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NIGERIAN TIDE

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Women's Guild marks jubilee

CHURCH services, rallies, and sing songs featured at the Jubilee anniversary celebrations of the Diocesan Women's Guild of the St. Cyprian's Church, Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital at the weekend.

Picture shows Mrs. C. S. Elenwo (left) wife of the Anglican Bishop of the Niger Delta, Rt. Rev. Sam Elenwo addressing members of the Women Christian Association (WCA) at a church service. Another picture is on Page 16. Photographs by Wilson Onwughbura.

Today's top flights

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N7m CONTRABAND IMPOUNDED IN TRANSIT

by Dimkpa Alioko

MEN of the Nigeria Police intercepted a lorry-load of textile materials estimated at N700,000 alleged to have been smuggled into the country and on its way to Port Harcourt.



*ALHAJI GWARZO
Rivers Police boss

**Suspects say:
'We are not
smugglers'**

According to police sources, the lorry with registration number CR 6482 T was heading to Port Harcourt on the Aha Port Harcourt express road when police on routine check signalled the driver to stop.

It was alleged that the driver refused and swiftly drove past the check-

point. The lorry was then chased until it was forced to stop at a bridge head and its occupants arrested and the goods impounded.

When our man arrived at Ogbio Police Station, the lorry-load of 530 bundles of textile with

the mark "Made in Taiwan" boldly printed, was found at the station.

When interviewed, two men and a driver detained along with the goods said that the goods were bought at Aba and

on transit to Owerri via Port Harcourt. They denied any knowledge of either smuggling or abetting smugglers.

They however, refused to disclose the name or address of the dealer whom they claim the goods were bought from.



*The DPO, Mr Okor (right) briefs Tideman with the lorry-load of impounded textile at the background.

Picture by Wilson Onwughbura.

PAUSE AND PONDER

If you kill or rob anyone, the whole universe will help to kill or rob you ten times.

Party for out-going commissioner

A send-off party was arranged in honour of the Oyo State Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Information, Mr T.A. Joloso by the members of staff of the Ministry.

Photograph shows Commissioner Joloso receiving a gift from Mrs Adediji (right) while Mr O.O. Dada, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Information (left) watches.



'Pay honest contractors promptly'

An appeal has been made to the Rivers State Government to pay contractors who showed sincerity and dedication to their jobs, and to blacklist those who collected mobilization fees and abandoned their projects.

The appeal was made

by the chairman of Tai/Ndoki district Housing and Environmental Committee while inspecting housing projects at Ndoki and Asa.

He maintained that only contractors who showed high sense of commitment to government projects should be paid so that the others would follow and change their nonchalant attitude to their jobs.

Suspected robbers nabbed after fierce operation

1000 armed soldiers were sent to the weekend raiding by the police in Akwa.

They were ordered after a military operation at the Akwa State where they succeeded in nabbing suspected robbers and their accomplices. The operation was carried out by the Akwa State Police Force and the Nigerian Army.

Other soldiers recovered from the raid included two dead, a man, woman and single female, and a child.

Confirming the story to the Nigerian Tide in Akwa, the District Police Officer for Akwa, Mr A. E. Okeke, said all members of the public to be aware of the police by giving useful information to the police.

3 robbers to know their fate on Dec 4

A Port Harcourt high court judge, Justice Wai Ognok, has reserved ruling till December 4, 1981 in a case of robbery preferred against Godwin Ugwuere, Enaka Nnadi and Felix Enah.

According to the deputy director of public prosecution Mr A.A. Jimoh, the three accused persons on February 19 this year at Igbovuta Aki along Port Harcourt-Owerri road.

By Sab Alanwoke

with offensive weapon robbed Emmanuel Nwankwo of N40 and a Peugeot 504 registration No. RV A652 PB valued N5,144 property of Ignatius Ognok.

When trial began last Tuesday, the assistant superintendent of police, Yakubu Isah in his evidence told the court that the two accused persons Godwin Ugwuere and Enaka Nnadi were brought before him one after the other with their statements. He said the statements were read over to them which they agreed were made freely and voluntarily, adding that none of them ever complained of being forced to sign the statements.

He also told the court he signed and dated the endorsed portion of the statements, before the accused persons who countersigned them.

Counsel for first accused T.K. Odu urged the court to discontinue the endorsement which cannot be expunged

ed with other things contained in the purported certificate, adding that if they were certificates they ought not to have formed part of the statements.

State counsel A.N. Jimoh in reply informed the court that every objection in law should be supported by statutory provision contrary to this, it cannot be upheld.

State counsel cited section 5 of the evidence law in support of his argument.

The presiding judge upheld that the certificates in red ink

NUT scribe frowns at remark

The Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT) Anambra State wing has warned that people in high places should not make remarks which amounts to condemnation of the teaching profession. The union pointed out that such remarks was bound to beomsting.

In a press statement issued in Enugu, the state publicity secretary of the NUT, Mr J.C. Onigbo frowned at some highly placed people who blamed the decadence of school children on teachers. Such blame on teachers, he said, was nothing short of blackmail and intimidation.

The union according to Mr Onigbo was concerned about the general welfare of the teachers and the society.

which are contained in the statements were admissible in evidence.

FARMER FINED FOR

A 21 year old farmer from Ogbokuma village in the Abia District of Abia State Local Government has been fined N120 or to go to prison for 10 months having been found guilty of unlawful cur

RAPE

Inspector Eniguelo, outlining the case for the prosecution, told the court that the accused person Humphrey Ranso on September 8, 1980 at Ogbokuma village did have carnal knowledge of one Mariam Jonah (12) without her consent.

The girl, the prosecution further stated, was paying by whom the accused called her in pretence to send her to an errand but instead gripped her and threw her on his bed and had carnal knowledge with her.

He pleaded guilty to the charge.

In the same court, Tom Wilson who had been standing trial on one count charge of assault was found guilty and fined N200 or in the alternative to go to prison for 6 months.

He was said to have on November 6, 1980 injured Andrew Olan in the mouth with his fist and knocked out three teeth.

He pleaded not guilty to the charge but the court found him guilty and sentenced him accordingly.

Gov Aku impressed by our judiciary

The Governor of Benue State, Mr Aker Aku has said that the country was proud of its achievements, more especially with the role of judiciary in interpreting the constitution.

Governor Aku made the observation while receiving the President of the Federal Court of Appeal, Mr Justice Mam-Nasar and four others who paid a courtesy call on him in his office.

The Governor observed further that Benue has been made in the wake following the first sitting of the Appeal Court which he said was fortunate being held in Kaduna or Enugu only.

Governor Aku also commended the state judiciary for its role and in the service of the state based on impartial administration of law.

He then expressed the hope that state judiciary of Benue State would be progressively in the esteemed membership of the Federal Court of Appeal when the expansion programme for the court is completed.

Replying, the chairman of the Appeal Court, Mr Justice Nasar thanked the governor and the people of the state for elaborate arrangements for the court's sitting there.

He called on indigenes of the state not to turn down the offer of appointment to the Federal

level, in order to narrow the present wide gap created in the state's representation, especially in law.

In the photograph, Justice Mam-Nasar second from right with Governor Aker Aku second from left at the Governor's House Makurdi. At the extreme left is Benue Chief Justice Justice Akpan, with the state's Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Chief Adjo Ojiri in seen at the extreme right.



MR F. E. OKEKE District Police Officer

EDITORIAL

CAR LOAN PALAVER

THE STATEMENT CREDITED to the Rivers State Commissioner for Finance, Chief Charles Amiebi, over the granting of car loans to civil servants in the state is, to say the least disturbing.

CHIEF CHARLES AMIEBI was reported to have told newsmen at the Port Harcourt International Airport last week that the state government was not enthusiastic over the granting of direct car loans to its workers.

ACCORDING TO THE report, Finance Commissioner Amiebi was of the opinion that the amount to be floated as revolving loan for vehicle advances could be better invested in development projects.

HE WAS ALSO reported to have directed civil servants in the state to commercial banks for loans to purchase their vehicles since banks are the only

institutions which trade in money.

FIRST WE HAVE to point out that this arrangement will surely place the civil servants in a very difficult position since it was the problem of obtaining such loans from the commercial banks that led to the Industrial Arbitration Panel's (IAP) ruling on the issue.

SECONDLY, WE THINK, it is a rather limited view of "development" to consider that the provision of adequate transportation facilities for those engaged in direct governmental business does not qualify as a development project.

