

West Africa

West Africa No. 2863 Week ending 28th April, 1972

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Sierra Leone's Republican Year

This month Sierra Leone has celebrated both the first anniversary of the Republic and the eleventh anniversary of independence. So rapidly do events move in this once uneventful country that the establishment of the Republic already seems as far away as independence itself. The Republic was born in a great hurry, legislation to establish it going through in a single day last April, and the further change from a "ceremonial" to an "executive" presidency going through two days later. The possibility of republican status had long been discussed. Sir Albert Margai's proposed republican constitution had secured its two-thirds majority in Parliament even before the general election in 1967. But the haste with which the change was made, and the further speedy change to an executive presidency, were both due to the emergency in which the Government found itself when a section of the army attempted a coup and Mr. Stevens felt obliged to ask for the assistance of Guinea troops under the secret defence agreement between the two countries. The Government felt it necessary to make plain both to Sierra Leoneans exactly where executive authority lay, and to President Sekou Toure that it was not to a far-away Queen or to an unknown non-political figure, but to his friend and fellow-politician, Siaka Stevens, that he was giving military help.

The role of Executive President has been assumed with the greatest ease by a man of such long political experience as Mr. Stevens, whose return to public duty after an enforced period of rest was particularly welcome at the time of the two celebrations. Nor, in spite of the strong criticisms made even of the original Margai constitution, which Mr. Stevens' Government adopted in full before surrendering it to establish the executive presidency, do many Sierra Leoneans today seem to question the change in principle. They rightly feel that there are more urgent grounds for worry.

What are these urgent matters? So long as President Stevens feels it necessary to rely for his own protection on a Guinean detachment, even if this is much reduced in size and is unobtrusive, there must be doubts about the reliability of the Sierra



Leone army. It has recovered much of the discipline and morale shattered by the attempted coup of March last year, the deep divisions in the army this revealed, and the subsequent executions and imprisonment of officers. But, small though the force is, civilians cannot forget its disastrous role in Sierra Leone politics in and since 1967.

Economically the future is much brighter than it was a year ago. The diamond slump is ending. Delco, the iron-ore producer, is expected once more to become profitable. Dimenco, the diamond mining company in which the government and SLSI are partners, has got off to a good start, large-scale mining is expected to be resumed. The value of the diamond industry to the country is still heavily threatened, however, by illicit diamond digging and by smuggling. In agriculture progress remains slow, but the goal of self-sufficiency inside two years in the staple food, rice, no longer seems unrealistic, and, if Common Market obstacles are overcome, the future for the expanding cocoa and coffee crops is good.

Sierra Leone is free of Ghana's balance of payment problems, but is still in a weak position. The Governor of the Bank, Mr. S. I. Bangura, has described last year as one of continued "stagnation", stagnation in the economy coupled with inflation and soaring living costs. There had been an increase in the

visible trade deficit, he said, provisionally estimated at Le 10m for the year. The value of agricultural exports had also declined by 26 per cent, and the world recession in the diamond market had hit Sierra Leone badly.

Little progress has been made in industrial co-operation with Sierra Leone's neighbours, although this would help to provide the wider market needed for Sierra Leone's industries. In the meantime smuggling of goods inwards has become a major problem, and the troubles of the Freetown refinery, reported elsewhere in this issue, underline the problem of developing industry.

The Government's own finances are severely strained and no budget surplus is expected this year. Supplementary budgets, as the Governor of the Bank has complained, make discipline difficult and the Government has been obliged to add some Le25m, to Le3m, a year to its own wages bill as a result of the report of a Commission of enquiry — though this urged an increase in pay for certain groups of civil servants of 111 per cent because of the deterioration in their conditions. The report gave an alarming, probably exaggerated, picture of the civil service in general, but it is true that many able men and women have left the service. On the other hand some of Sierra Leone's utility services compare favourably with those anywhere.

During the republican year Sierra Leone has vindicated its reputation for judicial independence, since the Court of Appeal decided that the trial of a number of soldiers and officials arising out of the establishment and operation of military rule was null-and-void, although the accused had been sentenced to death. It was open to the Government to prosecute on fresh charges but in fact almost all the accused have now been released. The same is not true of Dr. Forna and Mr. Ibrahim Bash Taqui, leaders of the break-away UDP, although, after all, it appears that the party is no real threat to the governing APC. Some other UDP leaders, however, have been released, including Dr. Karefa-Smart. Nor, perhaps, does the official opposition party, the SLPP, now pose much threat to the APC. On the other hand continuation of the State of

● Ghana and Guinea; friends again?

● All settled at Kainji

● What prospect for OCAM?

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Most people expect that this election will take place in 1973, although at present there are some dozen parliamentary seats vacant and there is no sign of preparation for by-elections in them, presumably because of the continuation of the state of emergency. What remains true, however, in this small country where so many links cut right across line and territory, reconciliation rather than further division is what is needed.

There have been ludicrous allegations, some unfortunately in the British House of Commons, that Sierra Leone is now either a communist country or is run by President Sekou Toure. For both. In fact the present government, like previous governments, pursues a pragmatic policy and represents a number of trends. For example, the decision to abolish chief district councils, and to rely for local administration on a combination of central government and district officials, has been taken because of a appalling record of these councils, a constantly underlined by the reports of the Auditor General. But in neighbouring Guinea any restoration of the previous conditions would be unthinkable.

Externally too, although Sierra Leone has followed the fashion of recognising Communist China and supporting its entry to the UN, thereby losing its place in the UN, and agricultural trade links to Sierra Leone very difficult relations continue with West Germany. Yet this is the country which abolishes President Sekou Toure's charges of subversion against Guinea. On the other hand its United States, with which Guinea has amicable relations is regarded by the Sierra Leone Government, because of some curious misunderstandings, as partly responsible for the troubles Sierra Leone has experienced in the last two years. Relations with Liberia, seriously damaged during the period of the attempted coup because of allegations about Liberian complicity, are now very cordial. President Tolbert has apparently now lost the suspicion of alleged Guinean infiltration in Sierra Leone which President Taylor was reported to harbour. That relations with Guinea are close and important, obvious, and some members of the governing party admire and even imitate Guinea's political system. But Sierra Leone, under the monarchy, used to be a collection of individual chiefdoms, and under the Republic it remains its individual character.

NIGERIA

All settled at Kainji

From a correspondent

Completion of the resettlement scheme made necessary by the creation of the Kainji Lake, between Nigeria's Kwara and North West State, is announced by the Niger Dams Authority. The lake was created by the building of the 215 ft. high concrete dam, the centre of the great hydro-electricity project which soon will be providing power to the Niger Republic to the north, as well as to almost the whole of Nigeria itself.

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The total cost of the operation, which has been born by the Niger Dams Authority, has been over £10m. There has been surprisingly little opposition to the move from the people, partly as a result of an early publicity campaign and the decision that, although there must be special staff for co-ordination, responsibility should lie with the then regional and local authorities.

At first the villagers were compensated with cash with which to build new houses in the neighbouring, sparsely populated, areas. It was in 1963 that the first villages were moved. Subsequently the resettlement authority decided that it itself would build houses, partly because as resettlement proceeded some of the new villages were too far away from the old ones for the people themselves to build new houses. But in addition, as in other settlement schemes, it was found that those who received cash compensation did not always use it to build new houses. Because the resettlement areas were sparsely populated in old villages could normally be allowed to choose its own site for a new village, the sites then being examined by specialists to ensure that they really were outside the flood line, had sufficient farming land and water supplies, and did not take the people away from their existing local authority. In the then Northern Region as in the present northern States, the Government was the land "owner", which simplified tenure problems. All land was held and administered for the use and common benefit of the "natives". In the end the resettlement authority approved 127 sites for new villages while the authority itself was obliged in only one case to "force" a site on a village (in one other case the



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The firm of Fry, Drew, & Atkinson were chosen by the Authority as architects. They planned houses of various kinds, reflecting as far as possible the characteristics of the houses which the people were leaving. The new villages were provided with mosques, shops, slaughter slabs, village halls, corn grinding slabs, and wells, there was also veterinary clinics and dispensaries. The houses were built with concrete blocks and were roofed with asbestos, and are claimed to be bigger and more airy than were the old houses. There have been complaints that because of the replacement of thatch by

asbestos the houses are not as cool as the old ones, and some semi-nomads appear to have felt them to be claustrophobic. Nevertheless the resettlement appears to have been more harmonious than in almost any other scheme of this kind.

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Of great interest from the architectural point of view are the new towns of Yelwa (which was half inundated) and Bussa (old town completely inundated) which skilfully combine traditional motifs and modern methods, particularly in the emirs' palaces. At Yelwa, too, a wharf has been constructed to assist development of a river port.



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There have been ludicrous allegations, some unfortunately in the British House of Commons, that Sierra Leone is now either a communist country or a puppet President Sekou Toure, or both. In fact the present government, like previous governments, pursues a pragmatic path and represents a number of trends. For example, the decision to abolish chief district councils, and to rely for local administration on a combination of central government and chiefdom authorities, has been taken because of the appalling record of these councils as consistently underlined by the reports of the Auditor-General. But in neighbouring Guinea any restoration of the power of chiefdoms would be unthinkable.

Externally, too, although Sierra Leone has followed the fashion of recognising Communist China and supporting its entry to the UN (thereby losing to Johnson's Embassy and agricultural technicians in Sierra Leone) very close relations continue with West Germany. Yet this is the country which about President Sekou Toure accuses of subverting Guinea. On the other hand in United States, with which Guinea has amicable relations, is regarded by the Sierra Leone Government, because of some notorious misunderstandings, as not responsible for the troubles Sierra Leone has experienced in the last two years. Relations with Liberia, seriously damaged during the period of the attempted coup because of allegations about Liberian complicity, are now very cordial and President Tolbert has apparently none of the suspicion of alleged Guinea influence in Sierra Leone which President Tubman was reported to harbour. That relations with Guinea are close and important, obvious, and some members of the governing party admire and envy the Guinea political system. But in Sierra Leone, under the monarchy and the soldiers, and under the Republic, each with its individual character.

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CITY OF THE DUALAS: 2

Duala chiefs, descendants of the families powerful in the 19th century, are still important: this is one of the areas of East Cameroon where chiefs matter (they collect taxes still). The Bell or Bonadodo clan has produced many famous rulers, including Rudolf Manga Bell, who protested at the Germans' expropriation of Bonanjo and was hanged for an alleged plot in 1914; and his remarkable son Prince Alexandre Douala Manga Bell, a deputy for Cameroon in Paris under the Fourth French Republic and a real "character" well remembered in this city, where 100,000 people followed his funeral in 1966. Today his nephew René is the chief. The Akwa chief is Ernest Betote Akwa, appointed 50 years ago.

Besides Dualas and Bamilekes, Douala's population includes people of many other tribes, notably Bassas, Bakokos (from the Edea area), Ewondos and other "Yaoundés", Bonens, Boulous, Bamouns, and some Fulans. The two last-named communities form most of the Muslim colony. The majority of the population is Christians, Dualas are mainly Protestants, Ewondos are nearly all Catholics, Bassas and Bamilekes follow the local Christian churches and traditional religions. The Evangelical *Eglise de Centenaire*, built on the site of Saker's chapel, and the Catholic cathedral are among the finest buildings in Douala. Besides the Evangelical Church the Protestants also include Baptists, both former "Mission" Baptist and the heirs to the independent Baptist church founded by Pastor Lotin Sume (1881-1946).

The churches run several important schools, such as the Libermain College (Catholic) and the Saker College. There are also important government schools, such as the Lycées of Joss and New-Bell and, at Bonaheri, the third Federal Bilingual Grammar School. Douala's schools are no doubt one reason for the massive immigration. Other reasons are those familiar all over Africa: the poverty of rural life, for example, and the amenities of the city. Not that the amenities in New-Bell are adequate; sanitation, in particular, is abysmal. But the people there probably find it relatively better than in their home villages.

Drawn to the city

Immigrants to Douala have always been mainly from East Cameroon. There is quite a large West Cameroonian community, so the city is a sort of Cameroon in miniature. Of non-Cameroonians most are probably Nigerians. Hausas of Nigerian origin have been here for decades; Lagosian and Yoruba petty traders abound, and Calabar fishermen are very active in the maze of swamps and creeks between here and Victoria. One of the main markets in New-Bell is in a district called Lagos.

There are also districts called Acera and Koumassi: there have long been a number of immigrants from what is now Ghana, though Koumassi is said to owe its name to Gold Coast troops in the British force which was here from 1914 to 1916. Some Liberians have settled here, and a very few Sierra Leoneans — including, however, one who is famous: Goe the George, who has run his photographic studio in Akwa for forty years, and started football clubs for Africans in Cameroon. Douala has also attracted Senegalese, who, like other "coastal" immigrants, were for long important for their education and skill rather than for their numbers, and there are Congolese, Gabonese, Dahomeans and Togolese. The "Chief of the strangers" here was for long a Dahomean, Joseph Paraiso.

The number of Europeans probably runs into five figures. Most are French, and most are temporary residents. There are many businessmen, for expatriate firms are as important as ever and the industries have many European staff. Many shop and bar assistants are European. But, apart from the very exclusive land, it is said, virtually segregated) Club Parallèle IV, a sailing and swimming club, the European presence is not blatant. African participation in big business, as has been noted, is considerable and probably growing.

Growing industrialisation

Besides European and African firms, the harbour and the activity connected with Douala's role as seaport for 90 per cent of Cameroon's overseas trade are important sources of employment. The harbour is filled to capacity with ships carrying food, refrigerators, cars, alumina (from Guinea, for the Edea aluminium smelter) and other imports, and taking away cocoa, coffee, bananas, timber, aluminium products and other exports. Much activity, too, is devoted to transport of these goods to and from Douala by road, rail and sometimes air.

Almost without industries only 15 years ago, Douala is now one of the leading industrial cities in West Africa. To cater for Cameroonians' thirst there are two breweries besides the UCB already mentioned: the new Guinness one, and the much older Brasseries du Cameroun (which makes soft drinks as well, like the UCB). The CCC (*Complexe Chimique du Cameroun*, formerly *Compagnie Commerciale Chyprite*) produces oil cake, soap and other products from local oilseeds, Chococam makes good chocolate and toffee from Cameroon cocoa; and CICAM (*Cotonnière Industrielle du Cameroun*) makes a colourful range of cotton cloth and clothes here and in Garoua in the north.

