WEST AFRICA

West Africa No. 3275
28 April 1980

Recommended Prices: U.K. 30p, Nigeria 50 kobo, Ghana 3 cedis, Sierra Leone 90 cents, Liberia 1 dollar, The Gambia 1.50 dalasi, CFA countries 250 francs, U.S.A./Canada US $1.25

Ghana's wooden politics

Executions in Liberia

Niger's five year plan

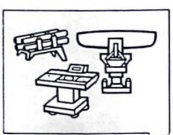
'Oilgate' inquiry

VOSPER INTERNATIONAL CAN HELP YOU.

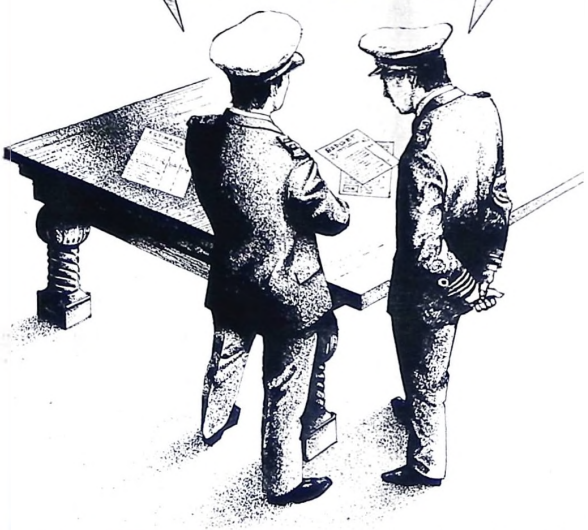
A new Corvette?

Why don't we build them in our own shipyards?

A 57m Strikecraft?



Upgrade our present patrol boat weapon systems?



Vosper International Ltd., Vosper House, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 7BQ
Tel: Fareham 282922. Telex: 86386 Vosper G. A Subsidiary of Vosper Limited

Group Companies

Vosper International Ltd., England. Vosper Private Ltd., Singapore. Vosper Hevermanne Ltd., England. Vosper Pty, Australia. Vosper Inc, USA. Vosper Participacoes e Empreendimentos Ltda., Brazil

In the cause of the Liberian people . . .?

BRUTALITY is not a matter of frontiers or racial divisions. The inefficient and rough executions of 13 former men of power in Liberia do not compare with the mass murders of Buchenwald, the flash killing of hundreds of thousands at Hiroshima, the napalming of Vietnam villages, the atrocities on both sides in the Spanish civil war, the outrages of Amin, and so on.

But brutality has, nevertheless, to be condemned, even if it is done "in the cause of the people" and even if the people suffering the brutality were not plaster saints.

It is being said repeatedly in Monrovia that the men of the Tolbert regime were not respecters of human rights: that people were beaten and killed in prison or shot in the street by police: that there is a sort of brutality in the exploitation of the masses by the few and by corruption itself. This may be true. But one would hope that a regime opposing all this would itself be primarily a respecter of human rights and human dignity. The reality needs to be spelt out in detail. The executions were not the result of trials that were fair by normal standards. They were held by a military tribunal of five officers. No thorough pre-trial investigation was mounted: bank accounts were not examined, for instance and no witnesses were called. All that happened was that the accused were cross-examined and were allowed to make statements. There were no defence lawyers. The executions themselves were performed in a way that totally disregarded the human dignity of the people executed: this may seem a superfluous point — the men die anyway. But it is not. In the shooting of armed robbers that used to take place regularly at Bar Beach, Lagos, the men were not pushed around roughly and jeered at. A man of God came to pray with them in their last moments. The execution squad was disciplined and efficient. Things were different at the beach at Barclay Training Centre, Monrovia. (For a description see Matchet, page 729.)

The executions will discourage corruption, but it would be absurd to think they will eliminate it. They will also stir sectional hatreds — almost all the executed were Americo-Liberians — and encourage an indiscriminate hatred for the rich and successful (which is not the same thing as striving for a fairer distribution of income). Some people may decry as bourgeois such things as respect for the forms of legality, respect for the old and the frail, respect for all human life, and respect for the dead. In fact, a revolution needs these things too: they are necessary everywhere if life is to be anything but nasty, brutish and short.

Specifically, one of Liberia's problems at the moment is curbing the lawlessness of soldiers who are heavily armed and no longer feel obliged to obey their officers. The executions will not have helped: Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe, at a press conference last week said that the revolution would not itself solve any problems, but it would provide an opportunity to build a nation without discrimination in which undue special privileges were eliminated; he promised that when things began to go right, the soldiers would return to the barracks "where we belong". In reply to a question he said there would be elections, but did not indicate any date: they had first to "accomplish our mission".

The head of state stressed the fact that the People's Redemption Council, which is composed entirely of soldiers and is the supreme authority in the land, was working hand in hand with a Cabinet composed mainly of civilians. The experience of other African nations has shown that it is not easy to move on from military to civilian government. It has also shown that it is easier to sieze power than to exercise it, easier to point out the inequalities and unfairnesses of life than to devise ways in which these are diminished.

The Liberian economy is in a crisis and all the high talents of men such as Dr. Togba-Nah Tipoteh, the new Minister of Economic Planning, will be needed if it is to be rescued. One of the effects of the executions will be a frightening away of foreign confidence and capital.

Master Sergeant Doe came to power on a wave of popular support. The danger is that it will become soured if no benefits become apparent soon. Executions stir strong emotions but may produce hangovers in the end. Every government announcement ends with the words "in the cause of the people, the struggle continues". The struggle is going to be long and hard, and the cause of the people may prove difficult to define.

CONTENTS

Comment: A problem for the OAU	728
Matchet's Diary from Monrovia	729
Niger's five-year plan	731
Ghana's Catholic centenary	732
Developing a continent	733
Farmers and Foreigners in Ivory Coast	735
Ghana's political logs	738
Books & publications: Remarkable Mungo	741
Letters	745
Economic & Business News	748
Dateline Africa: Oilgate anger; Sierra Leone reactions to Liberia's coup	757

Published weekly by the Proprietors, West Africa Publishing Company Limited © 1980. 53 Holborn Viaduct London EC1A 2PD Telephone 01-236 3381 Cables Wesnews London EC1 Telex 27050. Editor Kenneth Mackenzie. Typesetting and Printing by The Chesham Press Ltd 16 Germain Street Chesham Buckinghamshire Registered at the Post Office.

A problem for the OAU

PRESIDENT WILLIAM TOLBERT was the first OAU Chairman to die in office in the organisation's 17-year history, and under normal circumstances, a new Liberian Head of State, might automatically step into the role. However, there has been talk in Addis Ababa and now Lagos, that Master Sergeant Samuel Doe first has to gain official recognition from the OAU Heads of State. The new Head of State is personally in no doubt that he automatically picks up where the late President Tolbert left off — he has already described himself as Chairman of the OAU, and when asked by a journalist if he felt himself qualified for the position, he simply answered "yes".

Criticism or plain contradiction of Master Sergeant Doe's confident assertion begs questions as to what qualifications are required for this august position. In recent years, one can point to three chairmanships which aroused some controversy. There was former President Field Marshal Idi Amin Dada in 1975, generally considered to have an embarrassing amount of blood on his hands, and ridiculous statements to his name. There was some talk of avoiding having him as OAU Chairman, but the "murderous buffoon" still had his year presiding over the deliberations of Africa's leaders.

There was also Sir Seewosagur Ramgoolam in 1976, President of the island of Mauritius whose economy gets a boost from the South African tourist trade and therefore South African capital investment as well. It was said at the time that the most obvious signs of this connection with the home of apartheid were hastily removed from the capital and flights of South African aircraft temporarily suspended.

The chairmanship was originally conceived as more ceremonial than anything, but has gradually assumed greater political importance as succeeding heads of state have used it as a platform for their current concerns. Such was the case last year when President Nimeiry of Sudan was in the chair, taking the OAU principle of the inviolability of frontiers to the limit by trying to organise a round condemnation of the Tanzanian intervention in Uganda. The case was unbalanced to start with. President Nyerere rightly complained that blatant incursion by Ugandan soldiers into Tanzania with attendant brutalities meted out to civilians had gone without condemnation. But when Tanzania took it upon itself to spearhead the overthrow of Field Marshal Amin, generally agreed to be a tyrant of near genocidal proportions, the principles of the OAU began to look decidely selective and opportunistic in application.

However, the question of the OAU eventually points to political impotence and immobility. There was no better example of the near irrelevance of the OAU than the long-distance intervention of French paratroopers and Belgian troops in the Shaba province of Zaire in 1978. When one compares the intense lobbying by US and Soviet diplomats over the impend OAU vote on Cuban intervention Angola in 1975, to the relative non-event this "reconquest and pacification" of lo Zaire, the problems of the OAU appear all their seriousness.

After all, the guiding inspiration of t OAU has always been the goal of una Yet, the only "bloc" in Africa worth talki about in terms of continental diplomacy the one comprising of West and Cent African francophone countries, which li up with various "moderate" countries su as Morocco and Egypt (lackeys of U imperialism, as some would have it). At th time, it was Tanzania and Nigeria wh issued the clearest condemnations of th Franco-Belgian intervention.

But consider again the Israeli "raid Entebbe" which had some help from th Kenyan Government, and the Germa "raid on Mogadishu", this time with he from the Somali authorities. The OAU wa forced by the Angola and Zaire cases t agree on the right of sovereign nations t call to their particular friends for help. Ne only does this have domestic implication but also potential influence on events i neighbouring countries. For instanc Guinea provides a praetorian guard fo President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leon and helped to police the streets of Monrovi after the April 14, 1979 events. Befor Master Sergeant Doe's coup of April 12 thi year, the inclusion of Guinea in the Mano River Union had an unspoken "security" conscious aspect.

Master Sergeant Doe has posed a problem that is bigger than just a questi of the OAU chairmanship. He represents spectre that confronts several Africa Heads of State who either came to powe also by coup d'état, or spend much of thei time guarding against it. Apart from th coup having resulted in the death of a President, other august Heads of Stat might feel demeaned to rub shoulders wit a mere Master Sergeant, who has not eve promoted himself.

The OAU Secretary-General, M. Edem Kodjo, has expressed on behalf of his staf great sorrow at President Tolbert's death and, before the executions took place pleaded for fair trials and clemency. H stressed this was not to be interpreted a intervention in Liberia's internal affairs but as a humanitarian gesture. There are populations of several African countries who could equally benefit from such humanitarian concern.

This is not a case of flippant idealism. Injustice should be recognised in all its forms and either wholly approved or condemned. The dominant practice, however, is to condone social injustice by means of apologia on behalf of the "powers that be" whose good intentions are always presumed. History suggests that injustice breeds injustice, and the fault lies with successive perpetrators. Let tears be shed for handfuls of prominent perpetrator/victims, but also for the millions of victims who will never be powerful or prominent. Humanitarianism should not be for a few individuals alone.

Serving West Africa for nearly 100 years
PATERSON ZOCHONIS
Paterson, Zochonis and Company Ltd. (And Subsidiaries)
Widely Established Throughout Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Republic of Guinea, Cameroun Republic
Head Office Bridgewater House 60 Whitworth Street, Manchester 1
Paris Office 141 Boulevard Haussman Paris 8e
Department Stores
Manufacturers
Distributive Services
Industrial Enterprises

Matchet's Diary

from Monrovia

AT THE END of a press conference by the Head of State, Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe, we were told there was to be an execution and the foreign press was expected to attend.

At the Barclay Training Centre — a barracks near the centre of Monrovia — there were four large posts stuck in the ground near the beach which had been used the week before for the execution of four soldiers found looting and robbing. As we waited in the sun rumours flew. Some said there were to be more robbers killed. More likely it seemed to be four of the 14 Tolbert men tried by a military tribunal. But which four? Frank Tolbert, the elder brother, seemed probable but surely not Cecil Dennis, the respected ex-Foreign Minister and Richard Henries, the ex-Speaker, was surely too old at 72. There was no information. Then a man with a spade came and paced out places for more stakes. A lorry arrived with five poles — as big as tree trunks. So now there were nine posts, and nine names to be juggled.

A crowd was gathering and was pushed back to the gates by soldiers. The press, which was looking more and more glum, was encouraged to come closer. There were hundreds of soldiers by this time, many in a state of excitement, waving guns about and shouting. A bus was suddenly visible, surrounded by soldiers and with men inside. Old men, grey and taut, unshaven and in T-shirts and ill-fitting trousers. It was difficult to recognise the usually immaculately-suited Reginald Townsend, formerly National Chairman of the True Whig Party, Clarence Parker, big businessman and Treasurer of the party, James T. Phillips, ex-Finance Minister, and others.

Closer inspection revealed that there were 13 men in the bus — all the men who had been tried except Johnny McClain, the young former Information Minister. No one explained why he was left out. 13 men and nine stakes — would there be two sessions, people asked with some incredulity.

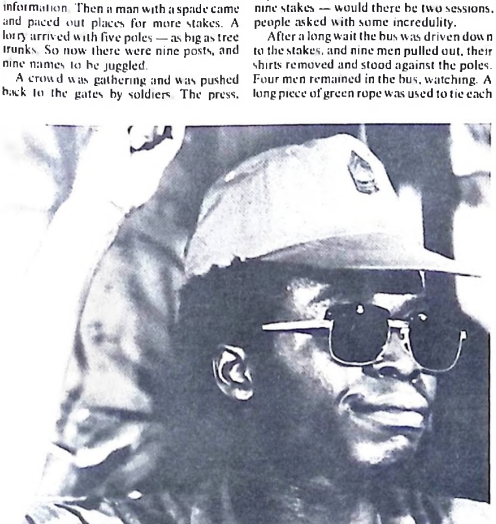
After a long wait the bus was driven down to the stakes, and nine men pulled out, their shirts removed and stood against the poles. Four men remained in the bus, watching. A long piece of green rope was used to tie each in turn. This was done roughly, the men pushed about and a boot being used.

Frank Tolbert had collapsed and was slumped in his bonds. Richard Henries, thin and frail, was also drooping forward. A soldier jerked his head back. I watched Cecil Dennis, standing tall and calm, succeeding in maintaining some dignity against all the odds.

An execution squad of 13 was marched awkwardly forward. The milling soldiers and the photographers were pushed back and silence called for. Then the order to fire was given. Incredibly Cecil Dennis remained standing calm and tall. His executioner had missed. At the second volley he crumpled, his face smashed by bullets.

There was a huge cheer by the soldiers, echoed by the crowd behind, and much stamping around and waving of guns in the air. The remaining four men were brought out of the bus. Four bodies were shoved aside and they were stood in front of stakes. They were not bound and things were mercifully briefer. No one was there to offer any prayers for the dying. Master Sergeant Doe has called for a week of prayers for his regime. My camera jammed at the start. I was glad, as pointing a camera was like participating in the obscenity.

As we left another burst of firing was heard as other soldiers took the opportunity to pour bullets into the dead bodies.



THE PRESS CONFERENCE by Master Sergeant Doe was a disappointment. He was in battledress, with a floppy camouflage hat and carrying a ceremonial sword. He was without the sunglasses he wore in published photographs. He is a slight man, looking younger than his 28 years. He read a short statement about the reasons for the Revolution of April 12 and then consented to answer only two questions. In reply to a French television man he said that attempts had been made to arrest Tolbert but, as he had resisted, he had to be shot. The man who did the shooting was Harrison Pennue — then Corporal, now Colonel. Brian Barron of BBC Television, asked, as the Head of State was introduced as "Chairman of the OAU" whether he was qualified for such a job. "Yes", said Master Sergeant Doe, and added nothing. The conference gave no opportunity to learn anything about the new Liberian leader.

Courteous interrogation

I WATCHED one of the 14 trials before the five man military tribunal that preceded the executions. The accused was Frank A. Stewart, former Budget Director, a large man looking unshaven, dirty and bewildered. The proceedings were in a noisy barracks hall, open to the press but not the public.

Mr. Stewart was courteously questioned by the officers. He sounded convincing as he explained that he never had policy making powers — he did what he was told and he had never handled any actual government money. He was less convincing when explaining how he came to own four houses, a supermarket, 28 city lots and a farm. Like most of the accused he tried to ingratiate himself by condemning the Tolbert corruption. "This coup has been long overdue," he said. When the time came to execute him the next day they tied the rope painfully around his huge stomach.

Dubious independence

A LITTLE RESEARCH into some of the oldest issues of *West Africa* throws a fascinating light on Liberia, and in particular Master Sergeant Doe's announcement that April 12 would be commemorated henceforth as Independence Day.

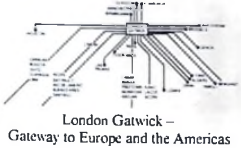
As the First World War was drawing to a close, the issue of Germany's African

"Hello; nice to see you again"

Travelling can be tedious. That's why it's so much nicer to travel with friends. Friends like British Caledonian who make you feel totally at home.

We fly to London from more cities in Africa than any other airline. More comfortable reliable services and more of our traditional British hospitality.

But isn't that what you've come to expect from British Caledonian, Africa's most experienced airline?



London Gatwick – Gateway to Europe and the Americas

British Caledonian Airways

We never forget you have a choice.

Offices in Africa

NIGERIA	ZAMBIA	GHANA	SIERRA LEONE	IVORY COAST	MOROCCO	TUNISIA
Lagos, Kano, Kaduna, Port Harcourt, Ikeja, Warri, Ibadan, Jos	Ndola, Lusaka, Kitwe	Accra	Freetown	Abidjan	Casablanca, Tetuan	
		SENEGAL	LIBERIA	THE GAMBIA	ALGERIA	LIBYA
		Dakar	Monrovia	Banjul	Algiers	Tripoli & Benghazi

territories and their administration arose at the same time as the ideas for a League of Nations or some such international body. It was in the context of this discussion that ideas began to be put forward for a type of international administration of Africa.

In mid-1917 the British Labour Party, in its conference, had the following proposal to make: "With regard to the Colonies of the several belligerents in Tropical Africa from sea to sea (north of the Zambesi River and South of the Sahara Desert), the Conference disclaims all sympathy with the Imperialist idea that these should form the booty of any nation, should be exploited for the profit of the capitalist or used for the promotion of the militarist aims of government. In view of the fact that it is impractical here to leave the various peoples suggested to their own destinies the Conference suggests that in the interests of humanity would be best served by the full and frank abandonment by all belligerents of any dreams of an African Empire, the transfer of all the present Colonies of the European Powers in Tropical Africa, *together with the nominally independent Liberia* (italics added), to the proposed Supernational Authority or League of Nations . . . " (*West Africa*, August 18, 1917).

The Liberian Minister in London, Mr. J. Crommelin, was moved to reply in these columns in the following issue that "it is a little high-handed of any individual political party, anywhere, to attempt to decide what is to happen to any country after the war, especially a country which, after all, is independent." The Minister claimed that citizens from all over the world were safe in Liberia and that the country had paid its recent debts after an adjustment of its finances. He also suggested that the Labour Party underestimated the opposition that would arise in the United States to their proposal. He concluded: "Nobody has yet discovered the laws or conditions which produce genius, but I need hardly remind you that very small nations have given to the world very great men and women. If Liberia sets to work and provides conditions whereby honest capital can find profitable investment (which can be done without injuring the rights of the people or allowing monopoly), who knows whether in the future she may not supply men and institutions making for the benefit of Africa as a whole?"

In the columns of *West Africa*, the Minister's feelings were something of a forlorn cry. For, in the issue of November 10, 1917 no less an authority than Sir H. H. Johnston was to write, in support of some form of an international authority over Africa, that all European powers were to be represented in an international conference which would control Africa. He added: "The United States, of course, should be represented on such a conference. America must have a great say in future as to the development of Africa, and, if to satisfy some diplomatic punctilios, America should possess some territorial interest in the Dark Continent then the United States might turn its shadowy protectorate over Liberia into reality."

Niger's five-year plan

By a correspondent

IN OUR article of January 21 we described Niger's economic prospects based on its uranium wealth, and forecast that GNP growth could average close to 10 per cent during most of the decade. On February 5 the Planning Minister released the first details of Niger's 1979-83 five-year plan calling for investment of CFA Fr. 730bn (approx. £1.5bn.) in 1979 prices, and a planned growth rate of 9.5 per cent p.a. over the period.

Just under one-half of this total is expected to come from private sources, mostly for the huge mining investments in uranium and coal (see previous article). Together with some public investment the mining sector accounts for 55 per cent of the total.

Planned Investment 1979-83
(CFA Fr. bn. 1979 prices)

	Public	*Private*
Mines, Energy, Industry	70.2	305.5
Rural Sector	116.5	–
Health, Education	84.8	–
Transport and Infrastructure	67.8	32.9
Tertiary Sector	20.0	3.7
Other	25.2	1.6
TOTAL	384.5	345.7

The main priorities of the Plan are, not surprisingly, to exploit the country's mineral wealth, to become self-sufficient in food, to reduce Niger's geographic isolation and to increase the numbers of qualified personnel.

Though most Sahelian countries have had insufficient rain this season, Niger has been more fortunate. Thus its cereal production, mainly millet and sorghum, will just about cover its needs. However, Niger still imports some 30,000 tons of rice, and its population is growing at a rate of 2.7 per cent p.a. Modest and attainable growth targets are set for the main cereal crops, to keep pace with population growth, and it is hoped to eliminate the rice deficit by more than doubling production from 23,000 tons (1978-79) to 60,000 tons in 1983. The likelihood of this being achieved depends on the success of numerous small irrigation projects being developed mainly along the banks of the River Niger.

Food crops are by far the most important, politically and economically, for Niger; but Niger also had important cotton and groundnut crops which have never recovered to their pre-drought levels. Ambitious targets for these crops are projected in the plan (production rising from 80 to 120,000 tons, and from 4,000 to 12-15,000 tons for groundnuts and cotton respectively). Groundnut production has been growing slightly in recent years, but has been badly affected by disease. This factor will determine whether the target can be met. Cotton production is in a much more serious state. Acreage, yield and output fell consistently throughout the previous decade and very radical steps would have to be taken if the trend is to be reversed so dramatically.

Turning to the infrastructure plans, the single most important project is the construction of a rail-link from Niamey to Parakou in Benin which is the present terminus of the line to Cotonou on the coast. The total cost of this could be as much as CFA Fr. 60bn. At present the two countries are looking for backers to finance the detailed engineering plans. The question is not whether the project will go ahead, but how quickly. It almost certainly will not be complete before 1983.

The other main projects to reduce Niger's isolation are completion of the road link to the north and construction of other roads linking Niamey with Upper Volta, Togo and Benin and Nguigmi to the east beside Lake Chad.

It is the fourth principal aim of the plan, in the education sector, which holds the key to success. In 1978 only 18 per cent of Niger's school-age children (6-14 years) were in school, and very much fewer reach Niger's sole university which was only opened in 1971. By 1983 it is planned that 25 per cent of Niger's primary age children will be in school. The shortage of skilled manpower, rather than finance, is likely to provide the main obstacle to the achievement of the plan. Public sector investment is planned to double from CFA Fr. 42.6bn. in 1979 to CFA Fr. 88.1bn. in 1981 and this will place enormous strain on an administration which is already stretched. Nevertheless, the main investments in the productive sectors of the economy, in particular the uranium mines, are unlikely to suffer. These are mostly underway, and are being undertaken by private companies unimpeded by administrative bottlenecks.

The plan's target growth rate of 9.5 per cent p.a. up to 1983 is probably rather optimistic, since the new mines will only just be coming on stream then. But any such estimates must be approximate if only because of the uncertainty as to what Niger's present national income is. The plan estimates 1978 GDP at CFA Fr. 380bn. or roughly $310 per caput, while the World Bank's estimate is very much lower – only $330.

Finally, it is worth noting the magnitude of effort that is being devoted to the new social structure that the President is planning to establish over the next five years. The category "other public investment" consists substantially of the expenditure required to set up the new administrative and social system. While the details are currently being worked out by a National Commission, the intention is to create a hierarchy of development councils down to the village level which will both mobilise the population for greater development work, and allow some participation in decision making.

"K" LINE

KAWASAKI KISEN KAISHA LTD
(Tokyo & Kobe)

JAPAN to and from WEST AFRICA

(via Hong Kong and Singapore)

Calling at Lagos (Apapa), Port Harcourt, Matadi, Abidjan, Tema, Cotonou, Douala, Lome

General Agents in Europe

KAWASAKI (LONDON) Ltd.
17 St. Helen's Place,
London EC3A 6EH

Tel: 01-638 3486 Telex 888888

Ghana's Catholic centenary

By John Kugblenu

POPE JOHN PAUL II is due to arrive in Ghana on May 8, 1980 as part of his African tour beginning on May 2. The other countries the Pontiff is visiting are Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Congo, Zaire and Kenya.

In the case of Ghana the Pope's visit coincides with the Centenary celebrations of the Catholic Church in the country. The highlight of the visit is a High Mass to be sung at the Independence Square in Accra shortly after his arrival at the Kotoka International Airport for the two-day visit.

This is the first time that a Pope has visited the country although in 1962 Cardinal Montini, then Archbishop of Milan and later Pope Paul, visited the Italian workers who were then building the Akosombo Dam.

At the moment Ghanaians from all walks of life are looking forward to the Pontiff's visit as special cloths and T-shirts are to be worn by members of the church.

Besides the High Mass to be sung by the Pope, there will be a special celebration on May 25 at Elmina where the first two missionaries started their evangelical work.

To the historian, it is quite surprising that the Catholic Church claims to be celebrating its first centenary in Ghana because as far back as 1471 when the Portuguese traders built a castle at Elmina they were accompanied by a chaplain.

Church historians also concede that there was some missionary work before 1880. According to His Grace John Kodwo Amissah, Archbishop of Cape Coast and chairman of the National Catholic Centenary Celebrations Commission, Catholic missionary work started, in the then Gold Coast, over 500 years ago when Portuguese missionaries first erected a Cross at Shama in the Western Region. Consolidation of the Church, however, was not possible at this early stage as the harsh tropical climatic conditions forced them to abandon further attempts. But in 1503 the Catholic church chalked up a big success when the chief of the Eltutu (now Winneba) was baptised with 1,300 of his people. Ironically, efforts to found the Catholic Church failed and about 1650 the missionaries withdrew.

However, some two centuries later in 1880, Rev. Fathers Auguste Moreau and Eugene Murat of France refounded the church in Elmina. Fortunately at this time there was greater tolerance for missionary work among the natives. The number of baptised christians rose steadily but at the same time many missionaries died.

The year 1901 marked a significant milestone when Msgr. Maximallian Albert, SMA was consecrated the first Bishop of the Gold Coast; hence there came into existence a Prefecture Apostolic of the Gold Coast which was formed through the persistent efforts of James Marshall, a British colonial officer, who was himself a convert to Roman Catholicism. The Prefecture was entrusted to the Society of African Missionaries (SMA). Consequently, missionary work increased with the arrival of different groups of missionary workers and education by Our Lady of Apostle Sisters was well under way. To meet the demands of the increasing number of Catholics, St. Theresa's Seminary at Amisano, near Cape Coast, was established to train Africans for the priesthood.

In 1950, the Gold Coast was incorporated as an ecclesiastical province and the hierarchy was established with Bishop William T. Porter as the first Archbishop, Cape Coast becoming the Archdiocese of the Catholic Church in the then Gold Coast.

In addition to the rapid growth of secular or diocesan priesthood and a staggering growth in Catholic population (1,218,339 — January 1976) the post-1950 era was also a time of great development in other areas of religious dedication. This was also the era of building more secondary and technical schools, teacher training colleges, hospitals and clinics as well as other minor seminaries and catechists' training schools.