THE SITUATION becomes more disturbing when it is recalled that since the IAP ruling and subsequent court decision on car loan issue many state governments in the federation have already resumed the granting of direct

car loans to their workers.

IT WILL BE sad if civil servants in this state are made not to enjoy the same facilities as their counterparts in other parts of the federation.

THESE STATE GOVERNMENTS, like their Rivers State counterparts are also engaged in other development projects. We urge the Rivers State Government to reconsider its decision on the car loan issue as expressed by the Finance Commissioner in the interest of productivity and harmonious relationship.

WHILE WE APPRECIATE the present trying financial situation in the country, we think allowances could still be made for workers in the public sector to own cars used essentially for performing their official duties.

SENDING THE CIVIL SERVANTS back to the tender mercies of commercial banks will definitely lead to series of frustrations which will adversely affect productivity in the public sector.

IN REAL TERMS, the government stands to gain from the provision of car loans to its workers because then, the authorities would have a strong hold on the beneficiaries.

Embrace all courses

THE ultimate problem the Rivers State Government tried to solve right from the outset of state creation is academics. The state government realised then that manpower shortage in the state would put the state in peril.

To some extent at present, in some fields, a great deal has been done undoubtedly.

But a closer look at the curricula content and the education system in general in the institutions of higher learning reveals a lot of haphazardness in the academic future if nothing is done to remedy the situation immediately.

It is very tempting for many to feel that since the institutions were established after the creation of the Rivers State, which was one of the youngest of the nineteen states of the federation, I think it is high time it out grew its youthfulness.

I feel something should be done to remedy the problems to be outlined.

The first problem I need to lay my hands on is the number of existing faculties (courses) of study now in the University of Port Harcourt and University of Science and Technology all of which are in Port Harcourt town, though College

of Education (CEDE) has some campuses at Abua and Port Harcourt. To take off this academic session, it is not about that these new campuses will help to increase the intake per session as compared with the existing main campus.

Though each year much is done to increase the number of courses in the mentioned institutions, one could still find that a number of vital facilities existing in other states' institutions are not found in our institutions.

Interest counts a lot in academic pursuit. Some of the most outstanding subjects include Marketing, Law, Business Administration, Agric. Education, Fine Art, Maths, Chemistry

etc. are not in both COE and University. No Physical and Health Education courses in Uniport and a host of others which very many youths are interested in and will have got their

NCE in other state institutions but get stranded in finding where to be admitted for their degree courses. This in return has an adverse effect on the state's manpower needs.

A sound education policy needs to be all round. Should we all contribute to manpower shortage? If so, how did the others managed to get their manpower for their schools? Some of these facilities in other institutions are not found in ours. Our state too poor to bring in more expatriates for these fields as others have done or are these courses not necessary in the Rivers State?

I have discovered from my observation that at present, the Rivers State Government is more interested in producing doctors, Scientists, Mathematicians, theologians and perhaps astronomers etc. forgetting that these people will in future need food.

And if these areas are not put to proper consideration we will in the near future start struggling to meet all these areas up by punishing people from back and front in the name of any programme which may be may not be helpful again. Another area of doubt is that some double majors in similar institutions combine with other e.g. Fine Arts. There are also other similar examples which I have left out. I must be frank that this also is



discouraging to those who might have offered their services to the state.

Therefore to avoid such pustrings from behind, I strongly propose that something should be done to arrest this problem at once to accommodate our students that would have studied these courses from other institutions.

And the only sure way to clear our academic future is the introduction of as many courses of study in our existing institutions of higher learning as possible in each of the various campuses rather than a number of them sided alone and there all with the same study areas thereby causing nothing but only duplication of courses. Our target is not the production of only middle class manpower but first class citizens.

In addition to the all round education, it will go a long way to solve the problem of drop outs in our institutions because some who are

Rice distribution

The government's way of raising the standard of living of its people by distributing rice to supplement their living.

This shows the deep concern and the commitment the government has for its people.

May be, the government does this to impress it in the minds of the people that it is aware of the suffering of the masses and also wants everybody to realise their rights of citizens.

It is an irony of circumstance to note that when the government plans good for the people, undedicated and treacherous hands tend to thwart the aim and objective of the government.

Rice were allocated to all villages and government departments. This was to make sure everybody in the state has enough own share.

not good in one area are best in others. People have different talents in nature and need to be helped to harness their talents.

G.B. SAGBEGHE
Korokorosi

But to the amazement of many, especially in the rural areas, traders were allowed to buy rice meant for workers in a "business" way.

I find this medium also to be relevant to the chairman of Industrial and Business Promotion Committee of Elele District in the Rivers State who has set up measures against any person found wanting in the distribution of the rice in his district.

This is an action worth emulating. The challenge is therefore thrown to other chairmen and people at the helm of affairs in the state.

JAMES OSELE
Amikoro City



COMMITTEE MEN FLAY GOV RIMI

The Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Abba Musa Rimi has been accused of mixing politics with education in the state.

Chairmen and supervisory councilors in all the fourteen local governments of the state who made the accusation also alleged that the state Governor has through his political motivation, interfered with the procedures of posting staff of the Ministry of Education to suit his inhouse faction of the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP).

They were disclosed at a press conference in Kaduna by the chairman of a Joint Committee Meeting of all the local government councilors and chairmen in the state. Alhaji Abdullahi Ma'carfi who is also the chairman of the Local Government area of the state.

Alhaji Abdullahi Ma'carfi pointed out that the eight experienced and prominent members of the Ministry of Education recommended on their merit to serve as zonal directors of education in the state were rejected by the governor and instead he appointed people who graduated only last year and currently on grade level 08 or 09 because of their PRP inhouse sympathy and placed on grade level 15 with five years' experience and other allowances.

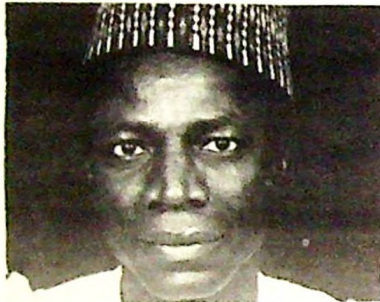
They condemned him for allowing politics to go into primary and secondary education system in the state pointing out that in order to avoid such situational service rule be strictly followed and those recommended by the ministry posted forthwith as zonal directors.

He therefore called on the House of Assembly to discharge its constitutional responsibility to ensure that public money was not used for political purposes at the detriment of true educational

system in the state.

On an earlier allegation by the Governor that some chairmen and councilors in the state illegally upgraded and paid themselves salaries and allowances, the chairman denied that any local government council in the state ever upgraded her members and paid arrears without proper authority from the state government.

He claimed that the approval for review of allowances and arrears of council members was communicated to chairmen and secretaries of the fourteen local government areas in two different letters, of May 20, 1981 and May 25, 1981 respectively.



*ALHAJI A.M. RIMI

Banks urged to transform agric programmes

Commercial banks throughout the country have been called upon to assist in transforming in to reality the various agricultural programmes being propagated throughout the country.

Prince Toa Sotnwaa Ogan, state finance Commissioner made the call in Abeokuta, while delivering a lecture titled "Commercial banks and rural integration" as part of the activities marking the 20th Anniversary of the United Bank for Africa. The commissioner declared that schemes like the

"Operation Feed the Nation" and the "Green Revolution" were all high sounding names that could only be transformed into reality through the assistance of commercial banks.

Prince Sotnwaa stressed that it was not only enough for people to be willing to work on the farm but also that they got adequate financial assistance for their projects.

He called on the banks to assist the local farmer in whatever small way either under a co-operative farming

system or in the case of those who would manage some large farming on their own.

The Commissioner stated that it was important to bring banks nearer the people, as that according to him, was the only way to get them educated about the benefits they could get from the services of banks.

He congratulated the United Bank for Africa for the grand stride it had

THE Ivory Trumpet Publishing Company Limited, publishers of the "Trumpet" newspaper has been sued for N2 million libel.

Also joined in the suit are Emmanuel Ezenwelu, Editor and Automobile Printing Press Limited.

