largest items were 93,000 sq. yd. spun rayon fabric and 57,000 sq. yd. filament rayon fabrics to Nigeria, and 47,000 sq. yd. spun and 25,000 sq. yd. filament fabrics to Ghana.

Mrs. Esther Ocloo, founder and managing director of Nkulenu Industries, a large food company with an average gross turnover of about £35,000 a year, tells the story to Mr. Olu Ladele of the BBC African Service's "Men and their Motives" programme (below). She started business with six shillings capital by selling a dozen packets of marmalade at a hundred per cent. profit in the market in Accra. Orders came from her old school, Achimota, and from the Army and the business was incorporated in 1963. Nkulenu Cream of Palm Soap, Groundnut Soup, Jollof Rice, jams and fruit juices are well-known in Ghana. Mrs. Ocloo is now considering the possibilities of exporting.

### NEW NIGERIAN CUSTOMS FORMS

Nigeria's Customs and Excise Board announced the introduction of two forms aimed at preventing fraud in the declaration of imported goods. Form C-60 is a declaration of authority for a permanent worker or importer to act as an agent on behalf of an employer. Form C-31 gives similar authority to an agent of an importer. The Board warned that a permanent employee of an importer not in possession of these forms would not be allowed to clear goods on behalf of an importer. The order took effect from October 13.

### Congo's future is bright, says Bank

Congolese industry has managed to maintain its potential and production level despite the rebellions of recent years, according to the report of Kredietbank, one of the largest banks in Belgium. The Bank examines measures taken in 1967 to complete the programme started in 1967 to put the Congolese economy on its feet, which included efforts to increase the effectiveness of management and state finance, and encouragement of investments. It said recovery recently accomplished had already led to a noticeable improvement in the attitude towards the Congo of foreign investors. During recent months, a large number of commercial and industrial missions had visited the Congo, both official and private, from Belgium, France, UK, West Germany, Yugoslavia, Japan and Italy.

The Bank said the Congo had succeeded since 1967 in finding a "new base for its economic recovery", thanks to the stability of the political regime, which had taken the necessary measures. The country's economy had a favourable future, on condition that there was a diversification in copper exports, and that political stability was maintained.

● Two World Bank Officials visited Kinshasa for talks with Government Ministers and officials on sea transport.

### Employment rise

The turnover of Cameroonian industry increased in 1968 to 29,276m. CFA francs, a rise of 15.5 per cent. over the previous year, according to an official report by Syndustricam (the industrial employers' association). The number of workers in industry as at the end of 1968 was 10,351, an increase of 16.5 per cent. during the year. The main increases in production were in consumer goods such as drinks, tobacco, textiles and footwear.

● A project to extend the water supply of Douala and Yaounde is to be started soon with the help of a loan from the World Bank, reports the *Barclays Overseas Review*.

● Fish drying and canning factories are to be established in Benin, Mid-West States later this year. Mr. Odeh, managing director of Ethiopian Lines and Fishing Company, announced. The two factories are expected to cost £1m.

● Trial production has begun at a plywood factory at Ibeju in Lagos state, set up by a Swiss company with State government participation.

● Malam Umaru Dikko, North Central State Commissioner for Finance and Establishments, has criticised industrialists in Nigeria for "placing greater emphasis on production without corresponding regard for the safety, health and welfare of their employees". Addressing the annual general meeting of the state's branch of the National Industrial Safety Council, he said that within the last 18 months about 112 industrial accidents were reported to the factory inspectorate division of the Federal Ministry of Labour in his State alone; four accidents were fatal; and 1,000 figures did not include industrial accidents that were not reportable under the Factories Act, 1955. There were 802 reported industrial accidents and 210 deaths respectively, in Nigeria in 1968.

● Two new £1.4m. Sapele bridges were declared open by Western State Military Governor, Brig. Adebayo, who later formally handed them over to the Mid-West State Government, which expects to derive about £78,000 a year from tolls. Work on the bridges was started by the civilian Government of the Western State and continued despite the creation of a new state in the Western Region.

● Nigeria had a growing interest in purchasing Argentinian products. Mr. Jos Akadiri, charge d'affaires in Brazil, is in Buenos Aires. During his four day visit he also held talks with private firms on the possibility of Argentinian importing Nigerian timber.

● Mr. W. G. Morrison has resigned from the board of Amalgamated Tin Mines in Nigeria.