At Bonaheri, as at Figuil in the far North, the cement factories of CIMENCAM began work last year. Edea

aluminium is made into saucepans by Alubassa, whose plant, like many others is at Bassa, Douala's industrial suburb on the Edea road.

Some of these industries, such as CICAM and Guinness Cameroon, serve all UDEAC countries. Similarly, Douala remains an important port for Chad as well as for Cameroon. The new deepwater harbour to be built in Cameroon, in the West, need not be a rival to Douala, for overseas trade may be sufficient to fill both.

Besides industries and the handling of goods, domestic service provides a number of jobs for Douala's people; so do the many hotels — Akwa, Palace, Cocotiers, Beausjour (this, incidentally, is African-owned), and others. Douala has a major international airport and probably most visitors to Cameroon spend some time here. It is not much of a tourist centre itself, though there is Douala's active night life.

"Une ville assez gaie"

In 1929 the French administrator for Douala said it had "trop de bars... trop de filles publiques." Nothing has changed except the scale. Besides night-clubs like the *Frégate* and the *Snack-Bar* there are dozens of smaller bars. Like any big seaport, Douala has its army of "jemmes libres". Many are Bamoun, Fulani and other immigrants.

It is, as a Frenchman told me, "une ville assez gaie". There is no need to add that, as in other African cities, many inhabitants cannot see that side of it: the numerous immigrants in the slumier areas of New-Bell, for example. Possibly less unpleasant to live in than similar areas in other cities, these areas are still a stark contrast to the smarter zones of the city, besides the lack of proper housing, which can be attributed to low incomes and considerable unemployment, there is a distinct lack of public amenities. This may well be due to the financial deficits which Douala's local administration has faced for years; in July 1969, when M. André-Michel Epée was appointed Government Delegate to head the administration, the deficit was half a million CFA francs.

Only recently has the city's budget been balanced; now M. Epée has made a welcome announcement of long-overdue measures to improve streets, drains and housing. The health programme of Cameroon's Five-Year Plan should bring about many improvements both in the rural areas, from which so many immigrants go to Douala, and in the city. Although much time has been lost in inadequate and inefficient action in the past, it should still be possible for Cameroon to show, in its commercial metropolis, the way to urban development in Africa.

Jonathan Derrick

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After the Elections

As already reported the ruling People's Progressive Party won 28 of the 32 elected seats in the Gambia general election, while the opposition UP won three, and an independent candidate, one. The strength of the PPP in the house remains the same as before dissolution, but it has at last succeeded in winning a seat in the opposition stronghold of Bathurst itself. In this article Mr. Arnold Hughes of the Centre of West African Studies at the University of Birmingham analyses the election in more detail.

The overwhelming nature of the PPP victory came as a surprise to the UP and the Independents (and also to your correspondent) and caused dismay and anger. Naturally they attribute it to unfair practices. It is impossible to verify many charges. Some tend to be vague, but a number of complaints deserve mention and perhaps redress. There is no doubt that the PPP was able to run its control of government, the use of government vehicles by ministerial campaign team leaders, an apparent black-out of news about opposition forces on Radio Gambia (other than paid announcements and two short broadcasts by the UP), and the open support given by schools to PPP candidates. More difficult to verify are charges of vote buying by the PPP in Bathurst and elsewhere and irregularities alleged to have taken place during actual polling and in the counting. A number of charges stem from unfamiliarity with the Elections Act of many opposition candidates.

One practice which certainly needs looking into is the removal of a number of opposition candidates from the counting room.

Other difficulties resulted from inadequate preparations by the opposition. Both the UP and the Independents are compiling lists of complaints, presumably these will be forwarded to the electoral court if substantiated.

The PPP victory, however, must not be viewed as the product of Machiavellian intrigue. In organisation, finance, and length of campaigning it was very much superior to its opponents. Further the party does enjoy a great deal of support in the provinces, particularly in the Mandinka-speaking areas where it is still viewed as the party to represent Mandingo interests. These sentimental and historical claims of the PPP were probably underestimated by the opposition. Equally important is the personal standing of the President, Sir Dawda Jawara, among country people. He skillfully presented PPP candidates as his own men and suggested that their failure would lead to his own downfall. At this point many voters returned to the PPP. Sir Dawda's contribution to his party's victory was all-important for in the last few weeks he has been particularly active in shoring up the positions of the more threatened candidates. Another factor which favoured the PPP is its record of running the country for ten years.

The political postures and campaign records of the UP and Independents appear less convincing. The UP, with only distant memories of being the governing party and fielding only fourteen candidates, lacked the stability of the PPP. In addition it suffered from a number of disabilities, it lacks a central secretariat and misused time needed to build up support among the non-Mandingo people of the provinces on such slender bases. The PPP has a national secretariat and its seven unopposed candidates provided invaluable assistance to their colleagues. So the UP's final vote was no mean achievement.

The Independents fared little better although their overall vote was impressive. There was the slaughter of the innocents for despite the presence of educated men and some seasoned campaigners among their ranks too many lacked the experience, resources and organisation to overthrow the PPP. They pruned their hopes on the power and support of Youth, but unfortunately for them many youths were not qualified voters, being too young or else not

having registered in other cases, the elders prevailed in family and village discussions.

Independents also suffered from purely local factors. Often they were sponsored by particular persons, villages or districts within their constituencies and old rivalries among these lost them support. The only woman candidate, Fatou Senko in Eastern Kombo, suffered the further disadvantage of her sex (she did very well to poll 1,518 votes). In seven constituencies Independents fought each other or UP candidates in addition to PPP nominees, though it was only in Sabach Samal that the government candidate slipped in on a minority vote. One gets the impression that voters were using the Independents to fire a warning shot across the bows of the PPP, real grievances certainly exist but only a minority of the electorate seemingly was prepared to sink the ship of state to remedy them. The "merit vote" certainly favoured the PPP as many people were not prepared to abandon it, despite its shortcomings, for the uncertainties of representation by UP or Independent candidates. By the end of the day the Independents were only able to win Sandu.

Yet it would do well for the PPP to reflect on its victory for, despite its impressive total of seats, out of a total vote of 103,851 (a national poll of 76.1 per cent) 21,302 persons voted for Independents and a further 17,161 for the UP making a total of some 37 per cent of the electorate (in 1966 when nearly all opposition votes were UP the figure was 34.4 per cent). Despite its own advantages and the patent limitations of opposition forces the PPP was unable to reduce the opposition vote which included, it would seem, a substantial number of youthful voters. Perhaps it was with these facts in mind that Sir Dawda re-shuffled his Government. Some old faces have been replaced by newer and more youthful ones and there are two new Cabinet ministers - Sir A. S. Jack, the former Speaker, is now responsible for Works and Communications, and M. C. Giam, M.P. for Tumani, becomes Minister of State with responsibilities for Tourism and Information in succession to A. B. N'jie who has taken over the Agriculture portfolio from the one dropped minister, H. O. Semega Jannah. The four main ministries remain unchanged but I. M. Garba-Jahumpa's Ministry of Education, Health and Social Welfare has been shorn of its Education section and this has now been given to the former Works Minister, Kallu Singateh. One result has been to strengthen the position of Bathurst and Upper River Division men.

Finally there have been changes among the Nominated Members though the four Chiefs' representatives remain unchanged. Only the Attorney General, Lamin Sallio, remains as Nominated Member from the old House, the three new members are Sir A. S. Jack, Jallow Sannell and M. B. N'jie, General Manager of British Petroleum in the Gambia. No new policy initiatives have been announced by the new Cabinet although the President stated at a press conference that he had no intention of pressing for a one-party state, which may or may not allay the fears of the opposition. The PPP is still left with the task of convincing the opposition forces of the fairness of its electoral victory. Perhaps humane consideration of the position of those candidates who resigned from government service to contest the elections will help it in the task of national reconciliation.



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Letters to the Editor

Nigerian Sociology

SIR—I read with interest the report "Whither Nigerian Sociology" (Feb. 18). I would like to make a general observation of the trend of thinking among that (nay, yet very significant, section of the Nigerian educated class who took part in the conference your correspondent so lucidly reported.

His observation that most Nigerian academic bodies tend "to fit into... British tradition" is correct. To his list of examples can be added virtually all academic bodies, professional organisations, and the non-academic but important establishments like the public services and the military.

It is a welcome development that sociologists and anthropologists have recognised the need to "decolonise the minds of our people, minds poisoned by the early colonial establishment scholars".

There is no doubt that the educated Nigerian is a maleducated individual. This is true, however, of all newly emerging societies in Africa, with the notable exceptions of Egypt and Algeria, but including Liberia and Ethiopia. Schoolchildren develop and mature within curricula the composition of which served colonial purposes and today continue to serve imperialist nations, through the subconscious guidance of our own governments.

Among academicians, research is oriented to confirm or explain the "findings" of "colonial establishment scholars". There is a subconscious imitation of the colonialist intellectual set-up, this can be seen as a hangover from the colonialist period, but it must be recognised to be cured. Intellectual pursuits, research orientation and academic ambition are unrelated to the stage and phase of social and economic mal-development in which our people are presently submerged, but aimed at achieving a "respectable" level of acceptance as an appendage of the foreign, if advanced, intellectual establishment.

The faculties of Classics as they are in our universities must disappear; the Departments of English must be disbanded; the Institutes of African Studies must become the nerve-centres of University education, research, teaching and programming.

The educated Nigerian needs to re-educate himself; the orientation of academic institutions must be re-aligned so that we can produce our first generation of real Nigerians, Nigerians in mind and in body, and not repeat the tragedy whereby we are not Nigerians nor can we be British.

I congratulate the participants at the

conference. The struggle for the liberation of the minds of our people must include bitter battles in the teaching rooms, lecture halls and research libraries of the sociological sciences.

YOMI FERREIRA

Edinburgh

SIR—The Nigerian Anthropological and Sociological Association deserves congratulations for crystallising the idea of a sociology that emphasises national consciousness. The line between "foreign" and "Nigerian" sociology, however, is thinner than might be readily admitted. Rather than condemning "foreign" sociology and over emphasising a "Nigerian" sociology, the present knowledge of so-called foreign sociology could be applied to studying and understanding Nigerian society. It could be used to encourage retention of those aspects of our culture which will contribute to the stability of the society as we come under the assault of urbanization and industrialization. By so doing, we might continue to enjoy family stability, a lower crime rate etc., sparing ourselves some social problems assailing the more developed nations.

It would be unrealistic to think that the birth of a Nigerian sociology (or African sociology) would ensure unity and political stability. These will come through dynamic and dedicated leadership, sensitivity of the government to the people's demands, discouragement of nepotism, bribery and corruption, and acceptance of the opposition as an integral part of a

democratic system, and last but not least, a complete removal of national allergy to hard work.

ADEWALE ROTIN
Sam Houston State University
U.S.A.

Nigerian Post offices

SIR—I share the views of some Nigerian that Mr. Akomolafe's opinions (March 17) concerning dishonesty in Nigerian Post Offices were exaggerated.

Postal system and security in Nigeria are inefficient compared to Britain. But Mr. Akomolafe was unwise to send £20 to his wife in Nigeria without this being registered, or by recorded delivery. He might as well address a ten pound note in London and put it in the post to a friend in Guildford to test the honesty of the British Post Office. To every learned person this would be complete ignorance, and he would not be surprised to learn his lesson in a very hard way. Frankly, this can happen in any post office throughout the world.

We all know that "honesty is the first law in heaven", but my advice to Mr. Akomolafe is to make sure that he does not invite thieves to his letters and parcels by giving them official security; i.e. "Registered", "Insured" etc. Money can be sent through banks or personal delivery in Nigeria, if registration seems unsafe.

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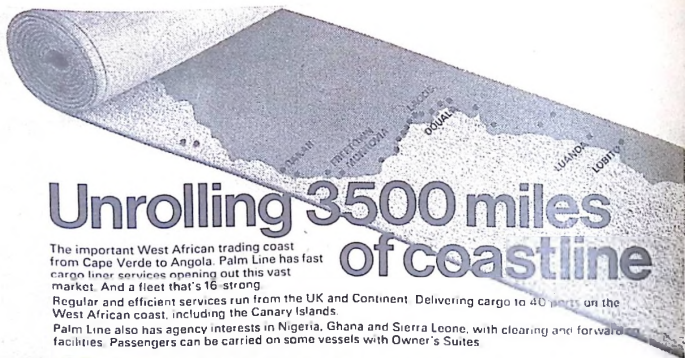
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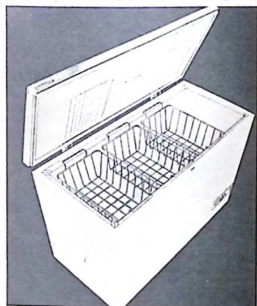
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"I want my name to exist"

from an Accra correspondent

Construction of permanent buildings for the Institute of Professional Studies, the only private business college in Ghana to have a special relationship with the University of Legon, are well underway on a 23-acre site near the University. The Institute, which teaches accountancy and secretarialship, is the brainchild of Mr. Joseph Opoku-Ampomah, now assistant business manager of the *Daily Graphic*. Largely self-educated, Mr. Opoku-Ampomah applied the same tenacity to obtaining an advanced education as he was to show later in the careful planning of his school. Now in his middle thirties, he qualified to study law in London in 1960, but could not get help from the government. "I was neither prepared to give a bribe nor was I prepared to join the NASSO in Britain." After studying for a year, during which he relied on private funds, he read of the establishment at Legon of the Institute of Business Administration. He immediately applied for entry and returned to read for an honours degree there. Talking of his time in London Joseph Opoku-Ampomah stresses the help he received from Professor Dennis Austin, now at Manchester University, and for whom he worked during the early fifties at Legon. Now Mr. Opoku-Ampomah began to plan his Institute, for he had learned through his own experiences of what he calls "the gap" in Ghana's education system. There seemed, he says, to be lack of facilities for further study for students unable to qualify for sixth form and university, but who wished to continue their studies. He was so determined to help those students that he decided not to take a full time job until he had got his school well underway, for he thought that once he had a full time job he would be tempted to neglect his pet project.