From the time of Ghana's independence in March 1957, there occurred another significant development in the Catholic Church. The same year, the first Ghanaian, Father John Kodwo Amissah, was ordained as Auxiliary Bishop to the then Archbishop Porter of Cape Coast, and in 1960, Bishop Amissah was enthroned Archbishop in succession to Archbishop Porter. Consecration of Ghanaians as Bishops followed in rapid succession. Today, there are nine dioceses, two of which are Archdioceses — Archbishop Amissah of Cape Coast and Archbishop Peter Dery of Tamale.

At the moment Ghana is the permanent headquarters for the Symposium of

Chart University Tutors
LLB
Bachelor of Law Degree
University of London (External)

Three year full time course
and correspondence courses available.
Central college facilities
include library, full-time academic staff,
comprehensive study manuals.

For prospectus write to:

CT

The Registrar, Chart University Tutors
53, Great Sutton Street, London, EC1V 0DQ
or telephone 01-251 4981 (24 hour answering service)

Ecumenical encounter

Pope John Paul II and Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie, will have their first meeting in Ghana. They will meet briefly in Accra, for "greeting, private conversation and joint prayer" on May 9.

"It is good that the Pope and the new Archbishop of Canterbury should have their very first meeting, not in Rome or London, but far from the old rivalries of Europe, in Africa, a continent full of new life and energy," Archbishop Runcie said.

"Old disputes can look much less significant when measured against the need for all Christian churches in Africa to combine their faith and resources in an undivided effort to let Christ be seen and heard."

Archbishop Runcie will be in Ghana on his way to Zaire for the creation of a new Anglican Province.

Archbishop Amissah of Cape Coast

Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Malagasy. Four years ago, diplomatic relations between Ghana and the Vatican were established and Archbishop Guiseppe Ferraioli is the current Pro-Nuncio to Ghana. Christian life in Ghana expresses itself through apostolic and social action. There is considerable ecumenism in Ghana between the National Catholic Secretariat and the Christian Council embracing the Protestant churches which are now bent on Church Union.

The churches in Ghana fought quite admirably against the obnoxious political concept of UNIGOV which culminated in the referendum of March 30, 1978 during the days of the late I. K. Acheampong.

It is therefore hoped that besides evangelism the Catholic Church and the other churches will continue to oppose any future attempt to subjugate the people. Meanwhile Ghana says a big "Akwaaba" to Pope John Paul.

● Pope John Paul's is the second Papal visit to Africa. The first was by Pope Paul to Uganda in 1969 when he blessed the Shrine at Namugongo where 22 Catholics were martyred towards the end of the nineteenth century.

Father Joe Kelly of the Nairobi-based Association of Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA) estimates there are 52m. Catholics in Africa. The highest percentage of Catholics in the countries the Pope is to visit is in Zaire where the figure is 45 per cent of the population of over 12m. people.

There was friction between the Catholic Church and the Government of President Mobutu Sese Seko in the 1960s when Zaire wanted to introduce its "popular revolutionary movement" into seminaries. The Government also briefly nationalised church schools. A number of Catholic priests were murdered in Zaire during this unrest.

In Kenya, where 80 per cent of the population is Christian, 19 per cent are Catholics, according to AMECEA. Of the six nations the Pope will visit Upper Volta has the lowest percentage of Catholics at 7.8 per cent.

The OAU turns to development

Enokura Joe Okoli reports from Lagos on the final run-up to the OAU Economic Summit and the unexpected constitutional problems involved.

THE FIRST economic summit of the OAU Heads of Government is expected to begin in Lagos on April 28 (lasting about three days) despite suggestions that the conference should have been postponed as a mark of respect for the late OAU chairman Dr. William Tolbert of Liberia who was assassinated in a *coup d'etat* two weeks ago. OAU Ministers met throughout last week to do necessary spade work for the main conference. Heads of Governments started arriving from mid-week, apparently prepared to give positive meaning and content to their "declaration of commitment" at their meeting in Monrovia last July.

The priorities for the summit had been spelt out in a speech by Nigeria's Vice-President, Dr. Alex Ekwueme, to the opening session of the preparatory Ministerial conference. He said that national and regional self-sufficiency in food is of paramount importance for the long-term economic viability of the Continent.

Secondly minimising the obstacles towards rapid industrial growth, with emphasis on the development of industries based on the internal human and material resources of the continent, should help to reduce dependence on non-African economies: and third, tackling the shortage of skilled manpower hampering effective acquisition of technology and rapid industrial development in virtually all sectors of economic activity in African. A note of caution in the development of skilled manpower is needed to ensure that the educational and training systems have a practical orientation and relevance to African problems and needs Dr. Ekwueme said.

He advised that the summit should avoid looking at African problems through the biased spectacles of the advanced industrial countries which, he said, are bent on sowing seeds of discord among developing countries as a means of keeping them permanently divided and subjugated.

He blamed the advanced industrial nations for "trying to spread the view that virtually all the economic problems of the contemporary world are attributable to the increases in the prices of petroleum in recent years. All the difficulties which these countries have placed in the way of evolving

A to Z DISTRIBUTORS
We are the cheapest in London

We guarantee you that we can supply anything in Hi-Fi's, T.Vs, videos, washing machines, cookers and fridge/freezers etc, cheaper than anywhere else in the UK.

All we require from you is that you visit our showroom in person, and discuss the matter. A short visit to our showroom can save £100s and plenty of time.

Delivery is free to anywhere in London, outside London there is only a minimal charge.

We are open from 10 am to 6.30 pm Monday to Saturday

A to Z DISTRIBUTORS
70 Shepherds Bush Road
London W6
Tel 01-603 7737/602 3856
nearest underground: Hammersmith

JCTI

JAMES CROWE

TRADERS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Riverside House, Church Wharf, Corney Road, London W4 2RA
Telephone: 01-995 4671
Telex 932565

AIR & FREIGHT AGENTS
EXPORT PACKING
BUYING & CONFIRMING AGENTS
FULL DOCUMENTATION

CHARTER/SCHEDULE FLIGHTS
To Lagos and Kano only

Schedule | from 90 pence
Consolidation | per kilo
SERVICES WEEKLY TO:
FREETOWN, MONROVIA, LOME, COTONOU, ACCRA, LAGOS, KANO
Rates on application

SEA FREIGHT
Ro-Ro Consolidation: Twice weekly
Conference Line : Weekly
Container Loading for Conference Line Vessels: Weekly

SERVICES TO:
APAPA, SAPELE, PORT HARCOURT, WARRI, CALABAR, FREEPORT TEMA, TAKORADI etc.

Full S.G.S. Inspection Facilities Available

SUPPLIERS OF:
Agricultural Machinery, Building Materials, Pharmaceutical Products, Rice, Flour, Canned Foods etc., Motor Spare Parts, Stainless Steel Cutlery and Kitchen Equipment etc.

a new international economic order more favourable to the developing nations are quietly covered up, making the price of energy, the scapegoat of all economic ills. On the other hand, the adverse effects on Africa of the selfish management and domination of the world economy by these advanced countries are considered inconsequential for urgent attention."

Dr. Ekwueme's appeal helped to set the tone and mood for the conference. There was a feeling of consensus that economic co-operation at the continental level was long overdue, and that African nations must begin to have an increased say in the management of the world economy.

The Malian Foreign Minister, Mr. Aliou Mbeye, who spoke on behalf of the delegates, expressed the same optimism, saying that as the nations of Africa had worked together for political freedom and succeeded, economic freedom will be achievable if they work together again. Determination to work together was easily noticeable on the faces of the delegates, including the two whites in Zimbabwe's four-man delegation. The new Republic of Zimbabwe was attending an OAU function for the first time following her unconditional admission into the organisation as its 50th member.

The recommendations of the Ministers — drawn mainly from the diagnoses and prescriptions produced at the various intra-African conferences and symposia during the last few months — have been passed on to the Heads of Governments' conference for their final stamp of authority. But as the OAU heads assemble for this special summit with the long-standing agenda, the question of who becomes the next OAU chairman may find its way to the top of the list.

President Shagari in the chair?

It had not been cleared or decided who should chair the conference in the absence of the OAU chairman (at the time of writing) but the general speculation was that President Shagari, the host, should have the honour. The OAU does not have a deputy chairman and there has never been a precedent when the serving chairman has died or been ousted. President Tolbert's test case could force a quick reaction or provision on this matter in order to save the organisation from any embarrassments of that nature in the future.

It may be decided that the new Liberian ruler, Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe will be asked to complete President Tolbert's chairmanship. Some people have suggested that the Master Sergeant would need some time to acquire the skills of statemanship required for OAU leadership. Another school of thought says it would only be fair to let the leadership of the Liberian people complete their turn. They argue that it does not matter whether the leader chooses to play the role directly or by delegating an experienced minister. Flt-Lt. J. J. Rawlings of Ghana, for example, was represented at the last OAU Heads of Government meeting in Monrovia by the long-serving Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Gloria Nikoi, although not as chairman.

Important as the OAU chairmanship is, it should not be allowed to overshadow, or militate against the economic significance of the Lagos Summit. Since the inception of the OAU in 1962, the Organisation has concerned itself with political problems, trying to minimise conflict between the member states, but with limited success. The Organisation's inability to sort out the political situations in Chad and at the Horn of Africa (to mention those that require urgent attention) has been severely criticised. Its record in solving political problems has not been commendable. The major political point it has so far scored, has been its unreserved support for liberation struggles in the continent. Even that has been ambiguous because some member countries such as the Ivory Coast, Gabon and the neighbouring states to South Africa, always had their economic considerations for co-operating with the apartheid regime despite OAU's official opposition.

That is why the Lagos Summit is of tremendous significance for Africa. The strong economic links now being forged between the member states (rather than the loose political attachment, worsened by a policy of non-intervention) could better help to strengthen and unite the Organisation. The timing of the conference is also significant because this year is the last year of the Second United Nations Development Decade and therefore a period of stock-taking and forward planning by every member nation or regional group for the Third Development Decade. African nations are known to be disorganised at supra-regional economic conferences because they do not do their collective homework before attending such meetings. They arrive at conferences totally unprepared, allowing other nations particularly the Europeans and the United States' representatives further to disorganise them when they try to hold patch-up meetings in the corridors of the conference halls.

This week's initiative is therefore expected to give the African nations an opportunity to articulate and rationalise their economic problems from the perspectives of developing nations so that they can present a common front and hope to get a better deal out of most international negotiations which, hitherto usually ended, concluded or not, against their interest. Furthermore, the summit should provide a good opportunity for African nations to draft programmes of action that could put African economies on a more viable path of growth and development, a programme based on the principle of national and regional collective self-reliance.

It can only be hoped that the decisions of the OAU leaders at this summit will match the expectations and anxieties of millions of Africans crying out loud for economic emancipation. Political independence will never have a meaning or substance until economic freedom is achieved. This is not too much to expect. It is a right and not a favour.

Farmers and foreigners

In his second article on the Ivory Coast, Alex Rondos considers the two main groups contributing to the country's economy and how the state responds to them

THE most important economic action taken by Ivory Coast recently has been its withdrawal from the international cocoa market. This has been followed up by the joint action taken with other producers to break up the international cocoa agreement. It is a policy which indicates the nature of the Ivorian economy, its mainstays are the small farmer and the foreigner. As usual, President Houphouet Boigny, without mincing his words, made the point in his address to the nation last December 7:

"From 1960 to 1979, taking into account diverse factors, labour difficulties, rises in the price of fertiliser and energy, fall in purchasing power, etc., the European prices have been multiplied by five, and even ten, for some products. Cocoa, however, which cost 250 CFA francs in 1959, we are now offered this year between 500 and 600 CFA francs. Now, the African farmer has to wait five or six years for his first harvest. The rapid ageing of the plant requires fertilisers which will have become five times more costly, the necessary battle against capsids also demands products that are no less expensive. This is without taking into account the material needed for the upkeep of the plant." The President concluded: "In 10 or 15 years at the latest, I fear that coffee and cocoa production will only decrease because our youth will not pursue the manual labour required with archaic instruments and for a price that is scarcely remunerative. . . . Will the peasants who only seek to work . . . be alienated by lack of understanding and egoism? We are worried." These are the words of a farmer with foresight who also happens to be in a position to do something about the conditions of the Ivorian farmer.

The President's words indicated the urgency of the problem. For if the news from Ivory Coast has tended to be dominated by cries of alarm at the rapid rise of the external debt and its servicing, or at the immense cost of the sugar projects in the north, whose success is still a long way off, or the need for reform of wasteful state companies, there is the background of these events which consists of an economy in which there are certain structural defects, some of which are implicit in the economic strategy and others that can be corrected a little less painfully.

A useful enough generalisation would be that the Ivorian economy consists of two main contributors, the small farmer and the foreigner. The regulator is the state — a state of a peculiar type, as was suggested last week, because it comes close to being synonymous with a vaguely identifiable community of financial and political interests. It is now almost routine to remind everyone that cocoa and coffee represent at least 70 per cent of foreign revenue earnings. To take the 1978 figures which have now been confirmed, 39 per cent of the total value of exports consisted of cocoa and cocoa products while 26.2 per cent was taken up by coffee. And 1978 was a bad year for Ivorian cocoa. With the continuing decrease in timber exports, the proportionate role of these two commodities has been considerably enhanced. In light of these simple statistics there are two main reasons why the authorities in Ivory Coast have reason to worry. The first, on which they have now acted, is the obvious vulnerability of commodity prices on the international market. The second worry is much more acute because of the increasing role of revenue derived from coffee and cocoa in the Ivorian economy. Not only is the success of the cocoa and coffee strategy of Ivory Coast one of the basic reasons for its credit-worthiness among western financial sources — which are now becoming more private than multilateral or official — but there has also been a significant shift in the structure of sources of investment in the budgets, especially the Investment Budget which reveals a growing formal dependence on the commodity revenues. Coupled with this is the observation that sooner or later a certain coherence will have to be imposed on the role of the Caisse de Stabilisation et Soutien aux Produits Agricoles.

Sources of investment

The 25 per cent increase in this year's Investment Budget. Budget special d'investissement et d'équipement, to 300bn CFA francs (it was 239.466bn in 1979) has been mistaken as an over-optimistic, if not rash, increase in expenditure, dictated by political criteria. However, this year's rise consists largely of a regularisation of commitments made last year largely by the Caisse. There are three main sources of investment-financing in the BSIE: receipts from internal taxes which come under the responsibility of the Treasury; foreign loans, all of which are now controlled by the Caisse Autonome d'Amortissement; and contributions from the Caisse de Stabilisation. The significant factor in the last two years has been the reversal of roles between the CAA and the Caisse de Stabilisation giving the latter the preponderant role in budget financing. In other words, many of the projects currently undertaken, such as a massive road expansion scheme, will depend on the coffers of the Caisse. The concern that is expressed today in Abidjan is not that the money from the Caisse is in any way misused, even though one or two of the investments may be criticised, but rather

CONTAINER TO LAGOS

Tropicalised Electrical Goods
Tax Free Export

	Excluding VAT
Kelvinator Refrigerator 8.1 cu ft D/Door	£130 00
Kelvinator Refrigerator 9.3 cu ft Model KTR 1007	£120 00
Kelvinator Refrigerator 9 9 cu ft D/door	£147 00
Kelvinator Refrigerator 12 cu ft KM122	£158 00
Kelvinator Refrigerator 14 cu ft	£218 00
Indesit Chest Freezer 9 cu ft 4 Stars	£130 00
Indesit Chest Freezer 12 cu ft 4 Stars	£146 00
LEC Chest Freezer 14 cu ft (Eng) Tropical	£165 00
Philco Fridge/Freezer 9 cu ft Tropical	£117 00
Philco Fridge/Freezer 11 cu ft Tropical	£135 00
Philips Refrigerator ARB404 8 cu ft D/Door	£125 00
Philips Refrigerator ARB405 10 cu ft D/Door	£138 00
Philco Airconditioner 17500 BTU	£260 00
Philips Washing Machine AWB082	£175 00
BENAVENT Bottle Gas Cooker Model 304 4 burners	£100 00
BENAVENT Elga 2 Gas 2 Electric Cooker	£100 00
BENAVENT Cuisor 4 Gas & Electric	£140 00
NEW WORLD Flair Gas (Bottle) Cooker	£150 00
FAN Electric Standing 14in (China)	£35 00
Philips 24in B&W Tropicalised TV	£105 00
Philips 26in Colour TV M865 T System	£355 00
Philips 26in Colour M863 R Control TV	£428 00
Philips 12in TV B&W Tropical	£60 00
Sierra 26in Pal Colour TV Model 635/54Z w/stand	£338 00
Sierra 26in Pal Colour TV Model 566.01Z R/C stand	£440 00
TV Voltage Stabilizer	£20 00
Fridge Voltage Stabilizer	£58 00
Transformers	from £15 00
Zinc Trunk Kingsize	£30 00
Steam Trunk Kingsize	£20 00

SHIPPING AND PACKING TO WEST AFRICA We also ship personal effects, cars, trucks or machinery anywhere in the world at very competitive rates. Shipping of Kingsize Trunks £50 00. Electric generators and power petrol SAW plus tools

GC Shipping & Travel
28-30 Upland Road, East Dulwich
London SE22 9EF
Tel: 01-693 8582, 693 0427/8

IN
IVORY COAST
you can get
WEST AFRICA
at
ÉDI PRESSE

Boulevard du Général de Gaulle 09
BP 254 Abidjan
09 Cote d'Ivoire
tel: 37.48.60/37.47.27

édi PRESSE

that it is an autonomous body, the money of which can be used with only retrospective reference in a later budget.

The point is that since 1975, with the massive rise in coffee and cocoa prices, the surplus in the Caisse rose to the extent that since that year, the Caisse has contributed 650bn CFA francs to the BSIE. This source of financing has tended to be used in an *ad hoc* manner. However, its role is now too important for there not to be some order installed in the organisation of budget financing.

While the Caisse is not directly involved in the problems surrounding the sugar complexes in the north, they are symptomatic of the need for order. A combination of political expediency, to placate some of the northern political interests, poor negotiation and encouraged by foreign interests has led to a curtailed commitment (there are now only six instead of the original 12 complexes intended) of 250bn. CFA francs, 80bn. of which is accounted for in this year's BSIE. The former sum represents 14 per cent of the external debt. While sugar remains the most serious problem facing the economy in the immediate future, there are hopes that outlets will be found for the mounting production. It is thought that by the end of 1983, production will have reached 300,000 tonnes. The Ivorians are hoping that an arrangement can be made with the EEC and their sugar agreement, in which they could not participate at its initiation because production had not begun. There is also the hope that the market of the Union Monetaire Ouest Africaine will absorb some of the excess.

The picture that should emerge so far is one where the exposed commodities are now taking up a vital formal role in financing the expansion of the economy. The Ivorians are therefore conforming totally to the notion of comparative advantage. The trouble is that if in international terms it has paid off as far as revenue is concerned, the effects often seep into the internal economy. The advantages bestowed upon the coffee and cocoa farmer are considerable. They rely on benevolent taxes, cheap foreign labour and the knowledge that the producer price has always been guaranteed and adhered to. It should never be forgotten that coffee and cocoa producer prices in Ivory Coast, recently raised from 250 CFA francs a kg to 300, are no higher than anywhere else in West Africa. Similarly the farmers are also aware that the State, through the Caisse de Stabilisation, therefore takes for itself 50 per cent of the current Ivorian earnings on the international market. The lapse has been in food production. It is to this that the government intends to turn its attention. The President suggested this in his December address to the nation and is confirmed by the plans to assist farmers, in some cases giving them free fertiliser and other equipment. While it is never possible to assess the exact cereal production in the country because of the stocking that takes place at the village and family level, the government now intends to provide assistance and management, especially in the north, where there is the potential for food production. Following a policy no dissimilar to that in coffee and cocoa the state will intervene in regulating the producer prices and therefore providing more stability in peasant income.

The reason why such emphasis is given to the role of the two primary commodities is that their influence is now being seen in industrial policies. It would, however, be wrong to conceive of industrialisation in terms of purely technical potential and constraint. The fundamental point about industry and much of the service sector in Ivory Coast is that it remains over 50 per cent in foreign control. Relying on the figures produced at the end of 1978, the Ivorian state has a 33.01 per cent stake in the industrial capital, private Ivorians have 11.65 per cent and France has 33.98 per cent. The rest is spread among a number of western states and Japan. Ivory Coast has pursued a policy of import substitution which means that 70.2 per cent of the sales were in the domestic market. Industrial exports accounted for 32 per cent of all exports.

There is now a move to favour export-orientated industry. This was suggested by the World Bank in their report, *Challenge of Success* and there is every indication that it will be pursued by the government and reflected in the next Five-Year Plan. To a large extent import substitution met its match in the limited potential of the domestic market. Furthermore it has become evident that import substitution has led to a lack of integration in industry at various levels. The situation was aggravated, as the World Bank team noted at the time, by the fact that because much of the industry is foreign owned, the Ivorian subsidiaries are supplied by the parent companies with the semi-processed goods.

The problems, however, are human. That is to say Ivory Coast has a population of which 50 per cent is under 20 years of age. It has an educational system in which, in 1978 there were 892,135 children in primary schools (of which 535,000 were taught by televised education), out of a population of 7,800,000. Of these only 143,221 went on to secondary education. Within the latter system there is a heavy drop-out rate after the *premier cycle*. The pressure on the job market is not only going to grow, and very rapidly in the next few years, but many of those on the market will be literate and attracted to urban employment.

With this background in mind, the present structure of Ivorian industry, especially the extent to which it is foreign owned, the need for changes becomes vividly apparent to the authorities. It is believed that with an industrial base that is founded on processing of local raw materials, especially agricultural produce for the export market, will lead to a decentralisation of industry away from Abidjan towards the local centres of production; it will prevent the migration towards the cities and will contribute to the growth of a domestic market.

What is felt most keenly, therefore, is the apparent lack of entrepreneur initiative by the private Ivorian citizen. This is surely one

MATCH THE GEORGES TO THE OCCASION AND YOU COULD CHOOSE A WHOLE NEW WARDROBE FOR YOURSELF

NEW DESIGNS

CONCORD
CORONATION
NIAGARA FALLS
DISNEY WORLD
BIG WHEEL
GRANDSTAND
GOOD LUCK
BLESSINGS
CONGRATULATION
SWEETHEART
LOVE AFFAIR
LOVERS LANE

SUPER FINE
GEORGES

iana ltd.

Invites you to view our latest designs at our new showroom

GEORGES HOUSE
47 DALE STREET, MANCHESTER M1 2HF
near Piccadilly Stn. Tel: 061-236 2705

of the basic contradictions that has emerged in the Ivorian economic system. A few years ago, the then Minister of Finance and Economy, M. Konan Bedie, spoke of turning the Ivorian society of the peasant into one of shareholders. The present state of affairs points to the absence of that initiative, in spite of the opening of the Stock Exchange in Abidjan. The State is the main investor, and it has until recently borrowed heavily from external sources. This leaves three problems for Ivorian strategists, which are best dealt with in reverse order of priorities.

There is the external debt which is the object of fairly wild speculation at times. It has been calculated by a publication as reliable as *Marchés Tropicaux et Méditerranéens* that the ratio of debt service to exports could rise to 30 per cent by next year. It will be in the next three years that many of the debts fall due for Ivory Coast. In Abidjan, ministerial officials merely observe that at least half of the contracted debts have not been disbursed and the state could at any given time, though with difficulty, opt out of those engagements. The consequences for the internal economic policies would be serious, however. Many of these debts (the total stood at 968.8bn. CFA francs at the end of 1978) were incurred by the almost wanton recourse to external financing by State companies. While the State has reduced considerably its foreign borrowings, it has made an important gesture to putting some order internally by entrusting all external debts and their management to the CAA.

dence in which the liberal path to economic expansion has been advocated, and there are many Ivorians who feel that there is a complete absence of an entrepreneurial group to assume the responsibilities for investment. For instance, there is a movement in Abidjan to enhance the role of small- and medium-scale Ivorian enterprises. One senior government official whose role it is to provide assistance in this sector justified the need to expand considerably the scope of this activity by saying that "the revolt must be contained". The revolt he sees is from the growing mass of unemployed. For the moment, bank interests are too high and anyway, there is the more theoretical issue, people just do not become entrepreneurs overnight. It is an ethos that has to be instilled over generations.

If economic logic, within the Ivorian terms of reference, should dictate that the authorities take this last problem extremely seriously, then political pressures should persuade. In the meantime, it would appear that the structure of the Ivorian economy is moving relentlessly towards an explicit dependence on its basic sources of wealth — coffee and cocoa, with timber production being kept in check with difficulty — and the attendant vulnerability to the whims, and even dictates of the foreign market. The structure of the Gross Domestic Product is in danger of becoming too dependent on a fine base where two or three commodities will play a predominant role in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of the economy.

The combination of the role that the Caisse de Stabilisation is playing in the budget financing and the new direction in industrial policy towards processing and export points to the fact that Ivory Coast is moving relentlessly towards a situation where all things being well, the financial accounts will look healthy but where the political account will become under more pressure and where the entire structure becomes highly vulnerable to the buffeting from the international economic circumstances. The basic need, however, for the Ivory Coast, is that if it is to continue on its present advocated economic course, a serious bout of decentralisation and real indigenisation is called for. Otherwise the contradiction of the small farmer, the foreigner and interests incumbent in the Ivorian state will lead to an impasse which will only frustrate masses — some of them with an education — who are caught between the reluctance to return to the fields and the lack of openings in other economic sectors. The State has played an important role in directing the fortunes of Ivory Coast's economy. The trouble is that it has been a cushion on which many find comfort. For an economy that seeks to follow the liberal path to development the State has become a source of security — not to say power — for a few and a source of expectation for the majority. There is, therefore, justification in suggesting that the State and those who represent it must define its role more clearly for the future along the lines of the simple choice; more incentive for all or temporary paralysis.

Political challenge

The state companies, Sociétés are, in fact the second major problem. Created to compensate for the lack of private initiative in certain sectors of the economy, there are now 30 financed totally by the state and another 18 where the state participation is above 50 per cent. While some have been strikingly successful, there is no doubt that the general opinion is that they have been on the whole inefficient, in some cases totally lacking in any form of acceptable book-keeping. They represent, however, a serious political challenge. They have been, and still are, a very useful territory for political patronage. Directorships and senior management positions all too often have been motivated by political favour. It has been well over a year since the President promised that they would be reformed, and still nothing has been done. With the Party Congress so close, it will be difficult to see how any such reforms will be announced soon. The basic proposition, though never mentioned publicly, is that they should be turned over into private hands.

This then is the crucial issue. Who are the people in Ivory Coast who can become the "shareholders"? At present Ivory Coast resembles a bourgeois state — state capitalism or controlled liberalism notwithstanding — with a entrepreneurial bourgeoisie. Twenty years after indepen-

IF YOU ARE RETURNING HOME

contact us now

We are experts in getting your personal effects shipped home on time and in one piece. You may want to send just your car, fridge or furniture home or, all your household effects.

If so, contact us for Low Rates and personal service. Telephone or write at once to

RADIUS

Shipping and Forwarding Ltd.,
60, Lewisham Way,
London SE14
Telephone 01-691 0931

Timber politics in Ghana

The first of two articles by a correspondent

"LIFT THE (LOG) BAN and save the timber trade from total collapse!" seems to be the consistent war-cry of a section of the Ghanaian timber business community, chanted vigorously to various regimes in Ghana since the early 1960's. The latest appeal to government was made by Mr K. A. Aggrey, who was until recently the National Vice-President of the Ghana Timber Association. Sniffing the winds of change since the overthrow of the SMC government in June, 1979, Aggrey spearheaded entreaties to both the AFRC and the civilian PNP governments to reverse the policy of banning the export of 14 species of timber in round log form. The ban was recommended by the Ghana Timber Marketing Board (GTMB), the statutory agency responsible for the overall formulation and execution of policy towards the timber industry. The ban was endorsed by the SMC and became effective on January 1, 1979. In January, 1979, the GTMB announced a further seven species would be banned from 1980.