● A branch of the Nigeria-USSR Chamber of Commerce has been opened in Benin

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### NOTICES—Continued

**FAITH ASSEMBLY CHURCH**  
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Glasgow Sub-headquarters

The Sub-International Headquarters of the Faith Assembly Church (Evangelical) announces the Consecration of Canon Samuel Akintola Adufferin as the Bishop for Overseas Circuit of the organisation performed by the Founder and Primate, His Divine and Grace, The Most Revd. A. A. T. Oshinyemi (while on third Episcopal tour of Europe) on Sunday, September 14th, 1969, at 2.00 p.m. prompt in the Christian Institute, 70 Bothwell Street, Glasgow C.2.

It is hereby further announced that Rebirth Mystical Order will from henceforth be known, called, and addressed Christ's Mystical Order International Organisation, by order of the Primate. All documents bearing the former name, remain valid.  
Officiating Minister, Rev. O. A. Daini.

**IBO UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND IRELAND**

With reference to an advertisement in the above-mentioned Union in the issue of 4th October, 1969, I, Alexander Benedict Chukwuemeka Nwosisi wish to inform readers and the general public that I should not be confused with a Mr. A. E. Nwosisi the Union's elected Assistant Publicity Secretary.

I am not in any way connected with the said Union nor am I related to Mr. A. E. Nwosisi.

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### MEETINGS

**RIVERS STATE (Nigeria)  
STUDENTS' UNION  
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Notice is hereby given that the  
**1969 ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**

of the above Union will take place  
on Sunday, 19th October, 1969  
at the Nigeria Centre & Hostel,  
20/22 Inverness Terrace, London, W.2  
at 2 p.m. precisely.

**AGENDA:** Previous A.G.M. Minutes,  
Annual Reports and Election of  
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Time: 4 p.m. prompt

Agenda:

- Minutes and matters arising therefrom.
  - Introduction of new members.
  - Correspondence.
  - Finance and Group Discussions.
  - The Maitron: Mrs. S. F. Okukenu speaks.
  - Any other business.
- Mrs. S. F. Okukenu will be present and will like to meet the wives of our members. Therefore members are requested to be punctual and to please come in the company of their wives.

G. O. S. Arowosegbe,  
Publicity Secretary

N.B. Please notify any change of address to the Secretariat at: 105, Cornwallis Road, London, N.19. Tel: 01-272 9820.

**IBADAN DESCENDANTS UNION OF  
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# dateline Africa

## CHAD

### NEW MILITARY OPERATIONS

THREE major new French-Chadian operations were carried out against the rebels last week, in Kanem, Ouaddai and Guera, in West, East and Central Chad respectively. The operations, which lasted one week, caused 111 casualties on the rebel side, said an announcement. A group of legionnaires flown by helicopter to Massaloua, near Mungo (Guera), almost completely destroyed a 61-strong band of rebels, said the statement. Two groups of nomads and gendarmes clashed in Kanem with about 40 rebels who suffered 17 casualties. At Goz-Bedda (Ouaddai), a Meharrist cavalry unit surprised a rebel camp killing 24, with eight taken prisoner. Four Franco-Chadian troops were said to have been wounded. Sixty stolen cattle were recovered.

Chad's army and French forces fighting alongside it have the situation in Chad well in hand, General Jacques Doumro, Chad's Armed Forces Chief has said. In a radio broadcast, the General said that the situation in Chad is "neither dramatic, nor insurmountable". Countering recent Paris press reports, he said "there is neither a war, nor subversion in the real sense of the word, but only organised banditry", adding that "disappointed politicians" were trying to profit from the country's "traditional banditry". Stressing the bravery of Chadian troops, General Doumro said that their main difficulties were a lack of officers and material and the army's smallness in comparison with the immense territory it had to control. "But the country is getting organised. The people together with the chiefs who are suffering are becoming conscious of their own interests and with the army, for which I am responsible, Chad will solve this problem," the General said.

Denying that a curfew had been clamped on certain areas in the troubled North, General Doumro confirmed Paris press reports that restrictions had been placed on north-bound traffic as well as on the movements of people in four of the country's 14 administrative regions. The four areas where the restrictions are in force are the Tibesti, Batha and Guera in the centre and Salamata in the South East on the border with Sudan and the Centrafrican Republic.