Training for Accountants

In 1966 he applied for recognition from the NLC government and a year later received approval to go ahead. His hard days of letter-writing and campaigning for financial backing had paid off. He applied to the Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants (ACCA) (now the Association of Certified Accountants) in Britain and he became the only school in Ghana recognised to prepare students for their examinations. Students are also prepared for the Institute of Cost Accountants examinations and those of the Association of International Accountants and the Chartered Institute of Secretaries.

Rented property at Madina was first used and the present site obtained on long lease from the La Mantse stool lands in 1969. Professor Alex Kwapong, Chancellor of Legon University, was invited to cut the first sod, and granted

the Institute valuable assistance. IPS reaps many advantages from its relationship with Legon, which includes use of the School of Business Administrations Library, permission to buy books at cost price, hire of university buses for study tours, and inter-institution debates. Perhaps most important is the use of University staff as IPS tutors in their spare time. The library is not yet built although one of the lecture rooms is almost ready for use as a temporary library. The first few students took their ACCA exams in May 1968, and entrants have steadily increased, with an average pass rate of 80-90 per cent.

Students from Abroad

Not all students are Ghanaian - there are several from Nigeria, Togo and Dahomey, and such is its confidence in the IPS that the Tema Development Corporation sent an employee there, the Broadcasting Corporation sent two, whilst the Ministry of Education sent granted one of its officers study leave to attend. When the first full dormitory block is completed it is hoped there will be accommodation for 400 full time students. Work is well in hand on the main dormitory block, while the whole complex should be completed by 1974.

Mr. Opoku-Ampomah's other educational project was a direct offshoot of his institute. He decided to start a small secondary school to prepare early school leavers for his Legon courses; so when the first phase of the IPS buildings was completed and students had been accommodated, he began to use the rented property at Madina for pre-professional studies.

So far, the Institute has every ingredient for success - not the least in the dynamism and determination of its Director. It has a governing body of four, two of whom are lecturers at Legon, and a tutorial staff of over 20. There are several full time clerks and a students officer.

Perhaps because of the struggle he had for education, Joseph Opoku-Ampomah has a poor opinion of those graduates who regard education as a right and expect to walk into well paid office jobs, usually with expatriate firms. He sees education as a means to an end rather than an end in itself, and a means of helping to develop his country. Each day he visits the school twice, during his lunch time and after his day at the office is completed. His wife, whose encouragement and help he tells me is invaluable, spends much of the day at the Institute to ensure its smooth running. He thinks that in five years time the IPS could begin to make a small profit - but this would be ploughed back into its expansion. He seems genuinely uninterested in making a lot of money from his venture: "I want my name to exist, that's all!"

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Books and Publications

Adam and Eve in Africa

Angels and Ministers of Grace, by M. J. Field. (Longman, £2.00)

What does the Old Testament of the Bible, or even the New, really mean in terms of Israelite or Jewish belief? Quite a few writers have speculated about ways in which the Bible may be helpful in interpreting the creation legends and beliefs of other ancient peoples, including the Africans. The Children of Israel, after all, were "tribal migrants" whose problems, at least in substance, were not perhaps so very different from those of the peoples whose "creations and migrations" so vividly picture the traditions of Africa's remote history. The Jews, once again, thought of themselves as a "chosen people" in much the same way as that suggested by African traditions for various African peoples. But an interpretation in the opposite sense — of Israelite or early Jewish belief, and hence of much of the Bible, in the light of the African evidence — has been less often attempted.

In a new work of remarkable pith and brevity, Dr. Margaret Field, who is well known for her study of Ga religion and of Akan shrine belief and custom, now sets forth her reasons for thinking that the African evidence, when applied to the Biblical scene, can indeed transform "great wastes of unedifying myth into sober chronicle". The result is an "ethno-psychiatrist's contribution to Biblical criticism" which cannot fail, it seems to me, to interest Biblical critics, but which also, far beyond their ranks, should be obligatory reading for everyone concerned with African cultural history.

Long concerned with the effective meaning of African religious phenomena, Dr. Field tells us that "it was not till I had known West Africa for more than twenty-five years that pure chance brought illumination concerning the nature of the 'spirit of the Lord' which 'moved' various Hebrew prophets". She happened to be reading a vernacular translation of St. Mark's account of Jesus' experience of being "driven of a spirit into the wilderness". It came to her "with the force of a revelation that such 'driving' was something I had seen."

"A few days later my cook — a Muslim from the far north [of Ghana] — told me of a countryman of his who had run to hush and stayed there five years. Asked what spirit would so possess and drive a Muslim, he replied, 'God took him'. I recognised this as the exact phrase used in the story of Enoch. 'And Enoch walked

with God and he was not, for God took him'.

"When I next had a spell of leisure I re-read the Bible in the light of African experience and found that a large body of Hebrew prophets and early Christian converts conformed to the familiar pattern of 'spirit possession', as she had witnessed it in West Africa: "an age-old, world-wide pattern persistently exhibited wherever society allows people to behave naturally".

Angels and Ministers of Grace gives the conclusions at which Dr. Field arrived after re-reading the Bible with such thoughts in mind. These conclusions are as stimulating as they are readable; and they are very readable. Seen from this angle, for example Adam emerges as "a solitary tanning settler of a kind familiar to most rural people in such countries as West Africa. Possibly he is fugitive from tribal justice. He settles on fertile land somewhere near the Euphrates by permis-

sion of the local landowner". He is then instructed "not to molest a certain sacred tree . . . The landlord is benevolent and walks in Adam's garden in the cool of the evening. He is concerned that Adam has no wife and gives him a woman help of a class 'meet' for here". Possibly this Eve "did tempt Adam into tasting the sacred fruit which, perhaps she had heard, was ceremonially eaten at the puberty rites with which youths were initiated into the tribal rules of 'good and evil' . . ."

This interpretation, as Dr. Field notes, gets round a number of obvious difficulties in the Garden of Eden story. For the "Lord" in that story certainly appears in different guises, and these are hard to reconcile at any level save that of blind acceptance. One of these guises, on Dr. Field's hypothesis, was the High God or ultimate spiritual power who owned the Earth and all that therein is. But two other of the Lord's guises in the Garden of Eden represent "solid human figures, both familiar to ethnographers". One of them was a powerful lord of the land "on whose territory humble migrants settled, whose ritual blessing was necessary, and whose curse was devastating to successful husbandry." Another "was the inconspicuous priestly agent (or angel) of the landowning deity into whose domain powerful migrants moved".

Thereafter Dr. Field herself moves firmly and swiftly through the Bible, transforming its "angels and ministers of grace" into persons highly recognisable from the African record. Thus "Moses as a prophet is of special interest to anyone

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has seen an Ashanti priest conduct-
 did at the door of his sanctuary.
 did exactly this at the door of the
 of meeting, where the supplicants
 ht their problems and "Moses
 e. that is, the god of his shrine. And
 about "the pillar of smoke" that
 ended and stood at the door of the
 s"? Was it any different from the
 l that received the Golden Stool at
 info Anokyi's prayer?

Field suggests that Moses' cloud
 nitrous oxide, "obtained by sprink-
 ammonium nitrate on a hot, but not
 lot, metal dish". If so, "this would
 am the fate of the two meddling
 of Aaron, who offered unto the
 d strange fire which he had not
 amanded and died in an explosion,
 monium nitrate does explode if over-
 ed."

Any brief review must run the risk of
 king Dr. Field's conclusions appear
 nky or merely "clever". One should
 phase therefore that they are nothing
 the kind, but the fruit of serious
 titation and comparative study. They
 mpel respect, it seems to me, because
 ey thoroughly deserve it. I do not know
 at Biblical scholars may think about
 findings, I can only repeat, for my
 rt, that they continuously help one to
 ensure the depth and resonance of
 Trian religious phenomena, and to
 asp the social and cultural framework in
 hich these have emerged.

Basil Davidson

Oil Man of Obanye by John Munonye
 (Heinemann African Writers Series, 65p)

John Munonye, Principal of the
 Advanced Teacher Training College,
 Owerri, has produced a third novel in this
 Series, and thus established himself in the
 front rank of the growing band of Ibo
 creative writers. He gives us a realistic
 picture of the extraordinary hardships of
 village life somewhere in Eastern Nigeria.
 In spite of gruelling poverty and even
 danger, however, this book is full of the
 joys of family life, and pleasure in simple
 things.

Jeri Oko has changed his name and
 broken with the family yam-farming
 tradition to become a middle-man, buying
 and selling palm oil, in order to get a
 better life for his wife and four children.
 To do this he risks the disapproval of
 relatives and much personal danger. His
 only means of transporting the tins
 of palm oil is in a basket perched pre-
 cariously behind the seat of his bicycle.
 The inevitable happens.

Jeri shows the familiar overweening
 desire to educate his children at any cost.
 He scrapes every penny to send them all
 to school, an extraordinary feat in which
 he earns his favourite sister's total disap-
 proval and much jealousy. His devoted
 wife's untimely death and his near-fatal
 accident reduce the family to dire straits
 indeed, and lead eventually to his final
 collapse and end.

Somehow Munonye manages to
 convey that this is not really the end.
 With great sympathy the feeling comes

over that the terrible struggle has some-
 how been worthwhile; Jeri will meet his
 Marcellina again and the children also,
 one day.

The importance of funeral rites in
 Africa and the deep reverence for the
 ancestors are well brought out in this
 rather sad, poignant, story.

MN

Books and Publications received:

Export Promotion by Private Sector
 Organisations (International Trade
 Centre, UNCTAD/GATT, \$10).

Export Promotion by Private Sector
 Organisations (International Trade
 Centre, UNCTAD/GATT, \$10).

Markets for Selected Exotic Fruit
 Products in the United Kingdom and the
 Federal Republic of Germany,
 Switzerland and the Netherlands
 (International Trade Centre,
 UNCTAD/GATT, \$10).

Afrika Spectrum: Bergbau in Afrika
 (Deutsches Institut für Afrika-Forschung,
 Hamburg, DM 14.80).

Action for World Development: the
 World Development Movement in the
 1970's (World Development Movement,
 15p.)

Preferences: a better deal for the poor
 world? (World Development Movement,
 20p.)

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MATCHET'S DIARY

This week in Lomé, capital of Togo, with an absence of the usual euphoria which surrounds these meetings, the summit meeting of OCAM (the Afro-Malagasy Common Organisation), is taking place. Over the past fifteen months various doubts have arisen about the organisation, which culminated in the resignation of its current Chairman, President Tombalbaye of Chad, some two months ago. At the beginning of March, the Paris-based weekly *Jeune Afrique* was questioning the very survival of the organisation, saying that the present crisis could prove fatal. "Should we save or burn OCAM?" asked an editorial, which went on to say that the question need no longer be posed, as OCAM in its present form was condemned. The editorial also raised the question of whether OCAM was simply an umbrella for a multiplicity of organisations dealing with communications, banking and insurance, and computers, or whether it had any political vocation. OCAM, after all was founded in 1965 with definite political objectives - the crusade against Nkrumah, and the attempt to give M. Tshombe, then Prime Minister of the Congo, African respectability. By the time its charter was drawn up the next year, both these objectives had been overtaken, and those who felt that a political OCAM contradicted OAU prevailed in drafting the charter.

There has always been a political shadow in the background. It would be astonishing if there were not, for an organisation like this can provide a useful forum for solving disputes. Under the benign chairmanship of President Hamani Diori of Niger, who was regarded as such a success that he continued for three years, OCAM developed a particular vocation as a mouthpiece for the EEC Associates during the renegotiation of the Yaoundé Convention in Brussels in 1969 (all OCAM members are associates, although a few associates are not OCAM members). Recently, however, a new and subtle conflict seems to have occurred in the organisation, between West African and Central African countries.

It does seem, too, that the withdrawal of Cameroon from Air Afrique brought above the surface some simmering discontents.

The withdrawal from, and return of Centrafrican Republic to the airline, and the departure of Chad are also symptoms of this, although, as the airline Chairman, Cheikh Fall, says, the problems of Air Afrique are strictly speaking not connected with OCAM. In fact, Air Afrique is one of the prime examples of cooperation among the ex-French countries, most of whom belong to OCAM, so it is understandable if they should feel concerned about it. Broadly speaking the Central African countries seem to feel that the West African countries dominate the body, as they dominate Air Afrique. This feeling has been reinforced by strictures from President Mobutu of Zaïre against

the organisation, although his threat to leave it in March has only now been carried out. It would be difficult for the Zaïre President to go to Lomé, however, especially after what he said about President Senghor and Senegal. Appeals to "cool it" from a number of countries may simply mean a low-key Zaïre participation. It must still be said that OCAM seems an increasingly marginal activity for Zaïre. What must interest President Mobutu much more is the possibility at last of setting on foot a Central African grouping to include Cameroon, Chad, CAR, Gabon and Congo-Brazzaville in other words a merger of UDEAC and UEAC.

Amid all the uncertainty about the stance of Commonwealth African countries about association with the European Economic Community, the position of The Gambia seems fairly clear. Although there has been no straight governmental declaration of intent, the facts of the situation indicate that The Gambia has to opt for a Yaoundé type association. The option really turns on the position of groundnut oil. The groundnut provides easily the principal, indeed almost the only, export of The Gambia. Nuts face no tariff in either the UK or the EEC. Groundnut oil, however, which earns for The Gambia two-fifths of her foreign exchange earnings from groundnuts, faces at the moment a ten per cent tariff in the EEC, although under Commonwealth preference it faces no tariff in the UK. Thus when Britain joins the EEC and the Commonwealth preference is merged with the Yaoundé tariffs, unless The Gambia also associates she would be placed at a serious disadvantage vis-à-vis her competitors, some of whom are already associates and would thus be able to sell their oil duty-free in the UK.

Gambians also see advantages from association in terms of regional co-operation, especially in the Senegambian association. If both Senegal and The Gambia belong to the Yaoundé grouping, participating in its institutions, this might assist in the rationalisation of trade policies. In the long term however, the planned European monetary union could be the greatest agent for bringing Senegal and The Gambia closer together, as the currency division seems to be the greatest obstacle at the moment. The Gambia, incidentally, believes, like all the other Commonwealth African countries, that there is a possibility of trying to adapt the Yaoundé association in the course of negotiations. It backs, for example, the move to persuade the EEC to abolish the whole idea of reverse preferences. There is also the question of the European Development Fund, from which The Gambia would like to benefit. Most aid to The Gambia has come from the UK, although the World Bank is now aiding expansion of Bathurst Port.