At the very end of 1979, President Limann in a special Presidential statement finally responded to the petitions of Aggrey and other members of the Ghana Timber Association (GTA), and announced his government's support of the log ban policy. The President's statement seems to have taken the wind out of the sails of the opponents of the ban, at least for the time being, but it cannot be comfortably assumed that they have given up their case. Nor can it be necessarily assumed that government policy with regard to the ban is irreversible. Timber producers in Ghana have emerged since independence as an extremely influential political lobby, and on a number of occasions have succeeded in persuading governments to adopt particular policies contrary to the advice proferred by the government bodies responsible for the timber industry — the Forestry Department, the Ministry of Lands, and the GTMB. The log ban issue is a case in point. Past attempts by the GTMB to ban the export of specific species of logs have been overruled by government following intense lobbying by certain log producers and by the GTA, a representative trade organisation but one which is numerically dominated by log producers.

Opposition to the log ban policy has always been accompanied by a virulent attack on the GTMB. What is the substance of the conflict, and why has the GTMB persisted with the policy in the face of such bitter opposition? It must be emphasised that the conflict is not an isolated trivial issue. Consideration of the log ban question reveals in fact important information concerning both the structure of Ghana's timber industry, and the *political* nature of decision-making in Ghana. As timber is Ghana's second most important export, earning between 10 per cent and 17 per cent of total export proceeds in the last 20 years, government policy towards the industry has significant implications for the economy as a whole. Present government policy towards the timber industry will thus decisively affect any attempts to rehabilitate Ghana's ailing economy.

The log ban arguments

The rationale provided by the GTMB to support its log ban policy is the urgent necessity to protect the resource base of the timber industry, and to ensure an adequate supply of logs to local factories (sawmills, veneer and plywood mills, furniture factories and a chipboard factory). The Board is eager to reverse trends established during colonial times, whereby unprocessed raw materials were exported to feed European and North American manufacturing industries, and to encourage local industrialisation. The GTMB argues that if processed wood products instead of logs predominated Ghana's exports, the timber sector has the potential to at least quadruple its earnings on the same volume of cut in the immediate future. The Board is concerned that Ghana's supply of "primary species" is fast dwindling, and can point to the example of neighbouring Ivory Coast, whose stocks of many valuable species of tropical hardwood have been almost completely exhausted. A ban on the export of primary species would, the GTMB argues, encourage producers to seek markets for lesser-known more abundant species. Concentration on cutting a small variety of species in the forest has involved considerable waste, which the GTMB and

the Forestry Department would like to see changed.

Critics of the ban in turn argue that logging is the "backbone" of the timber export industry, that a substantial increase in foreign exchange earnings will not eventuate from a change in the nature of exports (from logs to finished and semi-finished products), and that the ban is ill-timed. Extreme opponents believe Ghana should at no time in the foreseeable future ban log exports, maintaining that adherence to Forestry Department regulations and working plans based on the notion of "sustainable yield" ensures a perpetual supply of all species of timber in Ghana's forests. More moderate critics simply argue that the wood processing sector has insufficient capacity to absorb the volume of logs available should the export of logs be disallowed, and therefore any ban should either be postponed or at least phased over a considerably long time-span.

Roots of the problem

Logs have been extracted from the forests of Ghana (then Gold Coast) and exported since the 1880's. At first trade was almost exclusively in mahogany logs — until the late 1930's colonial annual reports itemised "Mahogany Export" in compiling trade statistics, rather than any general category of timber exports. Sawmilling and other processing were slow to develop and the colony *imported* its major requirements of lumber, plywood, fibre board and other wood products until the early 1950's. In 1938 the Gold Coast recorded log exports valued at £69,190, and lumber exports worth only £7,839. The situation changed dramatically after the Second World War, when numbers of sawmills and a plymill were established, nearly all by British firms, recognising the potential and needs of European markets during the period of post-war reconstruction. Export of both logs and lumber spiralled. By 1950 the Gold Coast was exporting £2.76m. worth of logs, and £1.12m. of lumber, a phenomenal rise on pre-war figures.

But the pattern of "creaming the forest", ie, of felling only a limited number of valuable species, had been firmly established. Three (3) species — mahogany, wawa and sapele — accounted for 75 per cent of logs exported in 1950, mahogany alone representing 42 per cent. Sixteen other species were exported in that year, eight of which made up 22 per cent of the total (with one species, makore, dominating this portion with 7.6 per cent), and the eight remaining species comprised only 3 per cent of total exports. The colonial government was caught rather unawares by the rapid growth of the industry, and anxiously appointed a fact-finding committee in 1951 to report and make recommendations for the industry's "orderly and efficient organisation and control". Needless to say typical official colonial attitudes dominated the report, and arguably the place of the colony's timber resources in the British Empire rather than any intrinsic needs of the country itself were the focus of attention, but the committee did express great concern about the "creaming" process. The report stated: "Little past effort has been made by the timber industry towards finding markets which would ensure the better use of available forest resources. As long as easy markets exist, particularly for mahogany and wawa, the majority of producers will continue to neglect other aspects and their potential consumer markets overseas."

What has been the effect of such admonitions made almost 30 years ago? In 1977 total earnings from timber exports had risen to $84.99m. (US), of which $57.13m. came from logs, and $21.76m. from lumber, with the remainder from veneer, furniture parts, profile boards, plywood, finger flooring, corestick, blockboards and doors. Thirty-three species of logs were exported, as against 19 in 1950. But considering there are over 300 exploitable species found in the Ghana forest, this does not represent a significant change towards better utilisation in any sense. Moreover, seven species dominated the export list. Wawa (which is *not* banned under the new regulations), alone comprised 33 per cent of the total tonnage exported, and the 14 species now banned made up 55 per cent. Of the banned species, five predominated — utile, sapele, mahogany, makore and edinam. These five species comprised 50 per cent of total tonnage exported.

It is precisely this situation, which involves selective felling by exporters and hence gross waste in the forest, as well as threatening depletion of a few highly valuable species, that the GTMB is concerned to change by introducing a ban on the export of 14 particular species in log form. The claim of many producers that felling in cycles under Forestry Department supervision ensures eternal supply of all species merely evades the issue. Adherence to Forestry Department Working Plans does not prevent selective felling practices, nor waste. Trees are often felled but left in the bush if considered not to be of top export quality. In addition, the Forestry Department's silvicultural and afforestation programmes have been severely hampered by their reliance on a fixed budget in a time of gross inflation in the economy, and by the lack of vehicles, equipment and qualified personnel. This makes the ban all the more pressing, if Ghana is to protect her timber resources. The Chief Conservator of Forests is a member of the Board of Directors of the GTMB which instituted the ban — it could thus be inferred that the Forestry Department is in full accordance with the log export ban.

The state of the industry

The other stated concern of the GTMB related to the log ban, ie, ensuring an adequate supply of logs to local mills, should also be examined. Opponents of the

IN
SWITZERLAND
you can get
WEST AFRICA
at
ZUGITAN AG
6, avenue de Secheron
1202 — Geneve
tel: (022) 32 44 83/31 74 85

TAYLOR-BARRETT
AFRICAN SHOP
WE STOCK:
GEORGE — Standard Quality
GEORGE — SUPER FINE
'HIGH STAR' DAMASK HEADTIES
'CROWN' LUREX DAMASK HEADTIES
PRINTED NYLON HEADSQUARES
GUINEA BROCADE (from West Germany)
'FENI' CLOTH — PRINTED WOOL
100% PURE NEW WOOL
END OF SEASON REDUCTIONS ON SELECTED GEORGE DESIGNS, AND HEADTIES — Limited quantities available
Taylor-Barrett Limited
16 Chepstow Street
Chepstow House
Manchester M1 5JF
Tel: 061 236 6191

ban argue Ghana has insufficient mills to absorb the extra volume of logs now available on the local market, and hence it is inevitable foreign exchange earnings will fall as a result of the ban. For example, Mr. Aggrey in a fervent press statement in August, 1979, claimed that Ghana had earned only $12.3m. (US) from timber exports in the first six months of 1979. In that the earnings for 1978 were $62.44m. (US), this figure for 1979 would represent a serious decline. On November 18, the Chief Executive of the GTMB, Mr P. E. K. Boateng, replied to Aggrey's and similar allegation by announcing that between January and October, 1979, Ghana had earned ₵114,235,000 (cedis) from timber exports, and that it was expected by the end of the year earnings would reach $60m. (US), which would be comparable to earnings in the previous year. To be fair, the Board had hoped that concentration on the export of processed products rather than logs would realise far more than the actual performance for 1979. But the failure to increase timber earnings in 1979 does not necessarily mean the arguments of those opposed to the ban are valid.

Wood exports January-June, 1976, and estimated value if exported as knock-down furniture

Items	Tonnes	Value ₵	Value if knock-down furniture
Logs	189,723	28,714,443	343,017,184
Lumber	52,224	15,639,485	94,420,992
Plywood	5,728	2,684,962	1,356,224
Total	246,675	47,038,890	447,796,400

Shortages of equipment

While a sufficient number of factories does exist to cope with an increased supply of logs, it is true that all the mills in Ghana (with one or two notable exceptions) are working at between 30 per cent and 60 per cent capacity. The reasons for this are the desperate lack of spare parts, and for some large mills, a shortage of logs. The first factor is of course due to general chaos in the Ghanaian economy, which resulted in the inability of most manufacturers in recent years to establish letters of credit and thus utilise import licenses allocated to them for necessary imported items. The timber industry is highly capital-intensive and extremely dependent on imported machinery, vehicles and extraction equipment, spares and other inputs such as glue. The vulnerability of the industry can not be exaggerated: it is immediately affected by hitches in its import programme. The Ghana Timber Marketing Board however can hardly be blamed (as it frequently is by its enemies) for the banks' failure to establish letters of credit for customers, or for Ghana's dissipation of its foreign reserves. The GTMB does have control over the allocation of the bulk timber import licence, but not over the Ministry of Trade or the banks (or in SMC days The Castle) in terms of which licences materialise. It could protest, but could not determine whether armoured cars, BMW's, biscuits, tinned soup or whisky were given priority over caterpillars, chain saws, timber trucks, bandmills or spare parts. In 1977 letters of credit were established for only ₵10m. of the ₵60m. import licence allocated to the timber industry, and in 1978 about ₵4m. of ₵40m. In fact faced with such a situation the GTMB managed to some degree to circumvent normal import procedure by using a portion of the 2 per cent levy on all contracts (which goes to the Board to maintain offices abroad and engage in market intelligence and promotion activities) to import vital spare parts. It also instituted a system of retaining 4 per cent of the value of contracts in foreign accounts in the name of each exporter who could then build up foreign exchange reserves to import items directly. This system was however stopped by the Bank of Ghana, jealously guarding its central control of the disposal of convertible currency.

Controlling concessions

What of the claim that some factories suffer from a shortage of logs to process? Access to timber concessions in Ghana has an interesting history. Colonial land and concessions policy endowed approximately 90 per cent of available timber land to expatriate companies, with four companies holding 62 per cent of total concessions area. During the last few years of CPP rule under Nkrumah, attempts were made to make more land available to Ghanaian contractors. The Acheampong regime also wrested land from expatriate firms by nationalising the "big four" companies in two stages (in 1972 and 1976). But the distribution of timber concessions still paints an extremely distorted picture, with large areas held by a few companies and small tracts of land leased to numbers of contractors. This is complicated by the fact that many of the wood-processing mills established in the 1960's and 1970's are owned by Lebanese, who have generally not had access to concessions. Thus it is the case that 80 per cent of the sawmills in Kumasi and in the Eastern Region with Odi as it's centre, do not have direct access to the raw material through holding concessions. Forty per cent of plymills and 65 per cent of the veneer mills in the country do not have a guaranteed supply of logs. These mills attempt to make firm arrangements with small-scale Ghanaian contractors to supply logs on a regular basis but nearly all mills complain they do not have sufficient logs at their disposal. This is due to the problems faced by contractors in getting logs from bush to mill site with the

Westwind Africa Line Limited

Regular Express Freight Service between U.S. GULF PORTS and WEST AFRICAN PORTS (Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala, Warri)

EASTBOUND

WESTWIND — Houston ETA Apr 11, ETS Apr 14, Abidjan C/A Apr 29, Lagos ETA May 4.
EASTWIND — Houston ETA Apr 21, ETS Apr 24, Abidjan ETA May 9, Lagos ETA May 14.

For rates of freight and other information apply to: Southern Star Shipping Co., Inc., 245 Park Ave., New York, N.Y., 100172 — or — Texas Transport and Terminal Co., Inc., New Orleans and Houston.

WEST AFRICAN AGENTS

General Agents: SOUTHERN STAR SHIPPING CO. (Nigeria) Ltd., P.O. Box 318, Apapa, Nigeria.

Other Agents: Alraine Ltd. (Freetown, Lagos, Monrovia, Port Harcourt, Tema, Takoradi, Warri)
Socopao (Abidjan, Dakar and Douala)

U.K. General Agents: RIVER PLATE SHIPPING & TRADING AGENCY LTD., Windsor House, 83 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6SD
Telex 261619 Tel 01-405 0111

debilitated equipment, but it is also widely believed that in 1979 many contractors deliberately scaled down operations and reduced the supply of logs in an attempt to sabotage the log ban policy and so "prove their point" about its undesirability.

Important foreign earnings

Log exports in the last 20 years have contributed on average 65 per cent of timber export proceeds. It is only in the short-run that a ban on the export of the 14 species (which we saw made up 55 per cent of log tonnage in 1977) might adversely affect timber earnings generally. And if Mr. Boateng's predictions were correct, there will have been no significant decline at all. The relatively poor performance for 1979 cannot be separated from the state of the economy as a whole. Mr. Boateng in his November press release referred to "the strange circumstances of 1979" as the cause of the slight downward trend, and mentioned the effect of heavy rains which had made forest roads impassable, and so graders and trucks were unable to go into the bush. A heavy rainy season always does result in reduced volume of log extraction and is one of the factors to be considered in assessing low production figures for the year. More fundamental however is the run-down state of the industry in all sectors — log production, processing and transport — and the resistance of many log producers either to sell banned species locally or export non-banned species.

There is no validity in the argument that processed products with value-added will not earn more for Ghana than log exports. In 1976 the Ghana Export Promotion Council commissioned a report from its Wood-Based Products Committee. The committee produced convincing arguments for the need to concentrate on value-added products, and projected a value of earnings had the actual exports for January to June, 1976, been exported as knock-down furniture. Two trends should be noted — the difference in value per tonne of the three products (with logs lying right at the bottom of the scale), and the enormous increase if such products were processed to a further stage.

The figures speak for themselves. It might be noted in passing that the extremely low export figures for plywood do not indicate actual production. In the last few years about 95 per cent of plywood produced has been sold on the local market, and of course much of that found its way illegally across Ghana's borders.

It is important to emphasise that higher export earnings is not the only issue at stake in arguing that value-added products as opposed to round logs should comprise the major share of exports. Encouragement of local processing has far wider implications than foreign earnings. Its contribution to extending areas of employment and to developing backward and forward linkages with other sectors of the economy are of crucial importance to an underdeveloped economy such as Ghana's.

BOOKS and Publications

The remarkable Mungo

Mungo Park *by Kenneth Lupton (Oxford University Press, £7.50)*

ALTHOUGH Mr. Lupton gives his book the sub-title "*The African Traveller*", the description Park used of himself in the register of his wedding in 1799, the blurb on the book's cover twice refers to him as "explorer". Peter Brent, author of the last book about Park to appear before this welcome one – Brent's otherwise readable work was heavily marred by absurd illustrations which, unintentionally, proved his point – protested about the use of the term "explorer", which, like the corresponding use of the term "Africa", set up a stereotype which drained all individuality out of men (and even that remarkable woman, Mary Kingsley) who were for the most part characters, if sometimes bad characters, of great interest, originality and talent who usually moved among, and closely observed, people who would have been astonished to learn that they were being "discovered".

Park was among the greatest of them. There is no substitute for his own excellently written *Travels in the Interior Districts of Africa*, the first edition of which was published in 1799, or the tragic, unfinished *Journal of a Mission to the Interior of Africa*, his account of the futile journey on which he met his death, published in 1815. Few but specialists, however, can find time to study their 500 pages, and the biography by John Whishaw, together with the "Journals" of Park's two African guides, Isaaco and Amadi Fatouma, and a number of appendices which accompany the *Journal of a Mission*, even if the *Travels* was an instant best-seller

MASON RADIO

CHEAPEST IN LONDON FOR ELECTRICAL GOODS

Grundig 20" touch control, model 4415	£299.00
Grundig 22" touch control, model 6215	£327.75
Grundig 22" remote control, model 6415	£339.25
Grundig 26" remote control, model 8635	£410.00
Philips 26" touch control	£402.50
Philips 26" remote control	£465.75
Philips 12" B/W	£79.00
Philips 24" B/W	£115.00
Sony 14"	£287.50
Sony 18"	£356.50
Sony 22"	£488.75

ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT

FRIDGE — FREEZERS ALL AT LOW PRICES

VIDEO RECORDERS
Sony SL808OE
Akai VS9500EG
National 861OE
JVC HR3330EG
JVC HR3660EG
(Prices on application)

Video tapes at discount prices

MASON RADIO

255 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (01) 272 1231
384 Uxbridge Road, London W12 (01)743 3698

EAGLE
Shipping Services

Think of Home. Think of Eagle. Eagle takes you both by air and sea

We pack with care, we ship everywhere

1 Express collections, packing and shipping by conventional and container way

2 Economical Air Cargo services are available

3 Concessional rates for all students going back home

Eagle House
168 Dalston Lane
London E8

Telephone: 01-254 1466-7 8
Telex: 299536
Cables: EAGLESHIP E8

Save Money on Electricity

Buying Direct means Low Prices

Electrical Generators to 1000 kVA.
Substations to 5000kVA.
High Voltage Distribution.
Power Transformers.
Low Voltage Distribution.
Controls, Wire, Cables, Conduits.
Lighting ... everything electrical

WORLD
EXPORT SALES

P.O.BOX 16306
MEMPHIS, TN. USA 38116
phone: 901 345-7784
telex 53-3197

in its time. Mr. Lupton gives us a concise but readable summary of the two volumes, a perceptive description of the background, and an assessment of Park's personality. He may spend too much time in establishing, from a mass of evidence, the precise mode of the death of Park and his few surviving companions in the rapids at Bussa, now submerged in the lake formed by Nigeria's great Kainji hydro-electric dam. But he was, after all, for some years District Officer at Bussa before it was submerged and there, over twenty years ago, first dedicated himself to the wide research, some of it among material previously unpublished, which led to his book.

Park's first journey, begun in 1795 during the wars with France which considerably delayed its start, was sponsored by the African Association which was interested in both the development of trade and the improvement of geographical knowledge. Park was only 24, an unpractised, but travelled, surgeon who had been born on a modest Scottish farm. But his passion for knowledge — of "the production of a country so little known" and of "the modes of life and the character" of the people — convinced him that, long before tropical equipment or dress for Europeans was heard of the even used his hat as a receptacle for his notes), or treatment of tropical diseases — or even their nature — had been developed, he could on his own carry out the Association's mission. This was to go from The Gambia to the Niger — on foot for the most part, although that was not specified in the instructions — and ascertain "the course, and, if possible, the rise and termination of that river". He was also to visit the already legendary "Tumbuctoo" and the cities of "Houssa" whose names, such as Kano and Katsina, were well-known in Europe, but which had not yet been visited by Europeans, and in whose location and character the Association had been interested for some years.

Mr. Lupton clearly explains the confusion existing in Europe about the Niger: did it join the Nile, was it really the Congo, etc? It may seem surprising that — since the Niger, or part of it, already afforded a great commercial route and, as the Lander brothers, who clearly, in 1830, established that the Niger entered the Atlantic through its delta, were to be told of this fact near Bussa itself — the idea of systematic enquiry about the river among merchants and others in West and North Africa was not contemplated. The Association wanted a first-hand account. And, as everybody knows, at Segu Park at last, on July 21, 1796, saw the great river and its *eastward* flow.

Park's resolution, fortitude and stamina had been remarkable. He had faced hostility and danger; but he had also received much help, hospitality and kindness, particularly from the lady he so warmly recalls, as Mr. Lupton says, in his narrative, who in plaintive verse asked all to take pity on the poor lone white man, because "no mother has he". Today, however, the importance of this narrative is that it was the first "realistic, detailed and objective description . . . of everyday life in the interior of West Africa". It is full of re individual people, as well as of establishe states and communities, trade, law an religion. It demonstrated Park's belief "the genuine sympathies and character feelings of our common nature".

Mr. Lupton draws a sympathetic picture of Park, the "reluctant surgeon" and the loving husband and father of the follow years. He also discusses Park's attitude t slavery and politics. But, whatever the British government's interest — and it was largely, as later, to forestall the French — Park was eager to undertake another African journey and readily agreed to lead an expedition which, although militar necessities seriously interfered with its preparation and start, had a clearly commercial purpose. Apart from expanding geographical knowledge Park, this time directly financed by the government, was to ascertain commercial prospects of the areas he traversed and to follow the course of the Niger.

It was a small — but in fact too big and all-organised — military expedition which Park led. He had finally agreed that, like local traders, he needed a "caravan". The expedition's losses and failures make melancholy reading. Mr. Lupton emphasises that final disaster was made certain by its leaving Timbuktu too late, in view of the rains. Park also failed to secure the necessary chiefly support along his route. Yet whatever Park's faults — did he too readily fire on people who had no serious aggressive intent? — this second mission, which really achieved nothing, is best forgotten. Park lives by virtue of his first, lonely, travels and the excellent book which resulted.

Mr. Lupton's book was published before the London *Daily Telegraph* reported a Woking reader's account of the characteristically phlegmatic welcome Park received in 1797 (the date the reader gave, although it was really 1798) when he returned to his home at Foulshiels, after a separation of four very anxious years. Park's mother apparently heard "a man chappin' at the door". His brother remarked casually, "I daursay that'll by oor Munga. I saw him getting aff the coach in Selkirk the day." But Mungo, after all, had spent six months in London after his return from The Gambia, via Gorée and Antigua, before he would leave the capital, and the writing and other by-products of his travels, for the reunion.

D.W.

Avoiding the issue in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe — A country study *by Howard Simson (The Scandinavian Institute of African Studies, Research Report No. 53. Skr. 10)*

HERE IS another useful product of the Scandinavian Institute of African Studies dealing with a country that has been much in the news for quite some time now. Howard Simson, born in South Africa and now a researcher at the Economic History Institute of Uppsala University, has put together a picture of the "economic

political and social conditions which characterise Zimbabwe today", or rather yesterday since this study was published in late 1979 — its chronological table ends with the Lancaster House talks.

This is a comprehensive introduction to what was the last outpost of white racist, minority rule in Southern Africa, and what is now independent Zimbabwe. It is particularly useful since it describes the historical, economic and political framework of Zimbabwe from 1890 to the present day in a well-ordered form. The author looks at the proletarianisation of the African peasantry, European commercial agriculture and African subsistence farming, and runs through the other sectors of the economy with a fair balance of accuracy and rapidity.

There are, however, twists and turns that are a little disturbing when the subject at hand is the important one of an African nation whose decolonisation was lengthily delayed by the "internationalist" collusion of capitalist interests. It is important that the author notes the increasing influence of South Africa on the Rhodesian economy during the UDI years. Howard Simson writes that in 1963 foreign companies accounted for roughly 68 per cent of private company income when total foreign liabilities were about $1 billion. Of this amount, "about $300m. was public debt and $700m. private liabilities owed mainly to Britain ($400-500m.), South Africa ($200m.) and the USA ($40m.). After a decade of partially operative sanctions, substantial economic expansion and high profits, it was estimated that foreign interests had maintained their overall dominance of the Rhodesian economy, and that the total foreign liabilities had doubled by 1976, reaching over $2bn. The distribution of these assets in Zimbabwe had materially altered, with South Africa becoming an equal partner with Britain." The estimates of liability distribution became $400m. of public debt, $1.6bn. shared between Britain and South Africa, and about $200m. to other countries (of which $130m. to the US).

He notes elsewhere that the bulk of capital from exports from South Africa; that "South African companies have certainly gained in market share No less than five of Zimbabwe's top ten industrial companies are either controlled by or associated with South African companies (Rhodesian Breweries, Hippo Valley, Premier Portland Cement, Plate Glass and BAT). However, of the 150 British companies operating in Zimbabwe, 119 of them also have South African subsidiaries. Therefore in these times of secrecy it is impossible to accurately determine the real holding of each country."

We learn that in commercial agriculture, South African interests "dominated the largest and most profitable production units, though domestic farmers were more numerous. In 1963 foreign companies earned 75 per cent of the gross company profits, and of this South African companies accounted for 88 per cent". The author notes elsewhere that "all told, Zimbabwe has a fairly sophisticated financial structure which has managed to withstand the strains of sanctions and facilitate the mobilisation of savings into a variety of productive capital investments . . ."

Yet, he comes to the rather lame non-conclusion that the relevance in an independent Zimbabwe of this financial structure rooted in a society of extreme inequalities of wealth "remains to be seen". There would have been no harm in speculating that such profound economic ties involving the most productive sectors of the economy would have a marked effect on the post-independence behaviour of a nationalist government. This is exactly what we are seeing in Mr. Robert Mugabe's cautious pronouncements about his government's intentions; in reality, South Africa poses perhaps a greater economic threat to a socialist Zimbabwe than even military. There is logic in the Zimbabwe government's decision to honour all financial obligations except those involving military expenditure — South Africa reportedly granted more than 50 per cent of white Rhodesia's soaring defence spending, itself nearly half the total government expenditure in 1978. However, how far this repudiation goes is another matter because South Africa was among the principal financiers of Mr. Ian Smith's war economy.

When the author comes to the problems and prospects for an independent Zimbabwe, his aim is a critical analysis of the industrialisation process in the colonial economy. But he starts by setting a false problem and seeks an answer to a question that does not exist: "whether the

LOW COST FLIGHTS TO LAGOS AND OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA

Special Fares available to **Accra, Douala, Freetown, Lusaka, Nairobi, Salisbury** and many other African destinations.

For efficient and reliable services to Africa — contact us today.

TRAVEL 'n AFRICA
Africa Centre
38 King Street
London WC2E 8JT
Phone 01-836 9866

SIERRA LEONE

NIGERIA

GHANA

EXPRESS SHIPPING

CAMEROON

IVORY COAST

★★★ ***TO ALL PORTS OF WEST AFRICA*** ★★★

PLEASE CONSULT THE SPECIALISTS FOR PACKING and SHIPPING of PERSONAL EFFECTS and all kinds of COMMERCIAL CARGO
FAST EXPRESS CARGO VESSELS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE
OUR YEARS OF EXPERIENCE ARE YOUR GUARANTEE
YOU CAN ALWAYS RELY ON

EXPRESS
Tel: 01-539 3177/01-556 8929
Telex: 897752 EXPRESS
Cables: TAZIM LONDON E10
Opposite Leyton Tube Station (Central Line)

1-5 LEYTON BRIDGE, HIGH ROAD LEYTON, LONDON E10 5QE

ELECTRICAL GOODS SHOWROOM & TAX-FREE DISCOUNT STORE
294 HIGH ROAD, LEYTON, LONDON E10

D.T.L. Shippers

offers fast and reliable service to any destination for Household effects and General cargo. Roll-on Roll-off services for your car.

Buying and confirming Agents for all purchases here and abroad. Full documentation. Our charges are moderate. Effects professionally packed in steel container or special lined case.

Special Discount for students returning home. Part payment at destination may be accepted for all shipping and purchases.

AIRFREIGHT:

KANO/LAGOS from .....85p per kilo
ACCRA from .....120p per kilo

Low Cost Travel to W. Africa too!