Chad News Agency says that between Jan. 1 and Sept. 22 this year a total of 127 members of the Chad regular army forces were killed and 183 others injured. Two French soldiers were killed and seven injured over the same period. One of those killed belonged to the French military technical aid group, the other was killed in action in September. Amongst the rebels, a total of 1,299 were killed, 201 injured and 123 taken prisoner. Civilian casualties were given as 253 killed and 165 injured.

● French Defence Minister Michel Debré has said French intervention in Chad is only possible and conceivable in the short term. At a Gaullist seminar he said: "It is not a question of us staying in this coun-

try, but of helping it to settle certain problems." France had no right not to respect the Franco-Chadian Defence Agreement, he added.

● Brigadier Edouard Cortadellas has replaced Brigadier Michel Arnaud as military adviser to the Chad President. Brigadier Arnaud's six-month period expired.

Gen. Cortadellas is a 57-year-old paratrooper specialist, who fought with the Free French, was a member of de Gaulle's postwar military cabinet, and was for some years in Indo-China (parachuted to Dien Bien Phu during the siege) and Algeria.

### More Power for Sultans

Two administrative decrees adopted by the Chad cabinet in a joint session with the Political Bureau of the ruling PPT. The first sets out the powers and territories of the three great sultans of Chad: of Kanem, Baguirmi and Ouaddai. The second creates prefecture councils, composed of twelve notables presided over by the local prefect. Traditional chiefs are to be handed three major responsibilities: tax-collecting, maintenance of public order and the magistrature. These decrees are in line with the recommendations of former Governor Pierre Lami, who was sent by the French government in April to advise President Tombalbaye on administrative reform.

● Legislative elections are to be held before the end of the year, President Tombalbaye said in the course of a nine-day visit to the area of Moundou in southern Chad. The last elections were held in December 1963, and the life of the Assembly expired last December.

● The US is sending two C-130 transport planes to fly famine relief to Chad, following a request from the Tombalbaye Government for aid to meet famine conditions in central and north-central Chad.

*In our issue of September 20, we quoted General Arnaud as saying that "unlike the Vietcong, the rebels had a grand design of overthrowing the government..." This should have read "the rebels had no grand design of overthrowing the government".*

## CONGO-B

Secretary of State for Economy and Finance, Pierre-Felicien Nkoua, has been dismissed from the government and the National Revolutionary Council. The dismissal is understood to be connected with a strike of civil servants at the Ministry of Finance, for which he was held responsible by Major Nguabi. The strike was brought to an end last week when at a meeting of all workers in the Ministry and associated offices, Major Nguabi ordered the arrest of the leaders of the trade union. The strike was apparently over wage

claims, and delay in salary payment. Education Minister Henri Lopez has warned foreigners against undermining government decrees and inciting people to disobedience. He described it as a "fear warning".

M. Nkoua was later appointed Chairman of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Board. New Finance Minister is Boniface Matingou.

Following the strike the Congolese News Agency condemned "certain citizens, commonly called civil servants, who have always considered the state to be their property, values who consume two-thirds of the national revenue."

● Algeria's charge d'affaires in Brazzaville has handed over a gift from Algeria of 50 Berliet trucks, 10 Land-Rovers and a complete road communications system, as well as 10,000 uniforms and 40 tents, to be used by the army "in its economic and social roles". The gift follows the visit of a Congolese military delegation, led by Col. Ferret Mathias to Algiers.

● Prime Minister Captain Alfred Ruel has been on an official visit to Communist China. He was one of those attending the 20th anniversary of the regime of October 1. At a dinner given by Premier Chou En-Lai, Major Raoul said that all that was being done in People's China was being followed with attention in the Congo. He was accompanied by the Chairman of the Economic Commission of the National Council of the Revolution, M. Ange Pongui, and Minister of Health Dr. Joseph Bouty. Prior to his departure, the Premier had signed an agreement with the Chinese to build two dockyards for light boats at Brazzaville.

● Charles-David Ganao, former Foreign Minister under the Masmaba-Debat regime, has been appointed ambassador to various national organisations in Geneva.

## DAHOMEY

The former President of the Dahomey National Assembly, Valentin Dyboko Aplogan, has announced his support for the Zinsou regime. A well-known supporter of M. Apithy, he was President of the Assembly at the time of the revolution of October 1963 which overthrew the Magagnon regime, and played a key part in the establishment of that month. Under the Apithy-Ahomadegbe regime he was President of the Supreme Court until forced out in May 1965 by M. Ahomadegbe, who accused him of plotting. M. Aplogan, who was one of the personalities who protested at the appointment of Dr. Zinsou a year ago, said he would participate actively in Dr. Zinsou's programme, and hoped that all Dahomeyans not forbidden to do so would return to the country.