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A year on the West African route

By a correspondent

It is difficult to remember now the political passions which were aroused when the British Government took the West African routes away from the state airline, BOAC, and gave them to Caledonian-BUA. The privately owned company, since re-named British Caledonian, had only a few months to prepare for the take-over and the offices in Lagos and Accra were nowhere near ready when the new service began on April 1 1971.

Ghana Airways declined to operate "in pool" with the new arrival, and there was considerable regret at the enforced departure from West Africa of BOAC. The then Ghana Transport Minister, Mr. Haruna Essoku, commented "BOAC have nursed the West African routes. They have been good friends and have helped Ghana Airways a great deal." Nigeria Airways accepted the offer to pool services, but for some time the booking office staff appeared not to have been properly briefed about the situation and passengers were often inconvenienced by misunderstandings.

There were also the embarrassing incidents of the delay of the inaugural flight from Kotoka Airport and the muddle over the inaugural flight from London to Lagos. For the Nigerian end of the operation there were the usual difficulties of obtaining work permits and entry visas for expatriate staff.

Nevertheless, the service began on schedule, Caledonian having absorbed all BOAC's local staff and taken over its sales offices in Kano, Kaduna and Lagos.

"After six months", Caledonian chairman Adam Thomson recalled last week, "the route was running very smoothly." In the first nine months of operation 18,916 passengers were carried between London and Lagos, 4,338 between London and Accra, and 2,839 between London and Kano. The average flight load factor was 63 per cent.

Two of the toughest problems proved to be the number of unaccompanied schoolchildren using the route, and passenger resistance of using Gatwick airport. Caledonian have always operated from Gatwick, which complicated the negotiations with Ghana and Nigeria Airways, because both use the little known Heathrow 1A point which today makes Caledonian technical assistance to both airlines impossible.

Many prospective passengers had never heard of Gatwick, or thought that it was inaccessible from London. So a large part of Caledonian's first year advertising budget was spent on trumpeting the virtues of Gatwick: its direct rail link with Central London and its relative uncongestion — apart from the periods during the summer holiday. The task was simplified because bookings in West Africa are made through

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a small number of travel agents and major companies, and it was thus merely a matter of persuading the agents of the advantages of Gatwick, and of leaving the agents to persuade their customers.

The challenge of unaccompanied children was met by the introduction of a child-minder on flights at the beginning and end of school holidays. This is the sort of service which makes a crucial difference in the keen competition which exists on the northbound routes. As Mr. Thomson said, "passengers expect airlines to be technically efficient. They have no idea of the work in getting an airline on the ramp or operating a jet at 600 m.p.h. and 40,000 feet. They are more interested in getting the hostess to give them a cushion or bring another glass of water."

To members of the regular flying public there has been no great change as a result of the hand-over, although VC 10s are giving way to Boeing 707s. The VC 10 possesses "passenger appeal" but is not a particularly economical aircraft to operate. "With the passing of time," says Thomson, "this following among passengers will become less defined."

The biggest difficulty on the West African routes is shared by all airlines — the totally inadequate passenger handling facilities at Ikeja airport. This will continue to be a problem until a new terminal is built. It was scheduled for 1976 but may not be ready before 1980.

The Ikeja freight sheds, too, are in a state of chaos. A BOAC specialist was called in to sort out the muddle, at about

the same time as insurance companies started withdrawing cover as a result of pilferage and damage by flooding. He made some headway but left BOAC before the job was completed.

Even worse than the physical limitations at Ikeja are the paper-work requirements: it is very difficult for importers in Nigeria to arrange finance before the goods arrive, and after a month (officially 14 days) goods are taken to the government warehouse to be auctioned. When Col. Benjamin Adekunle was blitzing through the port at Lagos, there were suggestions that he should be given the task of clearing Ikeja, too. Certainly, there is a pressing need for firm action. Caledonian carry about 4½ tons of freight per flight and are trying to build up this traffic, possibly by running a weekly all-freight service, as they already do to East Africa, but officials say there is no point in making a further effort until the freight handling problem at Ikeja is solved. "There's no point in bringing in more cargo," said an airline official. "More cargo would just mean more claims." The airline is hoping to get round the problem by putting up its own structure and carrying out its own cargo handling. Negotiations are in progress.

Air freight from West Africa is minimal. Some hides and skins are flown out from Kano but exports of fruit, where the biggest potential lies, have not been properly developed. The main barrier appears to be lack of marketing skill. In Nairobi, Caledonian can be sure

of picking up 30 tons of produce. Lagos it is virtually impossible to guarantee either the quantity or the quality of produce, so that European importers are wary of entering into contracts.

One aspect of its West African operations in which Caledonian has made little impact is tourism. A year ago, Mr. Tom Cocklin, the publicity manager, said that the airline was keen to explore the development of tourism in the region as a way of increasing passenger traffic.

Last week, however, although Mr. Thomson stressed that the number of tourists was increasingly gradually and would continue to do so, he was cautious about immediate prospects. "We would be interested in developing tourism when Nigeria and Ghana start to put the facilities there." Would the airline consider helping this process by, for instance, investing in hotels? "We have not seriously looked at this possibility," he admitted. "Most of our resources are required within the airline and as we are a growing company, this is likely to continue."

Similarly, the introduction of special excursion rates "is just not suitable at this point." This was a "chicken and egg" situation but without the necessary infrastructure even cheap fares would not bring in tourists. "The reasoning behind these special fares is that by putting together a package you can carry more people than you would otherwise do, and there must be a sufficient number to justify the considerable initial costs of promoting the scheme".

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Statement by the Chairman, MALLAM AHMADU COOMASSIE
to be presented at the Twelfth Annual General Meeting

... again, it is my pleasure to present
a Statement on the Report and
accounts of NIDB for the year 1971, its
fifteenth full year of operation since the
Company was reconstructed.

Political and Economic Scene

The year 1971 saw in Nigeria further
achievements in the fields of rehabilita-
tion and development. Rehabilitation
which started in 1970 gathered
momentum in 1971. More displaced
persons were resettled. More schools,
hospitals, roads and buildings were re-
built. Water supply, electricity and tele-
communications were restored to many
more areas and many factories and oil
wells were reactivated and production
commenced. Inter state contacts
showed welcome improvements and a
number of measures to promote inter-
state economic cooperation involving
Governments, private persons and orga-
nisations were announced. With these en-
couraging developments as background,
the Second National Development Plan,
1970/74, launched in 1970, headed off to
a good start. In the financial year
1970/71, the Gross Domestic Product
was £N1,860 million as compared with
£N1,583 million in 1966/67, the last year
before the civil war for which statistics
relating to the whole country were
unavailable. Capital formation which was
£N233 million in 1966/67 rose to an
estimated £N316 million in 1970/71. The
rate of growth achieved in 1970/71
estimated at 9.6%, was higher than the
average 8% growth rate projected for the
Plan period and much higher than the
4.7% forecast for the first year of the
Plan period.

In 1971, the vexed problem of price
inflation was still with us. The composite

consumer price indices for the lower-
income group during the first half of
1971 were 12.1% higher than those for
the corresponding period of 1970, in-
crease in the food index accounting for
about 83% of the rise. During the year,
the Government continued to make
efforts to combat these inflationary
pressures. In April, considerable relaxa-
tion of imports and exchange restrictions
was announced together with reduced
duty on essential import commodities.
The price control system remained in
force and in addition the National Supply
Company was established for the purpose
of containing high price pressures by
importing essential commodities in bulk.
The Government also announced its in-
tention to engage in large scale
agricultural production and the proposal
to establish an Agricultural Credit Bank.
Government revenue showed substantial
improvement and there was less resort to
deficit financing. The Central Bank
monetary squeeze on the economy
brought about a drop in money supply,
which fell from £N304.1 million in
December 1970 to £N289.3 million in
July 1971. These together with the
improving foreign exchange position are
helpful weapons in the fight against
inflation. Crude oil production continued
to grow during the year. By the end of
December, production had surpassed 1.7
million barrels per day. This compares
well with the average of 600,000 barrels
per day in 1969 and 1.5 million barrels
per day in 1970. The increased oil
production and the new Agreement
which became effective in March 1971
and which provided for about 30%
increased posted prices of crude oil
enabled crude oil to account for 72% of
Nigeria's export earnings in 1971, as
against 58% in 1970. These as well as
favourable petroleum tax arrangement
also reached in 1971 with the oil

companies, contributed largely to the
improved state of Government finances
and the country's foreign exchange assets.
With regard to agricultural production,
however, the situation was not so bright.
Total Marketing Boards purchases of
Nigeria's main cash crops in the first half
of 1971 were 27.1% lower than the level
in the corresponding period of 1970.
There was an increase of over 36% in the
purchases of cocoa during the 1970/71
crop season as compared with the
1969/70 season, but the favourable effect
which this substantial rise would have had
was offset by the sharp fall in purchases
of groundnuts and seed cotton due
mainly to poor harvest resulting from
unfavourable weather conditions. Smugg-
ling of produce into neighbouring
countries affected the overall purchase of
most of the crops. At 280,000 tons,
purchases of groundnuts in 1970/71 were
56% lower than the 638,000 purchased in
the 1969/70 season. Seed cotton
purchased in 1970/71 was 110,000 tons,
45% lower than in the 1969/70 season.
Palm kernel purchases increased from
270,000 tons in 1970 to 290,000 tons in
1971. The aggregate index of world prices
for the country's main export crops
during the first half of 1971 was 11%
lower than the index for the correspond-
ing period of 1970. This was due mainly
to the continued slump in the price of
cocoa.

The buoyancy in the manufacturing
sector which began during the war years
continued into the first quarter of 1971.
The quarterly index of manufacture pro-
duction rose from 260 in the third
quarter of 1970 to 282 in first quarter of
1971. The lifting of import controls on a
wide range of consumer preference hard-
caps. Overall domestic production started

to drop in the second quarter and the manufacturing index fell to 278 from the peak of 282 in the previous quarter. Though there were substantial increases in the production of such items as cement, paints and roofing sheets, there were larger drops in the production of textiles, (where index fell from 700 in the first quarter of 1971 to 615 in the second) footwear, rubber products and soap. Production within installed capacity in the industries concerned was gradually being reduced as inventories began to pile up, and expansion and new plant proposals were being shelved. During the year, closures of factories, drastic reduction in production and large scale retrenchment of workers were announced. I have every confidence that Government will take necessary remedial steps, although the effects of such measures are not likely to improve the situation immediately because of large stock of imported goods.

During the course of the year, Government published a list of enterprises that should ultimately be wholly owned by Nigerians and those in which there should be a stipulated minimum percentage of Nigerian ownership. It is hoped that suitable and adequate arrangements would be made to make Government intention in this respect a smooth exercise.

Imports totalled £N538.2 million as compared to £N378.2 million in 1970 showing an increase of 42%. Exports increased by 33.8% from 442.7 million in 1970 to 592.4 million in 1971. Visible trade surplus of £N54.2 million achieved in 1971 was lower than the £N64.2 million surplus for 1970. At the end of June, 1971, Nigeria's holding of foreign exchange assets totalled £N131.8 million as compared with £N65.5 million at the end of June 1970. This substantial increase in the foreign exchange assets, despite a reduction in the balance of trade was indicative of the increased oil revenue received by the Government in foreign exchange.

The Role of NIDB

In 1971, total sanctions amounted to £N5,701,500 of which £N570,000 was in equity and £N5,131,500 in loans. The foreign currency portion which was only in loans was approximately £N2,401,816 representing about 42% of the total sanctions. This proportion was lower than in the previous year.

Investments were sanctioned in 40 projects of which 36 were new and 4 existing companies. The amount of total sanctions and number of projects were again new

record figures, the former being about 80% higher than the previous year.

Sectoral analysis of our operations shows that cotton and synthetic textiles had the largest proportion with £N425,000 in equity and £N2,85,000 in loans making up 57.3% of total sanctions. However, this includes £N1,350,000 to projects embarking on backward integration to produce grey cloth and £N800,000 to a fully integrated project commencing from the production of polyester fibre. The other sectors in order of magnitude are chemical products with £N1,071,000, metal products £N391,000, Hotel and Tourism £N268,000, Food and Beverages £N276,000, Paper products £N160,000, Wood products £N103,000, Mining £N17,000 and miscellaneous £N145,000.

The establishment of these projects is expected to create about 10,439 additional direct job opportunities at various levels and help conserve foreign exchange estimated at about £N10.1 million annually. The total additional capital investment to be generated in the industrial sector by NIDB sanctions is estimated at £33 million.

NIDB sanctioned £N1,150,000 to Government controlled projects and £N268,000 to hotel projects after the Board had amended the operating policy of the company to extend its scope of activities. It is expected that NIDB will be associated with the development of hotels of international standard to a larger extent in years to come. NIDB remained in constant touch with the Federal and State Governments in the promotion of new projects and received the cooperation of the Government officials concerned.

NIDB continued to make progress in increasing its investments in indigenous controlled companies. Out of the 40 projects sanctioned last year, 35 were wholly owned and controlled by Nigerians with a sanction of £N3,743,000 representing 65.7% of total sanction as compared with 58% in 1970. Further progress is expected in the current year.

Publication of government guidelines on indigenisation have led to more expatriate controlled projects seeking to comply with the 40% indigenous equity participation. NIDB sanctioned investment in one such project last year with £N300,000 in equity and £N500,000 in loan jointly with the Federal Government. Such investments, however, are likely to reduce

the proportion of sanction going to projects which are wholly owned and controlled by Nigerians.

NIDB maintained close contact with clients during the year. Regular inspection visits were carried out. Difficulties varying nature and scope have been encountered by a good number of client companies. Indigenous enterprises in particular have found NIDB's assistance with technical and financial advice, recruitment and training of managerial and supervisory personnel of great value. During the year most of our client companies suffered from low liquidity arising from the tighter credit conditions and low sales as a sequel to liberalisation of imports.