Dalemont Transport Limited

11 Bruce Grove, Tottenham London N17

Telephone: (01) 801 3121 (3 lines)

Bus services 171, 243, 76, 123, 149, 259, 279. B.R. Liverpool Street to Bruce Grove. Underground (Victoria Line to Seven Sisters Station)

IN CANADA

you can get

WEST AFRICA

at

LIBERATION BOOKS

Reg'd

1207 de Maisonneuve Blvd W. Montreal, Quebec HA3 1N6

Tel: 514-843-6307

A Book Store specialising in Black and Third World Books, Arts and Crafts

industrialisation process is tending towards the formation of [a] "unified" or a "dualistic" economic structure. By "unified" we mean that the widening capitalist or modern sector tends to gradually absorb the excess population from the rest of the economy i.e. there is a long run tendency towards economic unification even though some inequalities may persist for a long period of time. By "dualism" is meant the opposite tendency, namely the exclusion of a large part of the population from the benefits of growth, the increasing unemployment or underemployment in the subsistence sector"

It comes as no surprise that capitalism in Rhodesia was "tending towards 'dualism' rather than 'unification'. That despite the impressive growth performance of the economy, it is failing to absorb the potential labour force and leading to the exclusion and impoverishment of the vast majority of the African population". The author fails to find himself of the false theoretical assumption of the possibilty of "unification" — which contains the idea of equitable development — while the "dualism" is in fact the inherent trend of capitalism. But even the discussion of "dualism" is superficial. A look at development in the industrialised world shows the tendency for investment to "deepen" rather than "widen" capital, and we can also find there a "structural incapacity of the modern sector to absorb the potential labour force".

Just as the author says "the 'basic' cause of dualism is the technological dependency of the emergent capitalist economies on advanced capitalist economies", it comes as no surprise that in his section on "the socialist transition" in Zimbabwe, he stresses the need to overcome rural poverty. "The aim of land reform would be not merely to correct the historical imbalance of land ownership between white and black, but more importantly to reorganise the presently conservative peasant production in the (Tribal Trust Lands) in such a way as to realise new energies in the people, break down traditional barriers to innovation and improve productivity". This unfortunately smacks of the "backward African peasant" rather more than explaining the industrial reserve and intended (though in reality insufficient) subsistence aspects of these depots of misery. These criticisms notwithstanding, Howard Simson's book is useful.

J.B.V.

Dry but sound

Guide to Precious Metals and their Markets, *by Peter Robbins & Douglas Lee (Kogan Page, £14)*

FIRST appearing last autumn this book could be judged as a remarkable display of skilled timing in reading the market since any would-be speculator in precious metals could have stuffed a copy into his knapsack as he began to climb with his chosen metals to hitherto unscaled heights, indeed to heights which only a few months before would have seemed fit only for the more lurid reaches of fiction.

Reading it after the ascents had begun the book seemed somewhat pedestrian and grimly determined to keep plodding as much as possible on level ground. It also seemed to have been overtaken by events in such a way as to cast doubts on how close in touch with market sentiments the authors were. On the other hand it should be remembered that during the giddy days earlier this year day-to-day commentaries were reduced to invoking some such phrase "as an entirely new psychology is now operating in the market", which was a way of admitting, without actually saying it, that no one did not quite know what was going on, prices sought and paid began to lose all touch with the industrial realities which underlie even precious metals. At times it really did seem as if atavistic beliefs in the magic powers of precious metals, especially gold and silver, had revived so strongly as to have become market forces.

The new record levels, however, reveal other market forces, which had been temporarily stunned, and they came back into play to reduce the precious metals prices (not without causing considerable damage to the general economy).

Re-reading this book in the less giddy atmosphere now prevailing one must still plead that it is a little dry in its approach; its plainness is probably a useful corrective and much of what it says is worth bearing firmly in mind. Anyone who still wants to venture into precious metals after the scenes of the last six months and having read this book will probably know fairly clearly what he is doing and might well survive without too much wear and tear.

The data included covers (pretty tersely) production, consumption, uses and the major factors which (in normal times) influence the markets in these metals and therefore the prices quoted.

To most people precious metals are most frequently associated with coins or jewellery. Over the past decade the growing use of these metals in industry has increased the interest being taken in them not only by industrialists using them but also by financial institutions which have either financed metal stocks or invested in them directly and an increasing number of private investors have also sought to add an interest in these metals to their portfolios as a protection against inflationary influences. (These individuals should be distinguished from the more recent activities of private buyers taking a speculative interest in the metals because they were demonstrating how "precious" they had become rather than for their industrial significance).

Mr. Robbins and Mr. Lee give a pretty thorough market guide to the metals they cover, and it is perhaps just a personal quirk to wish that they could have spread themselves a little more on Rhodium, Indium, Osmium and Ruthenium where they mainly content themselves with some pointers. The style is dry but if read with diligence, like a prospector for the ores of precious metals, excitement can be brought to the surface and remember that the romance which brought up the [illegible]'s was all unseen.

P.S.

LETTERS to the Editor

The cause of coups

SIR: Your editorial comment on the coup in Liberia (*West Africa*, April 21) is characteristic of your journal's views on coups as expressed in previous editorials on the subject. Characteristically too, you were so equivocal that it is difficult to ascertain your views but your covert threat to Sergeant Doe is fairly easy to discern. Many of your readers must now be aware of the political leaning of your journal but it is angering, to say the least, that you should set out in this particular editorial to philosophise on the subject of coups without outlining the real issues, especially with respect to their causes, and without suggesting cures and ways of preventing them in future.

It is the failure of Western democracy in Africa that has led to coups in the continent. The most sacred provision of democracy — the change of government by the governed through free and fair elections — has been devilishly but successfully thwarted by many African leaders so that the result of an election does not necessarily reflect the wishes of the electorate. Several African leaders — Jomo Kenyatta, Kaunda, Ahidjo, to name just a few, have managed to get themselves elected with a vote of about 99.99 per cent to repeated terms of office, implying that they are indispensable and that their countries would collapse the minute they leave office. The ingenuity of the African politician in rigging elections appears to be unlimited.

There are two main reasons why unscrupulous and dishonest politicians have so far succeeded in Africa. The first is the poverty and ignorance of the masses who do not realise that accepting bribes from politicians or allowing themselves to be used as instruments of rigging elections is not in the long-term interest of their country, as corrupt and incompetent politicians cannot bring about the real changes needed to bring true prosperity.

The second, and perhaps more important, is the attitude of the Western powers to the so-called democratic regimes. Once such a regime is loyal to the economic and political interests of the West, once it is against communism or the like of it, it is acceptable. As corruption, greed, self-interest and double-talk are the trademarks of such regimes, they provide a most fertile breeding ground for Western capitalist interests which understandably direct their propaganda machinery to give "stature" to the leaders and "stability" to the countries they rule. The fact that under this stability the masses literally rot away and the sometimes brutal suppression of all opposition are only of secondary importance to Western governments which appear to have left the job of exposing these injustices to voluntary human rights groups like Amnesty International. Incidentally, this pattern of Western tolerance of "friendly" dictatorial regimes is not limited to Africa.

Taking the specific subject of your editorial, what could anyone in a position to effect change do in the extraordinary situation in which a government led by a Christian "man of some stature and achievement" declared an open war on a section of the electorate and put a prize on their heads, dead or alive? What does such a person do in a situation in which it has become clear that the ruling minority has decided irrevocably to manipulate democracy apparently irrevocably to remain in power indefinitely in such a way as to remain in power indefinitely?

With all due respect to the dead, the bitter truth is that the Tolbert regime got exactly what it deserved and that all true friends of Liberia and Africa should rejoice at the change. Surely the regime is more guilty of a crime punishable by death than the fifty-odd demonstrators killed by it in cold blood last year.

The question is not whether a soldier has the right forcibly to remove corrupt and incompetent "elected" politicians, but whether the military regimes we have had so far have been able to eradicate the evils they claimed forced them to take over. In other words, have they come, seen, conquered and left promptly for their barracks? The other important question is whether Africans, leaders and the led, have learnt the lessons of military coups. These lessons are obvious.

For the leaders, it is to lead fairly and be prepared to leave office in a gentlemanly manner when the led think that they should leave. For the led, it is to be vigilant and demand accountability from the leaders as a matter of principle and right. These are the issues you are expected to emphasise in your editorial and not whether or not the next civilian government in Liberia will hang Sergeant Doe for his coup. Unless your journal is seen to be on the side of the vulnerable masses rather than the well-defended leaders, it runs the real risk of being branded an agent of outside interests.

Birkenhead Dr. CHUKWUEDO IWEGBU

The moral right

SIR: Your comment on the coup in Liberia (*West Africa*, April 21) raises issues with Sergeant Doe on the coup in Liberia. You provide no answer to the perennial question of who has a moral right to decide when a change of government is due in a country, since the justification (or otherwise) of

POPCORN MACHINES
FROM £397·00
★★★
ICED DRINK MACHINES
★★★
CANDY FLOSS MACHINES
★★★
ALL SUPPLIES
★★★

SPECIALIST IN EXPORT TO WEST AFRICA
★
SHIPPING CATERED FOR

AMERICAN FOODS LTD, 30 CLAPHAM HIGH STREET, LONDON SW4 TEL: 01-720-9455

SUMMER AND ALL YEAR ECONOMY FLIGHTS

TO NIGERIA, ACCRA, FREETOWN, EAST AFRICA, ONWARD CONNECTING FLIGHTS, AND OTHER DESTINATIONS.

For more details please contact, or post attached coupon to:

SOUTHWING TRAVELS
377 Edgware Road
London W2 1EE
Telephone:
01-402 5286
01-402 7652

Name .....
Address .....
.....
.....
Telephone No. .....
Destination .....
Departure Date .....
Return Date .....

HIGH DISCOUNTS with Tax Free Export Orders

WE SPECIALISE IN FURNITURE, BEDS, CARPETS AND

Pye, Philips, Kelvinator, A.E.G., Bosche, Indesit, Main, New World, Conquest, Hoover, Grundig, Kenwood, Sanyo, National, Sony etc etc

TROPICALISED GOODS

TV Colour and Mono
Vacuum Cleaners
Steamer Trunks
Food Mixers
Washing Machines
Cassette Car Radios short-wave
Hi-Fi and Music Centres
Cookers — Bottle Gas
Fans and Air Conditioners
Radio and Radiograms
Fridges and Freezers

PACKING & SHIPPING
Ask for complete lists

MOLENS EXPORTS
600 Lea Bridge Road
Leyton London E10
Telephone (01) 556 9111
Telex 897400
Hours 9.30 am — 5.00 pm
closed all day Thursday

the Liberian insurrection, and in fact any military coup, depends upon a resolution of this issue, permit me to offer a thought on it.

When Plato said that the price of liberty is perpetual vigilance, he obviously placed the moral right of deciding when a government has gone far enough to be shown the way out, on the people. Commonsense and the principles of democratic nationhood would support this view. But the question arises whether the people can still be held responsible for silently living under an oppressive regime when the channels for peacefully changing their government are tightly held by an oppressive regime which manipulates these channels to prevent the people from making their views known. Liberia under Presidents Tubman and Tolbert provided a perfect example of such a state of affairs.

Under the Liberian Constitution, which was drawn up by a handful of American-Liberians (the emancipated slave settlers of Liberia) the ballot box was open only to property owners. The effect of this was that a majority of the aborigines were effectively excluded from participation in the political system because the American-Liberians owned the property that qualified them to exercise their political rights. Since all business and commerce were substantially under the control of the American-Liberians the indigenous people were even denied the opportunity of being potential property-owners.

It was under a Constitution such as this that Mr Tolbert served as Vice-President for 20 years and as President for nine years. It is significant to note that Mr. Tolbert's greatest contribution to constitutional reform was the lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18 years. But by upholding the property qualification was he not in fact entrenching the hold of the American-Liberians by releasing more of their young people into the political stream, since they were the only people most likely to own property at 18, rather than seeking a constitutional reform?

Under such circumstances what other alternatives were left to the Liberian people to correct the contradictions in their society? Mass demonstrations and strikes seem to be the answer, but whether they provide a viable answer is to be found in the merciless manner in which the Tolbert regime crushed the April demonstrations last year — at least 49 people dead and many more injured.

Your alternative appears to be that Mr. Tolbert was seeking to improve things and that in the elections of 1983 the PPP could well have been voted into power, and so it would have been better if Sergeant Doe had not acted. What your leader fails to mention is that for 29 years Mr Tolbert was in a position to effect changes in the political climate of his country. That he failed in those years to do anything positive in that direction should influence the degree of optimism which we attach to his promises of doing something in the three years he had before him as President. Secondly, it seems to have escaped you that so long as the property qualification remained on the statute books a majority of the supporters of the PPP and MOJA had no franchise. If this is coupled with the fact that the entire PPP leadership was behind bars on charges of treason, it is easily appreciated that the PPP had no chance of winning the 1983 elections, Mr Matthews' optimism (*West Africa*, February 18) not withstanding.

Under these circumstances, it would appear that Sergeant Doe's uprising must be justified. The fact that Mr. Tolbert was the Chairman of the OAU should let all African leaders know that international stature and proficiency in rhetoric do not absolve them from their basic responsibilities to seek the welfare of their people. That Sergeant Doe is "a relatively junior member" of Liberia's armed forces should not be taken as a bar on him to seek to correct the injustices that he sees in his society.

Military coups undoubtedly set back economic development but do they not, at least momentarily, satisfy a social need? Might we not do better by helping military leaders like Sergeant Doe to achieve the objectives of their people rather than writing them off as supervisors of the peoples moral right of deciding what is good for them?

President Tolbert may have been a man of stature as claimed by your leader comment but must posterity not judge him by the dedication and honesty with which he served his people? As a man he deserves all our sympathies for the way he met his end, but as a President of Liberia why we not be justified in wishing him Godspeed?

University of Birmingham KWADWO ASIAMA

Overdue change

SIR: The coup in Liberia, which ended President Tolbert his life, is something which was long overdue, and although one does not entirely agree with the way the President was killed, we must understand the indignation the Liberian people have suffered under successive governments from J. J. Roberts to Tolbert.

The country has always been governed since independence by members of the Club — The True Whig Party — non-members are regarded as sympathetic and as such never given an chance to serve their country. An example is Dr Togba-Nah Tipoteh, a brilliant economist whom I have had the privilege to meet. Dr Roberts — as he was then known — was appointed economic adviser to the President after a short spell as economic lecturer at the University of Liberia; his association with the President did not last long because of his Socialist inclination and the President's dogmatic approach to capitalism.

I happened to live in Monrovia during the last three years of Tubman's administration and the first three years of Tolbert's, and as a photographer I did some work for people like Richard Henzel, Reginald Townsend, James A. Pierre, Steven and Frank Tolbert, all top Government officials and all American-Liberians, locally known as Congos. My association with them made me realise how lucky I was not to be a Liberian. I could have been in jail without committing an offence, their total disrespect for ordinary Liberians was that astonishing.

Frank Tolbert, senior brother of the late President, once threatened to jail me for demanding better payment for some work I did for him at his house in Crown Hill. I had no choice but to leave his house before it was too late.

One of President Tolbert's mistakes was appointing his brothers, Frank and Steven, and son, A. B. Tolbert, to high positions to consolidate his family's grip over the country. He fooled the Liberians with slogans such as "Total Involvement for Higher Heights" and "From Mats to Mattresses". Today Liberians are still sleeping on mats.

The poor Liberians have suffered long enough; perhaps they will regard April 12, 1980, as Independence Day instead of July 26, 1847. Indigenous Liberians have been subjugated in the role of labourers and watchmen for too long.

London THEOPHILUS KOFI AMPAH

Deplorable idea

SIR: Your interviewer (March 24, 1980) asked Nigeria's President Shehu Shagari what action he could contemplate against sections of the Nigerian press for "extremely bitter, unrestrained, and divisive" criticism. What good did your interviewer think he was doing by even remotely suggesting that "some sort of action against the press" should ever be considered? Irresponsible journalism is indeed deplorable but even more deplorable is any notion that official arbitrary reprisals generically applied to

the press would be good for society.

The Nigerian press laws on libel and sedition take adequate care of recklessness in journalism. Any journalist who persists in defaming public officials, or in inciting the population against legally constituted authority will not only land his medium into bankruptcy, but may have to spend several years in jail. This means that the "some sort of action" insinuated by your interviewer is not really necessary.

It is granted that the Nigerian press could use a lot of improvement. One needs to read just a copy of many of our newspapers to notice the unabashed provincialism of their outlook. Before the creation of more states in 1967, the problem of Nigerian unity had centred around how to curb excessive tribal chauvinism. Today, the cult of statism has compounded that problem. Press performance during and since the last general elections in Nigeria opens the press to the charge of being the most unconscionable promoters of this divisiveness in the country.

Presidential candidates were berated more for coming from the "wrong" tribe than for what they stood for. Reporters and their editors passed up opportunities to pin candidates down to specifics of their campaign promises made in vague generalities. Instead, one newspaper after another engaged in baseless predictions of which candidate was winning the most states; usually the candidate of the writer's ethnic group was predicted as winning. With very few exceptions, journalists failed to explain and analyse issues in the elections to enable voters to make intelligent choices. Rather, they kept promoting their pet candidates — some of them mediocre individuals whose only justification for seeking public office was membership of a particular ethnic group.

Despite this press lapse, however, official victimisation is not the answer. As the tradition of freedom of expression takes hold, increased competition among the media will eventually drive foul players out of business. Aside from the constraints of Nigerian press law, the self-interest of the journalists' unions will make them apply voluntary sanctions against erring members.

Even more importantly, press criticism of government leaders, even if scurrilous, is preferable to government *in camera*. Governments have infinite facilities to present their case: press conferences, information officers, their own newspapers, radio and television, and the fact that officials are the principal newsmakers. The only government that should fear criticism is one that wants to hide culpable incompetence. Such governments usually accuse their critics of undermining the security and/or welfare of the nation, thus equating the fortunes of the government in power, with those of the nation-state, even though the two fortunes do not necessarily correspond.

Indeed, a compliant press that rocks no boat is a dangerous omen. In the memorable words of novelist Chinua Achebe: "Most writers (journalists included) are inveterate critics of their fellow-men and of society — a role imposed on them by their multiple vision, their natural scepticism and individualism . . . That is the writer's nature and strength. To wish him to be otherwise is to wish impotence upon him and deny society the full vigour of his creativity." The only requirement is that the Nigerian press should raise this role above the level of pettiness.

Tennessee (Dr.) CHRIS ONUNKWO

Shameful event

SIR: The afternoon of Sunday April 13, saw the gathering of many Ghanaians at the Ghana High Commission in London to listen and talk to the Vice-President Dr. J. W. S. de Graft-Johnson. People had come from as far afield as Manchester for what was to be a momentous occasion.

The Ghanaian community wished to be informed of prevailing conditions at home, the effort being made by the present civilian government to put the country back on an even keel, and to be reassured that there is a role for them to play in the future development of Ghana which would encourage their return home.

Sadly the expectant crowd was wretchedly disappointed and thoroughly dismayed by the performance of the Vice-President.

Only a brief, superficial and totally uninformative "speech" was delivered. The Vice-President alluded to the fact that the economy was in shambles, which was no great enlightenment to the assembled crowd and seemed to suggest (tongue in cheek) that the repatriation of the funds of Ghanaians abroad was the most important way of helping the ailing home economy. No mention was made of the government's proposed policies to help alleviate the social, political and economic distress.

The Vice-President's undutiful attitude, coupled with the poor organisation of the afternoon, resulted in a riotous question time where angry voices demanded to be answered. This resulted finally in a vacuous statement that with hard work the Ghanaian economy would again be on its feet in 18 months. At this point the uproar of the crowd's indignation led to the Vice-President and H.E. the High Commissioner being hastily ushered out, to the jeers of the crowd once again shamefully disappointed.

Experience has taught Ghanaians to be sceptical of the vague promises and thus refuse to be hoodwinked any more. The events of this farcical afternoon have done nothing to allay their fears and suspicions of the intentions and competence of the incumbent government vis-a-vis the unstable political situation and the moribund economy. This raises the serious question of whether we are to expect no more of this government than of the previous ones.

London J. S. ANNAN Jr.

Certified USED AND NEW CARS FOR SALE at export prices

*

Mercedes Peugeot
Volkswagen Citroen
BMW Buses

*

All Cars are
Left-Hand Drive

*

CONVENIENT SHIPPING SERVICES
to West Africa and other ports available

*

For Further Information and Prices Visit or Write to

"A & R"

*

(Alexandre & Rommerts Expl H.D.)
Koningstraat 1A — The Hague — Holland
Tel: The Hague 883717
After Office Hours, Tel: The Hague 557466

VOGUE FABRICS

7 Stoke Newington Road, LONDON, N.16
Telephone: 01-249 0339
and 81 Middlesex Street, LONDON, E.1.
Telephone: 01-377 8513

IMPORT – EXPORT
WHOLESALE – RETAIL

LATEST COLOURS
in DAMASK, 5- & 6-tone
GUINEA BROCADE & HEAD TIES &
all sorts of EMBROIDERIES

★ WONYOSI ORGANZA
★ WONYOSI VOILE LACE
★ SPRAY VOILE LACE
★ SATIN LACE
★ GUIPURE LACE

Watch for the latest designs every week

Open 9 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday
Half-day 9 am to 2 pm Thursday
Closed all day Saturday
Open 9 am to 2 pm Sunday

West Africa Travel Services

Reliable low-cost flights and holidays.
Specialists for Nigeria and Ghana and all West African destinations.
Regular departures throughout the year.

Contact

West Africa Travel Services Ltd.
Empire House, 2nd Floor, 117-119 Regent Street, London, W1

Tel: 439 7891-2
439 8511 (24 hour service)

Send coupon for further details

Name .....
Address .....
Tel. No. .....
Destination .....
Depart ..... Return .....

ECONOMIC and Business NEWS

Changing fortunes

from a correspondent

AFTER RISING for six consecutive months the International Monetary Fund's price index of commodities, other than oil and precious metals — categories which everybody now recognises are subject to major influences other than than the effects of supply and demand in world markets — fell in March, by 4.2 per cent in terms of US dollars, by 2 per cent in terms of the IMF's rather more stable Special Drawing Rights and 2.25 per cent in terms of sterling, which was itself weakening during the month. The only commodities which rose were coffee, rice and tin. The weekly list of commodity prices in the *Financial Times* shows that many of them are below the prices of a year ago and also that many are nearer their lows, rather than their highs, for 1980.

The dip has two probable causes, one of which can be given an encouraging interpretation even though it means that commodity producers will receive less for their exports, the other potentially more significant and worrying. The first is that there now appears to be slightly less widespread distrust in currencies, and financial stability, this has reduced investors' eagerness to move their cash out of money and into tangible commodities (including gold). It has to be recognised that this switch back into money has been encouraged by the high interest rates offered on most of the industrial world's leading currencies, from nearly 10 per cent on Deutsch marks upwards. These rate have clearly exceeded the inflationary expectations of outside speculators in commodity markets. (A reduction in inflationary expectations does not necessarily point to a rapid, large or sustained fall in inflation rates but it does take some of the speculative money-chasing-goods pressure out of inflation's climb.)

The second cause of the dip could be the much more worrying one of a real decline in demand for physical raw materials (as distinct for demand for paper futures), as manufacturers reduce their working stockpiles and factory activities in anticipation of, or response to, slower sales. Some of this running down of stocks is almost certainly inspired by the high cost of holding stocks — which are not actually earning — because of the high interest rates being charged as well as offered. In such circumstances and with currently cheap commodity prices in the market it makes sense to reduce borrowing or to put any available cash for buying stocks on deposit and buy raw materials as needed rather than for expected needs. The dip in demand for commodities, however, could be an outrider of the much-heralded recession which has been slower in making its appearance than had been expected. There is considerable spare capacity in industrial countries, and an increasing dearth of customers, and though the dip in commodity prices has slowed the increase in manufacturers costs there are still past increases (including oil bills and wage settlements) to be added to the price of goods leaving the factories — these will undermine still further the terms of trade for developing countries which are already liable to receive less cash for their commodity exports.

The OECD has estimated that if growth in the industrialised world falls by one per cent the export earnings of developing countries fall by about $2,000m., nearly two thirds of the trade of developing countries is with industrialised countries. With high interest rates operating more or less world-wide the recession is likely to be a world-wide, synchronised recession. The last time that this happened, in 1974/75 after the 1973 quadrupling of oil prices burst a virtually world-wide (and very inflationary) boom, the developing countries themselves were a major factor in reviving industrial activity, and so raw material demand, by their role as customers which depended on their recent earnings as commodity suppliers and their credit-worthiness as borrowers of the recycled OPEC surpluses. This time there is much less hope of such pump-priming, the developing countries' recent earnings have been lower in real terms and they are entering the repayment period for the loans that they took from the first recycling of OPEC surpluses. These matters have been among the topics under consideration in Hamburg for the past week where the Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the IMF and various associated groups have been meeting.

The Interim Committee was expected to discuss the world economic outlook, based on an analysis of the economic situation and policies of the industrial countries, the oil exporting and the oil importing developing countries and focusing on the problems of balance of payments adjustment and financing, with particular consideration to the Fund's role in financing and in promoting reductions in international payments imbalances. This latter topic covered the long discussed dollar substitution account. Other items on the Committee's agenda included measures to improve the Fund's income position and to lower the costs of using the Fund's supplementary financing facility.

The Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the IMF on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries (Development Committee) also met in Hamburg. The principal items on the Development Committee's agenda were expected to be (i) programme lending for structural adjustment by the World Bank; (ii) cofinancing by multilateral development institutions and private financial sources of capital; (iii) a report on the decision to increase the repayment period of the extended Fund facility from eight to ten years and on progress in identifying the ways and means to reduce the costs of using the Fund's supplementary financing facility.

Preceding those two meetings, the Inter-governmental Group of 24 on International Monetary Affairs also met in Hamburg, at the deputies' level on April 21 and 22, and at the ministerial level on April 23. (The chairmanship of the ministers' group passed to Mr. O. O. Vincent, Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, and that of the deputies to Mr G. O. Nwanko, Executive Director of the Central Bank of Nigeria.) During their deliberations the G-24 Ministers considered all the principal subjects scheduled to be taken up by the Interim Committee and the Development Committee during their meetings on the subsequent days.

Cocoa steadies

At the middle of last week cocoa prices appeared to have checked, at least temporarily, the slide which was started by producer selling — according to dealers there were definitely sales from Brazil and much talk of sales by Ghana and possibly Nigeria. May cocoa was down to nearly £1,250 a tonne and July about £1,270, it was not until May next year that prices got above £1,400. The low prices have brought back some bargain hunting actual buyers, including Russia and other East European interests. The present price range is about the lowest for nine months.

Grinding reports

The US Chocolate Manufacturers Association has announced that grindings during January-March this year fell to 36,908 short tons compared with 44,722 tons in the first quarter of 1979. This was a fall of 17.5 per cent. Imports of cocoa liquor were 15,093 tons, cake and powder, 10,818 tons and cocoa butter 8,945 tons.

Cocoa bean grindings in the Netherlands for the first quarter were 35,080 tonnes compared with 35,390 tonnes in 1979's first quarter. This represented a decline of 0.9 per cent for the first quarter.

West German grindings in the first quarter of 1980 were reported at 40,240 tonnes compared with 37,592 tonnes in 1979, an increase of 7.0 per cent.

Ghana main crop purchases up to April 17 were 280,345 tonnes compared with 247,311 tonnes at the same time last year.

● Coffee, which has been performing strongly lately, eased somewhat last week, probably because of stronger currency factors. Prices ranged from about £1,640 a tonne for May up to £1,730 for November.

Tin talks

Mr. Peter Lai, executive chairman of the International Tin Council, opened the 31-nation conference negotiating a new ITA by warning that severe price fluctuations, because of inflation and monetary uncertainty, could be expected over the next few years.