The action was filed in the High Court of Imo State, Owerri on behalf of the plaintiff, Chief Sam O. Mwakwe by Mr. D.C. Akolori who is aided by Barrister Abiola Oshodi. The plaintiffs claim against the defendants jointly and severally is N2 million being general damages for an alleged libel contained in an article on

'Trumpet' in N2m suit

the front page of the weekly Trumpet newspaper of Sunday, August 30, 1981 titled "FG Grant Hijacked". "N50,000 grabbed to finance overseas tour" published with the photograph of the plaintiff. November 21, 1981 has been fixed for pleadings.

Student leader accuses elders

A former student leader Mr. Segun Okeowo has blamed moral laxity prevalent in the country on the excesses of the adults.

Mr. Okeowo was contributing to a symposium titled "Moral decadence among our youths", organised by the

Youth Fellowship of the Ogbé Methodist Church, Abeokuta recently.

He stated that adult delinquency, or broad juvenile delinquency, adding that the latter could only be curbed if the adults would leave a good legacy for the coming generation.

The youths, Mr. Okeowo concluded, were guilty of emulating the behaviour patterns of the adults especially parents' children relationship.

He called on churches to use their unique position in the society to influence the public and social life of the society and stressed the need for the elimination of ignorance and poverty.

The symposium was part of the activities arranged to mark the 21st anniversary of the Youth Fellowship Society of Ogbé Methodist Church, Abeokuta.

ISONG PREDICTS CHANGE

The Cross River State Governor, Chief Clement Isong has said that by 1983 there would be a political realignment in the country.

Governor Isong, however, added that no matter the pattern such realignment might

take, the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) would remain

"victorious" and "dominant" in Cross River State.

In an exclusive interview, Dr

Isong said the NPN was growing from strength to strength in the state and attributed this

partly to the non-victive way he was running the state government.

The governor cited Ibesikpo and Uyo local government areas, formerly strongholds of

the Great Nigeria People's Party (GNPP) and of Oron where the Unity Party of Nigeria

(UPN) served its support. He explained that with the decamping of other party members to the NPN, the back-bone of all other parties in the state had been broken.

Alarm over armed robbery

Bukpoku Community in the Port Harcourt Local Government area of the Rivers State has expressed to the state government its concern over what they described as "the continued harassment of lives and properties by men of the underworld."

They noted that the robbers use the International airport road to their ends.

Rumours, Bukpoku, and Ikwere at along the air port road, have taken under their attacks.

They maintained that if the present situation is not brought under control, lives and properties of those living in the area as well as those travelling to the airport would continue to be in danger.



CHIEF OGUNYANSIA

Imo State NPN warns NPP chairman

The National Party of Nigeria (NPN) Imo State wing has demanded that the National Chairman of the Nigerian Peoples Party (NPP), Chief Adesilehin Ogunyansia, be now called to order.

Reacting to what the NPN in the state described as "disappointing interest, the utterances and activities" of the NPP boss, the NPN said such alleged activities had begun to create problems for the Igbo, and that it was time Chief

Ogunyansia was told that his intentions toward the wellbeing of the Igbo within the Nigerian body politic were becoming increasingly doubtful.

In a three-page statement issued in Owerri and signed by the state assistant publicity secretary, Mr. Osta Nwaneri, the NPN reminded Chief Ogunyansia that his party, the NPP, enjoyed its greatest support and following from within Igbo land and amongst the Igbo, and that, if this was accepted, it therefore followed that any political statement made by the chief on any national or controversial issue would be regarded in official circles as the stand of the Igbo.

In an 11-point questionnaire for the NPP leader, the statement asked: "who is the chief representing? Has the chief become the spokesman of the Igbo, and if so when did the Igbo give him such mandate?"

It also demanded to know whether the Igbo had endorsed Chief Ogunyansia's utterances

and stand on such national controversial issues as the Shugaba affair, the Revenue Allocation Bill, the Balarabe Musa impeachment issue and the breaking of the accord between the NPN and the NPP.

Sir taking the NPP boss to task, the NPN further wished to know if the chief was "not a paid agent of his big brother, Chief Obafemi Awolowo" with whom, the statement alleged, "he has a two-year-old secret pact to create a confrontational image for the Igbo with the Federal Government in order to relegate the Igbo, once again, to the back ground."

It reminded the Igbo of the need for vigilance at this time was now about to repeat itself through the same agents and actors.

It finally warned Chief Ogunyansia and his Igbo agents to be prepared to take full responsibility and blame "if anything happens to the welfare of the Igbo during this Second Republic."

Fatoki, wife installed

The Oyo State Commissioner for Health, Chief Michael Adeyeye Fatoki, and his wife Chief (Mrs) Titilayo Fatoki have been installed the Asiwaju of Inisa and Odofin Iyede of Inisa respectively.

At the ceremony, the Olunsa of Inisa, Odo Ovedele Fasahun II, said that Chief Fatoki and his wife were honoured with the titles in appreciation of their remarkable contributions to the progress of Inisa.

Present at the ceremony were Governor Bola Ige and his Deputy, Chief Sunday Michael Afolabi, and the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Chief Mokolaide Gbolagbura. Others include traditional rulers, commissioners and the Adviser to the Governor on Political Affairs, Mr. Abiodun Falade.

Amanyano calls for closer ties

The Amanyano of Bonny, Chief Secundus Opuada Pepple, Perikule II, has called for closer contact between traditional rulers and local government councils in the execution of government policies.

Chief Pepple made the call on Friday when the Commissioner for Local Government, Chief (Lt Col) L. D. Ayah called on him in his palace at Bonny, in continuation of his working tour of the state.

The Amanyano stated that without such co-operation existing between the two institutions, the traditional rulers may be misunderstood to be confrontational in the affairs of government.

Replying, the commissioner announced that as part of his ministry's service to the people, a Fire Station is to be established in each of the 10 Local Government areas of the state.

He stated that land has been acquired at Bonny for the project, while the contract would soon be awarded.

Chief Ayah disclosed that as traditional rulers, they were expected to correct any anomalies in the affairs of the state government in order to make life better for the people.

Photograph top right shows the commissioner (standing) addressing the Amanyano (facing camera) while others look on.



HIGH MARKS FOR GSS, NKORO

Scores 100% in WASC Exams

by Monday Frank

The first batch of class five students from Government Secondary Commercial School, Nkoro town in the Bonny Local Government area of the Rivers State have scored 100 per cent in the last May/June 1981 West African Examinations Council (WAEC) examinations held throughout the country.

The results released by the examinations council showed that out of the 93 students presented by the school, one made distinction with aggregate eight, five came out in grade one; 29 made grade two while 39 scored grade three.

Nineteen others came out with General Certificate of Education (GCE) by passing either four or five out of the expected six subjects.

Expressing joy at the performances of his students, the principal of

the college, Mr. E. D. Kufio commended the relentless efforts of his staff in giving the students the required academic excellence and showing a high sense of collective responsibility.

Mr. Kufio however appealed to the Ministry of Education and the School's Directorate not to neglect the institution in their distribution of equipment and staff and assured that the school would continue to shine in future examinations.

Community offers land for housing units

The Ebdebiri Community in Ebdebiri District of the Sagbama local government area, has donated 50 hectares of land for the construction of 100 low cost housing units in the area.

This was disclosed by the chairman of the district Housing and Environmental Committee, Chief E. T. Amgbare while inspecting the project site.



MR FRANCIS ENDELEY
Rivers Commissioner for Works

Chief Amgbare described the site as most suitable and commended the community for their generous donation.

Earlier, a spokesman for the community, (unnamed), the present administration for choosing Sagbama as the district headquarters.

In another development, the secretary of the Ebdebiri District in the Sagbama Local Government area, Mr. A. Douglas has called on civil servants to work hard to justify their appointments.

Speaking to council workers in his office, Mr. Douglas indicated that some civil servants were already politicians in the area while in the service.

YOUR STARS TODAY

AQUARIUS

Those who travel for a living will find that they are subject to delay and disappointment through no fault of their own. Try to get to your destinations under your own steam and don't rely on public transport.

PISCES

You may find that you have many things to take over with workmates and superiors, the time for this, is afternoon. Therefore clear up a backlog of work first.

ARIES

It is quite likely that a trip is in the offing but unless you find it imperative to go, you should decline the offer. Nothing good can come out from your travelling at this time.

TAURUS

Parents will be demanding if you still live at home; they will be expecting you to conform with their regulations. This could be the right time to make the break and move out.

GEMINI

Bad news in the mail and also, if you come into contact with them, trouble from foreigners. You should also run into a headlong battle with older work colleagues over a new way of working.