● The Revolutionary Council has announced that it has reviewed its Middle East policy, and observers suggest that a break in diplomatic relations is imminent. The Council's Chairman, Major Nguabi, on his return from the OAU summit last month said "we are against Israel's expansionist policy. In fact we have recalled our charge d'affaires to inform us if this state of Israel is friend or enemy." A correspondent writes: Chairman Nguabi's firmly pro-Arab line was first in evidence during his visits to Algeria and UAR in May this year, although Congo-B has always leaned towards an anti-Israel posture.



## GHANA

## Yendi Riots: All Freed

ALL the 413 charged with unlawful assembly during the disturbances in Yendi have been acquitted and discharged by a magistrate's court where two other persons charged with them died later. The prosecution had earlier withdrawn the charge against the survivors, all of whom had pleaded not guilty.

The prosecution earlier alleged that as a result of the proclamation of a State of Emergency in Yendi on Sept. 9, owing to the dispute over the Ya Na succession, some army and police personnel searched for arms and offensive weapons. When they went to the Ya Na's Palace, the accused persons who had gathered there carrying sticks, knives and other offensive weapons, refused to allow them to enter the Palace, the prosecution added, and forced the searchers to retreat; soldiers fired warning shots to disperse the crowd, and as the accused still advanced, the soldiers fired more shots.

● The Chairman of the Presidential Commission inaugurated the 12-member Council of State at the Conference Room of the new office of the Commission in Christiansborg Castle.

Brig. Afrifa said the creation of the Council of State was in complete accord with Ghana's traditions for, he observed, "every Ghanaian Chief, be he a paramount chief, a divisional chief, or an Odikro, has a body of Elders who advise him on all important state matters."

● Dr. Willie Kofi Lutterodt, leader of the proscribed People's Popular Party, has died in Accra at the age of 36. A medical practitioner, he was also a businessman; under the Nkrumah regime he was for a time Chairman of Ghana Airways. He formed his PPP last May; when it was banned by the NLC the following month he brought a legal action against the Council (which accused the party of plotting to restore ex-President Nkrumah).

● The USSR Government is willing to resume work on three Soviet projects abandoned after the 1966 coup, if the new Ghana Government approves, the Economic Counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Accra said. The projects are a Fishing Complex at Tema, a Gold Refinery at Tarkwa, and a Concrete Panel Plant in Accra. He recalled that a new agreement on the projects was signed on Aug. 24 last year, after Soviet experts had examined the project sites and submitted reports, and awaited the Ghana Government's decision.

● In an editorial on Ghana's debts the *Legon Observer* suggests that the government must set up a Parliamentary Finance Committee "consisting of government and opposition members, and charged with the rigid duty of re-examining all standing state contracts for any readjustments that may in justice to us be found necessary; and, secondly, with standing sentry-guard over all new and future state contracts." Where publication would not infringe the rights of the contracting parties, or otherwise hamper the course of negotiations, "such publication should be made; in this way, thoughtful, concerned citizens would not only be taken into valuable confidence but also afforded the opportunity of participating actively in the re-ordering of their own

economic fate. We further urge that all contract agreements not subject to the requirements of state security should always be laid before Parliament."

(A Finance Board was formed by NLC decree to examine awards of Government contracts.)

● Parliament is to decide when local elections should be held, the *Daily Graphic* reported, quoting "sources close to the Electoral Commission."

● It is not likely that a new Budget will be prepared for the new Government's legislative policy, reports the *Pioneer*; it quotes "reliable sources" as saying the Government will operate the Budget prepared by the previous Government "for some time". The Budget announced by Mr. J. H. Mensah last July 16 provided for expenditure of NC302.7m. on recurrent items and NC122.6m. on development projects in 1969-70.

● Mr. Justice V. C. R. A. C. Crabbe, who was appointed Interim Electoral Commissioner in April 1968 and organised the administrative work connected with the August 29 elections, has told the *Daily Graphic* he would not like to retain his post when it is made a substantive appointment; he would prefer to work in the courts. (The *Graphic* reports that appointment of a substantive Electoral Commissioner is expected soon.)