He said that in such a situation producers and consumers would want to see an agreement that could inject some stability into the market. "Our task, therefore, must be to frame an agreement equipped to deal with the economic conditions we know we must encounter."

The draft text of a new agreement, incorporating proposals from producer and consumer states, aims at stabilising prices through a buffer stock of tin and cash. The new agreement will replace a 1976 accord which expires at the end of June 1981 — the fifth such pact since 1956.

Leading producers taking part in the five-week conference in Geneva are Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, Nigeria, Zaire and Bolivia. Major consumers include the United States, Japan and the European Economic Community (EEC).

Producer countries want to maintain in the new agreement export controls which would allow them to hold back supplies of tin from the market in times of surplus and stop prices falling below a minimum level. Some consumer countries would like to abandon that system.

Producers also want compulsory contributions by consumers to the buffer stock. Instead of the voluntary arrangement in the present agreement.

The producers also want to amend the voting system in the International Tin Council, which administers the Agreement, so as to prevent big consumers blocking moves by producers.

Mr Lai said the collapse last month of the International Cocoa Agreement would have implications extending beyond the cocoa industry. "That is another reason why the tin negotiating conference must succeed," he said.

Nigeria hits Blackwood Hodge

Lower profits from Nigeria (partly because only half a year's figures have come in), higher interest charges and an exceptional charge of £1.65m. when Hydrocon Engineering went into receivership, brought pre-tax profits of Blackwood Hodge, the earthmoving equipment, sales and service group, well down in 1979 to £10.88m. compared with £16.43m. in 1978. Sales rose from £246.4m. to £281.6m.

Blackwood Hodge (Nigeria) share of profits for the six months to June 30, 1979, was £291,000, its first contribution as an associate, the figure for the whole of 1978 would have been £2.61m.

The directors say that the reduction was due to the inclusion of only six months figures — the second half of 1979 is expected to show better figures for BH(N) — the difficult trading conditions in Nigeria, and the change of status from subsidiary to an associate.

Group trading profit for 1979 was £22.68m. against £21.97m., but was subject to a £2.29m. increase in interest to £10.44m.

The directors say that although results were disappointing, order intake was at a record level and has continued to be good in the early months of the current year. They look for improvement in trading profits for 1980.

B. Cal's profits halved

Pre-tax profits of £6.6m. were made by Caledonian Airways, the aviation, travel and leisure group, in the year ended October 31, 1979. These results are substantially better than had been anticipated after a year of heavy setbacks in the air transport industry.

Profits had been expected to be lower than last year's £12.2m. Group pre-tax profit because of hugely increased fuel and infrastructure charges, the DC-10 grounding, last year's unusually severe winter, and the general worldwide economic recession.

Total group turnover showed an increase of £23,367,000 and rose to a record £200,342,000. The Caledonian Airways Group comprises British Caledonian Airways, Blue Sky Holidays, Caledonian Hotel Management, British Caledonian Helicopters, and the Caledonian Airmotive jet engine facility which will start operations at Prestwick, Scotland next month.

British Caledonian earned a trading profit of £4,696,000 and contributed £184,023,000 to Group turnover. The corresponding figures last year were £9,944,000 and £163,147,000 respectively.

Passengers carried by BCAL during the year increased by 200,000 to 2.1m. Of these 75.4 per cent were carried on scheduled services while the remaining 24.6 per cent travelled on holiday charter flights.

Freight carried amounted to 47,494 tonnes, a marginal drop on the 49,785 tonnes recorded in 1977/78, but scheduled freight at 57.1 per cent of the total showed a marked increase over last year's level of 44.5 per cent.

The grounding of the DC-10 last year is estimated to have caused a drop in profits of at least £2.5m. BCAL is taking legal action against the US Federal Aviation Administration for barring the DC-10 from American airspace for the 24 day period following the British Civil Aviation Authority's recertification of the aircraft. If successful in this suit and subsequent damage proceedings, BCAL hopes to recover at least £1m.

Fuel cost BCAL an extra £5m. in 1978/79 while infrastructure costs — i.e. landing, aircraft parking, navigation, security charges, etc — are currently increasing by about £3m. per year in the UK alone.

The airline's fleet comprised 29 aircraft and the flagship DC-10s averaged a daily utilisation of 12.13 hours. Three more DC-10s are due to be delivered this year and another has been ordered for next April.

Despite a severe downturn in the overall Spanish mainland package holiday traffic, Caledonian Hotel Management recorded a trading profit of £1,306,000. This was a slight drop on the 1977/78 figure of £1,433,000 but the company's activities expanded greatly during the year with the beginning of new management contracts to operate the Hotel Africa in Monrovia, Liberia and the Hotel Pamodzi in Lusaka, Zambia. CHM was, in fact, publicly congratulated by President Kaunda of Zambia for the successful opening of the Pamodzi Hotel on schedule and in time for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference.

Caledonian Hotel Management signed a contract during the year to manage the Atlantic Hotel in The Gambia.

Air freighting to Nigeria

Pelican Cargo is now running split charter air freight operations, following British Cargo's demise, on at least a weekly basis to Kano and Lagos. Already return flights from Kano are taken up with cargoes of Nigerian exports to Europe.

Mr Terry Oldham, Chief Executive of Pelican Cargo said that "further routes will be opened on a planned basis consistent with sound economic principles being applied to prevent over-capacity on any particular route. Pelican Cargo intends to develop new opportunities for forwarders, not only from the UK, but also from points overseas back to Europe."

Joint venture on housing

Simfay Ltd and Bowsward Engineering Designs Ltd., are launching a £5m. Low Cost House Unit Project in Nigeria. The two companies recently signed an agreement for a joint venture to build 250 three- and four-bedroom houses yearly. These houses when completed will be offered to the public on a five-to-ten year mortgage.

When the project starts early in June it should initially provide jobs for over 150 Nigerian skilled workers.

Mr. S. O. Ajibola, chairman of Bowsward Engineering Design (Nigeria) Ltd, said the company will be designing, fabricating and erecting houses, agricultural buildings and factory units and more luxurious homes where required, in all states, and provide some assistance to farmers, modern potteries, factories and ranch-type homes are included in the scheme.

Systems building factory

The building systems organisation, H. H. Robertson, is to establish a full subsidiary company and factory in Nigeria. H. H. Robertson (Nigeria) Ltd will be operational in August this year with a £3m. head office and manufacturing plant based at Enugu in Anambra State.

Nigerian interests will own 40 per cent of the new company's shares, and the labour force will be wholly Nigerian.

The new company's 145ft. long production line is currently being laid down on a seven acre site at Enugu. Initially, it will produce two profiles of steel roofing and walling systems in three corrosion-resistant finishes — Zincalume, SMP and Versacor — as well as complementary insulation, daylighting and ventilation systems.

Robertson has been involved in the building construction industry in Nigeria since 1960 and the company's products have been employed on many major projects. A typical example of a recently completed large contract is Sapele Power Station, Bendel State.

Pressures on seed-crushers

Delivering his Presidential Review to the annual conference, being held in Senegal this year, of the International Association of Seed Crushers Mr. J. E. Randag said that the industry may find it difficult to sustain the expansion and profitability of recent years in the face of less dynamic oilseed product markets and escalating costs.

The dramatic expansion of oilseed supplies over the last three seasons — from 53.3m. tonnes in 1976-77 to 89.6m. tonnes — has transformed the fortunes of the international crushing industry Mr. Randag said.

The increase has been more than enough to fill crushing capacities, with a substantial boost for margins and profitability, he said.

Another factor in the turnaround in the industry's fortunes has been the growth of markets to absorb the meal and oil equivalents of the large increase in seed supplies.

World consumption of meal and edible oils in 1980 will be up 30 per cent on three years ago, an increase of over 9m. tons of oil and the equivalent of 20m. tons of soyameal, Mr. Randag said. The expansion could only partially be attributed to lower prices, he added.

In the edible oils market world consumption could normally be expected to rise by about 2m tons on 5 per cent a year, with rapid growth in the developing world Mr. Randag said. In 1979 imports by the developing world reached the same level as those by Western Europe.

But in spite of these advances, the outlook for the international crushing industry includes a number of uncertainties and unfavourable factors, Mr. Randag warned.

Oilseed farmers' markets were limited by available processing capacity. A large element in the expected carryover of over 11m. tonnes of U.S. soya was due not to the lack of markets for oil and meal, but the lack of sufficient crushing capacity, Mr. Randag said.

Crushers needed confidence in future expansion of oilseed supplies before investing in new capacity and the limitation on farmers' markets would occur again in the 1980s if there was too great an adjustment by farmers to present ample supplies, Randag said.

A factor presenting big difficulties for crushers was the rising cost of processing, particularly escalating energy costs.

Oil-seed crop prospects

World production of major oilseeds in the 1979/80 season is now projected at 82.0m. tonnes, compared with 58.4m. Tonnes last season, the US Department of Agriculture has said.

- Brazil's soya-bean crop this year is expected to be more than 15m. tonnes according to official sources, and above 16m tonnes according to some crushing sources. Last year's crop was 10.2m. tonnes.
- Malaysia plans to double its output of palm oil from the current 1.9m tonnes a year to 4m by 1985 and possibly 6m. by 1990.

The world's leading producer of palm oil, Malaysia exported 1.6m. tonnes in 1979.

SHIPPING News

BARBER LINES
EASTBOUND — TEXAS due sail Apapa Apr 27, Douala, Tema, Abidjan and Monrovia. TAMPA due Abidjan Apr 27, then Tema, Apapa and Douala
WESTBOUND — TEXAS due load West African ports Apr. 23-30, for Norfolk, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. TAMPA loading West African ports as above May 11-18, for Norfolk, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York

BLACK STAR LINES
WESTBOUND — OTI RIVER Takoradi Mar. 19, USA/Gulf Apr 14
SOUTHBOUND — OFFIN RIVER Hamburg Apr. 16, Antwerp Apr. 17, Rotterdam Apr. 21, Rouen Apr. 23
NASIA RIVER London Apr. 3
NORTHBOUND — OFFIN RIVER Hull early April, Middlesbrough mid April

E.A.C. LINES
SOUTHBOUND — FIONIA Oslo/Moss Apr 21, Copenhagen Apr. 30, Aarhus May 1, Hamburg May 5, Bremerhaven May 6, Rotterdam May 7, Antwerp/Zeebrugge May 26, Rouen/Le Havre May 27, for Tenerife May 31, Dakar June 2, Freetown June 3, Monrovia June 4, Abidjan June 13, Tema June 29 (with transhipment), Lome June 28 (with transhipment), Lagos/Apapa June 7, Douala June 11
NORTHBOUND — FIONIA Port Harcourt Apr 8, Lagos/Apapa Apr 11, Cotonou Apr 9, Lome Apr 12, Tema Apr 13, Abidjan Apr. 14, Monrovia Apr. 16, Dakar Apr. 17, Tenerife Apr. 20, Amsterdam Apr. 23, Antwerp Apr 23, Bremen May 8, Hamburg Apr. 25, Aarhus Apr. 28, Copenhagen May 3, Oslo/Moss May 5, Le Havre May 11

ELDER DEMPSTER LINES
SOUTHBOUND — DUMBAIA due Pointe Noire Apr 28 SAPELE slg Middlesbrough Apr. 30 SHONGA slg London Apr 29
NORTHBOUND — SEKONDI slg Apapa Apr 30.

FARRELL LINES
WESTBOUND — EXPORT BANNER Lagos/Apapa Apr. 15, Abidjan Apr 17, Monrovia Apr 19, New York May 2, Philadelphia Apr 30, Baltimore Apr 29, Norfolk Apr 27
EASTBOUND — EXPORT BANNER Norfolk Apr 27, Baltimore Apr. 29, Philadelphia Apr 30, New York May 2, for Dakar May 10, Monrovia May 14, Abidjan May 16, Lome May 20 (if sufficient inducement), Lagos/Apapa May 23, Douala June 4 (if sufficient inducement), Matadi May 25 (if sufficient inducement)

K LINE
WESTBOUND — IBERIA MARU from Japan, via Hong Kong and Singapore to Abidjan, Lome, Apapa/Lagos. Port Harcourt, Douala, Matadi, sailed Japan Apr. 4 due Apapa/Lagos May 10.

MEDAFRICA GOLDEN EAGLE/NIGERIA LINE
EUROPE/WA — CAP BRETON Bologne Apr 12-14, Ipswich Apr 15-18, Rotterdam Apr 19-21, Hamburg Apr. 22-23, Lagos May 6, Port Harcourt May 11
MEDITERRANEAN / WA — ILLERHORG Livorno Apr. 6, Marseilles Apr 15, Barcelona Apr 18, Valencia Apr 20, Lagos May 3, Warri May 8.
USA/WA — HEKTORFF Norfolk Apr 8, Philadelphia Apr 10, Fort Alfred Apr 14, Montreal Apr 16, Lagos May 9, Port Harcourt May 13
FAR EAST/WA — ZIRIAH Yokahama Apr 10, Hong Kong Apr 16, Singapore Apr. 22, Lagos May 17, Port Harcourt May 22

MITSUI O.S.K. LINE
WESTBOUND — BRAVE PIONEER Kobe Apr. 10, Hong Kong Apr 21, Singapore Apr. 21, for Monrovia June 2, Apapa May 22, Port Harcourt June 5, Douala June 15 AFRICA MARU last Japanese Port Apr. 5, Singapore Apr. 16, for Abidjan May 9, Apapa/Lagos May 14 HEROINAE slg Japan mid April, calling Hong Kong, Keelung, Singapore for West African ports mid May

NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE
SOUTHBOUND — RIVER RIMA London Apr. 16, Freetown Apr 24, Tema Apr 28, Port Harcourt May 2, Warri May 11, Douala May 17 RIVER ETHIOPE Antwerp Apr. 2, Hamburg Apr 6, Bremen Apr 7, Rotterdam Apr 11, Apapa Apr 21
NORTHBOUND — RIVER BENUE Matadi Mar 28, Abidjan Apr 9, Dublin Apr 9, Liverpool Apr 27

OT AFRICA LINE AB
SOUTHBOUND — KAPRIFOL Felixstowe Apr 24, Zeebrugge Apr 25, Grangemouth Apr 25, Rotterdam Apr 25, Le Havre Apr 26, Dakar May 4, Monrovia May 4, Abidjan May 5, Tema May 5, Lagos/Apapa May 6

PALM LINE
SOUTHBOUND — APAPA PALM Hamburg Apr 9, Rotterdam Apr 16, Dakar Apr. 24, Freetown Apr. 27, Monrovia Apr. 29, Abidjan May 1, Tema May 3, Cotonou May 6, Port Harcourt May 9, Douala May 20
BAMENDA PALM Liverpool Mar 31, Abidjan Apr. 12, Apapa Apr 15

S.C.A.D.O.A.
SOUTHBOUND — VILLE DE BORDEAUX Dunkirk Apr 23, Rouen Apr. 25, Le Havre Apr. 27, Bordeaux Apr. 30, Dakar May 6, Abidjan May 10, Lome May 16, Apapa May 13 (containers only), Douala May 18.
NORTHBOUND — SAINT LUC Libreville Apr 18, Douala Apr 20, Abidjan Apr. 24, Nantes May 4, Honfleur May 7, Dunkirk May 8

SCANDINAVIA WEST AFRICA LINE
SOUTHBOUND — RS 17 Moss Apr 21-23, Aarhus Apr 24, Copenhagen Apr. 25, Norrkopmg Apr 28-May 2, Dakar May 13-14, Monrovia May 17-19, Buchanan May 19, Abidjan May 21-22, Cotonou May 24, Apapa May 25-31

UNITED KINGDOM WEST AFRICA LINES
SOUTHBOUND — SAGALAND slg London Mar 25, due Monrovia Apr 5, Apapa Apr 9. MINOS STAR slg London Apr 15, due Apapa Apr 27, Luanda Apr 16, Matadi Apr 19

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE
EASTBOUND — WESTWIND Houston ETA Apr 11, ETS Apr 14, Abidjan ETA Apr 29, Lagos ETA May 4 EASTWIND Houston ETA Apr 21, ETS Apr 24, Abidjan ETA May 9, Lagos ETA May 14

NOTICES

The Nigerian Accountancy Society (Great Britain and Ireland)

Secretariat
111 Gurney Road
London E15
Tel 01-534 4488

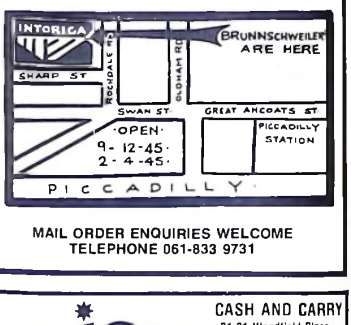
The following weekend courses have been specially arranged for the benefit of student members in preparation for the forthcoming professional examinations

Date	Subject
26 April	Accounting 4
27 April	Financial Management
4 May	Management Mathematics
11 May	Accounting 5
17 May	Taxation
25 May	Auditing

The fee per subject is £9.00. This includes morning tea and afternoon lunch
Venue: Nigeria Centre and Hostel 22 Inverness Terrace, Bayswater, London W2
For enrolment form please contact any of the undermentioned officers

D. Adeagbe	T. Yakubu	L. A. Awoda
(Education Secretary)	01-800 0453	(Publicity Secretary)
01-534 4488		

GUARANTEED GENUINE
INTORICA* GEORGE
*REG TRADE MARK
ABC WAX & FANCY PRINT
HAYES FIERZ HEADTIES ● DRESS FABRICS
A·BRUNNSCHWEILER·UK
16 SHARP STREET, MANCHESTER M4 4EB, ENGLAND



MAIL ORDER ENQUIRIES WELCOME
TELEPHONE 061-833 9731

uNiQUE
CASH AND CARRY
21-31 Woodfield Place
(Off Harrow Road)
London W9
Tel: 01-289 1127
LONDON'S LARGEST CASH AND CARRY
Specialising in all famous brands of
JEANS AND CASUAL WEAR FOR LADIES, MEN AND CHILDREN AT VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES
Strictly Wholesale and Export
(shipping arranged for Overseas Customers)
AMPLE CAR PARK
OPEN 9 am—6 pm Monday to Friday. Sunday 9 am—2 pm

SITUATIONS VACANT

RIVERS STATE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
RUMUOLUMENI, P.M.B. 5047
PORT HARCOURT
VACANCIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following posts in the College:

A. POSTS AND SALARIES

1. Principal Lecturer I — Salary GL.15 ₦10,296 x 516 — ₦11,328
2. Principal Lecturer II — Salary GL.14 ₦9,168 x 320 — ₦10,128
3. Senior Lecturer — Salary GL.13 ₦8,064 x 320 — ₦9,024
4. Lecturer I — Salary GL.12 ₦7,404 x 216 — ₦8,052
5. Lecturer II — Salary GL.10 ₦5,760 x 162 — ₦6,732

Applicants for these posts must be able to provide excellent instruction to students at both the Nigerian Certificate of Education (N.C.E.) and Bachelor of Education (B.ED) Levels.

B. QUALIFICATIONS

1. Principal Lecturer I

(i) A Doctorate Degree as well as an approved professional qualification e.g. Diploma in Education.
(ii) Not less than eight years relevant post-graduate teaching experience in a higher institution, four of which should be at post-doctorate level.
(iii) A knowledge of modern skills and techniques in teaching.
(iv) A significant contribution to teaching/knowledge e.g. publications, conferences curriculum development.
(v) Ability to initiate, develop and supervise research projects within the department.

2. Principal Lecturer II

Same as for Principal Lecturer I but with seven years post-graduate experience, three of which should be at post-doctorate level.

3. Senior Lecturer

(i) A post-graduate qualification (preferably a doctorate degree) as well as an approved professional qualification and Research experience.
(ii) Not less than five years relevant post-graduate teaching experience in a higher institution.
(iii) A knowledge of modern skills and techniques in teaching.
(iv) A significant contribution to teaching/knowledge.

4 & 5. Lecturer (Grade I and II)

(i) A higher degree preferably doctorate degree.
(ii) A professional qualification in Education.
(iii) Not less than five years relevant post-graduate experience for Lecturer Grade, and three years for Lecturer Grade II.

C. DEPARTMENTS

Vacancies for the above posts exist in the following departments:
(1) Mathematics (2) Chemistry (3) Biology with emphasis in Ecology, Embryology, Genetics, Biochemistry, or Cytology (4) Physics (5) Home Economics with emphasis in Foods and Nutrition, or Textiles and Clothing (6) History with emphasis in Historiography and Historical Methods (7) Religious Studies with emphasis in Biblical Studies and Theology or Islamic Theology and Ethics (8) English with emphasis in Phonetics and Linguistics, or Drama and Theatre Arts (9) Fine and Applied Arts (10) Physical and Health Education (11) Economics with emphasis on Mathematical and Statistical Economics or Accounting and Business Economics (12) Geography (13) Political Science (14) Education with emphasis on one of the following: (i) Measurement and Evaluation (ii) Guidance and Counselling (iii) Educational Technology (iv) Curriculum and Methods (v) Educational Planning (vi) Comparative Education (vii) Special Education (viii) Nursery Education (ix) Social Studies.

D. METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Six copies of application stating detailed Curriculum Vitae such as Educational Qualifications and institutions attended (with dates), experience, age, marital status, present salary, present employer, names and addresses of three referees (not relatives) and photocopies of relevant credentials, should reach THE REGISTRAR, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, P.M.B. 5047, PORT HARCOURT not later than 30th MAY, 1980. Applicants should please request their referees to write directly to the College.

Ag. Registrar,
College of Education,
Port Harcourt.

NOTICES Cont.

For a regular

CONTAINER

service to Lagos and for all of your

SHIPPING

to West Africa contact OVERSEAS CARRIERS LTD., Armoury Way, London SW18. Phone: 01-874 3366

The specialists in household effects.

CHRISTIANSBORG ENTERPRISES

- Cheap Airfreight Cargo to any destination in Africa
- Low Air Tickets to any part of the world
- Shippers of Household Goods, Vehicles & General Cargo
- We can arrange for collection of goods from home or place of purchase
- Manufacturers Representatives for capital & consumer goods. Put in your order & we will supply pro-forma invoice by return

Call at 2nd Floor,
107 Bethnal Green Road, Bethnal Green,
London E2 7DG or phone 01-729 4423

OSCAR GUARANTEES

● Georges - all recent designs, e.g. - ● Volvo - Iplomba - Barclays Bank - Festac ● Wax Block - Prints - Single and Double - Satins - Nku Creams - Clinicar, Venus Cream 95p wholesale or retail.

Nigerian food and vegetables in abundant supply.

NIGERIAN RECORDS WILL SOON BE IN GREAT SUPPLY!

410 EVELYN STREET, LONDON, SE8
Telephone: 691 6319

AFRO-AMERICAN HAIR CARE and BODY COSMETICS

all at wholesale prices
EXPORT ENQ WELCOME
BROCHURE AVAILABLE

BARRY MERO LTD.
36 Brixton Road, SW9
01-582 4755

Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim

Learn Seraphic Science. Solve difficult problems through powerful prayers and prayer books.
Contact: Mother Propheless Janet Awojobi
7 Ranelagh Road
Tottenham, LONDON N.17

SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

LAGOS STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISOLO ROAD, ISOLO, P.M.B. 21606, IKEJA

ACADEMIC STAFF VACANCIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following vacant posts.

1. **DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS**
   - (i) Lecturer I — Management/Business Mathematics
   - (ii) Lecturer II — Statistics & Probability
   - (iii) Systems Analyst
   - (iv) Lecturer III

2. **DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**
   - (i) Principal Lecturer
   - (ii) Senior Lecturer
   - (iii) Lecturer I
   - (iv) Lecturer II
   - (v) Lecturer III

3. **DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL/ELECTRICAL/MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**
   - (i) Principal Lecturer — Structural Engineering Technology
   - (ii) Senior Lecturer — Water Resources & Public Health Technology
   - (iii) Lecturer I — Electronics/Communication
   - (iv) Lecturer II — Plant Engineering Technology
   - (v) Lecturer III — Power Engineering Technology
   - Production Engineering Technology

4. **DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE**
   - (i) Principal Lecturer
   - (ii) Senior Lecturer
   - (iii) Lecturer I
   - (iv) Lecturer II
   - (v) Lecturer III

5. **DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE**
   - (i) Lecturer I
   - (ii) Lecturers II & III (Modelling & Sociology) Part-time
   - (iii) Draughtsman (Construction Drawing & Detailing)

6. **DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS STUDY**
   - (i) Principal Lecturer (Economics, Administration)
   - (ii) Senior Lecturer (Marketing, Industrial Relations)
   - (iii) Lecturer I — Business Law, Company Law, Nigerian Law
   - (iv) Lecturer II
   - (v) Lecturer III
   - (vi) Instructors GL 08/09 (Business Studies, Management, Marketing, Economics, Administration)

7. **DEPARTMENT OF SECRETARIAL STUDIES**
   - (i) Principal Lecturer
   - (ii) Senior Lecturer
   - (iii) Lecturer I
   - (iv) Lecturer II
   - (v) Lecturer III
   - (vi) Instructors (Pitmans Shorthand, Typewriting, Secretarial Duties etc.)

8. **DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE**
   - (i) Senior Lecturer
   - (ii) Lecturer I — Physics-Chemistry-Microbiology
   - (iii) Lecturer II — Food Technology
   - (iv) Lecturer III — Catering & Hotel Management
   - (v) Technologist/Technicians (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Microbiology, Biochemistry)

9. **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
   - (i) Lecturer I
   - (ii) Lecturer II — History/Government
   - (iii) Lecturer III
   - (iv) Assistant Lecturers

10. **SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE (IKORODU)**
    - (i) Agricultural Superintendents/Livestock Superintendents
    - (ii) Agricultural Assistants/Livestock Assistants

11. **DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES (IKORODU CAMPUS)**
    - (i) Principal Lecturer
    - (ii) Senior Lecturer
    - (iii) Lecturer I
    - (iv) Lecturer II
    - (v) Lecturer III
    - (vi) Assistant Lecturers

12. **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING (IKORODU CAMPUS)**
    - (i) Principal Lecturer
    - (ii) Senior Lecturer
    - (iii) Lecturer I
    - (iv) Lecturer II
    - (v) Lecturer III

13. **COLLEGE LIBRARY**
    - (i) Chief Librarian
    - (ii) Deputy Chief Librarian
    - (iii) Assistant Chief Librarian
    - (iv) Principal Librarian
    - (v) Senior Librarian

14. **ACCOUNTANCY DEPARTMENT**
    - (a) Principal Lecturer
    - (b) Senior Lecturer
    - (c) Lecturer I
    - (d) Lecturer II
    - (e) Lecturer III

QUALIFICATIONS

LECTURESHIP

PRINCIPAL

The applicant must possess good honours degrees, preferably higher degrees and/or appropriate equivalent professional qualification in the relevant discipline with at least 9 (nine) years post qualification Teaching/Research/Industrial experience in his field. The incumbent will be expected to give academic leadership as well as assume all administrative responsibilities for his Department.

Possession of doctorate degree and membership of recognised professional bodies will be an advantage. Experience requirement for the other positions are as follows:

Senior Lecturer	— 8 years (post qualification)
Lecturer I	— 7 years (post qualification)
Lecturer II	— 5 years (post qualification)
Lecturer III	— 2 years (post qualification)
Assistant Lecturer	— 1 year (post qualification)

AGRICULTURAL/LIVESTOCK SUPERINTENDENT

Higher National Diploma in Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL/LIVESTOCK ASSISTANT

Certificate or Ordinary Diploma in Agriculture

DRAUGHTSMEN

H.N.D. with specialisation in Construction Drawing and Detailing

INSTRUCTORS

Applicants should possess either the HND and/or professional qualification(s) plus relevant experience.