CANCER

A day when you feel you are having an uphill fight to little or no avail. Work colleagues are unhelpful and unco-operative and seem to be doing more than your fair share of the work.

LEO

Partnership difficulties are again on the cards, this time they also involve business relationships and contacts. If your business depends upon contacts close to home, you are in for a difficult time.

VIRGO

Try to take a detached view of everything that happens today, you will be able to keep things more in perspective this way. Keep opinions to yourself.

LIBRA

A good day for financial speculation. But keep your investment within the bounds of your income. Only use money that you can afford to lose. Romance is well started and there should be no areas for friction.

SCORPIO

No point in your trying to get it alone today. Laid it out, you will find it hard to get off the ground for a day. There may be work colleagues or domestic partners.

SAGITTARIUS

A day when you should expect the unexpected, especially in connection with career plans. Take all opportunities that come your way.

CAPRICORN

This is a good day for all those who travel for a living, especially commercial travellers and representatives. Much good use can be made of new contacts.

REASONS FOR HIGH COST OF LIVING IDENTIFIED

The increasing road accidents along the Mbiam/Veragoo road and the high cost of living in the area have been attributed to the deplorable condition of the road.

Commenting on these incidents

by Churchill Williams

the Ebene Ken South of Yenagoa, Chief N. W. Obele stated that the economic activities in the Yenagoa Local Government area of the Rivers State are in a standstill, due to the impossible nature of the road linking the economic heart of the country.

He said apart from the high transport fare, travellers trek several kilometres before boarding vehicles.

Chief Obele who is also the

patron of the Yenagoa youth movement doubted why the Federal Government had allowed this deplorable condition of the Yenagoa road to be an annual event.

He said his organisation was aware that maintenance of the road for two years was awarded to the Niger Cal Construction Company after which, he said, the federal government promised re-designing the road to suit federal government standard.

"Whether the two years maintenance contract has expired I do not know" adding that the Federal Government should expedite action on the construction of the Mbiam/Veragoo road to ease the difficulties encountered by the people of the Delta area.

Until this is done, he said, the economic life of the area cannot be resuscitated.

Congratulation

The chief, elders and people of **KABAGHA COMMUNITY IN NYO-KHANA DISTRICT** of the Bori Local Government area, Rivers State wish to congratulate



His Excellency CHIEF MELFORD OKILO,

Governor of Rivers State and his able members of the Executive council for the successful introduction and implementation of the very laudable policy of decentralisation.

We thank the Government of the Rivers State for allocating to and establishing a Cottage Hospital at Kabagha. We are forever grateful.

**LONG LIVE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
LONG LIVE THE RIVERS STATE
LONG LIVE THE NATIONAL PARTY OF NIGERIA**



CHIEF J. B. OBUH

Paramount Chief of Kabagha
For and on behalf of the Community

Keep foods frozen and drinks cool—the reliable Sanyo way.

180-Liter Bottle Cooler

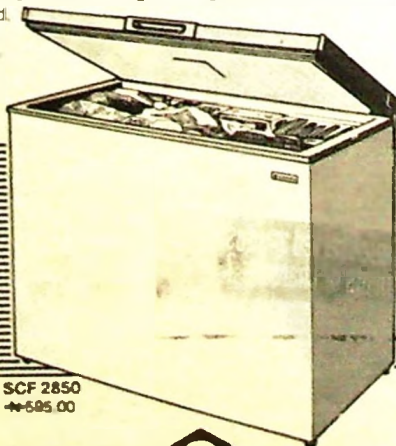
Restaurants and stores can also take advantage of Sanyo's renowned compressor technology to keep a large number of bottled or canned drinks cool with a minimum of electricity. The space-saving design of the BC-1800 also proves convenient. So you can easily keep drinks cool—the reliable Sanyo way.



BC 1800
N4650.00

277-Liter Chest Freezer

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Photograph left shows Chief Bola Ige delivering his address (standing) while Deacon A. A. Ladimepe, chairman, Board of Governors of the Seminary (third left), Mr. Mopokoluwa Akintola, Commissioner for Education (right), and Dr. Olatokunbo Imasogie, principal of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso (second right) listen.

Oyo Govt to work closely with voluntary bodies —IGE

The Governor of Oyo State, Chief Bola Ige has indicated the intention of his administration to work in close collaboration with voluntary agencies in the execution of his government's programmes.

Governor Ige gave this assurance in Ogbomoso over the weekend while speaking at the inaugural ceremonies of the Emmanuel Ajayi Dahunsi Memorial New Testament Lectures.

The first endowed lecture series was organised under the auspices of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in memory of the Reverend Doctor Emmanuel Ajayi Dahunsi, the late General Secretary of the Nigeria Baptist Convention and a former professor at the seminary.

Chief Ige remarked that his government had enjoyed excellent co-

operation from the Baptist Church in the area of health care delivery in the state.

He also paid glowing tribute to the memory of late Dr Dahunsi whose life, governor Ige said, was based on the specific mandate to be an ambassador of life.

Chief Ige then called on those who have been called upon to lead the country to let honesty of purpose, service and fellowship guide their life.

Governor Ige pointed out that such leaders have been assigned a great mission which they could successfully accomplish only if they blend honesty, service and fellowship into their approach.

Governor Ige called on the churches in Nigeria to intensify their efforts at rallying the people for a purposeful life of ser-

vice to the community. He regretted that the churches appeared to be steadily loosening their grip on the faith of the people by default and called on them to re-examine their position and adjust to the tremendous changes taking place around them.

N300 CASH DONATION FOR CHARITY HOMES

A total sum of N300 has been donated to three charitable homes in Port Harcourt by the Port Harcourt branch of the National Social Club of Nigeria.

The beneficiaries who were given N100 each are the Obioma Home, the Old Peoples Home and the Children's Home.

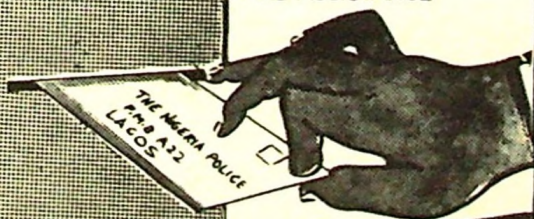
A statement from the secretariat of the organisation in Port Harcourt and signed by its secretary Mr Celestine Anyanwu explained that the objectives of the club was to cater for the less fortunate ones in the society.

He appealed to other clubs in the country to emulate the good example of his club.

Picture below shows an executive member of the club, Mr B.N. Ibe presenting a cash gift of N100 to Mrs C.C. Obhio of the Children's Home, Borikiri, Port Harcourt.

HELP THE POLICE TO PROTECT YOU

CRIME CAN BE PREVENTED AND CONTROLLED WITH YOUR CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE



- * Have you observed any suspicious movements or character?
- * Have you witnessed any crime committed?
- * Or have you any suggestions for crime prevention?

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The Nigeria Police
PMB. A22, Lagos.

OR:

The Nigeria Police PMB. A22
In any of the State Capitals.

STUDENT NURSES TOLD TO BE TOLERANT

Student nurses and midwives in the state have been advised to show a high sense of discipline and tolerance in the discharge of their duties.

This advice was given at the weekend by the Matron of the Port Harcourt General Hospital, Mrs A.O. Reuben at the School of Nursing, Port Harcourt.

Mrs Reuben who was delivering a lecture to the students, during the 2nd Anniversary of the National Students Nurses and Midwives Association of Nigeria, observed that love and affection could relieve patients of

their emotional disturbances.

She said that lack of interest and communication by nurses has developed certain misconceptions by the public.

Earlier, the Principal Nursing Officer in charge of Education, Mrs Mercy I. Amachree had advised nurses to respect the culture and religion of patients during their official duties.

She urged the students to give patients proper orientation and remain good ambassadors of their various institutions.



FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT

WE ARE STATESMEN

Honourable Gentlemen,
Today is a significant day for positive thinking.

The Legislature is entering its third year of existence, a year of re-adjustment and consolidation, a year to accentuate the positive.

We have spent half our tenure of office. The questions therefore to ask are:

(a) What have we done?
(b) What have we next to do?

Before the above questions are answered we need to have a reflection of our election on 27th July 1979 in order to draw the lessons for the future.