● A new Psychiatric Hospital is to be built at Mile 13 on the Accra-Nsawam Road, to be a base hospital for psychiatric training of medical students. An agreement for the construction of the 2,921,000-cedi hospital has been signed between the Government and Oyoko Contractors Ltd.

● Ghana's first locally trained doctors, who graduated recently, have complained about a big reduction in salary and lack of accommodation.

● The 17 Soviet-trained doctors who had to take further examinations after allegations that they were not qualified are now full medical officers, having worked as housemen for two years. Twenty-two others, who have just returned to Ghana, are to become housemen at once, but all doctors wanting to practise must be tested by the Medical and Dental Board.

● Dr. K. Safo-Adu, Minister of Agriculture, has promised legislation soon to ensure that farmers receive assistance to improve production. All farmers would receive assistance, financial or otherwise, to boost crop production.

● There has been another small earthquake in Accra. Mr. J. E. Cudjoe, Director of Geological Survey, said it was the strongest of the four earth tremors so far experienced this year, it lasted for about three seconds.

● Dr. Kobina Taylor, a Ghanaian medical practitioner who has been in Great Britain for 25 years, is prospective Liberal candidate at Luton, Bedfordshire.

## PORTUGAL

Dr. Alberto Franco Nogueira, Portugal's foreign minister since 1961, has resigned to seek election to the National Assembly, for which elections take place on Oct. 26. Dr. Nogueira, who has dealt extensively with Portugal's African terri-

ories in two books, has also been the main spokesman abroad for Portuguese policy towards those territories. Dr. Caetano, the Prime Minister, is interim foreign minister.

The elections in Portugal are the regular four-yearly elections for the National Assembly. In the last elections, in 1970 the ruling União Nacional won all seats unopposed.

Dr. Caetano said, at the ceremony where he took over from Dr. Nogueira that the defence of Portuguese territory "will not slacken in the diplomatic field just as it will not weaken at home". Nogueira also defended Portuguese action in Africa, and strongly criticised the U. The Prime Minister had declared early on the eve of the election campaign which opposition candidates of several parties had been allowed to stand a "our Africa" would be spared "the calamities of a phoney independence" and defended against "subversive support by foreign powers".

One of the opposition groups the Democratic Electoral Committee, called a week for negotiations aimed at self-determination for Portuguese Africa. Negotiations, it said, "should be with legitimate representatives of the rebel movements... and not with puppet movements". It questioned the significance of the Cahoon Bassa dam in Mozambique (for which an agreement was signed last month between Portugal and South Africa), saying it was subordinate to Portugal's policy to South Africa's. Another opposition group also opposing the Portuguese was the Democratic Unity Electoral Commission.

The Democratic Movement of Mozambique put up seven candidates for the elections, while in Angola opposition parties said they would not do so because they did not want to harm "national unity" in the current war. Later all the Mozambique candidates were disqualified for standing, as were five candidates in Portugal itself. The reason given, in the case of those from Mozambique, was that they failed to prove Portuguese citizenship.

The major opposition party, the Democratic Union, rejected both the alternative progressive development or "abandonment" stated by Dr. Caetano. The subject of Africa should be discussed openly, it said, ending Portuguese colonial policy to do so. It suggested a multi-racial society in Africa, with a "negro majority and white minority", and said Portugal could not stand either the "inhumanity of endless war or an "abandonment."

Four of the seven candidates of the ruling party in Angola are Angolans.

## FRANCE

The Co-operation Budget for next year has been presented to Parliament in Paris. The budget provides for a cut of 40 francs (about £3m.), from 1,600 francs (about £89m.) this year to 1,120 francs (about £86m.) in 1970. Official investment (included in the overall total) drops 282,600,000 francs (about £21,750,000) from 340,100,000 francs (about £26,200,000) in 1969. The overall number of technical assistants is to be slightly reduced although the figure for technical assistance is slightly increased, because the budget, hitherto dealing with former French colonies, black Africa only, includes the ex-Belgian colonies of Congo-K, Rwanda and Burundi for the first time.

## NIGERIA

## New Biafran Air Raids

A few days after the closure of Benin airports following two Biafran air attacks, a third attack killed five people there this week. Another attack by low-flying Minicops on Sapelle caused a fire in a Mobil storage tank in a refined petroleum distribution depot and damaged the MV *Freewood*, which belongs to the Guinea Gulf Line, a subsidiary of Elder Dempster. The African Timber and Plywood company's wharf, at which the *Freewood* was docked, was apparently not damaged.