TECHNICIANS

Full Technological Certificate (C & G) in Science Laboratory Technology.

CHIEF LIBRARIAN

A good honours degree from any recognised University together with recognised professional qualification, preferably at the Fellowship level with not less than 10 years working experience as a professional Librarian. Considerable administrative experience is also required.

DEPUTY CHIEF LIBRARIAN

(ii) As for Chief Librarian with at least 9 (nine) years professional experience.

(iii) ASSISTANT CHIEF LIBRARIAN

As for (ii) above with 8 (eight) years professional experience.

(iv) PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN

As for (iii) above with 7 (seven) years professional experience.

(v) SENIOR LIBRARIAN

As per (iv) above with at least 5 (five) years working experience.

SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

ACCOUNTANCY DEPARTMENT

(a) PRINCIPAL LECTURER

A good degree from a recognised University or Institution in the relevant field. Associate membership of a recognised institution in the relevant field plus, in either case, at least 8 years post qualification teaching/research/industrial experience. Post graduate degree at the Masters or Doctorate Levels will be an advantage.

(b) SENIOR LECTURER

Associate membership of a professional Accountancy body recognised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria plus at least 3 to 4 years post qualification teaching/research/industrial experience OR a good degree from a recognised University in the relevant field plus 6 years teaching/industrial experience.

(c) LECTURER I

Associate membership of a recognised Accountancy body plus at least 2 to 3 years post qualification teaching/industrial experience OR a good degree from a recognised University plus 5 years post qualification teaching/industrial experience in the relevant subjects.

(d) LECTURER II

Candidates must have final certificate of a recognised professional Accountancy body plus at least 1 to 2 years post qualification teaching/industrial experience OR a good degree from a recognised University plus at least 3 years teaching/industrial experience.

(e) ASSISTANT LECTURER/LECTURER III

A good degree from a recognised University plus 1 year National Youth Service.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

(f) SYSTEMS ANALYSTS

Qualifications as for Lecturer II

SALARIES:

The salaries attached to the posts are as follows.

	GRADES	SALARY SCALE
1	Librarian	—GL 15 (N10,296 — N10,812 — N11,328)
2	Deputy Librarian	— GL 14 (N9,168 x 320 — N10,128)
3	Principal Lecturer	— GL 14 (N9,168 x 320 — N10,128)
4	Assistant Chief Librarian	— GL 13 (N8,064 x 320 — N9,024)
5	Senior Lecturer	— GL 13 (N8,064 x 320 — N9,024)
6	Principal Librarian	— GL 12 (N7,404 x 216 — N8,052)
7	Lecturer I	— GL 12 (N7,404 x 216 — N8,052)
8	Senior Librarian	— GL 10 (N5,760 x 162 — N6,732)
9	Lecturer II	— GL 10 (N5,760 x 162 — N6,732)
10	Systems Analysts	— GL 10 (N5,760 x 162 — N6,732)
11	Lecturer III	— GL 09 (N4,668 x 162 — N5,640)
12	Agric/Livestock Superintendent	— GL 09 (N4,668 x 162 — N5,640)
13	Draughtsman	— GL 09 (N4,668 x 162 — N5,640)
14	Instructors	— GL 08 (N3,564 x 150 — N4,464)
15	Agric/Livestock Assistant	— GL 07 (N2,832 x 120 — N3,552)
16	Laboratory Technician	— GL 07 (N2,832 x 120 — N3,552)

NOTE: Point of entry will depend on qualifications and experience.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Ten copies of typewritten applications giving the following details in the order set out:

(i) Post desired
(ii) Full names with Surname underlined
(iii) Date and place of birth
(iv) Nationality and how acquired
(v) Permanent address
(vi) Current Postal Address
(vii) Marital Status
(viii) Number and ages of children
(ix) Educational Institution(s) attended with dates
(x) Academic and professional qualifications obtained with dates
(xi) Previous employer(s) and Post(s) held with dates
(xii) Present employer, post and salary — evidence of salary will be deemed at the interview
(xiii) Publications (if any)
(xiv) Names of 3 (three) referees — Employer, educational and personal. Applicants are requested to ask their referees to send references on them direct to the Registrar. Envelopes should bear the inscription "ASV-80" in the top left hand corner.
(xv) Normal signature

Applications and any supporting documents should reach the Registrar, LSCST, P.M.B. 21606 not later than 15th May, 1980. Only candidates who are shortlisted for interview will be acknowledged.

G.G. AGBENOHEVI
REGISTRAR

GGA/HOO/KJ/JNM

STATE GOLD MINING CORPORATION — GHANA

It is intended to strengthen the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering staff of the Corporation

Applications are invited for the following positions:

ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS

Ghanaians with B.Sc. Degree in Electrical Engineering or HND or its equivalent with experience in a supervisory position in industry to be responsible for installation, maintenance and repair of electrical plants.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Ghanaians with B.Sc. Degree in Mechanical Engineering or HND or its equivalent with experience in a supervisory position in industry.

SALARIES

To be negotiable, according to qualifications and experience.

OTHER TERMS OF SERVICE

(a) Free accommodation includes hard furnishing, electricity, water, refrigerator and cooker, free medical attention in Corporation hospitals (excluding spectacles and dental treatment) subsidised canteen. Adequate social and sporting facilities — club, cinema, golf, swimming, tennis.

Social Security Fund

5 per cent (Employee); 12½ per cent (Employer)

Leave

28 Working Days after every tour of 12 months

Applications should be addressed to:
THE OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES,
STATE GOLD MINING CORPORATION (GHANA),
BUSH HOUSE, NORTH-EAST WING,
ALDWYCH, LONDON W.C.2.

NOTICES Cont.

GRUNDIG and all
TROPICALISED TELEVISIONS

Spare parts and cassettes
VIDEO RECORDER VHS
Betamax GENERAL AND X RATED FEATURE MOVIES

Tax and Duty free at
MAIDA VALE ELECTRONICS
169A MALVERN ROAD, N.W.6. Tel. 01-328 2901

WORLD WIDE WITH ROCKFORDS

We offer you this comprehensive service

Storage, packing and box-making in our 16000 sq ft West London warehouse.

Groupage and redistribution anywhere in the UK.

Shipping & Forwarding world-wide using express container lines, roll-on roll-off or individual crates.

Airfreight by charter or scheduled aircraft — pre-clearance or destination clearance.

Ancillary services include free quotations, full insurance and complete back-up facilities.

Airline passenger tickets world-wide — real economy rates.

WORLD WIDE WITH ROCKFORDS
Rockford Marine Services Limited, 26/31A Shepherds Bush Place, London W12, UK.
Tel: 01-749 3552. Telex: 23832 SATNAM G. Cables: SATNAM London W1.

NOTICES Cont.

SEWING MACHINE EXPORT CO.

FELLING MACHINE

OVERLOCK

THE LITTLE MARVEL

is a simple type of fly press which is used with 2-piece dies to produce all kinds of covered buttons. The automatic spring return makes it an easy and quick button-making machine.

ALL LEADING MAKES OF SEWING MACHINES SUPPLIED
CASH AND CARRY: BROTHER 755, NEW — £210 COMPLETE
TOOTING SEWING MACHINES, 106-108 Tooting High Street, SW17
Call or phone: 01-767 0899. OPEN 6 DAYS MON—SAT. 9—6
Nearest Tube: Tooting Broadway
Head Office: REDGEWELLS, WANDSWORTH, SW18

JACKSON BROS

Shipping & Transport Co

2a Hickling Rd, Ilford, Essex

Tel: (01) 553 2877, Even's-W-ends (01) 472 3050

Please note our new address

Weekly container & conventional services to East & West Africa.

FREE 16 day storage in our own warehouse. No money collected until Bill of Lading is ready. Send your goods with the people who know and care about your shipping.

Agents in Ghana: Tegro Commercial Agency Ltd., P.O. Box 896, Tema, Ghana. Tel: Tema 2235.

SHIPPING A CAR?

Our service includes FREE COLLECTION, FREE STORAGE and LOWEST RATES to any West African destination

HOUSEHOLD and PERSONAL EFFECTS

FREE ESTIMATES in your home. FREE TEA CHESTS and PACKING. CRATING & BANDING on OUR OWN PREMISES

Visit us any time during office hours or telephone: 01-622 1243 (5 lines)

Contact

A. & G. Rochford Ltd.,
LOWOOD GARAGE, 12 Kings Avenue,
LONDON SW4 8BQ. Telex: 8951677

J.T.W. WAREHOUSING LIMITED

(INC. PURFLEET PACKING CO.)

(100,000 sq. ft. Storage Space)

CARDINHOUSE (IMPORT & EXPORT) LTD.

OFFER SECURE STORAGE, PACKING, AIR AND SEA FREIGHT SERVICES TO EAST, WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

ESTIMATES GIVEN FREE

Unit 1, Magnet Works, London Road, GRAYS, Essex
Tel: Grays Thurrock (0375) 32201/4 Telex: 995402

D & LEE TEXTILES LTD

265 KINGSLAND ROAD London E2 Tel. 01-739 8069

GOLD GOLD GOLD

We stock 18ct gold jewellery

JUST ARRIVED

6 tone DAMASK Alade 2222 with six crowns.
Head Holland Prints, Guinea Brocade, Laces and Headties

OPENING HOURS:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Friday	9 am—6 pm	Thursday Sunday	9 am—1 pm 9 am—2 pm

CARS FOR SALE

TRANSIT CARS

EUROPE'S LEADING
TAX-FREE VEHICLE EXPORTER

Can offer immediate delivery on all makes of vehicles

R.H.D. and L.H.D.
AT VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES

Check the rest then try the best

Transit Cars International Ltd
31 Harcourt Street,
London, W.1.
Telephone:
01-402 2090 01-402 0197
Telex 299812

NOTICES Cont.

MARINE CRAFT & EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Fishing Vessels, Towing Vessels and Barges for sale at keen prices. Diesel propulsion engines, marine gearboxes, diesel generating sets. Spares for all British, American and Continental engines, anchors, cables and marine equipment kept in stock.

Please send your enquiries to

OKUBOH & SON LIMITED

23 ST. MICHAELS CHURCH ROAD
LIVERPOOL L17 7BD, ENGLAND. Tel. 051-727 4594

GEC Tropicalised Goods for Export

Air Conditioners, Refrigerators, Freezers, Washing Machines, Cookers, Televisions and Video, Voltage Stabilisers, Generators. Tax Free Exports.

MAYFAIR REFRIGERATION LTD.
Unit 7, Jacey Gallery, 523 Oxford Street, London, W1A 2LB.
Tel. 01-629 1745. Telex. 8951303.

BLACK HAIR

CHEZ LUCIE

RELAXING, PERMING
TINTING, CUT & BLOW DRY
STEAMING, WET LOOK
TREATING DAMAGED HAIR
24 Kilburn High Road
London NW6
Tel: 01-624 8030
and 01-328 0090

North West London
TROPICALISED GOODS
Discount Goods

Check our prices for all electrical goods, fridges, TVs, Video, etc. Shipping arranged. Low cost airfreight.

TANZIL(UK) LIMITED

2c Cricklewood Lane, NW2 1EX
Tel. 452 6924

SALE SALE

GOLDGLADES MARKETING CO

We know how best to meet your needs, visit our Fashionable Textile shop whilst in London.

Stockists of latest designs in Super Quality Georges, Hayes Headties, Cord Lace, English/Dutch Wax Prints and Afro-Dresses. ALL GIVE AWAY PRICES

221 Holloway Road, London N7. Tel: 01-607 7194

CARS FOR SALE

AMEX

100 CARS IN STOCK

AUTOMOBILE EXPORTS
AMEX HOUSE, NORTH END ROAD,
WEMBLEY, MIDDLESEX
TELEX 27659 AMEX 01-903 4184/5
15 Mins Oxford Circus

EXPORT CARS

115a Glenthorne Road, London W.6
Tel: (01) 741 0364 Telex: Autoex 935 893 G

A SPECIAL OFFER FOR BONA-FIDE STUDENTS

WEST AFRICA

Weekly magazine

is available to you wherever you are
on subscription LESS 10% STUDENT DISCOUNT

Complete this form and send the whole page to:

WEST AFRICA PUBLISHING CO. LTD.
53 HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON EC1A 2FD, ENGLAND

To be completed by student

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

(Block letters please)

Please commence my subscription to WEST AFRICA as soon as possible. My remittance payable to WEST AFRICA PUBLISHING CO. LTD. is enclosed

Cheque ☐ to cover

Money Order ☐ for £ ..... ☐ 6 months

Postal Order ☐ $ ..... ☐ 1 year

To be completed by school/college

This is to certify that .....

.....

(Name of student in block letters)

is in full-time education at

Name of Education Establishment .....

.....

.....

Address .....

.....

.....

Signed .....

Position in establishment .....

.....

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (inclusive of postage)

		Surface	Airmail
UNITED KINGDOM			
52 weeks	—	£18.00	—
26 weeks	—	£9.50	—
EUROPE (including Eire)			
52 weeks	—	£22.00	£27.00
26 weeks	—	£11.50	£14.00
AUSTRALASIA, JAPAN AND FAR EAST			
52 weeks	—	£22.00	£35.00
26 weeks	—	£11.50	£19.00

DEDUCT 10% FROM THESE PRICES

		Surface	Airmail
AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST			
52 weeks	—	£22.00	£32.00
26 weeks	—	£11.50	£17.00
USA, CANADA AND SOUTH AMERICA			
52 weeks	—	US$45.00	US$65.00
26 weeks	—	US$25.00	US$35.00
OTHER COUNTRIES (not specified)			
52 weeks	—	£22.00	£32.00
26 weeks	—	£11.50	£17.00

NOTICES Cont.

Create your own REFERENCE LIBRARY

Bind your copies of WEST AFRICA in the EASIBINDER.

Attractively bound in blue Balacron with the title blocked in gold on the spine, the Easibinder is designed to hold copies of WEST AFRICA.

The Easibinder opens flat for easy reference and copies can be removed and replaced with ease.

Price: U.K. £3.40
Overseas £3.65 plus 25p per extra binder

Cheques payable to Easibind Ltd.

EASIBIND LTD., 4 UXBRIDGE ST., LONDON W8 7SZ, ENGLAND

I enclose p.o./cheque value .....for

.....binders at £ each for WEST AFRICA

Name .....

Address .....

.....Date .....

WEST AFRICA

issues for the period 1917-1980 are available on microfilm

from

E.P. MICROFILM LTD.
Bradford Road
East Ardsley
Wakefield WF3 2JN

Tel: Wakefield 823 971

EDUCATIONAL

A RAPID RESULTS COLLEGE

Home Study Course can give you success in GCE, School Cert., RSA or a Professional qualification in Accountancy, Banking, Book-keeping, Management, Marketing, Selling, Stores Supervision, Transport etc. For details of our specialised courses, write for a free copy of **YOUR CAREER** to your nearest Careers Adviser, quoting Dept. NR4

- Box 7926, Lagos, Nigeria
- Box 3703, Accra, Ghana

THE RAPID RESULTS COLLEGE
Dept. NR4, Tuition House, London SW19 4DS

AIRLINE COURSES AND HOTEL MANAGEMENT. Business studies, typing and telex. Free prospectus. Belair Adult Education Centre, 10 Denmark Street, London WC2. Tel. 01-836 1316. Telex 27775.

SANDRA SECRETARIAL COLLEGE
LEARN SECRETARIAL SKILLS EASILY

ONE YEAR DIPLOMA COURSE
Reasonable fees. Beginners welcome

Shorthand, typing, speed development, refresher, audio office skills, English, MEDICAL SHORTHAND TYPING. Day, evening and Saturday classes.

R.S.A., L.C.C. PITMAN EXAMS
Suffolk House, 1/8 Whitfield Place, Whitfield Street, London, W1P 5SF. 01 388 2290/9206

FIRST step to **SUCCESS** is a qualification and the surest way of getting a qualification is through Wolsey Hall, the Oxford Correspondence College. With a Wolsey Hall course you get the personal attention of a qualified tutor and a guarantee of free additional tuition if required to pass your examination. Option of fees by easy instalments. Lessons sent by special air service. Courses include GCE, WAGCE, RSA, LCC, Banking, Admin, Management, ICSA, Statistics, Teaching, Theology, Languages and Business. Write for free Prospectus to W. Milligan MA (Dept. PGE), Wolsey Hall, Oxford OX2 6PR, England.

NOTICES Cont.

CARS FOR SALE

100 TAX FREE Left Hand Drive Cars
Save £££s

No reasonable offer refused

Ring Andy
272 2424 (day)
or 363 6255
(Evenings or Sundays)

CARYATID MOTORS LTD
3/6 Durham Road, Finsbury Park, N7

LEFT-HAND DRIVE CARS

Selection of Fine Quality Cars at Keen Prices.

Reach to the nearest Phone and ring Mr. George at 01 531 2373 or 01 [illegible] 6229 [illegible] and see us at 81 Clarendon Road, E17.

We will be pleased to collect you from Blackhorse Road Station 7 days per week.

CAR SPARE PARTS

Cut out the middle man – buy DIRECT from manufacturers

For your supplies of
Japanese
American
European
Car parts/accessories

Contact
INTERTEC
Linburn House,
Suite 309,
342 Kilburn High Road,
London NW6
Tel: 328 9521
Telex: 2689521 -G- 514

NOTICES Cont.

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION ON ADVERTISING IN
WEST AFRICA
TELEPHONE 01-236 3381

MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY

Please wnote that this office will be closed on

MONDAY, MAY 5th, 1980

Bath House, 53 Holborn Viaduct
London EC1A 2FD

EDUCATIONAL

NOW!

Men and Women! Train for Your Exciting Career at TCI in New York!

World-famous TCI (formerly RCA Institutes) has prepared thousands of students for careers in Electronics Technology, Color TV-Radio Servicing, Air-Conditioning/Refrigeration and Secretarial positions. At TCI, you receive expert instruction and hands-on training in modern, fully-equipped classrooms and laboratories. TCI will also try to assist you in completing official paperwork.

ELECTRONICS • AIR CONDITIONING/REFRIGERATON

From the renowned T-3, degree-granting electronics program to the air conditioning and refrigeration program, TCI offers you a complete selection of up-to-date and time-tested career programs.

SECRETARIAL

The TCI Wesley Business Division provides you with the skills and knowledge required to take your place in the business world as a secretary. Word processing equipment, bright classrooms—all conveniently located in the heart of New York City.

For full information on all TCI technical and secretarial programs, send for your FREE TCI information package today!

TCI is authorized under federal law to enroll non-immigrant alien students.

TECHNICAL CAREER INSTITUTES, INC.
320 West 31st Street · (formerly RCA Institutes)
New York, N.Y. 10001 · U.S.A. (212) 594-4000

☐ Yes, please rush me my FREE Information Package. (No obligation.)

Name

Address

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS

N.P.N. UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND BRANCH CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

We, the entire members of the above-named party, send our condolences to the President of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, the families of the Late Senator Chief J. S. Tarka and Alhaji Aliyu Makaman Bida, N.P.N. National Patron, whose sudden deaths took place recently in the United Kingdom and in Nigeria respectively.

May their souls rest in peace.

F. T. N. Ughagonu
Acting General Secretary

A. B. Owonikoko
Acting Publicity Secretary
01-472 1063

NOTICES Cont.

IF YOU HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING YOUR COPY OF

WEST AFRICA

Please write to the Publisher in London

WEST AFRICA PUBLISHING CO. LTD.,
BATH HOUSE,
53 HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON EC1A 2FD.

Dateline AFRICA

NIGERIA

Tempers rise over 'Oligate'; Judicial commission named

TEMPERS are rising high over the alleged ₦2,800m missing from the funds of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. (*writes a correspondent in Lagos*), a figure amounting to over 15 per cent of President Shagari's 1980 national budget. Nothing in the recent history of Nigeria has caused so much public indignation and condemnation as the mysterious disappearance of this huge sum of oil money, now dubbed "the oilgate affair".

Throughout Nigeria it is the talk of the town — at offices, on the streets and in private homes — people begin and end their discussions with the yet unexplainable. Newspaper boys and motor-park touts and hawkers shout "Oilgate. Oilgate" as the Kalabule men (to use Ghanaians' name for the rich) drive past in their Mercedes Benz cars and Volvos.

Public apprehension has been fuelled by students who have taken to the streets in protest, demanding a public judicial inquiry into the scandal. They besieged the National Assembly disrupting the business of the house for more than two hours waving placards and chanting various slogans. It should be remembered that student unionism had been suppressed and banned by the last military administration after their violent demonstrations over increases of school fees, during which several people were killed and property destroyed. Although the ban was lifted by President Shagari early this year and rusticated students pardoned, the students had not been able to stage an aggressive come back. The "Oilgate Affair" as provided them with a launching pad.

Despite suggestions that the missing money could be nothing more than a bookkeepers' muddle, only a full inquiry will pacify the Nigerian public and vindicate the NNPC officials on the issue.

A step in the right direction has been taken by the House of Representative members. They have passed a motion asking President Shagari to suspend the chairman, Mr. A. K. Hart, the managing director, Mr. Festus Marinho, the board, the chief accountant and the chief internal auditor and the corporation. [The board, and managing director have been suspended and some senior management staff have been sent on compulsory leave. — *Editor.*] An additional measure is that the NNPC officials may not travel outside the country until the investigations are completed.

The House investigating committee chairman, Alhaji Idris Ibrahim, explained that it was necessary to remove any obstacle in the way for his committee.

The Senate majority leader, Dr. Olusola Saraki — who first alleged (through his personal investigations) that the oil money was lodged in a private account with the Midland Bank in London, but later said he could not substantiate this (he only had anonymous letters with NNPC letter-headings alleging the find) — has been summoned to appear before the House Committee. He has been a target for the students who accused him of "consistent inconsistency". Also summoned are the Coopers and Lybrand American auditors who first struck a dry hole in the books of the corporation last September. Other individuals, such as Professor Ayodele Awojobi of the University of Lagos, who claim to have classified information on the missing sums have been asked to submit their memoranda.

President Shagari has appointed a carefully selected judicial commission of inquiry to probe the affair. Mr. Justice Ayo Irikefe, a Justice of the Supreme Court, is to chair the five-man panel. Other members are Mr. Arthur Mbanefo, former President of the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Accountants, Mr. A. O. Akinrimisni, an executive director of the Union Bank, Alhaji Hassan Sunmonu, president, Nigerian Labour Congress, Alhaji Kurfi Sule, an oil engineer and marketing expert and Mr. V. A. G. Warmate, a Permanent Secretary in the Rivers State Public Service, who is the panel's secretary.

The terms of reference are "to examine contracts and other arrangements entered into by the NNPC or its predecessor the NNOC or by any other person or authority acting on behalf of Nigeria for the sale or other disposal of crude oil between January 1, 1976 and December 31, 1979." The report should be submitted with 60 days.

Wage and price controls

The Federal Government has come out with its policy on wages, salaries, fringe benefits and price guidelines for the next three years.

According to the incomes guidelines, negotiations for adjustments in wages and salaries between 1980 and 1982 must not exceed 15 per cent for the low income group and 10 per cent for the high income group.

Categorised under the low-income group are workers earning less than ₦3,000 per annum while persons earning more than ₦3,000 are categorised under high income group.

During the period, no revision of fringe benefits or introduction of new ones would be valid except with the approval of the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity.

Every business organisation should draw up productivity schemes with its employees and make copies available to the ministry.

All establishments employing 50 or more persons are required to submit to the ministry full information on wages, salaries and fringe benefits, while studies made by the pay research unit of the Federal Government will be used as a basis for negotiating increases in wages, salaries and fringe benefits for the public sector.

₦10m. in aid to Zimbabwe

President Shehu Shagari has promised ₦10m. to Zimbabwe to set up an institute for manpower training. Details of the programme, which would include training in Zimbabwe and Nigeria, were given to Prime Minister Robert Mugabe after talks with President Shagari in Salisbury.

President Shagari also told Mr Mugabe that Nigeria would immediately establish a High Commission in Salisbury, pending the arrival of a High Commissioner the present High Commissioner in Botswana would act in this capacity.

President Shagari had earlier said Zimbabwe had blazed the democratic trail which he hoped would be emulated elsewhere in Africa. "But the struggle is not over," he said, calling on South Africa to "clear the way for a multi-national society based on one-man one-vote to save us the agony of war and unnecessary destruction".

Redundancy or pension?

Some 1,356 security officers of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) relieved of their duties early last year are still receiving their salaries. The Senate Committee on Labour, currently inquiring into a protracted trade dispute, was told that the NPA management was obliged to pay the idle workers because of the Industrial Arbitration Tribunal's ruling against the decision to terminate their appointment.

The General Manager of NPA, Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, said the security officers were relieved of their duties because of re-organisation.

Soviet training

Nigeria is seeking the assistance of the Soviet Union in the training of qualified Nigerians who wish to pursue postgraduate courses in the country. The Minister of Education, Dr I. C Madubuike, disclosed this after a meeting with the Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Vladimir Snegyrev.

Earlier, the Ambassador had stated that provisions had been made to award some scholarships to Nigerians wishing to study in the Soviet Union during the next academic session. Mr Snegyrev indicated that his country wishes to establish a petroleum training institute in Nigeria. He further said that more than 1,000 Soviet specialists and technicians would be involved in the training of Nigerians for the Ajaokuta steel development programme.

Zik calls for more States

The Owelle of Onitsha, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, has joined the campaign for more states in the country. In a lecture to the Law Students Association of the University of Nigeria Nsukka, Dr Azikiwe said: "Recent history and experience of other countries are gradually teaching us a lesson that we must create more states in Nigeria in order to guarantee a stable federal union." He noted that as many as 19 additional states have been proposed since the civilians came into power.

NGPC plans 1m. tonne harvest

The General Manager of the National Grains Production Company (NGPC), Alhaji Muhammadu Alkali, has disclosed that the company had acquired 14,000 hectares of land in each state of the federation for the production of grains.

Alhaji Muhammadu said the farm projects would be handled by the company in conjunction with the state governments and some foreign companies. He explained that by the time the projects were fully developed they would be capable of producing about one million tonnes of grains annually.

The general manager also disclosed that nine storage facilities had so far been constructed by the company in different parts of the country with a total capacity of 82,000 tonnes for reservation of grains.

Disturbing news of eye diseases

About one million Nigerians have gone permanently blind and three to four million others, who are now suffering from various eye diseases are in danger of losing their sight if they do not receive adequate medical attention quickly.

This was revealed by Dr. Segun Oyeleye, a Senior Consultant at the Lagos General Hospital.

Speaking at the official opening of the Inlaks Foundation Free Mobile Eye Unit in Badagry, he classified the most serious aspects of eye diseases as measles, cataract and glaucoma.

Dr. Oyeleye regretted the dire shortage of trained personnel to man the nation's medical services. "For instance," he said, "we have only 40 opthalmologists serving the whole country. Out of these, 20 are expatriates."

● Professor J. M. Falaye of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital has been elected the president of the West African Society of Gastroenterology.

He succeeds Professor B. O. Amure of the University of Ibadan.

Other officers elected were: Dr. Folabi Odumide — vice president; Dr. Bashiru Akande, who was re-elected secretary, while Dr. G. A. Akinhanmi got the position of treasurer.

Bank officials arrested

At least five Central Bank officials have been arrested over alleged attempt to steal ₦21m. of the bank by an international syndicate (*West Africa* April 14).

The governor of the Central Bank, Mr Ola Vincent, said that most of the staff were clerical officers and telex operators working in the Foreign Operations Department of the bank.

● Eight government officials were shot at and wounded by residents of Maroko area of Lagos.

The wounded officials were members of a demolition squad which had gone to Maroko to pull down buildings declared illegal by the state government.

FROM THE STATES

Bauchi

Up to 1,500 refugees, mainly women, children and the aged, have crossed into the state daily from Chad Republic since the outbreak of hostilities in that country.