The military had ruled Nigeria from 16th January 1966 to 30th September 1979. During this length of time, a different patternism and popularity of individuals emerged.

Practically, a very high percentage of present day legislators were not projected to the general electorate as known quantities.

The refractory rays of popular acclamations were beamed through military friends on others. To complicate matters further five registered parties emerged after the lifting of ban on party politics.

These five parties propounded different ideologies and manifestos, but the strength of popular support had not yet been determined.

Many candidates stood the election against general expectations and when the results were announced, it became clear that we had won, thus revolutionizing local mass thinking, and we are now the first Legislators of the Rivers State Legislature.

The Rivers State House of Assembly is the embodiment of the legislative authority of this state.

We are not expected to be politicians in the House; rather we are expected to play the role of statesmen, always prepared to lead by the good laws we enact and by precepts we set, thinking at all times of the over all interest of the Rivers State instead of exhibiting high-faluting party dogmatism that is not of general interest to all.

We are all honourable gentlemen in the House of Assembly.

Honourable in the same majority that we have sworn to uphold justice, and the moral conscience of this state. Remembering that we represent a good many people to present ourselves and be accepted by the electorate, we made history thereby and radically changed the mental, moral and material attitudes of the masses.

It means, we have undertaken to put the Rivers State on a different level as never on.

before and to co-operatively steer the "ship of state" to a successful anchorage.

This position therefore makes the Executive and the Legislature complementary partners in the government of the Rivers State.

We are a crusade sworn to do justice to the Rivers State and make her an enviable state but worthy of emulation by the whole country.

I think we are trying to live up to that expectation, and may God help us.

RELATIONSHIP AMONG OURSELVES

There should be a genuine motivation for any action we take, and that factor must always be what is best for the Rivers State. Of course, that moral test here may be argued to be subjective.

What may be your best may not necessarily be the best for other persons.

As each of us has varying levels of capability, so it will be seen that our collective capability, as that of the House will be diluted by lesser capability of another. The highest may be diluted by the lowest, which will give us an average.

But if becomes unacceptable when the dilution is below the average.

But why should our capability be the average?

Mutual capability has no place of leadership and therefore the moral test should not be subjective to admit of variables and fancies.

What therefore the moral test should be, would be the objective test which accepts a standard — that of the ordinary intelligent person.

Surely, in this premise, the sky is the best we should aim to achieve and not the tallest building in the world.

Motivation is a test of conscience. You should not see your conscience as clear when its manifestation is judged by intelligent minds to be selfish — a betrayal of the House of Assembly.

While the general public judges us, we being members, judge one another too.

When you betray our confidence, we know. When you, because of personal or selfish ends, sell the trust of the Legislature by being an agent of external forces to bring disrepute to a member, we know.

When you profess to be a champion of a cause and you challenge the indefensible, you expose yourself to the intelligent mind to be out of the fold.

To be cultivated is easy to be detected by intelligent minds. The House of Assembly is one undivided body — the social conscience of the whole Rivers State.

Please see Sections 14(4), 112, 122, 130(4), etc. where the 1979 Federal Constitution enjoins the State Legislature to ensure that the Executive or its agents conform with the provisions therein.

When the House acts, it should be motivated by what is best for the Rivers State and should not be bothered about persons or personalities involved.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS?

It should be noted that the Rivers State House of Assembly started life the hard way without adequate and conscious preparation made for its functioning.

Possibly because of the three-

teen years of military rule the Executive then thought little of the coming into being of the Legislature.

The coming into preparation of the Federal Constitution (1979) bore no weight on the stereotyped thinking of the Executive.

Even the nucleus of staff was on secondment from the Executive civil service, who have been to "toasted" in the sluggish, bureaucratic and unproductive manner of working.

We had to greet a constraint to begin or to wait for the achievement of success could be described as ingenious.

This state of affair has not improved and we are still plodding along.

In our first year, the Rivers State House of Assembly passed into law the following bills:

Received 23 bills
Passed 11 bills into law
Withdrawn 7 bills
Rejected 2 bills
Bills pending 3
Passed 35 resolutions/ motions.

In our second year, the Rivers State House of Assembly passed into law the under-mentioned bills:

Received 16 bills
Passed 5 bills into law
Withdrawn 3 bills
Rejected 1 bill
Bills pending 8
Passed 9 resolutions/ motions.

FUNCTIONAL LEGISLATURE

The performance of the House of Assembly has been assessed by others to be second to none in the country.

To this general appraisal I should add with some relish that the decorum of the House is exemplary as the attendance of Honourable Members in the past years was very good.

Our excellent high standard of debate has placed us very creditably in the estimation of our fellow colleagues and the country as a whole.

It is hoped we shall endeavour to maintain these very worthy standards.

The House of Assembly on the above assessment can confidently be said to be alive to its duties.

Honourable Members have taken decisions having far-reaching consequences and of great import.

We have enacted a law creating the House of Assembly and the Judiciary self-accounting.

This law with other laws as far enacted, demands absolute obedience by everybody in the Rivers State.

But it is a matter for regret that the Commissioner for Finance has not set up the machinery to make the Legislature and the Judiciary

Being the full text of an address on the third year of the legislature in the Rivers State by the Honourable Speaker, Mr. R. R. Briggs on 2nd October, 1981.

self-accounting.

The said commissioner was written to implement the provisions of that law and was given up to the 30th day of September 1981 to set up the necessary machinery.

But he has been most reluctant to obey a law enacted by the Parliament of the Rivers State.

This House shall with utmost expedition invoke Section 102 subsection 2 and summon the Commissioner for Finance to explain why he should refuse to obey an existing law of this state. Furthermore, this House of Assembly shall not withhold the appropriation of funds for the next financial year, but shall insist on the Executive to obey the provisions of that law setting up the House of Assembly and Judiciary as self-accounting units.

CHECKS AND BALANCES IN THE CONSTITUTION

The Rivers State House of Assembly has a mission to fulfil

laws.

If people will flout laws in an organised and orderly society then that is the beginning of anarchy and disorder.

The House of Assembly shall not tolerate bureaucracy which is an instrument of stagnation and anathema to Progress.

Let me inform ourselves and the general public that the Government has awarded various contracts to be executed for the enjoyment of the citizens of this state and to improve their social and economic lot.

The Legislature appropriated monies for these contracts and other services.

These contracts intended are to be properly executed and should be so done.

This House shall henceforth invoke its powers under the provision of Section 120 of the Constitution to call on any person, contractors, ministry or department to appear on the

executive funds.

(f) Consequently, to approve an amount.

These few guide-lines ensure the need for the Legislature to scrutinize estimates rather than passing over them.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW 1980

The Local Government Law 1980 is worthy of note. It is from which the law emerged was the most controversial and most ill-drafted of all bills so far.

In order to give most valuable co-operation to the Executive so as to give legality to the existing administrative set-up in the Rivers State, the Legislature adopted a procedure to redraft the bill to be in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution of Nigeria 1979 in the Committee of the Whole House.

This meant re-writing clause after clause of this voluminous and badly drafted bill.

It is most surprising to observe that the people, even at this time, do not seem to realise that Nigeria is being ruled under a Constitution which is the fundamental law of the land.

It shows quite an ignorance and unawareness of the present state of affairs in this second Republic as opposed to the first Republic and the military rule.

It took the Legislature over six months to re-write that bill.

We do not claim to have enacted a perfect law, but we believe it is nearer to the acceptable wishes of the people of the Rivers State than what was presented to us.

LOBBYING AS A MEANS OF EFFECTING CHANGE

The Local Government Law 1980 is an existing law.

The aftermath of the passage of this law was noisy, placard carrying, individual sectional agitation, and by a few intelligent people, finding out positive means of effecting changes.

People have right or freedom of

purported to make Permanent Secretaries accounting officers.

The violations of the above provisions shall no longer be tolerated or countenanced, and any estimates not making the Comptroller's accounting officers shall be returned for strict compliance.

I give this timely warning in order to avoid unnecessary delay.

The expenditure for the appropriation of monies has two angles to consider.

Firstly, the estimates present expenditures intended to be spent.

Secondly, what the Legislature thinks should be spent which becomes the appropriated monies, as provided at upon rational thinking.

In order that the Legislature can come to this rational conclusion, each ministry or department must justify their estimates. The House will henceforth insist to know —

(a) what amount was allocated in the previous year;

(b) how much was utilized;

(c) what work or service was accomplished with the money utilized;

(d) remarks about execution of contracts in relation to capital estimates.