A nucleus for undertaking promotional work was set up in NIDB to commence identification, development and promotion of viable projects. When fully operational, it would be able to give wider assistance to promoters with technical, financial and management advice. NIDB's initiatives and growing contact with State Governments and private entrepreneurs all over the country have contributed to a wider distribution of investments. A Northern Area Office was opened during the year in Kaduna and consideration is being given to the establishment of an Eastern Area Office.

Icon Securities Limited

The year under review was very successful for our subsidiary, ICON Securities Limited (ICONSEC). The trading turnover for the year in industrial securities amounted to £N1,653,234 compared with £N20,250 in 1970. The large increase in this line of business was mainly due to the redemption of Debenture Stocks on behalf of two companies. There was also a rise in trading in Government Stocks which amounted to £N60,853 as against £N28,580 in 1970. ICONSEC's portfolio as at 31st December 1971 consisted of quoted industrial securities with a market value of £N223,316. Of the three stocks which have been dormant as a result of the war, one was redeemed and active dealings recommenced in another. There was considerable activity in the public issue of securities during the year with six new securities on the Capital Market. ICONSEC successfully completed four issues and jointly handled a fifth one with another Issuing House. The five issues involved the raising of well over £N1 million from the investing public.

KNOW

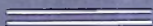
the denominations of your

DECIMAL NOTES

to be used as from

JAN. 1, 1973

50
Kobo



5/-

1
NAIRA



10/-

5
NAIRA



£2 10/-

10 NAIRA



£5

The symbol for naira is ₦

Detailed Conversion Tables can be obtained free from the
Decimal Currency Board, c/o Central Bank of Nigeria
Tinubu Square, P.M.B. 12652, Lagos. Telephone 56016.

People

Ghana's External Affairs Commissioner, Maj. Gen. Nathan Aferi, has announced that steps were being taken to streamline the country's foreign missions, which would involve closing some down completely and making drastic staff cuts in others. Greater emphasis would be placed on using the missions for creating markets for Ghana's goods and attracting foreign investment. In the meantime, a number of diplomatic appointments have been made. K. Y. Bofo, a former ambassador to Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, leaves the Directorship of the Foreign Affairs Ministry's political department (Europe and Americas) to become ambassador to Yugoslavia, and Harry Amonoo, ambassador to Ethiopia becomes ambassador to the United States. The new man in China is to be Richard Maximilian Akwei, who has previously served as ambassador in Mexico and Switzerland and as permanent representative to the United Nations. He gained useful background experience for his new posting as a member of Ghana's delegation to the Colombo conference on the Sino-Indian border dispute in 1962. He visited China the following year.



The new High Commissioner in London Henry Sekyi, (above) has paid his first call on the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, and on the Minister of State with special responsibilities for Africa and the United Nations, Lady Tweedsmuir. Educated at Adisadel College, Cape Coast, the University College of the Gold Coast, King's College, Cambridge and the London School of Economics, Mr Sekyi is a career diplomat who joined the foreign service in 1955. He has served in Rome and Washington, as High Commissioner to Australia and Ambassador to Italy and was a member of the Ghana delegation to Hanoi in 1966.

"For the first time in ten years the Western State has had a year of uninterrupted peace," said the State's Commissioner for Home Affairs and Information, 'Bayo Akinnola during a brief visit to London last week. He attributed the peace to the style of the administration "which does not encourage flamboyancy"; to the realisation by the people that it was not in their interest to disturb

the peace of the State, as this ultimately caused them to suffer; and to the removal of major causes of friction. Commenting on the last of the three reasons, he gave the example of personal taxation: a major cause of trouble in the past, it was deliberately not increased in the recent budget. Indeed, he added, "One wonders whether the contribution it makes is worth all the trouble so we are looking for alternative methods of raising finance."

Genoveva Marais, close friend of Kwame Nkrumah, has completed after two years work what is intended to be an estimate of his work and character. What she has written, she says, is not intended to be a biography, he has already written his own life story and others may be able to do better. It is more "his person, his likes, his dislikes, his friends, his people". She describes his strengths and weaknesses - "he had many of both, being human". To be called, tentatively, *Kwame Nkrumah As I Knew Him*, the book will be followed by her own autobiography in which she will deal more fully with Ghana's former President. Nkrumah, she insists was not the ruthless dictator many now believe him to be. "One day people will know that this was a man with a wonderful dream." She feels he was "a good man, with good intentions, swayed by others through such weaknesses as compassion and understanding which no true dictator should have. The record must be put straight. He is a man who will go down in African history as the only one with courage enough to fight for African freedom and recognition. He did not enrich himself at the expense of his country. Ghana was united under his guidance. His people did love him. He had many faults because he was human, and if he was raised to the pedestal of a God it was because his people worshipped him. Also those who called themselves his friends used such titles as Messiah, Osagyefo and Redeemer to destroy him." Genoveva is at present living in London with her husband, Victor Kanu, former High Commissioner for Sierra Leone.

For the record, the general secretary of the Commonwealth Students' Children Society, B. B. Boateng, did not say, as we reported recently, that he had returned the £100 donated by the Nigerian High Commission in London. The Society gratefully used the money, although, as reported Mr Boateng had hoped for a bigger contribution.

Society officials are hoping that the day nursery in the block of students flats which they run in east London will be opened by the Asantahene during a trip to Britain which he is planning this year. This would be fitting, because the Ashanti House of Chiefs has promised to give 10,000 cedis towards the cost of the nursery.

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Chairman's Statement - Continued

vo issues were solely underwritten by CONSEC while a third was jointly underwritten with another company.

Nominees Limited

son subsidiary of NIDB was revived during 1971. It has started the Registrar's Department for the handling of securities.

Company Results

Despite the mounting burden of interest charges on borrowing from the Federal Government and the IBRD, which showed an increase of 116% from EN83,132 in 1970 to EN179,558 in 1971 and the high administrative expenses necessitated by NIDB's expansion programme designed to cope with a much higher volume of operations during the 1970-74 National Development Plan, net profit before taxation of the company amounted to EN326,921 which is EN23,878 higher than the 1970 profit. Income from NIDB's equity investments rose to EN199,419 from EN137,563 in 1970. Income from loans and debentures also increased from EN273,366 in 1970 to EN324,812 in 1971. This is indicative of increasing disbursements of NIDB sanctions. As more and more of NIDB local resources were deployed in long-term investments, income from short-term investments fell from EN124,430 in 1970 to EN111,377 in 1971. For reasons summarised earlier, administrative expenses increased from EN157,424 to EN208,971.

The company results and level of resources justify payment of dividend on ordinary stock. The Board has therefore recommended the payment dividend of 6½% on Ordinary Stock. The Preference Stockholders will also participate to the same extent. The Board has also recommended the transfer of EN305,529 to reserves thereby increasing our total reserves to EN1,051,676 which includes Capital Reserves of EN32,903 representing profit made on sale of an equity investment.

NIDB Resources

A total of EN166,665 has been repaid to

date out of the two Federal Military Government Loans aggregating EN4 million leaving an outstanding balance of EN3,833,335. Existing local currency resources are likely to be insufficient to meet our expected disbursements in 1971. Negotiations have already commenced to raise additional local currency resources.

The first World Bank loan of \$6 million has been fully drawn while the second loan of \$10 million has been committed to the extent of EN637,546 by 31st December, 1971. The uncommitted balance on the second loan would meet only part of our foreign exchange requirements in 1972. Discussions for the purpose of augmenting our foreign currency resources are in progress.

Prospect for 1972

The encouraging performance of the Nigerian economy during 1971 has set the stage for higher performance in 1972 in the implementation of the goals set in the Second National Development Plan. In that context NIDB looks forward to playing the role assigned to it with greater vigour and determination. Accordingly, NIDB's expansion programme will continue during 1972. Strenuous efforts are being made to recruit competent staff of various categories as quickly as possible. The main impact of staff costs is therefore likely to be felt on the 1972 results. NIDB's income from equity investments is also likely to show a considerable decrease as a result of the flagging fortunes of the local industries due to import liberalization. Nevertheless, income from other sources is expected to be sufficiently large to give hopes for higher profits for 1972.

Board of Directors

Your Directors were pleased to welcome Messrs Gerhard Von Baum Horst Frenschkowski and Oludotun Adekunle Kukoyi as members of the Board in place of Messrs Giovanni Guazzugli Marini,

Maurice Cusack and John Agudos Okwesa who having retired with other Directors in accordance with the provisions of Articles 103 and 104 did not offer themselves for re-election.

Dr. Ali Akbar Khosropur during the year, resigned from the Board and your Directors filled the casual vacancy thus arising with the appointment of Mr P M Mathew as a Director.

In accordance with the same provisions of the Company's Articles referred to above all the present Directors now retire Messrs A. L. Ciroma, F. A. Ijewere, O. A. Kukoyi, S. Malami, P. M. Mathew, E. C. McNestry, D. F. Pearl and C. A. O. Thomson are eligible for re-election and have offered themselves for election whilst Messrs A. Coomassie, Von Baum Horst Frenschkowski and J. Lyons have not offered themselves for re-election.

Staff

Mr S B Daniyan continued during the year as General Manager. Mr M A Adejoro, who was Chief of Banking Operations at the Central Bank, joined the staff and was appointed Deputy General Manager. Alhaji Gidado Idris formerly Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, North Central State, joined NIDB in November 1971 and was appointed Area Manager for our Kaduna Office. In the course of the year we sadly lost by death a prominent member of our staff, Mr P C Joe Adigwe who was Assistant General Manager. Mr B A Olateru-Olagbegi is at present undergoing a training course organised by Arthur D. Little Group in the United States.

In ending I should like to commend all our staff for their contributions to the success of the company during the year and hope that they will continue to serve the company loyally and with enthusiasm.

Commercial News

World currency wanted by Nigeria

Nigeria's Commissioner of Trade, Mr. Wenke Briggs, who is leading his country's delegation to UNCTAD III in Chile, has urged the creation of an international currency operating as a base for all monetary evaluations. Addressing the 3,000 delegates from 141 countries and 40 international organisations, he said the new denomination should allow countries to hold all their assets in the new system "It should become a unit against which parities are expressed and against which all currencies will be revalued upwards or downwards. It should remove once and for all the reliance on deficit financing of any country". The Nigerian proposal also suggested that such a new monetary structure should contain a built-in provision for the transfer of real resources to developing countries as a means of promoting development and of reconciling the export objectives and import capacity of developing countries.

Asking UNCTAD to emphasise the need for increased access to the markets of the developed nations, Mr. Briggs said Nigeria felt strongly that all tied aid agreements should be eliminated "It is only when this is agreed that concessions granted by developed countries, no matter how little, would become tangible and meaningful," Mr. Briggs said. "Tied aid is hypocritical because what is given away in professed aid is syphoned off by the compulsion to buy from the donor's markets." In addition, inter-regional trade was stifled "since the comparative advantage that should have been enjoyed by members of regions between one another would have been wiped off by the special preferences granted to developed countries in other regions which do not possess any advantage in the production of the commodity. Mr. Briggs also suggested the drawing up of a convention barring developed countries from seeking reciprocity in trade from developing countries.

Nigeria backed demands for an increase in financial resources to developing countries, he said, and commenting on suggestions that aid was often squandered by the developing countries, he noted "Quite substantial amounts of this aid are spent on the staff of the aid-giving countries and in the administration of the projects which the developed countries have initiated."

Ghana's chief delegate, Brig. N. Y.

Ashley-Lassen, Commissioner of Trade, Industries and Tourism, also urged the creation of a reserve currency insulated from the domestic problems of individual countries. Calling for a realistic solution to growing debt burdens of developing countries he said all the multi-lateral conferences on rescheduling Ghana's debts had been futile and "our creditor nations showed very little sympathy and insisted on having their pound of flesh although they were fully aware of Ghana's inability to fulfil its debt obligations under the terms and conditions on which they insisted." He urged a new approach to debt repayment with a country's ability to pay and the need to encourage real economic growth as the dominant factors. But he warned "UNCTAD should not become the opium which impedes defiant mobilisation of resources and the promotion of self-reliance in developing countries, by promising or inducing expectation of manna from an ever-increasing horizon."

The Commissioner threatened to seek a multi-lateral agreement with consumers and producers of cocoa if the price was not stabilised on the world market this year. There was, he said, a lack of goodwill by major consumer countries in reaching an agreement on fairer cocoa prices. "We, of the developing world, cannot help but realise that we can best demonstrate our unity and maturity, not by adhering to patched up compromises in documents contemptuously treated by some countries, but by bold action within our national boundaries and in concert

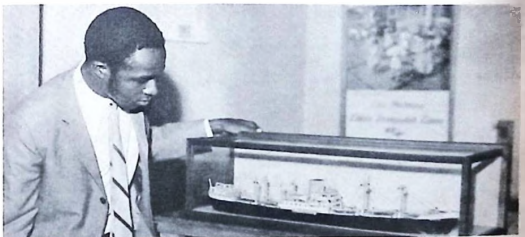
with other developing countries. "No time to treat platitudes of sympathy with the contempt and disregard they deserve and recognise our friends by concrete actions. We have no future unless we of the developing countries get together whether we produce cocoa, copper or iron ore, mineral oil or seeds, to bargain together for a common economic health."

West Germany was the first industrialised country at the conference to offer precise concessions to the group identified as the 25 poorest nations in the world, which includes Chad, Dahomey, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Upper Volta (6 of the 25 are African countries). The Economics Minister, Dr. Karl Schiller, announced that in future West Germany would give the group loans on the World Bank's easy-terms basis of 0.75 per cent interest, maturing over 50 years with 10 years grace. Capital loans to other developing nations would be made at a standard rate of two per cent with 3 years maturity and 10 years grace. This would mean that West Germany's official aid would now include a grant element of 60 per cent.

African fund approved

Approval for the establishment of an African Development Fund bearing a relationship to the African Development Bank "similar to that of the International Development Association in the World Bank family" has been given by representatives of the central banks of 16 African countries. The draft agreement will be submitted to the governors of the ADB in Algiers next July, which has already stated that the fund would enable the Bank to make "a more significant contribution to the development of its member countries". The Fund could become operational by 1973, probably with an initial capital of \$100m.

● An African Regional Meeting on the implications of the use of freight containers in African trade has been held in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the E.C.A. The meeting was held in preparation for the U.N. Inter-Governmental Maritime Organization Conference on International Container Traffic to be held in Geneva in November.