A statement by the State Government said that a reception centre has been set up at the border town of Gamboru Ngala to receive refugees coming into the country. It is estimated that about ₦3,500 is being spent on feeding the refugees daily.

Kaduna

The Kaduna State Govern... Alhaji Abdulkadir Balarabe M... has been accused of planning ... incite junior workers in the s... civil service to demonstrate aga... the State Assembly.

The Speaker of the St... Assembly, Alhaji Abubak... Mamman Danmusa, told newsm... that the proposed demonstr... was one of the numerous gro... actions the executive was plann... against the legislature.

He said that the propos... workers' action would be call... for prompt payment of th... salaries which, he said, ... governor had deliberately decl... to delay to stir up action.

Alhaji Abubakar furth... accused the governor of distrib... ing leaflets translated into Hau... and Arabic to the rural populac... in an attempt to incite them ag... the assembly on the issue of t... 1980 budget.

● The 30 per cent tax o... gate-takings from all sp... activities in the State has be... slashed to 5 per cent.

A release by the Kaduna St... Sports Council expressed the ho... that the measures, which w... effect from April 1, wou... encourage sports organisers ... resume the practice of inv... international and reputable tea... and players to the State.

Lagos

Arrangements are under way ... establish an ultra modern trad... medical and therapeutic hospit... Badagry in Lagos State. T... teaching hospital, a one-ye... project, is estimated to cost hal... million naira.

This was disclosed to newsm... in Lagos recently by Dr F. E. ... Ozekhome. When completed, t... hospital will be in a position ... meet the challenges of Afric... traditional healing as well as fil... vacuum created by mode... medical science in the field ... curative procedure.

Speaking on the role of Afri... traditional medicine in mod... society, Dr Ozekho... emphasised "the fundamen... healing power inherent in all he... roots and barks which had b... successfully tapped by ... ancestors long before the advent ... medical science.

But unfortunately, he regret... this pure natural healing power ... not been adequately used, an... fact completely relegated to ... background by contempor... medical science.

Oyo

Oyo State government ... launched "Operation House ... Masses" with which it aim... provide 25,000 housing units ... the end of 1982. According t... scheme the Oyo State Prop... Development Corporation ...

build 20,000 low cost houses, 5,000 urban and upper medium cost houses and ten new estates.

The government does not plan to build one-bedroom housing units because, Governor Bola Ige said, this type of residence does not exist in Yoruba culture and settlement habits. Also because "One bedroom units of residence are an insult and a dehumanising reminder that certain people want the poor to remain poor."

Ogun

Ogun State Government is to spend about N6m on textbooks to be supplied free to primary and secondary school pupils in the next academic session. However, the state Commissioner for Education, Mr Akin Ogunpola, said the books would remain the property of the state government, and any losses incurred would be borne by the pupils concerned.

The Commissioner also announced that a factory to produce textbooks and other stationery was to be established in Ife, in the Ijebu-East Local Government area.

Kano

Twelve towns in the State are to have electricity supply within the next six months under the state rural electrification scheme. The towns are: Tudunwada, Dutse, Gezawa, Minjibir, Ringim, Kura, Karaye, Getso, Dawakin-Dedu, Wudil, Gaya and Zakirai.

GHANA

Court martial begins

The general court martial of seven soldiers and one civilian has begun in Accra. They were arrested for alleged conspiracy to cause unrest on March 29.

"Inefficiency" the cause of cocoa loss

Over £45m of export revenue was lost through inefficient and improper handling of cocoa during the 1978/79 season, according to Dr. Kwame Gyamfi, member of the Interim Management Committee of the Cocoa Marketing Board. During a briefing on cocoa sector studies, a World Bank programme for senior officers of the CMB and the Produce Buying Division in the Central Region, Dr. Gyamfi said the £45m. represented the value of 30,000 tonnes of cocoa at an average price of £1,500 per tonne. He described the present internal purchasing system as "anachronistic, deficient and prone to malpractices", and appealed to the staff to co-operate with the British Cocoa Consultants who had been invited by the interim management committee to "study, upgrade and enhance" the system.

● Nana Atta Mensah, one-time director of the State Farms Corporation, has said that any invitation to a British Cocoa consulting team to study and upgrade Ghana's internal purchasing system should be regarded as a "downright affront to Ghanaian intelligence". He said the invitation was unnecessary since Ghana had enough talents and experts to undertake such an exercise. Nana Atta Mensah called on Dr. Gyamfi to substantiate his statement that Ghana lost £45m. in the 1978/79 season through inefficient and improper handling of cocoa.

On Dr. Gyamfi's statement that the cocoa industry should be insulated from politics, he reminded Dr. Gyamfi that his appointment was itself political, and wondered why a political appointee should throw dust into the eyes of Ghanaians. In view of this stand on politics in the cocoa industry, Nana Atta Mensah advised Dr. Gyamfi to reconsider his appointment. He added that: "Farmers need spraying machines, insecticides and cutlasses but not cheap statements (from political appointees)", reported GNA.

Depot keepers suspended

The interim management committee of the Cocoa Marketing Board has suspended with immediate effect 11 depot keepers of the Board in the Western Region and nine from the Brog-Ahofo Region for consigning infested cocoa to the Takoradi port. A statement from the Board said the final report of the committee set up to investigate the source of infested cocoa at Takoradi had established that the depot keepers consigned a total of 57,018 bags of infested cocoa to the port. It said the depot keepers would appear before the standing disciplinary committee of the Board to show cause why they should not be dismissed. The statement added that Mr E. W. Kissiedu, Director of the Produce Inspection Division whose duty it was to ensure good quality, had already been retired by the Board and that no further action was contemplated.

Joint committee starts work

An 11-member joint Ghanaian-British Technical Committee has been inaugurated in Accra by Professor George Benneh, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Fuel and Power. The committee is to probe the operations and administration of the Electricity Corporation of Ghana (ECG). Professor Benneh said it was the first time a joint technical team comprising experts from British Electricity International nominated by the World Bank, and local experts were being

AHMAD AUTOMOBILES
(DRINCOMBE LIMITED)
33 Charles Street, LONDON W1
for
New and Used
TAX FREE CARS
All European and Japanese makes, for use here and then export or direct shipping
All services arranged
Offices open
Monday—Saturday
9 am to 6 pm
Nearest underground: Green Park
Telephone: 01-493 5197/8388
01-499 5197
We are moving shortly to more convenient offices around the corner. Await announcement.

WEST AFRICA
magazine
IN GERMANY
You can now get regular weekly copies.
Contact the agent:
Mr. SHEIKH S. SILLAH,
MOTZ STRASSE 15,
1000 BERLIN 30,
WEST GERMANY
Telephone: 030-2153189

BOOK WITH THE PROFESSIONALS
AND
AFRICAN TRAVEL SYSTEM
FOR THE CHEAPEST SUMMER FLIGHTS TO WEST AFRICA
Visit us at our new premises at
6 NORTH END PARADE
NORTH END ROAD
LONDON W14
or phone us on
01-602 5091 Telex 261426
For further details send the coupon
Name .....
Address .....
.....
Destination .....

called upon to undertake "an exercise of extreme importance" to the Government. The Committee's terms of reference include the review of the administration and calibre of senior management personnel, the accounting and the stores system of ECG, and to make recommendations for improvement. It is also to review the corporation's supply contract with the Volta River Authority (VRA), and the ECG's relationship with the VRA. The committee is chaired by Mr. E. O. Agbettor, chief consultant, Engineering and Industrial Consultants, and is to submit its report in three months' time.

In his address, Professor Benneh advised public corporations that in the present era of accountability and open government demanded that any increase in the cost of their services should be justified. He listed some of the ECG's shortcomings as frequent disruption of electricity without warning, meters hardly read on time, and inefficient and haphazard revenue collection. Professor Benneh, however, conceded that the Corporation could not be blamed for problems like lack of spare parts, to rehabilitate existing equipment and installations, the insufficient number of vehicles, and an acute shortage of qualified personnel.

Reduction in oil purchases

The Minister of Lands, Natural Resources, Fuel and Power, Professor George Benneh, has announced that crude oil purchases will now be reduced from 1.1m. tonnes to 1m. per annum as a conservation measure. The cost of the former 1.1m. tonnes has been costing Ghana $150m., which is about 15.7 per cent of total export earnings. Prof. Benneh said 1979 forecasts had shown that if crude oil consumption was maintained at 1978 levels, the import bill at current crude oil prices would be $240m. or 25 per cent of total export earnings. Inaugurating the short-term report of the Committee on Energy Resources at a news conference in Accra, the Minister said Ghana's economy, like that of other developing countries, could not indefinitely sustain the spiralling oil prices with the attendant demands on foreign exchange reserves. He said the Government had decided to act immediately on some of the committee's short-term recommendations while waiting for the final report.

The Finance Ministry he said was in the process of negotiating for C6.4m. of bilateral aid for the spare part needs of Ghana Railways in addition to a British loan of £2.14m. Dr. Benneh also announced the setting up of an energy fund by the Government to provide funds for the development and application of renewable and non-conventional energy sources resources. He said his Ministry was negotiating with the World Bank and USAID for technical and financial assistance to conduct a national energy assessment as the basis for formulating long-term energy resources policy.

On the standardisation of vehicles, Dr. Benneh said the Ministry of Transport and Communications would soon submit a final list to the Government for adoption. He said the Cabinet had already directed that a programme to convert Government vehicles to diesel fuel begin.

Officers held over prison escape

Twelve prison officers of Nsawam Prison have been arrested and are helping in the investigation of the April 18 escape of Mr. George E. Amuah, who was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment for fraudulent financial dealings. According to the Interior Minister, Dr. W. C. Ekow Daniels, Mr. Amuah escaped while being escorted by one prison officer (contrary to regulations) to Korle Bu Hospital to see a doctor. The escape was not reported to the police and prison authorities are said to have learned of it the following day. One prison officer was reportedly found to have C2,000 and $3,000 in his possession representing his share in an alleged bribe for the escape. Mr. Amuah has been declared a wanted man.

AFRC sentences quashed

An Accra High Court judge has ordered the Director of Prisons to release immediately three Volta Region farmers who were "jailed for life by the AFRC on October 10 last year", reported the *Daily Graphic*. This was after a representative of the Attorney-General's Department failed to appear before the court to answer the prisoners' petition asking the Attorney-General to justify their continued detention. The three farmers, Mr. Governo Dotse, Mr. Kwami Agbomana and Mr. Kwashi Gbedzo-Dughatse, said in their petition that early in the morning of October 3 last year, they were arrested from their homes in Benadzi by scouts from neighbouring villages and conveyed to Burma Camp. On October 10 they were sent to Nsawam Prisons without warrants, and were subsequently told that they had been sentenced to life imprisonment. Mr. Justice V. E. A. Kissieh said the petitioners were arrested after the Constitution had come into effect and up to date, no cause had been shown for their continued detention. He said, "It is sad that a representative of the Attorney-General has not been appearing in court despite adjournment to enable him to do so. . . But I believe it is because they have no answer to the petition, more so, since then, they have up to date filed no answer."

Limann soothes Nigerian fears

During his visit to Nigeria last month, President Limann is reported as having said there was no fear of a military takeover in Ghana. He said: "If there is any restlessness in the country it is not from the military but past politicians who know they cannot use democratic means to come to power", reported GNA.

On the Aliens Compliance Order, the President declared that he had opposed it on the grounds that there were certain jobs that non-Ghanaians would do and which Ghanaians would not do. He blamed the decline in cocoa production not only on ageing trees but also on the lack of manpower resulting from the law which drove away the non-Ghanaian farm labourer. He said there were Ghanaians in Nigeria doing certain jobs they would not do at home. "In fact, it is not the bad economy alone which has made them come here. They wanted a change of environment to do those jobs they refuse to do at home", the President explained.

Ban on cigarette advertisements

The Minister of Health, Mr. M. P. Ansah, has announced that legislation will be considered to ban cigarette advertising in the mass media. Mr. Ansah was launching World Health Day whose theme this year is: "Smoking or health, the choice is yours". He said smoking in public places including cinemas and public transport would also be restricted to enable non-smokers to be protected as a matter of right. The Minister expressed concern over the growth of the tobacco industry in Ghana in recent years. Although the effects of smoking on health had not been studied in Ghana, Mr. Ansah said the growth of the tobacco industry shows a trend which if not checked could cause smoking-related problems of the size already noticed in the most developed countries. Temporary financial gains enjoyed by the Government would be whittled away by long-term losses in death and disease because of health problems linked with increased smoking.

According to the summary of a report of the Household Economic Survey quoted by the Minister, C2,605m. worth of tobacco was consumed in Ghana between 1974 and 1975. During the period, nine million cigarettes were consumed in Ghana, reported the *Ghanaian Times*. The report also indicated that Ghanaians spent 1.2 per cent of their income on tobacco products while 1.4 per cent was spent on health needs.

Two killed in Bole

Two members of the Bole ro... clan in the Northern Region h... been slashed to death and seve... others received cutlass wounds d... clash between a delegation fro... the Bole royal family and the ea... settlers of Tuna in the B... Traditional Area. The deceas... were Alhaji Abdulai Bmn... brother of the Bole Wura, an... Mallam Halidu Gonja Sa... of the wounded were receiving treatmen... at Bole Hospital.

According to the *Daily Graphic*, the cause of the incident was th... decision of some early settlers ... Tuna and Nyoli to enskin their ... new chief of their own choice ... Nyoli in place of the on... customarily enskinned for them b... the Bole Wura. The Imam of the ... town detailed to perform the ... enskinment ceremony revealed th... plan to the Bole Wura who sent a ... team of royals to arrest the ... proposed chief of Nyoli and all h... supporters. They managed to ... arrest the proposed chief of N... home at Nyoli, but two of them ... were slashed to death when the... tried to arrest "ringleaders of th... rebellion" at Tuna. Police ... were later sent from Tamale and ... other parts of the region to help ... the peace in the area, while the ... captured chief was in police ... custody at Bole.

Ghana's cricket victory

Ghana beat The Gambia in th... West African cricket Quadrang... lar being held in Accra. Te... Bush-men in Ghana's second innin... were Edinam Nutsugah who hit 1... (including two sixes) and Tse... Tsikata who was 37 not out a... helped ensure victory. T... defending champions, Niger... defeated Sierra Leone fa... comfortably after scoring 335 fo... in their first innings. Agodo w... top scorer with 85, while Otu... and Henshaw made 66 and ... runs.

Nkrumah day in London

The Ghana People's Solidar... Organisation is holding a da... events to mark the eig... anniversary of Kwame Nkrum... death. There will be speakers ... Kwame Nkrumah and the Afr... Revolution, the current situatio... Ghana, and Nkrumahism and ... programme of the Peop... National Party. There will also ... slides and films, African poli... and cultural theatre, a jumble ... a bookstall, and a competition ... traditional Ghanaian games. ... programme starts at 11 am ... Saturday, April 28. It takes pla... the Central Collegiate Build... Gordon Street, London WC1

CHAD

"Pull French troops out"

A radio station loyal to southern leader Abdelkader Wadal Kamougue has called on France to pull its 1,200 men out of Chad and accused Paris of giving military support to Defence Minister Hissene Habre in the civil war.

The radio, based at Moundou in the south of the country, made its broadcast after a visit to the town by French Ambassador, M Marcel Beaux, during which he met Lieutenant-Colonel Kamougue.

The forces of Lt-Col. Kamougue, who is Vice-President in the inoperative Transitional Unity Government of President Goukouni Weddeye, are shelling N'Djamena from outside the city as the Goukouni and Habre armies continue their month-old battle inside the capital.

Radio Moundou charged that 60 French artillery men were helping Mr Habre's Northern Armed Forces (FAN) and that two new French units had arrived in N'Djamena to take part in the fighting. It said there was no longer any need for a French presence in the country, since most French nationals had fled the capital.

In a radio interview, Mr Beaux reaffirmed France's "strict neutrality" in the Chadian conflict and strongly denied that Paris was interfering in the country's internal affairs.

IN BRIEF

All the 315 Jaguar and Mirage Three planes in France's Tactical Air Force arm have seen service in Africa, either in military operations or as part of the French presence on the continent, the unit's commander, General Michel Forget, said in France recently.

So far only the Anglo-French-built Jaguar tactical strike planes have been used for operations in recent years in Africa, notably against Western Sahara Polisario guerrillas when Mauritania was involved in the conflict and in Chad, also against irregular forces.

Gen. Forget said that for the moment French planes were not in action in Africa.

Gen. Forget also said that techniques for refuelling the Jaguars in flight have been evolved, giving them a range of 7,000 kms (4,200 miles) and avoiding violation of the air space of certain African countries.

NIGER

Hamani Diori freed

Ex-President Hamani Diori, in detention since the Army seized power six years ago, has been freed and taken to Niamey to stay under surveillance in a house placed at his disposal by the Government. Visits by people other than family members will be subject to Government permission. The officials said Mr. Diori's release meant no members of the old government remained in detention.

They also announced the release of the leader of the banned Sawaba party, Djibo Bakary, who was jailed in August 1975. He and other party members were arrested for allegedly plotting against the military regime with Major Sani Souda Sido, at that time the ruling Supreme Military Council's second-in-command. Other Sawaba detainees were freed this time last year, leaving only Mr. Bakary in jail. He will also be brought back to the capital, to stay with his family.

President Seyni Kountche announced the clemency measures, without giving details, in a coup anniversary broadcast.

W. SAHARA

Port plan stops

The Dutch construction company Bos Kalis Westminster, which is active in West Africa, has for the time being pulled out of a contract to extend a harbour in the Western Sahara because of fears of disruption by Polisario guerrillas, according to the *Financial Times*.

The $53m. order to enlarge the fishing harbour of El Ayoune was the first major contract awarded to a foreign company in the desert area, where the Algerian-backed Polisario Front is fighting Moroccan forces.

The initial contract between Bos Kalis Wesminster and the Moroccan Government was signed about two months ago. Bos Kalis has now decided that the risk of disruption by the Polisaro is unacceptable.

Bos Kalis's decison represents a major blow to the Moroccan Government which regarded the order as an implicit acceptance of its sovereignty over the Western Sahara. The suspension of work had been "difficult" although the Moroccan Government finally accepted its reasons for the move, the company said.

Bos Kalis was to have built dams, harbour walls and breakwaters and dredge 2m. cubic metres of earth to make the small fishing harbour suitable for larger vessels. The work would have taken 2½ years.

Polisario was of the opinion that the enlarged port could be used by supply vessels for the Moroccan forces operating in the area and therefore the construction work would amount to an "act of war."

The Bos Kalis chairman Mr Hans van Hemert said "We underestimated the need to talk with Polisario before going ahead with the order."

SHIPPING & AIR FREIGHT NEWS

★ Shipping for general cargo — including cars, trucks, personal effects and machinery at competitive rates.

★ Low airfreight cost from 80p per kilo.

★ Air ticket arrangements available at low costs.

★ Consignments packed in either lined case, steel container, roll on — roll off.

★ Discount for students.

★ Freight payment at destination by arrangement.

★ Collection, removal and storage at low costs.

★ For reliability, low cost rates, service and our long experience in shipping to East and West Africa — we consider unchallengeable.

★★★ Contact us for your shipping problems, we can ease your burden by collecting, packing and shipping your goods to any destination.

OVERSEAS FREIGHTWAYS

38-40 KENNINGTON PARK ROAD, LONDON, SE11

Tel: 01-582 4150 and 01-582 4987

SHIPPING NEWS

★ Pack consignment in one lined case or steel container ★ Roll-on/Roll-off services ★ 10 years experience in Export packing/shipping ★ Shipment of general cargo of all kinds, including MACHINERY, TRUCKS, CARS etc., to all parts of the world ★ Discounts for students going home ★ Part payment at destination accepted ★

Our Main Shipping Lines are: Palm Lines, Elder Dempster, Nigerian National Lines, etc.

Sea Freight W/A: (Containers every 2 weeks (Roll-on/Roll-off). Wooden 11 days (conventional)
Cars and break bulk twice weekly (roll-on roll-off). Sailing schedule to all other countries on application.

Air Cargo W/A: Twice weekly from 95p

Air Travel: Regular departures throughout the year. Special charter flights-Summer/Winter.

Car Sales: European and Japanese makes at competitive prices

PLEASE CONTACT US:

Roshview Ltd.

3/5 Dunston Road, Hackney, London E8

Mon—Fri. 9 am—5.30 pm. Saturday 9—12.30. Tel: 254 4836/7/8/9.
Telex 922486 Ref. 129 10 mins. bus journey Liverpool Street.

GHANA
Roshview (GH) Ltd
Yellow House
No. 3 Osu Labadi Road
PO Box 14745 Accra

NIGERIA
Camathans (NIG) Co
61 Ojuelegba Road
Suru-Lere, Lagos

Freight forward payments in Nigeria: International Bank W/A. Broad Street, Lagos.

LIBERIA

13 officials executed

Thirteen senior officials were publicly executed by firing squad on the beach at the Barclay Training Centre in Monrovia on 22 April. They were: Mr. Frank Tolbert (president of the Senate and brother of the late President); Mr. James A. A. Pierre (Chief Justice); Mr. Reginald Townsend (True Whig Party chairman); Mr. C. Cecil Dennis (Foreign Minister); Mr. James Phillips (Minister of Finance, who resigned just after last year's OAU conference); Mr. Franklin Neal (Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs); Mr. Joseph Chesson (Minister of Justice); Mr. Clarence Parker (True Whig Party treasurer); Mr. Frank Stewart (National Budget Director); Mr. John Sherman (Minister of Commerce); Mr. Charles King (Member of the Legislature for Nimba County); Mr. Richard Hennes (Speaker of the House of Representatives); and Dr. Cyril Bright (Minister of Agriculture). The recently-appointed Minister of Information, Mr. Johnny McClain, had also been tried but was not executed. The 13 men had all pleaded not guilty, but were convicted of high treason, rampant corruption, misuse of public funds and violation of civil rights. Reports indicated that Master Sgt. Doe rejected last-minute appeals for clemency from the US Embassy and other Western diplomats, and was not present at the executions.

According to a correspondent in the London *Times* (who, with "the rest of the foreign press, watched [the execution] with mounting disgust"), the five-man tribunal "carried out no proper investigation — no examination of bank accounts for instance — but cross-examined (the accused) and allowed them to speak in their defence. There were no defence lawyers."

The imminent executions were announced at the Executive Mansion just after Master Sgt. Doe had finished a press conference. According to the London *Daily Telegraph*, "an aide declared that 'enemies of the revolution' were about to be shot at the Barclay Barracks." The *Telegraph* correspondent in Monrovia, Brian Silk, said most of the condemned men faced death bravely, except Frank Tolbert, who was "trembling with fear. As green ropes were used to bind the men tightly to the stakes, Tolbert's legs gave way and he collapsed to the great delight and ridicule of his tormenters. But Cecil Dennis stared with contempt at the soldiers who yelled insults in his face and kicked away his shoes. . . . Soldiers took pictures of each other, the prisoners and of each other standing in front of the row of stakes. Television crews and news photographers were urged by grinning soldiers to get forward for a close shot. 'Look,' shouted one soldier as Frank Tolbert slumped forward on his ropes, 'he's dying already'." Again according to Brian Silk in the conservative London newspaper, "it was an episode of extreme barbarity and bloodlust by soldiers driven wild with hatred. After the firing party had done its job by firing in volleys in strict military order, an orgy of revenge began. With thousands of people cheering them on, the soldiers fired hundreds of rounds into the lifeless bodies, some using sub-machine guns. When it was over, the bodies were covered with blood and the crowd continued yelling its delight."

The *Times* correspondent again wrote that "after what seemed like a long time, the men were shot amid a crowd of jeering, shouting soldiers. Many of the soldiers were drunk or drugged. The big crowd, which had been held back, surged forward shouting delirously. 'In the cause of the people, the struggle continues'."

● The London *Times* later reported from agency sources that the People's Redemption Council had rejected the five-man tribunal's recommendations of death sentences for only four out of the 13 accused. The tribunal chairman, Lt.-Col. Senkpeni was reported as saying two of the 13 had been declared innocent of high treason, but the tribunal had been overruled. The two were Mr. Clarence Parker and Mr. Charles King.

Meanwhile the London *Daily Telegraph* reported a tribunal member as saying of the 82 officials still facing trial that "some of them found guilty may get life but most of them will be shot".

● The International Commission of Jurists has condemned the executions but it pointed out that it did not seek to defend members of the previous elitist regime. The Commission said the officials had been tried on vague charges that were not offences at the operative time, and criticised the tribunal for playing the role of the prosecution while there was no defence counsel.

Why William Tolbert was killed

During his first full press conference, Master Sgt. Doe said the army would return to barracks as soon as the Council had eradicated corruption. Other reports said "as soon as life returns to normal". He said: "The revolution does not solve our problems but provides an opportunity to build a nation for all Liberians to enjoy without discrimination. The rights of all citizens would be respected, regardless of class or origin, provided that they work for and deserve whatever property they acquire. Foreign investment of benefit to Liberia would be welcomed," he said.

Master Sgt. Doe said the coup was necessary because the various branches of the Government were not carrying out their respective responsibilities. When asked why President Tolbert was not arrested and tried with other officials, the new Head of State replied: "He was in the mansion. I tried to arrest him but he resisted and so I had to have him killed to have my mission accomplished."

Some details of the trials

Those executed were among over 90 former officials facing trial on charges of rampant corruption, maladministration of government, contravention of democratic process, and flagrant contravention of the affairs of state inconsistent with the constitution and the statutory laws of Liberia. The chairman of the tribunal, Colonel Frank Senkpeni (described by Precious Benson in the London *Guardian* as "soft-spoken" and holder of a law degree and a bachelor of arts in political science), said all four charges constitute high treason, carrying maximum penalty of death or life imprisonment. The tribunal's finding and recommendations will be passed on to Master Sgt. Doe and the People's Redemption Council, which is to take responsibility for the sentences. The Head of State has already announced that those found innocent would be reabsorbed into the society. Over 200 officials arrested after the coup have already been released.

All the defendants have so far pleaded not guilty to the charges. Colonel Senkpeni is reported as saying: "They all say they're innocent of corruption yet everyone admits that the Tolbert Government was corrupt and working against the interest of the people."

The trials began with that of former Justice Minister, Mr. Joseph Chesson, "barefoot and unshaven" (according to UPI) who told the tribunal that "I have not accumulated anything from the Government". He said he lost money from his legal practice by serving in the government and added that "I did not do any corrupt act". Mr. Chesson also denied condoning beatings of political opponents (members of the PPP who were facing trial for treason and sedition on April 14 have said they were subjected to daily beatings).

Mr. Frank Tolbert admitted that there had been rampant corruption in the former government, and that it had monopolised the Liberian political process to the exclusion of the masses of Liberian people. He did not disagree to a suggestion that the corruption had necessitated the coup. Mr. Tolbert declared that he had more than $500,000, seven apartment blocks and seven houses.

The former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Richard Hennes, said the Tolbert Administration was always talking about corruption but corruption began at the top with the President who also gave top jobs to members of his family against the advice of his associates. He said the only way to cleanse the country was by the coup and congratulated Master Sgt. Doe. Mr. Hennes declared having $91,000 and eight houses.

Mr. C. Cecil Dennis, former Foreign Minister, said the former government had violated the constitutional rights of the Liberian people by not permitting their full participation in the decision-making process. Mr. Dennis declared having some $21,500 in his Monrovia bank account, as well as some farm land and houses.

The former chairman of the National Investment Commission and general treasurer of the True Whig Party, Mr. Clarence Parker described the President and his family as "a bunch of crazy people", according to ELWA radio. He said "William Tolbert was insane, Frank Tolbert is utterly crazy. Two of the Tolbert sisters are crazy, and A. B. Tolbert is crazy. How could you reason with a crazy man?" Mr. Parker added that the April 12 coup had brought relief to 95 per cent of the Liberian people.