Let to know the evil to be eliminated in order to bring about effective execution of projects without using excessive funds.

(f) Consequently, to approve an amount.

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People have right or freedom of



Rivers State House of Assembly at work.

and that duty has been assigned to it by the Federal Constitution of Nigeria 1979.

We shall not abdicate our duties and responsibilities.

We have adopted as a means of discharging our duties a deep sense of co-operation.

We shall continue on this path to play our role to ensure that the provisions of the Constitution and all existing laws are correctly followed and strictly obeyed.

No act, deed or design of anybody shall be allowed to overcome the provisions of the Constitution or any existing

floor of the House or any appropriate forum, to give account of stewardship and to expose any corruption, inefficiency or waste.

POWER TO ALLOCATE FUNDS

The power to allocate or appropriate funds to run the affairs of the state is one of the primary functions of the Legislature. Section 113 of the Constitution has reference.

Before I say anything further on this vital issue, let me warn all Commissioners and the Controller of Budget that estimates must be properly prepared, and the Commissioners are the chief executives of their respective ministries and accounting officers.

Civil servants are not accounting officers under the present Constitution.

The Commissioners are intended to be technocrats in charge of ministries and departments responsible to the Governor.

See Section 134 subsection 1 of the Constitution.

The Commissioners are also answerable to the House of Assembly when their ministries are being discussed. See Section 102 subsection 2 of the Constitution.

It has been observed in the past that ministries had wittily

•PRINCE T.K.O. OKOROTIE Majority Chief Whip

Chief A. D. William Jumbo

Executive Lawyer

NOT POLITICIANS — BRIGGS



ROSEBURY A. BRIGGS

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Our minds must be together
(i.e. identify, our thinking
must be positive and honest,
and our decisions must be firm.
The year 1981-82 should be
a year of determination and
consolidation rather than ex-
pectancy.

We should apply our minds
seriously on whatever we do to
attract respect and honour.
We must abandon disputa-
tious tendencies that will
dissipate our energies.

But above all, we should
endeavour to institutionalize
the Legislature and leave a
legacy behind. We therefore
need to have:

(1) Loyal Staff For The
Legislature

This is a matter that
demands priority attention. We
want staff that will get us
results.

The House of Assembly Ser-
vice Commission, call it what
you like, will be set up with
dispatch.

Before the House Service
Commission is set up or during
the interim, I hope to move
more vigorously my powers
under Section 169 of the
Constitution.

We cannot continue in this
manner indefinitely.

(2) House of Assembly
Building

We have dreamt of an
assembly building and it is still
elusive.

It is only in the Rivers State
where the government has not
given high priority to the
building of an assembly
building.

The Executive alone casually
thinks of completing the un-
finished conference house
started in the military era and
converting it to serve as an
assembly building.

I do not think there is any
magic for the success.

There is only difference of ma-
jor importance between what
operates in the U.S.A. and in
Nigeria, is that the Executive
in the U.S.A. relies on laws passed
by the Legislature to govern.

In Nigeria, the Executive
feels it is the only government
and purports to govern in-
dependently by administrative
acts where even our Constitu-
tion enacts that a law must be
enacted.

The significant point
derivable from our overseas
tours is that since the American
Constitutions can be operated
mutually and successfully,
there is no reason why the
Nigerian Constitution cannot
work successfully.

We did not go to the U.S.A.
to find a parallel to Nigeria's
situation. We know the U.S.A.
and it is that the Governors
where it suits their personal in-
terests do not want to comply
with the provisions of the Con-
stitution.

In the Rivers State, I want
you to put your experiences in
to valuable use to produce effi-
cient government and make
the Constitution work.

WHAT HAVE WE NEXT TO
DO?

What we have next to do is
more speculative but demands
more and firmer resolution to
achieve.

As we mark our third anni-
versary so we rejoice over the
progress of our great country
into nation-hood and maturity
since the past twenty-one
years.

Honourable Gentlemen, the
question is for us to answer

serious intent in such an idea.

Our people have seen
Legislative assembly halls in
Nigeria and overseas, and there
is no architectural miracle that
can be performed to transform
that Conference House to suit
a commodious legislative
assembly hall.

I believe that if the Executive
has given serious thought to
the issue, they could not be
dreaming independently without
the participation of the
Legislature.

A serious thought would have
been an admittance of mutual
consultation and an agreed
plan could have been drawn up
now to satisfy present day and
future demands.

Now, the Legislature must
make its specifications clear
and they must be predominant
because we wear the shoe and
know where it pinches.

As to the actual building, it
must have a long term future
use.

It is a common trait
prevailing in the country that
our architectural designs are
obsolete before the building is
commissioned for use.

A Legislative Building to
satisfy the needs of this state
should satisfy future utility
demands and the budgeting
should be on long term basis.

Surely, that Conference
Building can only serve the
House of Assembly as addi-
tional administrative building in
which the Legislative printer
will be installed to print daily
handbills.

The Legislature is an impor-
tant arm of the government of
this country, and it must be ef-
fectively set up as a functional
organ with proper and requisite
buildings, personnel and other
apexes.

The success of a govern-

ment in Nigeria cannot be
measured only by the success
of the Executive alone.

The must be an imminent fol-

(3) Residential Buildings For
Honourable Members

This is another protracted
issue which has not seen the
light since we came into
power.

For two years, the Executive
has given one excuse or
another even though a Com-
mittee of this House has made
enquiries.

Chief J. D. Osarodu
Minority Leader

We were told the land has
been acquired long ago and
compensation for crops has
been paid.

The Ministry of Works and
Transport was quick to award
the contracts for the building of
residential quarters for
honourable members, but it
has not shown equal or any
eagerness at all to see that the
buildings spring up.

We must pursue this issue very
vigorously before our tenure of
office expires.

EFFICACY OF COMMITTEES

Our Legislature operates

mostly through its several com-
mittees.

See section 37 of the Con-
stitution.

We have committees in this
House, and for the past
legislative year, we have seen
how they worked.

Some committees were un-
productive. Committee should
be likened to the board of a
company.

It is the brain of the House of
Assembly and therefore it can
not perform its work in slip-
shod manner.

This year, committees shall
have greater burden to
discharge to merit approbation.
Each committee given assign-
ment will be strictly timed and
if its report is not ready, I shall
relieve that committee of the
assignment and transfer it to
another committee.

Attendance must be sup-
ported by relevant minutes to
the Speaker.

However, I must express the
gratitude and praise of the
House to those Committees
that creditably discharged their
duties.

The chairman of those com-
mittees deserve more commenda-
tion for repeat performance
this year.

Lastly, let me briefly touch
the economic objectives under
Section 16 of our Constitution.

This section is practically in-
evidence as regards the Federal
Government at the national
level. But on the state level,
practically all states depend on
the Federal Government alloca-
tion of funds for their expendi-
ture.

The States think less of rais-
ing internal revenue to supple-
ment Federal grants.

In the Rivers State, the
aspect of raising internal
revenue is very negligible.

All the State Governments
make deficit annual estimates,
always relying on the Federal
Government to provide the ma-
jor revenue to run the affairs of
government.

The economy of Nigeria is
majority dependent on oil
revenue.

Yet there are other
agricultural resources and ser-
vices that can provide good
revenue.

In regard to Rivers State, it is
the duty of the Ministry of
Finance and the Department of
Budget and Control to think of
other avenues to raise internal
revenue.

It is for them to initiate
legislations upon sanction by
the Executive to tap other
sources of earning revenue.

This duty is never given
priority attention as they eagerly
enmesh themselves in con-
trolling, approving and releasing
Federal grants.

This attitude is politically in-
correct and economically barren.
If the Local Government units
are worth their salt, it is not only
desirable for them to expect
both Federal and State alloca-
tion of funds, but they should
seek local avenues to raise sup-
plementary funds.

The Commissioner for Local
Government should breathe
down this aspect generating
local government funds
without further delay.

The local government units
should not feel happy and anxi-
ous about the aspect generating
funds alone but they should equally
show interests in generating
funds to meet other local
needs.

Honourable Gentlemen, you
are all heartily welcome back to
harder work this year.

Your resilience to hard work
is appreciated.

Think of these things and
resolve now to work harder
than before.

Our tenure is short but our
responsibility is great. May God
help us to make a success of
our election!