Mr. Iyiola Faniyi, a trainee with Eldher Dempster Agencies (Nigeria) who is currently spending three months in Liverpool acquainting himself with all aspects of the company's operations.

WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

ELDER Dempster Lines

SOUTHBOUND - From Liverpool: DUMBAI slg. May 4. UBANI slg. Apr. 21.
 From London: FALARA due Tema Apr. 30. ILE TOWN due Pointe Noire Apr. 21.
 From Southampton: AFRICOL slg. Apr. 26.
 From Glasgow: KADUNA slg. Apr. 21.
 From N. Continent: PATANI due Antwerp Apr. 21. ONISHIA due Antwerp Apr. 21. DARU due Warri Apr. 21.
NORTHBOUND - To Liverpool: FOURAH BAY due Apr. 30.
 To London: ULANI slg. Apapa Apr. 23. EGORI due Apr. 24. PEGU due Apr. 28.
 To Hull: MANO due Takoradi Apr. 21.
 To Avonmouth: DHDU due Freetown Apr. 24.

To Leixoes: FLAN slg. Sapele Apr. 22.
 To N. Continent: DIXCOI due Bremen Apr. 22. ONISHIA due Antwerp Apr. 21.
 To Belfast: OWIRRI due Apr. 30.
EASTBOUND - From USA/Canada: DALLA due Lagos Apr. 21. DONGA due Dakar Apr. 28.

WESTBOUND - To USA/Canada: AKOSOMBO due Abidjan Apr. 21. DIGMA slg. Portsmouth Apr. 21.
 Eastern Service to WA: GARRYBANK due Douala May 8.

BARBER Lines

OUTWARDS - Legatide due Monrovia Apr. 25, thence Abidjan, Tema, Lagos, Apapa, Warri, Douala. A VESSEL slg. New York May 3 to Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos, Apapa, Douala.

HOMEWARDS - FERNAND due Jacksonville Apr. 21, thence Savannah, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York. IFRANGI due Lagos Southbound about May 1. Ghana 2nd week, May. Abidjan/Monrovia mid 3rd week, May for US North Atlantic.

K Line

WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong to Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc.: DOMINIC MARIU slg. Japan Apr. 5 due Lagos Mar. 18.

EASTBOUND - From Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown etc. via Hong Kong: DOMINIC MARIU slg. Lagos May 25. Freetown May 30 due Japan Jul. 8.

WOERMANN Line

RMA DIEMAS slg. Bordeaux May 15 due Dakar May 20. Abidjan May 24. LOULI A due Lome May 14. Apapa May 15. Douala May 18.

DAFRA Line

EASTBOUND - BELGHN slg. New Orleans due 23 due Warri Jun. 13. Port Harcourt Jun. 16.

WESTBOUND - AIRIKA slg. Angola May 2 due Douala May 5. Takoradi May 15.

JOLLY STAR Line

WESTBOUND - NEGBA Lobito Jun. 8, Luanda Jun. 9, Matadi Jun. 16.

EASTBOUND - NOGAI Singapore May 3, Lobe May 14, Yokohama May 26.

BLACK STAR LINE/US/INDIA WEST AFRICA - BIA RIVER/Ghana Apr. 1, New York Apr. 13, Philadelphia Apr. 17.

BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT/WEST AFRICA - SUBIN RIVER Bremen Apr. 22, Hamburg Apr. 24, Antwerp Apr. 27, Rotterdam Apr. 29, Dunkirk May 3, AFRAM RIVER Liverpool Apr. 27.

WESTBOUND - SUBIN RIVER Bremen Apr. 20, Hamburg Apr. 23, AFRAM RIVER Avonmouth Apr. 14.

JELFA Line

EASTBOUND - SOL slg. New Orleans May 14. C. Christi lag. 12. Takoradi May 30.
 O.I. RIO due Houston May 26. C. Christi May 8. Port Arthur May 29.

ALM Line

OUTBOUND - From London: LAGOS ALM due Tema May 14.
 From N. Continent: ILESIA PALM due Dakar May 10.

OUTBOUND - To Liverpool: BADAGRY ALM slg. Abidjan May 6.

To London: KATSINA PALM slg. San Pedro Apr. 30.

N.Y.K. Line

WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong to Lobito, Matadi, Lagos, Abidjan, etc.: SHIMANI MARIU slg. Kofe May 5. Tema Jun. 9/10. Lagos/Apapa Jun. 11/15. Douala Jun. 16/17.

EASTBOUND - From Lagos, Tema, Takoradi, Abidjan, Lome, etc.: SAIKYO MARU Tema Apr. 2/May 1, Japan 1st port May 30.

Chargeurs Reunis

TOURVILLE due Lagos May 10, Tema May 17. BOURGAINVILLE slg. Kofe May 28.

MITSUI O.S.K. Line

SALAMBRIA slg. Kofe May 4 due Lagos Jun. 17. HAVANA MARU slg. Kofe May 19 due Lagos Jun. 2. HAKONISAN MARU slg. Kofe Jun. 4 due Lagos Jul. 11.

Maersk Line

INWARDS - From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan: JOHANNIS MAERSK slg. Kofe May 8 due Luanda Jun. 1.

OUTWARDS - From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi: HILPER MAERSK slg. Freetown Apr. 29 due Luanda Apr. 30.

Farrel Lines

HOMEWARDS - AFRICAN LIGHTNING slg. Matadi Apr. 28 for Luanda, Lobito, Abidjan, Monrovia, U.S. ports. AFRICAN MOON slg. Lagos/Apapa May 18 for Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia, U.S. ports.

OUTWARDS - AFRICAN MOON due Monrovia Apr. 28 for Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema May 6. Lagos/Apapa May 2. Douala, AFRICAN CRISTIANI due Dakar May 25 for Conakry, Freetown, Monrovia, May 29. Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Jun. 6. Lagos/Apapa Jun. 8, Douala.

KONINLIJKE NEDLOYD NY EUROPE/WEST AFRICAN SERVICES

BALONG slg. Rotterdam May 24, Rouen May 26. VESSEL N slg. Antwerp Jun. 5, Bordeaux Jun. 10.

NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE

SOUTHBOUND - ELI NAMA due Lagos, Apapa May 17. Port Harcourt May 22.

NORTHBOUND - NNAMDI AZIKWI due London Apr. 30.

SCANTINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE

SOUTHBOUND - BALONG slg. Scan. May for discharge. WA first half Jun. CITY OF TORONTO slg. Scan. end May early Jun. for discharge. WA second half Jun.

NORTHBOUND - INDIANA slg. WA first half May for discharge. Scan. end Jun/early Jul. HUGH HIRON slg. WA second half May early Jun. for discharge. Scan. second half Jun.

Hoch Titz Line

HOGH HILFE due Tema May 2, Apapa May 4. HOGH BONNY slg. Antwerp May 12. Rotterdam May 16 due Dakar May 24.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN Line

INWARDS - STRAIT FRAZER from Japan slg. May 18 due Luanda Mar. 13, Monrovia Mar. 18, Freetown May 20, Tema Mar. 23. Port Harcourt Mar. 26. Lagos/Apapa Mar. 28.

Takoradi May 4. Abidjan May 7. STRAIT MAGELHANS from Hong Kong slg. Mar. 3. Lagos/Apapa Mar. 4. Cotonou Mar. 11, Lome Mar. 14, Tema Mar. 15. Abidjan Mar. 16. Monrovia Mar. 19. Freetown Mar. 21. Dakar Mar. 24. Conakry Mar. 27. Takoradi May 6.

OUTWARDS - STRAIT FRAZER from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt. Hong Kong and Japan lag. Apr. 21. STRAIT MAGELHANS from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt. Hong Kong, Shanghai opt. and Japan Apr. May.

EAL EUROPE - AFRICA LINE GMBH

BELATRIX 1 due Dakar May 10, Abidjan May 15. Lome May 18. CHRISTINA VINNI slg. Rouen May 5 due St. Cruz May 11. Los Palmas May 12.

NOPAL Line

WESTBOUND - NOPAL LUNA due Savannah May 19. Jacksonville May 21. New Orleans May 24. NOPAL VIGA slg. Luanda May 11. Libreville May 12. Douala May 18.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

SOUTHBOUND Houston May 27, Warri Jun. 17, Ibadan Jun. 20; WESTWIND New Orleans, Jun. 9, Houston Jun. 14, Lagos Jul. 3, Philadelphia Jul. 10.

UAC PROFITS: 'SLIGHT FALL'

The value of the United Africa Group's sales increased further in 1971, says Unilever's annual report, but this was largely the result of inflation, and in volume terms there was little change. A "slight" decrease in profit was recorded. The report notes that the Group had to contend with a number of financial problems during the year. Nigeria declared a moratorium on outstanding payments for imports, Ghana remained prone to balance of payments problems and there were sharp increases in taxation in mid-year, followed by a very substantial devaluation of the currency, falling world commodity prices forced several other African countries to tighten exchange controls or restrict local borrowing.

The textiles operations were "somewhat less profitable" as a result of price controls and increased competition in Africa, the timber ventures did a "little less well" than in the previous year owing to falling world demand and prices. Palm Line had "another difficult year" because of falling cargo volume and continuously rising costs. On the other hand the technical, motors and earth moving equipment businesses had an outstandingly successful year. The chemists and foods operations were more profitable and a number of the Group's industrial ventures also did well. The general trading activities of G. B. Ollivant were profitable.

The post-war boom in Nigeria continued during the most of the year, says the report, "although profit margins later tended to fall." In French-speaking Africa political and economic conditions were generally stable and the Group's ventures "continued to do well." In Zaire and Uganda results improved in spite of a rather more difficult trading situation.

Commenting on the plantations the report notes that total profits were "somewhat less than in 1970" but were again good. Increased production of all crops partially offset lower produce prices and large wage increases in Africa. The price of rubber declined to its lowest level for many years, and cocoa also dropped sharply. "The price of our main crop palm oil, fell only slightly but in some countries we were required to make substantial sales for local consumption at prices well below export value."

The report points out that for the first time for some years, the increase in world consumption of margarine, butter and other edible fats and oils slowed down a little, reaching two per cent compared with three per cent in 1970. Butter consumption, which had increased slightly in 1970 with the disposal of the surplus stocks in the European Common Market countries, actually fell in 1971 by 2½ per cent.

The group profit after taxation was £91m compared with £76m.

Spices 'could' create employment

Spice growing could provide valuable agricultural diversification and help to stimulate rural employment, Mr. Anthony Kershaw, Parliamentary Under-Secretary in Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said when opening the International Spice Conference in London last week. As well as being labour intensive, spice products were small in bulk, so cheap to transport, and of high value. The volume of the spice trade was about 665m, a year and a huge amount of spice grown and consumed locally never reached the trade statistics. Some countries, such as Zanzibar and Grenada, had economies largely dependent on spices. "All the countries which produce spices are developing countries and it is therefore particularly encouraging that over the last five years the import of spices into the ten big importing countries appears to have risen by over one third and amounts in all now to about 180,000 tons a year." The reason for this increase was that more spices were being used by the processed food industry "and as this is likely to increase so we must plan ahead for the production of spices, some of which take a long time to reach maturity." The pepper industry, he told some 150 delegates from 40 countries, had made a start by establishing a pepper community with the object of regulating or anticipating supply and demand, and therefore prices.

Delegates included Mr J. Quinn of the Institute for Agriculture Research, Samaru. Dr J. Okogun of Ibadan University's chemistry department and Mr R. Coker of the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board.

Cocoa grindings up

Cocoa grindings in the USA in the first quarter of 1972 totalled 82,977 tons, an increase of 21 per cent over the same period in 1971. West German grindings were 2.2 per cent up and U.K. grindings by 7.4 per cent.

• A new producer price for cocoa will be announced soon by the Ghana Government, Mr U.K. Hackman, chairman of the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board, announced.

• An increase of 36 per cent in the volume of import business handled in 1970-71 has been recorded by the Ghana Commercial Bank in its annual report. A profit of 2,857,171 cedis was made, an increase of 14 per cent over the previous year. The Bank's total assets increased by 95m cedis to 398m cedis at the end of the financial year.

• Ashanti Goldfields made an estimated pre-tax profit of £16m for the six months to the end of March, compared with £1.1m for the corresponding period of the previous year.

WORLD BANK LOAN FOR NIGERIAN ROADS

The World Bank is lending \$26.3m to help finance a \$42.6m Nigerian project to restore roads damaged in the war and strengthen the country's road maintenance system to meet rapidly increasing traffic. The loan is for 25 years with interest at 7½ per cent. In addition, the International Development Association is providing a \$3.9m credit to the Central African Republic for a \$5.4m education project that will assist in the introduction of new lower secondary education curriculum, strengthen upper secondary education science training, improve and expand technical and commercial training, and train secondary school teachers. The IDA credit is for 50 years, including 10 years of grace. It is interest-free except for nominal service charge to cover IDA's administrative expenses.

• The Enugu airport reconstruction project, for which the African Development Bank has loaned \$3.4m., will take two years, phase one is the construction of runway, taxiway and apron, phase two the construction of terminal building and services; and phase three equipment supply and installation. Supervision will be done by NACO (Netherlands Airport Consultants).

Details of the Second ADB loan, \$16m for the Nigeria Sugar Company, have also been announced. The project includes the expansion of the company's sugar estate at Bacita in Kwara State from 9,300 acres to 11,650 acres. There will also be an increase in the sugar production capacity from 30,000 tons to a level of 40,000 tons of refined sugar a year. It is estimated that the subsequent reduction in sugar imports will lead to gross foreign exchange savings of some US\$400,000 a year.

The loan will be amortized over a period of 10 years after a grace period of five years. Interest will be at six per cent plus a statutory commission of one per cent and a commitment charge of 0.75 per cent on the undisbursed portion of the loan commencing 90 days after the signature of the Loan Agreement.