The former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice James A. A. Pierre, denied allegations that he had accepted a $100,000 bribe to reverse a lower court judgment in a murder case. Mr. James T. Phillips Jr., former Finance Minister said the past administration had failed the Liberian people. The former True Whig Party chairman, Mr. Reginald Townsend also said the coup was justified because the party had not lived up to democratic ideals. London's *Daily Telegraph* reported that the former Agriculture Minister, Dr. Cyril Bright, told the tribunal that he was not himself involved with the "political side" of the former administration. Mr. John Sherman, the former Minister of Commerce, admitted that the previous administration "did not carry out its duty to the letter."

Independence Day is April 12

April 12 had been declared a new Independence Day of Liberia and will also be known as National Redemption Day. Master Sgt. Doe announced this to army officers at the Barclay Training Centre. The Head of State said July 26, 1847 was the day when Liberian people became prisoners on their own land and were deprived of the fruits of their land. He said the situation in Liberia had aroused their conscience and they had replied by giving the Liberian people a new government that would provide peace, harmony, a good atmosphere where all their children and grandchildren would enjoy freedom, peace, harmony and a good standard of living. He added that one of the objectives of the People's Redemption Council was to establish peace among the Liberian people and a feeling of oneness: "We

not want one group of people to feel that they are better than another group".

Dennis asked about US asylum

The US House of Representatives' sub-committee on Africa is to investigate the circumstances in which the late Cecil Dennis, formerly Liberia's Foreign Minister, inquired about political asylum in the United States Representative Steven Solarz, chairman of the sub-committee, said that some hours after the coup Mr. Dennis and three other Liberian officials had asked an American diplomat in Liberia about asylum procedures. "Tragically we failed to follow through on this inquiry in a manner which would have protected Mr. Dennis' life" Mr. Solarz said.

● The Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Winston Tubman, regained control of the Liberian Mission on April 19 from a group of Liberians who left peacefully at the request of Master Sgt. Samuel Doe. The young Liberians, all resident in the US, had taken over the mission peacefully after the coup.

Obligations to be honoured

A decree on financial measures has been issued by the Chairman of the People's Redemption Council. The regulation on foreign payments, effective from April 16 to 15 May said that proceeds of all exports shall be paid surrendered to a licensed commercial bank operating in Liberia. No transfer of payment abroad of funds shall be made by or through the financial institution without prior approval of the National Bank of Liberia except that first payments or transfers may be made without reference to the National Bank in respect of obligations existing as of April 16, 1980 and reported as such to the National Bank.

Earlier, Major Perry J. Zulu, Minister of Finance, had announced that all existing legitimate Government obligations would continue to be honoured, including domestic and foreign contractual obligations. All vendors and suppliers of goods and services were to honour all goods ordered and/or letters of credit issued by the Minister of Finance, and they were asked to submit to the Minister statements of account and supporting documents for outstanding Government obligations.

The Ministry also urged all taxpayers — individuals, partnerships, corporations, nationals and foreigners and residents alike — to fulfil their tax obligations to the Government. He said the Ministry was maintaining its tax-collection procedure. Any entity or individual who shall be declared a tax delinquent by the Minister of Finance shall be summoned by the People's Redemption Council to explain the cause for the delay in payment.

Big search for Major Jerbo

A massive search was ordered for Major William Jerbo who led over 30 soldiers in an attack on military installations in Balata, Bong County. The artillery commander of the People's Redemption Council, Col. Isaac Jurwah, was killed in the attack. According to the commanding General of the Liberian Armed Forces, Thomas Kurumba, all the rebel soldiers involved had been captured except Major Jerbo. It was announced that if found guilty in their court martial, they would be executed immediately by firing squad.

Meanwhile three soldiers and one civilian have been executed by firing squad for looting and engaging in subversive activities. Speaking at the Barclay Training Centre where the executions took place, Master Sgt. Samuel Doe, the Head of State, said the execution would serve as an example to both civilians and soldiers not to engage in activities not in line with the objectives of the revolution. Master Sgt. Doe said the objective of the coup was to get rid of corruption in the society.

In another development, Master Sgt. Doe denied the truth of any report that all security agencies with the exception of the Bureau of Immigration and National Aviation, and the police had been dissolved. He said he had not directed any officials or state administrators to dissolve the Special Security Service whose members, he said, were presently working side by side with the military.

● The Ghana Government decided to take care of nearly 100 Liberians including 18 members of the national soccer team, the Lone Stars, until the situation in Liberia permitted them to return home. The Liberian Ambassador in Ghana, Mr. J. Christopher Ricks, said the Ministry of Education and Sports had promised to rehouse the players and officials. He confirmed reports that the Liberian Presidential jet which had brought the team, had left for Abidjan to enable it to have better communication with Monrovia. (The aircraft's pilot is said to be Captain Richardson, the late President's son-in-law, and he flew to Abidjan leaving the rest of the contingent in Accra).

Ambassador Ricks also denied that officials who came with the contingent were seeking political asylum in Ghana. The officials were the Minister of Labour, Youth and Sports, Mr. Estrada Bernard, Mr. Willis Knuckles, Deputy Sports Minister, Mr. Marbu Richards, Assistant Minister of Sports in charge of the National Team, and Mr. Johnson Laffiat, Deputy Minister of Commerce. The Lone Stars played well to draw 2-2 with a reportedly complacent Black Stars team who led 2-0 for most of the match. The Ghanaian team goes through to the Olympics with a 4-2 aggregate.

TROPICALISED GOODS

VIDEO Tvs (maximum discounts on Tvs)
RADIOS CASSETTES
MUSIC CENTRES
REFRIGERATORS
AIR CONDITIONERS
FANS
PERSONAL EXPORTS

SHIPPING and TRAVEL AGENTS

Marco Services
Importer Exporter Wholesalers
Manufacturers Representatives
126-128 WILMSLOW ROAD
MANCHESTER M14 5AH
ENGLAND Tel: 061-225 0773
Telex 666557 MARCOM

STOP PRESS

1980 DESIGNS OF REAL

HAYES FIERZ

HEADTIES

KEEP UP WITH FASHION AND GET YOURS NOW

AT

BENNY'S
TEXTILE CORNER
1 STOKE NEWINGTON ROAD
LONDON N16 8BH
TEL:
01-254 7998

Qualify in London for Success in Business

THE LONDON ACADEMY OF ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES

Specialises in personalised tuition by graduate and professional teachers
Overseas students wishing to acquire internationally recognised UK qualifications leading to a professional career or university ARE URGED TO APPLY

Full-time courses in the following examinations:
- The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA)
- The Association of International Accountants (AIA)
- The Institute of Bankers (IOB)
- The Association of Business Executives (ABE)
- GCE ('A' and 'O' levels)
- Book-keeping
- English for Overseas students

The Academy offers a Diploma in Commercial Studies

For details write to:

THE LONDON ACADEMY OF ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES
7 BEECHCROFT ROAD,
LONDON SW17 7BU

THE GAMBIA

Athletic triumphs

The Gambia won six gold medals and a silver and a bronze medal at an athletics meeting in Dakar, celebrating the third *Quinzaine de la Jeunesse et de la Culture*.

The Gambia News Bulletin said Banana Jarju clocked 10.3 secs. to win the 100 metres dash. Ismaila Ceesay won the 200 metres in 22 secs. flat; Paul Ceesay came first in the 1,500 metres; his twin Peter was behind him in second place in the event; and Jabou Jawo won both the 100- and 200-metre races as she picked up her second gold to bring The Gambia its fifth. The 4 x 110 relay team bagged the sixth.

The silver and the bronze medals came after the 4 x 400 metres relay team came second and Sherrif Mboge third in the 400 metres. Gambian athletes had entered 10 events and had qualified in all.

At the end of the Quinzaine competitions, an international invitational meet was also held in which Banana Jarju beat sprinters from Ivory Coast, Cameroun, Congo, France and Senegal in the 100 metres.

Jarju beat Africa track champions like Bitanga of Cameroun, Okunkwu of Congo, Palo of Ivory Coast, in his first international performance. Africa's fastest man Earnest Obeng did not participate. He is away in training in Europe.

The 4 x 110 relay team broke the national record by clocking 4 mins. 1 sec. The Ceesay twins, Peter and Paul made national times in the 800- and 1,500-metre races respectively. Peter timed 1.56 and Paul 4.08 mins. in their events.

Mr. Sebastian Njie, Secretary General of The Gambia Amateur Athletics Association, (GAAA), said training for the Olympics might take place in Thies, from agreements signed with Senegal. He said he hoped that between eight and ten athletes could go to Moscow.

Mr. Doudou Jeof, national athletics coach, said the team had built up good stamina for competition and added that the construction of the Independence Stadium was an exciting development for all athletes in the country.

The team captain, Mr. Bamba Njie, said the team needed all the encouragement and that he was looking forward to government participation in funding certain programmes the teams must go through. "The GAAA is full of potential," he said.

Olympic ban?

The Gambian Olympic Committee has said it would not take part in the Moscow Olympic Games unless there was a significant change in the situation in Afghanistan before May 24.

Committee President Omar Sey said that most African countries had in the past used sport to gain political concessions. The committee therefore called upon all African countries to put pressure on the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. It said the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was a violation of human rights.

● The Gambia sent a team of 16 players, a manager and an umpire to the Third Quadrangular Cricket Tournament in Accra, Ghana. The Gambia Cricket Association has said that The Gambia will host the Fourth Tournament next year.

Trade deficit up in January

The Gambia's imports for January 1980 were worth D23.57m compared to D23.28m in the previous month and D21.57m in January last year. On the other hand, exports fell sharply from D3.75m in December 1979 to D0.80m in January 1980. The deficit in the country's visible trade in January 1980 was D22.76m compared to D19.53m in the previous month and D16.35m in January 1979.

Manufactured goods, food and fuel, animal products and by-products, machinery and transport equipment, and mineral, lubricants and related materials formed the bulk of the imports during the period under review while re-exports accounted for the bulk of the value of the exports.

● There has been a considerable drop in sales at the provincial branches of the National Trading Corporation (NTC), which the managing director, Mr. Hassoum Jenneh, has blamed on the disappointingly poor trade which caused by failures in the groundnut crop.

He said the Corporation was doing its best to keep prices down but disclosed that it was at great cost to the company. But since the idea of opening up provincial shops was to help the people, he said, the Corporation will have to carry those costs.

He further blamed the lack of turnover on poor wages which, he said, has caused some shops to fall short of even covering their expenses. The managing director said there were a few areas of the country needing NTC shops but the resources of the Corporation are very stretched at this time.

The NTC runs 10 branches in the Provinces and nine in the Kerr

Well ahead

The UNDP well-construction programme in MacCarthy Island Division has completed 12 wells and 10 more are almost ready. The project is aimed at solving the problems of reaching drinking water by humans and livestock.

● Twenty people have died from meningitis in the region of Basse the Health Department has announced. It said a medical team had been sent to the region.

E EVE E

Simply a world of beautiful laces

EVE

Textiles

IMPORT — EXPORT

Latest designs in 5 and 6 tone damasks

Embroidered laces with Applique

Organza and Guipures

264 STAMFORD HILL, P.O. BOX 116, LONDON N.16

TEL: 01-802 4840

Business Hours: Sun. 9 am—2 pm. Mon. Tues., Wed., Fri. 9 am—6 pm. Thu. 9 am—2 pm.

BUSES 67, 73, 97, 149, 243, 253

Nearest tube: Seven Sisters

ECONOMY FLIGHTS TO AFRICA

Contact us before your next flight to Accra, Lagos, Abidjan, Douala, Johannesburg, Lusaka, Monrovia, Nairobi, Dar-es-Salaam and many other African destinations.

Remember we are the African travel specialists.

Call or write:

INTER-AIR TRAVELS
16-17 Jacey Galleries
523 Oxford Street
London W1N 9HH
Tel: 01-493 7843

Telex: 8952994

Electrically t(r)opical — 3 minutes from Oxford Circus

To see the very latest in a wide range of trop-calised goods visit our new extensive showrooms. We stock TVs, Hi-Fi, Video and cassettes, washing machines and all household appliances. We are main agents for

PYE, PANASONIC, JVC, SONY INDESIT, TRICITY, BELLING, etc.

Just arrived

Sierra Export Colour TVs Model 37K 7225 14" Portable £195

Check prices for furniture, carpets and bedding too!

DELIVERY? Direct to your home, Shippers or under the personal export scheme

HILTON DIRECT EXPORT

73 Oxford Street, London W1
Tel: 01-434 2344 01-734 7773
Telex 896021/2/3 (Ultrans G)

SIERRA LEONE

Stevens warning to tax defaulters

President Stevens has warned tax defaulters to fulfil their obligations according to law to save government the trouble of invoking the provisions of the Income Tax Act to the inconvenience of anyone. A total of over Le100m , he said, was now owed to government by tax defaulters over a period of ten years.

The President, who was addressing the Moyamba district combined APC convention and agricultural show and trade fair, said that in one case, a total of Le36,000 outstanding tax was owed by a single individual.

He said it was most unfair for ordinary farmers to pay their annual local tax regularly while well-to-do people refused to discharge their tax obligation. He said that if all taxes now due to government were paid regularly, government would probably not be in such precarious financial position.

Broadening role for the Army

President Stevens has congratulated the army on combining its traditional role of security with that of economic and social service.

The President was speaking at the passing out parade of six officer cadets at the Benguema Training Centre. He told the new officers that they were receiving their commission at a time when the nation was preparing to host the 17th summit of the OAU and said he was deeply conscious that this was the biggest event in the history of Sierra Leone. He said he was equally confident that the benefits the nation would derive from the associated infrastructure investments will far outweigh the cost of the venture.

He asked them to seize the opportunity to project the image of Sierra Leone to the outside world by giving their best performance wherever they may be put to serve.

The Benguema Military Academy was first established in 1966 as a training institution for officer cadets.

Inquiry commission job for judge

President Siaka Stevens has sworn-in Justice Ken Omotayo During as chairman of the Commission of Inquiry appointed to look into the conduct and activities of the acting Commissioner of Police, Mr E A Coker, during the student disturbances on January 31.

Mr Coker was suspended from office last February after he had been accused of contemplating to overthrow the government while President Stevens and the heads of state of Guinea and Liberia were holding talks a the accession Mano River U

New rec for WAE

Dr John Sierra Leone, I registrar of I Examination C headquarters in

The appoint the recent ce Freetown. The of Ghana, Sier Gambia and L

Dr Taylor-I fifth registrar established in examinations public service certificates.

Dr Taylor Director of the and social se Mano River U

● The dramat Mr Salami C Sierra Leone vice, to which h for the last fiv Sierra Fishing relations office

US Sen. confere

About 200 20—30 Senate States Congre attend the

The new hea opened by Pr in the countr

Mixed feelings in Freetown over Liberian coup

News of the assassination of President William Tolbert, close friend and ally of Sierra Leone's President Stevens, and the overthrow of the ruling True Whig party in Liberia was received with mixed feelings in Freetown.

Some people condemned the assassination outright, and said that Sierra Leone would have gladly given the late President sanctuary, as Tanzania did for Milton Obote of Uganda, if Mr Tolbert had been able to flee his country. Many people did not take kindly to such a brutal end of the late OAU chairman, particularly, they said, when one compares the political career of President Tolbert to that of Idi Amin or Bokassa who today are still alive.

Others thought that President Tolbert had made "unforgivable mistakes" in banning the opposition party PPP which had taken firm root in Liberian politics; in detaining its leaders; in putting a "wanted dead or alive" notice for the capture of 15 PPP members who were on the run, including a woman, with an offer of a reward of $1,500—$2,500 for each; and his pronouncements that those opposition members found guilty of treason (their trial should, ironically, have started April 14) would suffer the unqualified penalty of death.

These recent actions of the late President, some people argued, showed that President Tolbert had ceased to be the democratic leader he was once seen to be, and if allowed to carry on, Liberia would soon be a country of tyranny.

Personal loss

For President Stevens, who shared a very personal and close relationship with the late President, the news was received with "great shock" and "regret". President Stevens, who was reported to have been "visibly shaken," was to have left Freetown for West Germany on the evening of Tolbert's death for a state visit which should have started April 16. President Stevens hurriedly cancelled the visit and a release put out by State House was relayed on the radio urging members of the president's 20-man delegation not to travel to the airport as the visit had been called off. The release made no mention of the reason for the cancellation nor of the coup in Liberia.

Up till Tuesday April 15, three days after the incident, there has been no mention of it in the national news, nor in any of the current affairs programmes of the national radio or television. There had also been official reaction from government.

Political observers believe that although the incident has been viewed with disfavour in government circles, official reaction has to be treated with extreme caution and calculated diplomacy in view of the recent anti-Sierra Leone backlash, reported in the Liberian press after the football incident in Freetown, and also to save the Mano River Union from disintegrating.

The ruling party paper *We Yone* in an editorial in its Sunday edition of April 13 said that the late president "will be unwept, unhonoured and unsung — at least for the moment — among his own people. But in the hearts of many Sierra Leoneans, there will be marked sorrow at his grievous passing.

"That should be understandable, for we do not take kindly to executions which do not result from the due process of the law. Secondly, having graduated from the experience of military rule, we have ever deep-seated prejudices against such kind of imposition."

Cautious hope

While the paper admitted that this was not to suggest that "our sentiments should be imposed on others, or that we seek to pass judgement on a cause that we probably will never be able to understand", it recalled that history has it that the last military regime in Nigeria before handing over to a civilian regime "established a roll of honour, in which will not be found the names of those who overthrew the civilian government of Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

"We are reminded also that Indira Gandhi was buffeted, humiliated, prosecuted and accused of all sorts of vices, including the well-carpeted 'corruption'. In their hour of desperation, the people have had to turn back to Indira Gandhi for salvation, her persecutors and detractors having left the country in shambles. Thank God for democracy! We are reminded also that the allegations against Nkrumah pale into insignificance when compared with the charges levied against some of those who overthrew him."

In an article titled "Tolbert's Good Friday" in the *Sunday We Yone*, the paper's managing editor, Sam Metzger, said: "... we know the price Nigeria has had to pay from the overthrow of the last civilian regime to the return to civilian rule last year. In this connection, we here can only wish Liberia well. It is in our interest to see that Liberia succeeds in whatever she does. And we recognise that Liberia has a lot of competent men. The kind of organisational effectiveness with which they carried out the operations is proof of that."

SUPERFINE GEORGES

NOW! Top Quality Unbeatable Prices – Latest Designs

EXAMPLES FROM STOCK

Junior Benz	£15	Star of Africa	£30
Silver Jubilee	£15	Barclays	£30
Akwele George	£15	Volvo	£30 & £33
Festac Heads	£20	New Sweet Mother	£33
Tiger Heads	£20	Motorway	£33
Mercedes	£24	Plains	£7
Ipi Tombi	£24	Silk	£18 & £20
Naira	£24	Plus London's biggest range of Jacquard designs all competitively priced!	
Pineapple	£25		
Flying Saucer	£25		

WE ARE HEADTIE SPECIALISTS

Swiss/Dutch/English
£4, £6, £12, £16
according to quality

PRINTED WOOL
(FENI CLOTH)

Now available from stock

FINEST AVAILABLE QUALITY

100% PURE WOOL

including designs not available elsewhere

COMPETITIVELY PRICED

DAMASK

'SUPER DAMASK'

NEWLY RECEIVED!

Latest designs for 1980 in Top Quality Damask — in up to 7 colours

NEW LINE HANDWOVEN "ASHOKE" WRAPPER AND HEADTIE SETS
£25 PER SET OF 3

TWILLDENE TEXTILES LTD.

3rd Floor, Circus House, 26 Little Portland St., London W1
Underground: Oxford Circus
Tel: (01) 637 7385/9 (5 lines)
Business hours 11—6 Mon to Fri Closed Sat/Sun

All prices include VAT — No extras to pay

Personal callers only

THE CUT PRICE SUPERMARKET

Why pay more elsewhere when it's much cheaper at Oti Bros.?

COSM[illegible]IC DEPT.

VENUS DE MILO 79½p

Satina [illegible] 79½p
Envi C[illegible] 79½p
Ambi C[illegible] 99p
Nku C[illegible]pecial 99p
Palme[illegible] Success Astringent 90p
Palmc[illegible]a Butter 99p
Pro Lo[illegible]va Butter 89p
Ultra C[illegible]Cocoa Butter £1.29
Ultra C[illegible]eam Jar 3.35oz £1.99
Ultra C[illegible]eam Jar 1.5oz 96p
Ultra C[illegible]Cream Tube 4oz £1.99
Ultra C[illegible]Cream Tube 1.75oz 99p
Dr. Pa[illegible]'s Skin Whitener 1.5g 79p
Dr. Pal[illegible]'s Ultra Bleach £1.09
Artra Sk[illegible]Cream 4oz £1.79
Artra Sk[illegible]Cream 2oz £1.29
Posner's Skintona 4oz £1.95
Posner's Skintona 2oz 95p
Nadinola Cream 2.25oz £1.09
Esetorica Cream £2.15
Ultra Sheen Relaxer no base £3.19
Ultra Sheen Relaxer No. 2 £2.55
Ultra Sheen Pre-Creme 4lb £3.70
Afro Sheen Blow Out Kit £3.15
Revlon Relaxer no base £4.45
Summit Relaxer no base £2.99
Perma Strate Straightener £2.49
Afro Sheen Condition 8oz £2.19
Afro Sheen Conditioner 2oz 82p
Ultra Sheen Conditioner 8oz £2.19
Ultra Sheen Conditioner 2oz 62p
Ultra Sheen Balsam 16oz £2.49
Le Kair Hormones 4oz £2.59
Ultra Sheen Duotex 16oz £2.85
Dark and Lovely Relaxer Kit £3.99
Ultra Sheen Hair Food 4oz £1.25
Ultra Sheen Hair Food 2oz 80p
Ultra Sheen Placenta 89½p
Ultra Sheen Creme Satin-Pres 8oz £2.22
Ultra Sheen Creme Satin-Pres 2oz 86p
Ultra Sheen Protein Shampoo 16oz £1.56
Ultra Sheen Creme Shampoo 4lb £3.95
Apex Pressing Oil 16oz £1.89
Ultra Sheen Neutraliser Shampoo £1.99
Ultra Sheen Rinse-N-Set 32oz £1.09
Posner's Bergamot 12.5oz £2.19
Posner's Styling Jel 6oz 92p
Posner's Coconut Oil Conditioner
Afro Sheen Hair Spray 11oz £1.70
Afro Sheen Hair Spray 6oz £1.09
Afro Sheen Comb Easy 16oz £1.70
Afro Soft 8oz £1.49
Afro Sheen Shampoo 6oz 75p
Afro Sheen Hand & Body Lotion 6oz 92p
La India Wonder Cream 8oz 79p
Dax Super Lanolin 7.5 oz £2.19
Dax Green 14oz £2.19
Dax Kocatah 14oz £1.99
Dax Pressing Oil 7.5oz £1.20
Dax Curling Wax 7.5oz £1.15
Dax Shampoo 12oz £1.09
Palmer's Pressing Oil Formula 89p
Palmer's Coconut Oil Formula 7.4oz £1.69
Palmer's Coconut Oil Shampoo 77p
Palmer's Hair Success 8oz £2.78
Royal Crown Dressing 10oz 86p
Dixie Peach Pomade 7oz 98p
Dixie Peach Bergamot 7oz £1.29
Summit Liv Conditioner 16oz £2.99
Pro-Line Perm Repair Large £3.35
Pro-Line Hair Food 7.5oz £2.55
Long Aid K7 7.8oz £1.95
Royal Crown Hair Dress 10oz 89p
Magic Shaving Powder 75p
Palmer's Skin Success Soap 43p
Posner's Skintona Soap 46p
Ultra Glow Beauty Bar 46p
Artra Beauty Bar 49p

Also various designs of Afro-combs, straightening combs and hot picks at highly reduced prices

RECORD DEPT.

Omo Mi Gbo Temi-Obey (Latest) £5.50
The Royal Sound
Sunny Ade (Latest) £5.50
Odun Nio Sopin
Good Women C.A.C Ibadan £5.50
Fire In Soweto by Sonny Okosun £3.99
Beautiful Woman by Cloud "7" £3.99
Still Searching by Bongos Ikwue £3.99

We also have in Stock various Albums by: Oriental Brothers Int., King Sunny Ade, Joe Nez, Oliver De Coque, Ebenezer Obey, Prince Nico Mbarga, Voice of the Cross (Lazarus & Emmanuel), The Lijadu Sister, The Nkwere Aborigines Union, Fela Kuti, Dele Abiodun, Good Women Choir of C.A.C. Ibadan, Ojo Ladipo, Sir Victor Uwaifo, Bunny Mack (Disco 45), Sir Shina Adewale, General Prince Adekunle, The Cross River Band, EK's Professional Band, The Sweet Talks, The Vis-A-Vis, East African Bands, Sweet Dogs (Latest), Prince Adekunle, The Celestial Church of Christ Yemetu Choir, The Gospel Chorale Group, etc., etc.

FOOD DEPT.

A wide range of African foods always in stock. Visit us and see Africa outside Africa.

FASHION DEPT.

The best quality GEORGES at the lowest prices ever.

For Wholesale and Export Enquiries please contact our Managing Director, Mr. G. U. OTI, C & G Telecoms (London), HND Elect. & Electronics Eng., A.I.E.E. at the address below.

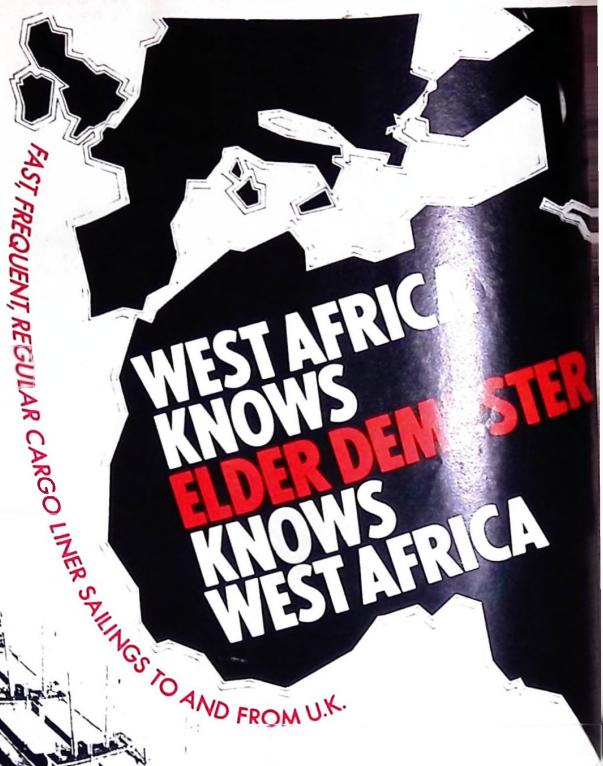
We are two minutes walk from Balham Tube and Rail Stations.

We open Mon.—Sat. 9 am—9 pm, and Sundays 10 am—3 pm.

MAIL ORDERS UNDER £100 CANNOT BE ENTERTAINED.

Oti Bros & Co Ltd

African Products Distributors (Wholesale & Retail),
76 Bedford Hill, Balham, London SW12 9HR.
Tel. 01-673 3657 CABLES: OTIGROUPS LONDON SW12



Our modern ships run regularly to a timetable with a wide range of itineraries serving all West African destinations.

And they are equipped with refrigerated cargo chambers and deep tanks for carrying bulk liquid. Whatever your cargo, no matter how heavy or bulky, Elder Dempster have the skill, experience and facilities to handle it.

Ship your cargo with Elder Dempster. In the long run, nothing is safer.

Elder Dempster Lines Limited, India Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool L2 0RB.
Tel: 051-236 8421

ED