Foreign commentary

FOR the past three months

so, the Gambia and
Guinea Bissau have
been exchanging
diplomatic notes over
the fate of the leaders of
the abortive rebellion in
Gambia, now held by
the Bissau authorities.

The Gambian govern-
ment wants the coup
leaders to be extradited
to face trial and possible
execution.

When the rebels were
arrested in Guinea
Bissau to where they fled
after the collapse of their
rebellion, the Bissau
government initially
agreed to extradite them
to the Gambia.

But now it appears
that they have changed
their minds, expelled the
men without the inter-
cession of the country.

From the look of things,
if Guinea Bissau finally
carries out the expulsion,
the relationship between
her and the Gambia is
bound to be strained.

It is understood that
the Guinea authorities
had tried in vain to get a
firm assurance from the

Gambia that the men, if
sent home, would
receive fair trial.

Under this prevalent
condition, the leaders in
Guinea Bissau are find-
ing it difficult to return
the prisoners, for it
would mean sending
them to be executed.

For humanitarian
reasons therefore,
Guinea Bissau would
rather expel them from
the country.

Again it is not impos-
sible that the government

had reviewed the cir-
cumstances surrounding
the ill-fated rebellion in
Gambia, thus making it to
develop some sort of sym-
pathy for the plotters.

It will be recalled that
sometime in July this
year, the ill-equipped five

hundred strong Gambian
Police Force seized
power briefly in the
country, while the Presi-
dent, Mr Dauda Jawara
was in London attending
the Royal Wedding.

The rebellion was said
to have been sparked off
as a result of the
deteriorating economic
situation in the country,
brought about by
Jawara's inefficient ad-
ministration.

The plotters then
pledged to set the coun-
try free from economic
slavery.

Observers believed
that the coup was
popular.

asked
Nsimah Odioh

hundred strong Gambian
Police Force seized
power briefly in the
country, while the Presi-
dent, Mr Dauda Jawara
was in London attending
the Royal Wedding.

asked
Nsimah Odioh

SHOULD GUINEA-BISSAU

EXTRADITE GAMBIAN REBELS?

or so, the rebellion was
almost collapsing.

Surprisingly, the Gam-
bians refused to hail
Senegalese troops for
the job well done.

Political observers saw
the lukewarm attitude of
the Gambians as a sign
of disapproval of
Senegal's intervention.

Against this
background, one could
reason that the present
government in the Gam-
bia is being imposed on
the Gambians by
Senegal.

Extraditing the coup
planners therefore to
their country would
mean sending them to
be shot by a government
which takes directive
from outside.

And surely the
generality of the Gam-
bians would not be hap-
py.

What President
Jawara should do is to
look back and correct
those mistakes which led
to the rebellion, and
forget meanwhile about
the fleeing rebel leaders.

And within two days

President Jawara was
quick to make use of the
pact.

He appealed to
Senegal to intervene in
his favour.

Then Senegalese
troops moved in.

The Gambia has no
standing army, so it did
not take Senegalese
troops hours to cross the
border.

And within two days

FALLING STANDARD OF EDUCATION

It is very disappointing to note that the government of this great country and parents, spend a lot of money on children education each year, without corresponding increase in educational standard.

Many writers and thinkers have suggested ways of improvement, which have proved abortive.

In the light of this, I have reasoned out the followings as the causes and cure of the drop in educational standards.

To start with, school children devote less time to studies and class attendance.

For instance, those in classes four and five assume over lordship and are above class attendance and taking useful advice from their teachers.

Close observations have shown that most children have superfluous tastes of life and have often converted their schools to fashion centres.

These students who compete with workers, lose their ambition and determination to succeed.

Enough time is always given to "pumping places and friendship" which reign supreme among them.

This is now common

in pupils of primary school not to talk of those in secondary and higher institutions.

This care-free life, leads to moral decadence and fall in educational standard in our society.

Most secondary school children travel more than businessmen in our Nigerian society.

The use of "Exeat Cards" is now an antique practice and are never taken seriously where they exist.

Although the guardians of the security, guards especially in girls' co-educational institutions are bribed to conceal their obnoxious habits.

These travelling agents who are never checked by either prefects or masters at their night prep periods, continue with this habit, but must finally pass their examination in the easier way by indulging in malpractices.

This method lowers the morale of the serious students who will wait to be served out of the travelling agents and City rollers but as triumphant and eligible students of their next class. The question therefore is: what will be the thought of the tolling candidate or student?

The answer is not far fetched. The tendency will

be to change from being studious to passing examinations by the easy way of leakage, thus reducing academic quality or standard of education.

While discussing reasons for fall in educa-

Time was when parents taught their children at home, A B C D, 1 2 3 4 and so on.

This went a long way preparing the minds of children against their future educational pursuit.

Past experiences even show that certain children could read

schools for character moulding and proper directives.

The ultimate result must be teacher's failure.

Why? Because the children were not given adequate home training they deserved at the right time.

What the parent of such children do, nor-

Says



E. Obindah Azunda

The last but not the least of my question is who penalises the students leakage agents? It remains WAEC.

How then can WAEC be the accused at the same time the judge?

Therefore, to maintain the validity of her certificates and her long life, those students defaulters are given series of 9.

This goes a long way lowering the educational standard.

The WAEC has in most cases scored the result of candidates who were neither found cheating nor indulging in other forms of malpractices. Sometimes, those bright candidates are so frustrated that they decide not to read again.

The Sogbetun Tribunal recommendations against paper leakages and the said mega-making computer matches method, should be applied before educational standard falls to ignominy in Nigeria.

The government has very little blame in the falling standard of education in our Nigerian society.

It is advisable to mention that the government of Nigeria spends highest on education, each financial year.

The only blame comes where teachers' industrial actions allow the federation indicates lack of care over the prompt payments of their monthly salaries.

The say, that a hungry man is an angry man also applies to the teachers and might make them forget the qualities of their honourable profession.

Teachers who should devote their times to marking, preparing notes and lessons to raise the standard of education, now are petty traders and farmers as sources of livelihood.

We should all believe that when teachers are not happy their pupils must not comprehend their lessons, hence absent mindedness which results in drastic fall in standard of education among the Nigerian youths.

I therefore call on the Nigerian youths, to look forward to harder and creative studies that the easy means of success which leads to ruin.

I advise the various mentioned partners in educational progress to rededicate themselves to raising educational standard, in Nigeria.

We all share the blame

ditional standards, teachers must not be kept in isolation since they form the core of the issue.

Although teachers are only to direct and mould their pupils.

This is common in both primary and secondary school teachers.

Most teachers, unlike before do not take interest in their job to write notes of lessons and organise evening lectures.

Many are petty traders while others are full time farmers at the expense of their pupils.

The inspection of schools by various educational personalities and bodies are now things of the past, since there are no checks from the ministries of education who should request weekly and monthly inspection reports from them.

Most teachers help to pass pupils of their class by offering additional unmarked marks and at VASC level encourage students in examination malpractices to achieve maximum success as to cover up their own faults.

This militates against the rise in standard of education in our Nigerian society.

Parents are partners in progress of their children. No parent will be pleased to see the child at the ground level.

We all want our children to attain the highest level of education with good home training.

passages from newspapers, text books and solve minor arithmetic problems under the guidance of their careful parents as first teachers, before formal schooling.

These set of home prepared children never found it difficult in comprehending lessons. They do well and never indulge in malpractices.

It is noticeable that both parents are now 'bread winners' of the house in today's Nigerian society.

Housewives who should in the main mould, direct and teach their children at homes, now look for house maids at all costs. The children at this juncture must follow the teachings and ways of the house maids who might not be able to distinguish the right from wrong.

The question, now is where are these Nigerian house wives or mothers?

The ready answer is that these mothers who are equal bread winners of the house, have taken delight in painting all parts of their bodies for the attraction of their sons mates in the offices.

They have chosen to 'spoil the money and spare child'. Most fathers care less for their children too.

At this juncture, when the control of their growing children becomes a problem, they quickly rush them to different primary

mally is to blame it on innocent teachers who are equally born and not made.

Eventually, such children become the 'Never do wells' of their classes.

On many occasions, their wealthy parents have bribed through their class to class promotions and finally purchased live question papers for them.

This has counted much in reduction of educational standard. If parents will be so involved in this act, what will encourage their children to attain certificates by merit?