A dull day at the Fair

Most of the countries represented at the recent All-Africa Trade Fair in Nairobi regarded it primarily as a diplomatic and cultural occasion and arrangements for the day-to-day manning of stands was not completely satisfactory. This assessment is made by Mr Fred Osborne in an article in the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry's journal. He gives the example of a visitor who wanted to discuss purchases of copper products with Zambia and Zaire. "Neither stand could provide anyone qualified to discuss the matter even in the most general terms and it was left to the would-be buyer himself to suggest that he be given the addresses of contacts in the

• The Nigerian Government will take a 51 per cent share in the Vo wagen and Peugeot assembly plants Kaduna and Lagos the Finance Commissioner, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, said television. The companies would take per cent and the rest of the shares will be taken by "Nigerians or other interested groups". Negotiations on this point were continuing with the companies, said He expressed the hope that neighbouring French-speaking countries would be interested in buying Nigeria assembled cars, particularly Peugeots.

• Output of tin concentrates in Nigeria in 1971 was about 600 tons less than in 1970, and production of tin metal was some 700 tons lower, according to figures released by the Ministry of Mines and Power.

• A post-tax profit of £108,316 was made by the Arab Bank (Nigeria) in 1971, compared with a profit of £76,300 the previous year.

Freight rates rise

The recent meeting of the West African Conference Lines in Ghana decided to increase freight rates by 15 per cent from July 1. Mr. A. J. Christopher West African representative of the UK/West African Lines Joint Service, said that the rise could not be deferred beyond the middle of this year if the lines were able to maintain the quality and frequency of their services which the shipping trade required without further detriment to their own financial position.

• Loans to developing countries by the Overseas Administration brought £14m worth of orders for British industry during February and March. Nigerian contracts included tractors, bulldozers, crawler tractors and rippers costing nearly £320,000 from Caterpillar tractors of Glasgow, motor graders and road rollers to the value of £65,786 from Aveling Barford, Grantham; beacon transmitters for £30,700 supplied by Redifon Telecommunications, and some £75,000 worth of generating sets from Pethow.

countries to whom he could write". In other instances, visitors found stands closed, "and in one case the entire staff of a national stand - suffering as their spokesman put it, from fatigue and ennui - went off for a day in Nairobi's game park, leaving their stand in the custody of a local askari, or watchman, who benignly but firmly warded off potential visitors with his truncheon." Adds Mr Osborne, "Neo-colonialists may find it significant that, with the exception of Mauritania, the prima offenders in this absenteeism were the Francophone countries". But in terms of its main objectives, he stresses, the Fair was an outstanding success.

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According to United Nations scale (P.1).

Applications with complete curriculum vitae should be addressed to

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UNITED NATIONS DAKAR

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Nigerian Steel Development Authority,
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WEST AFRICA

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PORTUGUESE GUINEA Sit of UN mission

The special mission from the UN Decolonisation Committee spent seven days touring the "liberated regions of Guinea-Bissau", claims a report which reached UN headquarters, signed by the leader of the three-man mission, Mr. Iñigo Borja of Ecuador. The report said the mission had gone into Portuguese Guinea on April 2 accompanied by a commander of the PAIGC and the official commissioner for the party in the south. The mission had travelled mostly at night and on foot and visited various reconstruction programmes of the PAIGC. They had been "extremely impressed by the heroic efforts of the people for their total liberation from colonial oppression". During their trip they had worn combat uniforms with UN emblems.

On their return to Guinea they joined the Decolonisation Committee, which was meeting in Conakry, and visited a hospital in the Boke region where, according to local authorities, victims of fighting in Guinea-Bissau were cared for. The mission, says a PAIGC communique, was also accompanied by a Senegalese secretary and a Japanese photographer. It noted that the Portuguese at that time launched a strong attack in the southern sector around the border areas, using most of their troops and all their aircraft and helicopters.

Portugal has denied that the team ever entered Guinea-Bissau. General Spínola, Governor of the Portuguese territory, said that his troops were on full alert to try to capture the UN team. He had personally ramped on the frontier through their supported visit, patrolling each day in a helicopter. He believed that there was no way in which the investigators could have crossed the border. Portugal's ambassador to the UN accused Guinea of having set aside part of its own territory near the frontier which visitors were invited to tour, in the belief that they were in "liberated" Guinea.

The meeting of the UN Decolonisation Committee in Conakry recognised the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC) as the "only genuine representative of the people of that territory" and called on the UN and all states to give it the utmost support. It called on Portugal immediately to withdraw its forces, and arranged for the early transmission of the preliminary report of the three men to the UN Secretary-General, together with statements by members of PAIGC and its leader, Amílcar Cabral.

The chairman of the decolonisation committee has explained its decision to meet in three African capitals from April 7-28, which has been much criticised for its cost - about £70,000, more than the committee's annual budget, at a time of strict economy at the UN. The committee was due to meet also in Lusaka and

Addis Ababa. The chairman, Tanzania's ambassador to the UN, Mr. S. A. Salim, said that the object was "to underline once again the solidarity of the UN with colonial peoples in their struggle to exercise the right of self-determination and independence" and to "facilitate the appearance before the special committee of representatives of national liberation movements".

CHAD Making it up with Libya

Libya and Chad have decided to re-establish diplomatic relations, broken by Chad last August when she accused Libya of backing an attempt to overthrow President Tombalbaye. The negotiations for reopening relations were conducted in Paris and N'amey. Speaking of the resumption of relations with Libya during his four day visit to Senegal for the President blamed "enemies of Africa" for misunderstandings between the two countries. He said that now a satisfactory settlement had been reached through the mediation of President Diouf of Niger, he was confident that goodwill would prevail and that Libya could live harmoniously with Chad in the interests of African unity.

President Tombalbaye announced in Dakar that he would attend the OCAE summit in Lomé, stressing that Chad would not leave the organisation "which we ourselves have built stone by stone". However, Chad's withdrawal from Air Afrique was irrevocable, although she had no intention of setting up her own airline.

THE GAMBIA New Hotel opened

The Sunwing Hotel in Cape St. Mary has been officially opened by the Minister of State, Alhaji A. B. Njie. With the completing of the first stage of construction, 160 beds were now available, he said, trebling the number available last year. When the second stage is complete an additional 160 beds would be available. Already the tourist traffic had seen a 100 per cent increase. The minister said there were many applications for land from people of various nationalities for the construction of hotels, bungalows, holiday camps and apartment blocks for the development of tourism in The Gambia. A report was expected after a feasibility study now being carried out on the subject.

At the moment, he noted, there are over 600 personnel employed in hotels to say nothing of the jobs available in the construction industry. The hotel belongs to African Hotels (The Gambia) Ltd. which was a tripartite endeavour between the Gambia Government, the Commonwealth Development Corporation, and Vingressor-Club 33. The hotel was being rented to Sunwing for an annual rent

Senegal's Education Minister Assane Seck visited Bathurst to open a "Senegambian" primary school where children

will be taught in French and English. During the visit, M. Seydina Sy, the Secretary of the Senegambian Secretariat, based in Bathurst, told the Senegalese news agency that the Gambia had accepted the principal of federation in 1964 and still accepted it, but she had wanted her own police force, local administration, civil service and legal system, and wanted to stay in the Commonwealth. He added that The Gambia was interested in negotiating an association agreement with the EEC, which could promote Senegambian trade.

SENEGAL Spies jailed

Three men accused of being Portuguese spies have been given prison sentences of between 10 and 15 years by a special court in Dakar. Sade Balde, said to have been Portugal's number one agent in Senegal, found guilty of burning villages and laying mines, was jailed for 15 years had labour. Souleymane Kebe, arrested in Senegal last November after intensive training in an unidentified Portuguese camp, was given a 10 year sentence with hard labour. Another, Sardaka Mele, was given ten years. There is no right of appeal against the sentences.

Senegalisation of jobs was inescapable but did not mean the immediate replacement of foreigners. President Senghor told the Economic and Social Council. The Senegalisation of appropriate posts would be by stages and he would guard against adopting a policy that would leave without work refugees from Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. This also applied to nationals from African states with which Senegal had reciprocal arrangements, but in the private sector he would rely on the firms' good faith. The results of a government and management representatives committee had been unsatisfactory and this had led the government to ask companies for a Senegalisation plan up to 1980.

According to the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, President Senghor himself had made a new Middle East peace initiative unconnected with the OAU Middle East Commission. The Senegalese President was reported as having sent two unexpected personal messages to Dr. Jarring, the UN mediator, asking the Swedish diplomat to join him in his efforts to mediate in the conflict. President Senghor fully backs continuance of the Jarring mission, says *Haaretz*, adding that in Israeli political circles the Senegalese leader's move was welcomed as likely to give a new boost to Dr. Jarring's efforts.

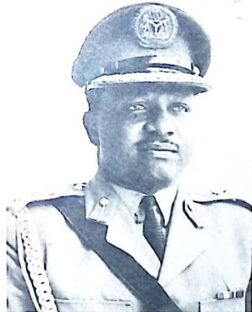
Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the Knesset (parliament) that the continued development of relations with black African states was a success given the continued influence of the Arab world and Islam in that area. On the OAU mission the minister regretted that "the illustrious African Presidents, dedicated to dialogue, ran up against Arab opposition".

NIGERIA

Western State Budget

The Western State Government is soon to take full control of all schools in the state, the Governor, Brig. Oluwole Rotimi, said during his budget broadcast. About 48 per cent of the recurrent expenditure of £31m. will be devoted to education and health, and the Governor said that measures would be taken to ensure that these services did not remain as burdensome to the economy as they had been for over a decade. The Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources will receive £3m. of the recurrent expenditure and a quarter of the capital estimates of £12m. has been allocated to primary production.

Prospects for 1972/73, the Governor said, although relatively better than in 1971/72, were not free from the factors that had militated against the fulfilment of the State's development plan aspirations during the past two years. "The slump in the world market price of cocoa has continued and the economy is still facing problems of smuggling, food shortage and general inflationary pressures".



Western State Governor Brig. Oluwole Rotimi in his budget broadcast he said that most of the statutory corporations still constituted a liability to the State, but there had been "a happy change" in the last year in the manner in which most of them had been run. Wemahod Estates had decided to give the Government a grant of £1m. and the Western Nigeria Development and Housing Corporations had indicated willingness to pay back some of the loans given by government at the time of their incorporation. "This is a step in the right direction", he noted, "and it is hoped that all other corporations which are commercial in nature will do likewise at no distant date".

Chief Theophilus Ola, news editor of the *Daily Times*, was detained for questioning by the police, apparently in connection with articles concerning the appointment of a principal for Ibadan Polytechnic.

Maj. Gen. David Ejoor, Army Chief of Staff, has announced that the Nigerian Army resettlement scheme will be opened in a few months and that it would initially admit about 3,000 soldiers. During an inspection of the 200-acre site he said that courses would last six months consisting of both general and technical education, after which trainees would take the grade III Federal Government trade certificate tests. More than £1m. had been spent on equipment, residential blocks and workshops. He estimated that the Government was spending about £12m on the maintenance of disabled soldiers and "any disabled soldier who receives the proposed training would no longer be a liability to the Government". The aim of the scheme is to make every soldier employable after retirement.

Irish Minister's visit

In a conversation with the Irish Foreign Minister, Dr. Hillery, Gen. Gowon regretted the "sinister role" played by some missionaries in prolonging the civil war but expressed satisfaction that some of those concerned had admitted their mistake. Gen. Gowon also stressed that the indigenisation decree was not meant as a punitive measure against foreign firms but was designed to create opportunities for participation between Nigerian concerns and foreign investors whose interest would be completely guaranteed. The step had been taken to test the commitment of foreign businesses to the nation's development. Dr. Hillery thanked the Federal Government for the protection given to Irish missionaries during the crisis and at an airport news conference he praised the magnanimity of Nigerian leaders for overlooking the "shortcomings of some Irish priests".

About 15,000 Nigerians will be recruited initially under the new labour pact signed with Equatorial Guinea, the country's Minister of Labour, M. Roman Boriko, said when he led a four-man delegation to Lagos to deliver a note to Gen. Gowon from President Macias. Action on recruitment had been delayed because of "the slow process of interpreting the documents". The Minister said that almost 20,000 Nigerians had returned home since 1970 at the end of their contracts.

The Nigerian Medical Council has recommended that each State should pay doctors serving in rural areas a minimum of £360 tax free. The Council has also suggested to the National Council on Health that exemptions from the proposed compulsory medical service in rural areas should be granted to doctors coming from abroad and appointed as consultants, doctors employed by voluntary agency institutions and doctors who have qualifications in radiology, anaesthesia and pathology.

The Federal Government has amended provisions of the Constitution relating to the appointment and removal of Justices of the Supreme Court. In future the Chief Justice will be appointed and dismissed by the Head of the Federal Military Government and Justices of the Supreme Court appointed or dismissed by the Supreme Military Council after consultation with the Advisory Judicial Committee. The decree applies retrospectively from January 17, 1966.

Twelve diesel locomotives bought for £1m. from Japan last year have broken down or been withdrawn from use for precautionary reasons, the Nigerian Railway Corporation's general manager, M. Theophilus Nzeogu, announced. Investigations are being made into the breakdown of two engines, and the manufacturers have been invited to Nigeria to participate.

Chief Simeon Adebisi is due to leave New York for Nigeria on May 15 after serving for five years as executive director of the UN Institute for Training and Research. He was previously Nigeria's ambassador to the UN and head of the civil service and secretary to the Western Nigeria government.

The Federal Government is looking into the overall structure of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company with a view to reorganising it. A Government statement said it intended to investigate the frequent complaints about the company's efficiency and the financial losses which its operations had inflicted on the state marketing boards.

A call for the establishment of a national company to help farmers sell their products at market prices has been made by the East Central State Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. Z.O. Dibiazu. The farmers' greatest handicap was disorganised marketing, he said. It was the traders, acting as middleman, who got all the profits.

Indian Envoy walks out

India's High Commissioner, Mr. A. N. Mehta, walked out on the North Central State Commissioner for Information, Alhaji Sani Zangon Daura, after the Commissioner had said that Nigeria was "terribly unhappy" with India's interference in Pakistan's domestic affairs. He compared the situation in Pakistan to that of Nigeria, at which point Mr. Mehta said that the Commissioner was not in a position to discuss foreign politics with him, any such discussion was the province of the Federal Government. He then walked out of the Commissioner's office.

Later, the State Governor, Col. Abba Kyari, told reporters that Alhaji Daura had spoken the mind of all patriotic Nigerians.

The Federal Government has not obstructed Commonwealth membership for Bangladesh, which was announced last week.

Dateline Africa

Ghana—Guinea rapprochement?