Earlier an attack on Benin by four aircraft killed an airport worker and damaged nearby houses on Oct. 10, and at the same time the following afternoon two more planes were driven off by ground fire before they were able to release any rockets. A passenger plane from Lagos due to land 10 minutes after the second Biafran attack was told to turn back by airport officials, and passengers waiting to fly to Lagos were sent home.

● Nigeria's Commissioner for Education, Mr. W. Briggs, claimed the runway at Uli had been extensively damaged and one "gun-runner" aircraft has been believed to have been shot down. There was no stalemate in the war, he said, but the fronts had not been very active. He spoke of a recent action in the Southern sector.

A report from Owerri, quoting eyewitnesses, says at least 45 people were killed and nearly 200 wounded in a Federal air raid on Mbomo, hitting a hospital.

● Jonathan Aitken, reporting for the *Evening Standard*, reports indiscriminate strafing of people on a main road by a Nigerian aircraft. His articles spoke of widespread hunger and suffering, though with some normal life still going on, and of a general determination to fight on, and confidence in the favourable outcome of Biafra. Gen. Ojukwu told him he was in contact with partisans in all provinces now formally ruled by Biafra but now in Federal hands.

Thierry Desjardins, of *Le Figaro*, says markets reopened behind the Federal lines after advances against the Biafrans keep secessionist territory well supplied, with many people crossing the lines last month. (A report in the London *Observer* quoted Nelson Oduka, former editorial director of *Dram*, as saying many Iboes genuinely fear that they will be killed if captured, and while some people in Biafra were prepared to return to a federation with Nigeria, others wanted a confederation and others would not negotiate on any terms. Many people are hiding in the bush, where most people were when federal forces advanced.)

● A big Federal attack in three sectors, Onitsha, Okigwi and south of Owerri, has been thrown back, claimed Biafra Radio, which said over 200 Nigerian troops were killed in the fighting which involved fighter aircraft, mortars and armoured vehicles.

● Mr. Okon, permanent secretary in the Biafran Information Ministry has said that more African countries should recognise Biafra "because it is the only way of forcing Nigeria to the conference table" and might persuade Britain to stop supplying arms.

● President Nyerere of Tanzania told newsmen in Stockholm the Nigerian conflict could never be solved by the OAU: "all the OAU is doing is to present a fine facade for those who hold the real power in

Nigeria." He foresaw no early end to the Nigerian war. The President, who had already visited Canada, went on to the Soviet Union and Hungary.

● Dr. Arikpo, Commissioner for External Affairs, has said there is evidence that funds of the OAU Liberation Committee had been diverted by Tanzania to buy arms for Biafra. The accusation had been raised at the OAU summit.

● Gabon's Foreign Minister, Jean-Rémy Ayoume, said in Paris that a settlement in the Nigerian civil war might be reached soon. Soundings he had made with the two sides showed him that they could agree on a confederal formula: Gabon was prepared to act as an intermediary because the Biafrans were against direct talks with the Federal Government.

● Cameroon's President Ahmadou Ahidjo has held talks in Lagos with Gen. Gowon. In Paris on his way back from the UN General Assembly in New York he said "Nigeria is a very difficult affair, but things are advancing." He is current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity.

A few days before his arrival the OAU Secretary-General, Diallo Telli, had talks with Gen. Gowon. Two weeks after delivering a special message on a fresh attempt to end the civil war from Emperor Haile Selassie, Mohammed Sahmeun, OAU Assistant Secretary-General, and President Abidjo had discussed Nigeria with U Thant. The Ethiopian Minister of Information and Broadcasting has visited East African capitals, said a message from the Emperor on Nigeria.

● In a message to Mao Tse-tung on the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Republic, Gen. Ojukwu compared the Chinese people's struggle for independence" under Mao's leadership, to the present struggle waged by Biafra. He said that in their fight for self-determination, facing the combined military might of "revisionist Russia and imperialist Britain", the Biafran people continued to draw their inspiration from China's example and were confident of ultimate victory.

## Soyinka speaks

In an interview with the *Daily Times* Wole Soyinka, the dramatist released last week, told the *Daily Times* that he visited Ojukwu shortly after the war started but had told important people in the Government that he was going; he believed he had been free to go anywhere, as long as he was prepared to take the risk. He described as a "disgusting fabrication" the Federal Government's statement alleging that he had confessed to acts of sabotage against the Government. His journey to Enugu had been the result of a meeting in Europe with other people anxious to do something about the war, he said; he would tell later the full story of his meeting with the secessionist leader.