Ghana and Guinea have established contact with a view to normalising their relations, suspended in 1966, Foreign Affairs Commissioner, Gen. Aferi, has announced. He told a news conference that he could not say how soon normal relations would be restored but "it is our hope that... [such a move]... will not be long delayed". Asked if Ghana would insist on the repayment of some £5m. owed by Guinea, the Commissioner said that this would not be made a condition for normalising relations, although "in our present economic difficulties the repayment of this amount will naturally come as a big relief. As long as she acknowledges her debt to us, we shall be prepared to consider any proposals she may wish to make with regard to repayment terms".

A correspondent writes: It was to Guinea that the former President Nkrumah went after the military coup in February 1966. The coup took place in his absence on a mission to Hanoi and he came to Guinea via Peking and Moscow. President Sekou Toure not only provided him and his entourage with accommodation but made him joint-President of Guinea, a position which he still nominally holds. Relations were broken between Guinea and Ghana and have remained broken ever since.

For some months after taking up residence in Guinea the former President

broadcast angry denunciations of the military regime from Conakry, but it is believed that Guinea residents abroad pointed out to the Guinea Government that the exaggerated and ill-informed nature of these denunciations reflected badly on Guinea. At any rate the broadcasts ceased. While relations between the two governments were in no way improved by the restoration of civil rule in Ghana (although Ghana was fully represented at the O.A.U. conference on the invasion of Guinea), and the Busia government seemed no less apprehensive than the NLC before it about the possibility of an attempt by Dr Nkrumah, now aged 63, to return to Ghana, little has been heard of the ex-president in recent years. It is widely believed that his health is now poor. It is not known how many of his original entourage have stayed with him, but a number have returned to Ghana. It would be in keeping with the style of Ghana's new military government to reverse the policy of the Busia government in this field.

Under Dr Nkrumah a "union" was established between Ghana and Guinea, but it remained largely a paper one, although the Ghana government provided a subsidy to the newly independent Guinea, which had no foreign exchange reserves of its own. None of this subsidy has so far been repaid.



Happier days. Dr. Nkrumah, then Prime Minister, and Sekou Toure, Premier of newly-independent Guinea, signing the Ghana-Guinea Union declaration in Accra

Former Secretary-General of the All African Trade Union Federation, Mr. John Tettegah, has accepted an invitation to head a regional organisation of the Ghana Industrial and Commercial Workers Union. Mr. Tettegah, who was Secretary-General of the Ghana Trades Union Congress under President

Nkrumah, returned to Ghana in February after remaining abroad since the 1966 military coup. He has been mentioned in trade union circles as a possible contender for the post of IUC Secretary-General, left vacant by Mr Benjamin Bentum, who has accepted a post with the International Labour Organisation in Geneva.

Col. Acheampong has warned that the NRC would not hesitate to inflict the "severest pain" on anyone who thought he could subvert the country through the economy. Some businessmen, he told a news conference, had begun spreading panic, and in some cases subtle indications were being given about the intention to lay off workers because of alleged difficulties in obtaining import licences. He had ordered that no worker should be laid off in any sector of the economy. Concerning essential commodities the Colonel said that the country's needs had been calculated and were being met. There was no possibility that for the rest of the year sugar or any other commodity would be in short supply. The Council would not hesitate to close down any shop where queues persisted. "I have personally visited the shops and talked to some of the people. I have met groups of our market women to explain matters to them. In spite of this the panic queues continue".

The government has announced the appointment of new directors to a number of public boards and corporations. Among the appointments, Mr Issifu Ali becomes the new chairman of the State Hotels Corporation, Mr. J. S. Addo, deputy governor of the Bank of Ghana, becomes part-time chairman of the State Gold Mining Corporation, Alhaji Mahama Idrissu, of the Ghana Commercial Bank, becomes chairman of the State Construction Corporation, Dr. Letitia Obeng heads the Electricity Corporation and Mrs Frances Ademola the Ghana Library Board. Other appointments include well-known figures and army officers. The government also announced the appointment of directors to joint state-private enterprises.

Accompanied by three commissioners, including Gen. Aferi, Col. Acheampong has paid a one-day visit to Togo. The visit, said the NRC chairman, was the first in a series of visits to neighbouring states. He discussed co-operation with President Eyadema and emphasised the need to encourage free movement of people and goods. The Togolese leader accepted an invitation to visit Ghana. It was Col. Acheampong's first visit outside Ghana since the January coup.

The *Ghanaian Times* has urged members of the National Redemption Council "to shelve their pride and accept an increase in salary in view of their additional duties to the state". The newspaper said that in a burst of military pride the soldiers had imposed a restraint upon themselves since they took office, but however laudable the sacrifices "the inescapable truth is that no army moves successfully on an empty stomach". It added that whether in a capitalist or socialist society, a person's remuneration should be related to his responsibility and output.

The three-man committee set up to investigate the assets of the former Prime Minister and his ministerial colleagues is currently hearing evidence.

• Two people died and 15 others were injured in a prison revolt at Sekondi. Four prison officers received stab wounds. Western Region Commissioner, Col Peter Agyekum, said that 25 prisoners armed with buckets, iron rods and knives attacked wardens in protest at their continued detention after completion of their sentences. He explained that it was "normal practice" to detain "known hardened criminals" longer than their stipulated sentences to curb violent crime.

• Over 500 job-seekers at Accra Employment Centre have been taken to Asututse to harvest sugar cane to feed the factory there. Commissioner for Labour, Mr. Kwame Asante, who ordered them to be sent to the farm, said that they would be paid one cedi a day and accommodation would be provided for those who wished to stay.

• Lt. Col. Paul Nkagbe, Commissioner for Education, has criticised teachers whose dress was "ultra-modern", thus constituting a distraction to their pupils. The Education Ministry had already written to the National Association of Teachers warning that the wearing of certain types of dress would not be allowed.

• The government is to introduce incentive awards, including television sets and cash prizes, to farmers to encourage greater food production, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Maj Gen Addo, has announced. Farmers would also be granted tax relief on imports of equipment and subsidies for farming implements.

• The state-owned boatyard corporation at Tema has been granted an export bonus of 28,030 cedis for selling all its fishing boats, worth 144,440 cedis, to a Nigerian shipping company. The bonus represented 10-15 per cent of foreign exchange earned by the corporation in 1971. The boats, completed with hulls and fittings but excluding machinery and fishing gear, had been sold to Coastal Services (Nigeria) Ltd.

• The Director of Ghana's Medical Services, Dr. Frederick Sar, has been appointed Assistant Secretary-General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation at their London headquarters. He is expected in London in May and will be responsible for bio-medical sciences and African Region affairs.

• Major Kwesi Avenso has been appointed Chairman and Managing Director of the Food Production Corporation - Workers Brigade Agricultural wing.

• The United Nations High Commission for Refugees is to provide the Ghana Red Cross with \$12,000 to assist the 200 refugees from various African countries who are there. The money will be used to assist refugees and their families either to settle in Ghana, resettle in other countries of asylum or return to their homelands.

• A site at Mile 28 on the Accra-Ada road is to be developed as an international airport for any size of aircraft. It was chosen following recommendations by two International Civil Aviation Organisation experts.

• Ghanaian languages will soon be accepted as "A" level subjects in the General Certificate of Education and the West African School Certificate Examinations.

• Uganda has asked Ghana to recruit mathematics teachers, with the Uganda government paying the cost of the return fare of each teacher, his wife and up to 4 children. The teachers will be allowed to remit a certain percentage of their salaries.

• The joint Ghana-Ivory Coast border demarcation commission, which has ended a four-day meeting in Takoradi, has decided that each country should plant special trees along their common border and erect frontier signs at entry points.

• Mr. E. L. Breese, Canadian former Principal of the Accra Technical Training Centre, has returned to Ottawa following the handover of the joint Canadian-Ghanaian venture to Ghana.

SIERRA LEONE Refinery problems

In a statement on the Freetown oil refinery the Government, which holds 50 per cent of the equity, says that the refinery was one of the pre-finance schemes inherited from the Margai regime. "The refinery's operations", says a Government statement, "have always been difficult" and a Government subvention has always been necessary. The subvention has been something like Le100,000 monthly. The Government has announced that the selling price of Premium motor spirit, for example, will be increased from the ex-refinery price of 10.6 cents per gallon to 13.6 cents.

• After two years in the job Mr. Peter Tucker has resigned as Deputy Director of the U.K. Immigrants Advisory Service. It is reported that he has had differences with Mr. John Ennals, the Director, who has paid tribute to Mr. Tucker's work. Mr. Tucker is a former Head of the Sierra Leone Civil Service. He became Head under Sir Albert Margai and remained briefly under the military regime before going to Oxford to take a law degree. He was called to the Bar in 1970. Part of his work has been to conduct cases on behalf of immigrants for appeal tribunals. He is 44.

• Mr. Dennis Pearl has been appointed General Manager of the Commonwealth Development Finance Company, for the time being he will continue as Area Director (West). Mr. Pearl, who is 57,

entered the Sierra Leone administration in 1949 and finally became Financial Secretary. He joined CDFC on leaving Colonial Service. CDFC is financed by British companies to provide capital development in Commonwealth and other countries. In its report for the full year of operation it recorded commitments of almost £3m. for investment in twelve countries. Among its investments is some £400,000 in the Guma Valley Water Company in Sierra Leone.

• One of the six soldiers now facing court-martial for their alleged participation in the abortive coup of March 1971 year has been freed. He is Lt. George M'bayoh. After leaving the Parliament Building, where the court-martial was taking place, he was re-arrested and is now detained in Pademba Road prison. The case against the five other accused continues on a number of the original counts (see last week's issue).

• Fourteen employees of the Electric Corporation have been charged with sabotage, two are women. The prosecution alleges that the accused last month had demanded the reinstatement of a dismissed employee of the corporation and had intended to "impair the efficiency" of the Corporation.

• Addressing a meeting of members of the Youth League of the government A.P.C., Mr. Alfred Akibo-Betts urged the need for a one-party system in Sierra Leone.

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• Seven soldiers have been detained for questioning in Ibadan in connection with a shooting incident in which one trader was killed. Escorting vehicles loaded with Nigerian currency, a group of soldiers opened fire on motorists who overtook them, injuring the trader, who later died in hospital.

• Thieves broke into the house of the Czechoslovakian ambassador, Dr. Vrla, on Victoria Island, and stole an undisclosed amount of personal belongings. The ambassador apparently heard the gang, but was unable to telephone the police as the line had been cut.

• An Israeli-prepared preliminary study on the setting up of a Nigerian youth corps has been handed to the government. The project is aimed at providing training for those between the ages of 16 and 25 to "arrest the problem of large scale unemployment among the young".

• Mr. R. J. Mortimer, leader of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce mission to Nigeria, told a news conference in Lagos that Britain's entry into the European Common Market would not adversely affect trade relations between Nigeria and Britain.

• The retiring director general of the NBC, the Rev. Victor Badejo, has said that the Federal Government's decision to spend £4.4m on the development of the Corporation had put it on a sound footing.

• The outgoing chief executive officer and general manager of the Nigerian Electricity Corporation, Mr. Cheng-Fong Hsu, has paid a farewell call on Gen. Gowon.

• Negotiations have begun with Shell BP over the Federal Government's decision to participate in the company's operations.

News from the States

Mr. A. Nwagbo, the commandant of the new Police College, Enugu, is among 22 senior police officers from the eastern states dismissed last year who have now been reinstated. The East Central State Police Commissioner, Mr. Mike Ibekwe, described their reabsorption as "a very good example of the spirit of reconciliation".

• Kano State is to spend more than £26.5m. in the current financial year, of which £14m. will be on capital projects, and expects a revenue of £28m. The Government will spend £200,000 on its rural electrification scheme and farmers will be given a 25 per cent subsidy for the purchase of machinery and equipment.

• Addressing the inaugural meeting of the Lagos State Development and Property Corporation, the State Governor, Col. Mobolaji Johnson, said that one quick way of bringing down rents in Lagos was for the Corporation to

build more houses and make them available at reasonable rent, or selling price. He said, should aim at making a profit, but not to the extent of burdening the people.

• Maximum tuition fees in all public assisted schools in Lagos State, including five schools recently taken over, have been reduced from £30 to £20 a year. Annual boarding fees have been increased by £10 to £50. An edict has been issued empowering the State Government to take over schools about to close, or where the proprietor "appears to be incompetent or unwilling to continue the management".

• Col. D. K. Sho-Silva has been appointed chairman of the new caretaker committee for Lagos City Council. The vice-chairman is Alhaji M. O. Oseni.

• The Federal Government has awarded a contract for the supply of topographical maps (scale 1:25,000) of the Rivers State, the Director of Federal Surveys, Mr. R. O. Coker, announced during a tour of the State. The permanent secretary in the Ministry of Lands, Mr. S. D. Eke-Spili, had said earlier that the Rivers had difficulty in implementing some development projects because of the absence of maps. Mr. Coker disclosed that the School of Surveys at Oyo, in the Western State, had been improved to include a professional diploma course starting in June or July.

• Regular modification of the Constitution has been urged by the Rivers State Governor, Lt. Comm. Dieter-Spili, in order to keep it in line with "our new thinking and development". He also recommended a review of the country's legal system with a view to integrating it with native laws and customs.

• An agreement has been signed for a £170,000 loan from the Standard Bank of Nigeria to the Western State Agricultural and Investment Corporation. The money will finance small-scale farms under the Corporation's agricultural credit scheme.

• About 200 daily paid workers of the Western State Ministry of Works and Transport who were laid off last year have been reabsorbed, and others are likely to get their jobs back during the year, the Commissioner for Works Chel Babatola, announced.

• Fifty-three farmers have been detained in custody in connection with a disturbance at a village near Ibadan during which a police constable was killed.

• Mr. Justice Moses Olatunji Osemade has been appointed Chief Justice of the Western State.

• Playwright Wole Soyinka has resigned as head of Ibadan University's department of drama.

• More than 48,000 leprosy patients are receiving treatment in the North Central State.

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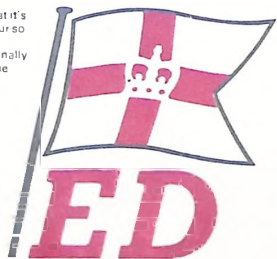


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