Talking about his role as a writer he said there were no binding laws to cover a man's social commitment and he would rather not have any such commitment, but he was "incapable of any peace of mind under certain social condition."

Mr. Soyinka has returned to his post as Head of the Department of Drama at the University of Ibadan. He went there after flying from Kaduna to Lagos on his release from prison (he had been held in the North for most of his two years' detention).



Soyinka—"incapable of any peace of mind under certain social conditions."

Mr. Soyinka had earlier said he did not know why he was detained and was convinced he was innocent. Asked to comment on the future of Nigeria, he said "The future of Nigeria? What do you mean? Nigeria has been and will continue to be." He added that Nigeria was a "fact of life." He also said that he would have a medical check-up, but had regained health.

● Chief Awolowo, Federal Commissioner for Finance, has in an article in the Lagos *Sunday Times* said that General Gowon was convinced that persistent reports that he, Awolowo, was planning to overthrow the regime were "black and wicked falsehood" designed to "alienate the two of us from each other."

Chief Awolowo also said that as far as he was concerned politically, the more states there were in Yorubaland, the better for his future electoral prospects thereafter.

To cool the anger of Western rioters he said that free and fair local elections should be held within the next twelve months or so; per capita water rates should be reduced to 1967-8 levels; the Development Contribution should be abolished; there should be an amnesty for all those arrested or jailed in connection with the riots, except those charged with murder.

● The Western State Government has reduced flat rate tax from EN3 5s. to EN2 with effect from the beginning of the current tax year. A day-long emergency meeting of the Executive Council also decided to free all people arrested, detained, standing trial or convicted for offences arising from the anti-tax riots, except for those awaiting trial for murder or manslaughter.

● Collection of rates and taxes in Ibadan and other districts has been suspended, the Olubadan told a meeting of farmers' representatives last week; tax collection would remain suspended in the division until the new rates were determined. He assured farmers their grievances would be sent to the appropriate quarters. The farmers called for the release of their people held in custody as a result of recent riots, reduction of the flat rate from 65s to 35s., and abolition of district and town councils. One farmer called for a Yoruba Central State.

The Western State Council of Obas and Chiefs has urged the abolition of all district councils where practicable, and the transfer of rating powers to Divisional

## NIGERIA—continued

Councils. The Council criticised acts of lawlessness, urged that the £250,000 promised for feeder road development should be released immediately to help produce evacuation, and said politicians should be reminded of the ban on politics. They urged revision of laws on chiefs and local government should be carried out in consultation with the Obas.

● Villagers at Arulogan, about 17 miles from Ibadan, have been searching all travellers and beating up those with tax receipts. They reportedly set up road blocks as a defence against retaliation by police or army.

● Chief Justice Somolu of the Western State has dismissed an application by four dismissed kingmakers of Oyo against the military governor of the State. He said there was abundant proof that the new kingmakers had appointed the new Alafin of Oyo even before the motion was filed. The four men are to appeal.

● Col. Abba Kyari, Governor of the North-Central State, said most of the trouble in the West was caused by the reports of some newspapers; some of these are saboteurs and agents of foreign confusionists, he said.

● Mr. Harold Wilson was accused by Biafra radio as being "a confidence trickster" without conscience for the sufferings of Biafrans. By rejecting the recent Labour Party resolution calling for a halt to arms shipments to Nigeria, he had shown his contempt for public opinion. Harold Wilson's statement has been

applauded by sections of the Nigerian press, and deplored by the *East African Standard* of Dar es-Salaam.

● The Federal Government has allowed one Red Cross flight to go to Biafra taking delegates from Geneva for talks with the secessionist Government on relief supplies.

● Questioned in the House of Commons about the Biafran relief problem, Mr. Maurice Foley, Under-Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said he hoped the deadlock might be broken in a few days. Asked about British efforts to secure a cease-fire, he mentioned the OAU resolution and said that Ojukwu had not even replied to it, though the Federal Government was, so far as he knew, ready for unconditional talks.

● Nigeria Radio has had a talk criticising the American plan for relief supplies to Biafra involving an aircraft carrier and helicopters.

The *Washington Post* has said that while the plan for a helicopter airlift should be considered, first of all the ICRC plan for relief flights to Biafra should be pursued.

● Gen. Gowon, in a message to a meeting of Nigeria's Catholic bishops, has accused certain Catholics outside Nigeria of aiding the rebellion under "the cloak of humanitarianism." He praised the achievements of the Catholic Church in Nigeria.

● Biafran women are to take over some jobs from men under a new mobilisation policy.

● Radio Biafra reported a schools manager as saying that full free primary education had been restored in Biafra and that

the Government aimed to end illiteracy and build a healthy and prosperous state.

● Payment of new salaries by the Produce Marketing Co., the Nigeria Authority, the Central Bank and the Nigerian National Press, is expected this month, the *Sunday Post* reports. Corporations' wage structures have altered in accordance with the *Age* published earlier this year, but to Government agencies.

● Five soldiers have been charged with the murder of an hotel owner. Leaders of the Urhobo community in Benin have met the commander of the Divisions, Lt. Col. Jallo, to discuss the affair. They called on their followers to stop protests and dissociated themselves from isolated molesters and soldiers during protests. The military authorities promised they would not do any illegal acts.

Commenting on the Benin case, the *Nigerian Observer* said "Of course we face some grim facts: War is evil, brutal, Those who go to war must be taught to kill. Life becomes a commodity. It points once again to enormous crime perpetrated against a country by those whose evil ambitions forced this nation into war. The question is: how long shall it be allowed to persist?"

● The Rivers State is to have a Marketing Board, the State Commission for Agriculture has said. It will also have its own Development Corporation.

The Rivers State Government has asked £1.5m. to assist in resettling displaced persons in the State.

● The Western State Government denied reports that it agreed to changes in the Elwood report on its servants' pay.

The Rivers State has decided to follow the Elwood report.

● Nigeria's foreign reserves stood at £40,876,048 on September 15 compared with £41,043,938 on August 15 and £38,907,000 in mid-July.

● About half the children born in Nigeria die before they are five years old, according to Dr. I. Adu, vice-chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He called for improvements in agriculture and health services.

## LONDON

Mr. Reginald Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development for two years, has resigned as Minister of State at the Ministry of Technology three days after accepting this post in the reshuffle. He was replaced by Mrs. Judith Hain, Minister for Overseas Development. He had been resigning to be free to accept a case for aid, as he did when Minister of State.

Mr. Albert Oram, Parliamentary Secretary of State at the Overseas Development Ministry since its formation in 1968, was replaced in the reshuffle. He was succeeded by Mr. Ben Whitaker.

● A week of major national fund-raising events in the UK for food and medical supplies for Biafra is announced in London by Simon Richardson, Chairman of the Biafra '69, a committee of young people formed in March this year to raise money for Biafra. Biafra Week is from Oct. 24 to Nov.



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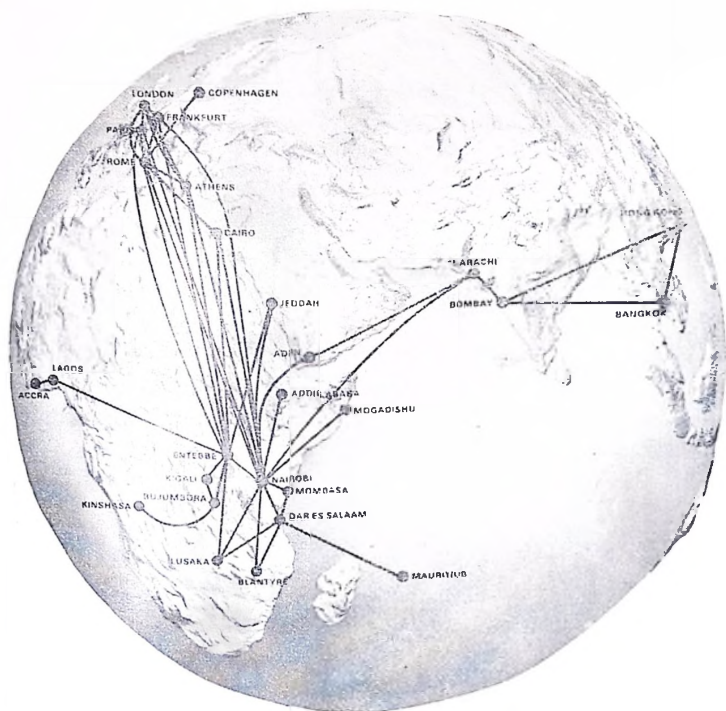
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