The West African Examinations Council (WAEC) has its share in bringing down the standard of education in our Nigerian society. In the first place, I suggest the setting up of another recognised examining body to break the monopoly by WAEC.

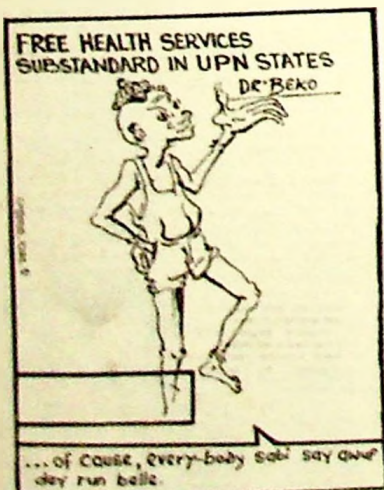
WAEC has frustrated thousands of innocent candidates. Some are so frustrated that they decide not to read again!

I accuse WAEC as being responsible for the fall in educational standard because they have made students to prepare their minds against paper leakages each year.

Most students do not read even at the eve of the examinations, but will chase to go about for live question papers which they must succeed.

My question therefore is, who prints and stores the question papers?

The answer is WAEC. From where do these papers leak to the weak candidates who run a race at all cost to pass their examination? The answer is still WAEC.





UACN #3 MILLION TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT FACILITY IN KANO

UAC of Nigeria Limited is proud to announce the commissioning of Tractor and Equipment's new #3 million facility in Kano. The opening ceremony will be performed today, Tuesday, 20th October, 1981. Two distinguished Nigerians will officiate at the ceremony. The State Governor Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar Rimi will preside over the ceremony while His Royal Highness the Emir of Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero OGLD will perform the official opening ceremony.

The modern Kano facility is doubly significant. Strategically located in the northern part of the country, it is to provide faster and more reliable sales, parts and service of CATERPILLAR agricultural and heavy construction equipment for the various important projects in the northern states. Secondly, the investment in this facility is further testimony of UACN's faith in the nation's economy and the company's determination Development Programmes and our drive towards agricultural self-sufficiency.

As one of the leaders in the industrial development of Nigeria, UACN is playing its full role in contributing to the further progress of the economy. Barely one year ago, the company commissioned the #10 million Tractor & Equipment complex situated in Oregun Industrial Estate, Lagos. It is the most modern and also the largest single CATERPILLAR dealership facility on the African continent. UACN is further investing money in the expansion, development and up-grading of the T&E branches throughout the country. Apart from the #3 million facility which is being commissioned in Kano today, #12 million is being invested to develop the Port Harcourt facility, #0.5 million at Warri, #0.1 million at Yola, and #0.3 million each at Kaduna, Borno

and Enugu. Tractor & Equipment Division of UACN is the authorised dealer for Caterpillar products in Nigeria and the current activities of this Division emphasise UACN's total commitment to sales and service for the nation's 'Green Revolution' programme and for the construction, mining, quarrying, electric power generation and material handling industries throughout the country. The history of Tractor and Equipment is an interesting one.

In the early 1950's, EB&E Department's first ever branch was opened in Kaduna. This was followed a few years later by another branch in Enugu and change in name to Tractor and Equipment. Shortly before the civil war, a branch was established in Port Harcourt followed by another at Warri a couple of years later. These two branches are still the nerve centres of T&E's product support to the oil industry. The Ayokuta iron and steel complex and increased

stock of fast moving parts. The Kano branch has subsequently grown to become a much larger T&E operation.

The modern facility being opened today is situated at 41-43 Tafawa Balewa Road. It is conveniently located in commercial and industrial nerve centre of Kano.

The complex houses the parts warehouse which covers an area of 1,000 square metres and is adequately equipped and stocked to meet the demand of the agricultural and heavy

alongside this new Kano facility. The training school, which is the national training center for T&E employees, uses the latest CATERPILLAR training materials to keep service technicians up to date with new machines and techniques. This is in addition to the comprehensive training carried out at all T&E branches to ensure that the employees are adequately equipped to meet the demand of customers. Furthermore, overseas and local management development courses and attachment to manufacturers and UAC Limited's Unatrac Division T&E's UK associate are organised for various cadres of employees.

It is appropriate here to acknowledge invaluable contributions of T&E's overseas associates in the planning and execution of UACN's huge investment in the development of new facilities. The technical expertise of Unatrac Division of UAC Limited UK, Unilever and Caterpillar Tractor Company which were made available contributed immensely to the design and planning systems control, training information and advice that guided this project to completion. Without the encouragement and enthusiasm of these overseas partners, who were willing to share their experience and expertise and to associated themselves with UACN's aspiration, it would have been very difficult to even start the Tractor & Equipment modern facility development exercise.

With the successful completion and commissioning of the new Kano facility, and in view of the fact that the #10.8 million Oregun facility opened last year is now fully operational, T&E will be in a better position to provide customers, both in the north and south, with much improved product support service which include:

- computer controlled parts ordering and stocking system providing up to 85% parts available across the country;
- extensive stock of parts exchange service units to reduce customers' equipment downtime to the barest minimum;
- technical advisory services;
- service workshops well equipped with diagnostic test specialised tools;
- complete engine and transmission rebuilding;
- field service facilities manned by service engineers and technicians with latest knowledge of CATERPILLAR built machines and service technology.

T&E Division of UAC of Nigeria limited faces the future with confidence as a result of its commitment to the most comprehensive of training



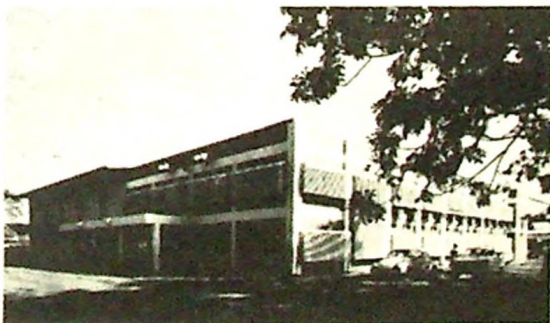
MR. E. A. SCOTT
General Manager

programmes for employees together with facility development to cope with demands for its services. Above all, the Division is equipped with well trained and qualified staff in addition to an enlightened management team committed to the task of maintaining Tractor and Equipment's leading position as a competent and professional CATERPILLAR dealership.

UAC of Nigeria Limited, on its own part, is also determined to maintain its position as a leader in the private sector and a major contributor to the nation's industrial development. UACN therefore fully endorses and encourages the enthusiasm and commitment of the management and staff of its Tractor and Equipment Division. With this, particular T&E investment in Kano and other industrial investments which the company is continually making all over the country through its 20 other operating Divisions, UAC of Nigeria limited is helping to spread the climate of progress nationwide.



MR. U. P. OKORO
Chairman/Managing Director



Side view of the Administrative Block at the new #3 million Tractor and Equipment Facility in Kano.

It has undergone a series of metamorphoses both in name and operational methods reflecting the changing pattern of trade and in compliance with the laws of the country.

To review some of these changes, we must go back to the second world war which witnessed the expansion of the Nigeria tin mining operation and the arrival of the first fleet of CATERPILLAR machines in the country, where they were employed by ATMN in mining the strategically important mineral from the Jos Plateau.

In 1948, a few years after the war ended, UACN became the authorised CATERPILLAR dealer, and the responsibility for handling the CATERPILLAR franchise was initially given to what was then called the Machinery and Ironmongery Department, located in showrooms on the Marina in Lagos. M&I Department soon became UAC (Technical) Limited, and the CATERPILLAR operations were later formed into a separate department known as the Earthmoving and Agricultural Equipment Department. EB&E Department expanded to the extent that it had to move to separate premises in Akoka. These are now occupied by the Bulkhead Promex Packaging Division of UACN.

construction projects in the western part of the country were recognised and new branches have been opened at Borno, Bauchi and Shereba to provide the cover expected from a CATERPILLAR dealer. In Lagos, the upward trend in the volume of T&E's business rendered existing facilities totally inadequate to cope with the demand, in order to assemble new machines, it became necessary to rent on a short lease an assembly shop at Igummu and parts storage spaces in Ijora and Obanikoro.

As the first and most important stage in providing facilities to maintain and develop T&E's business, and to meet obligations to customers, UACN completed the building of the #10.8 million facility at Oregun to house the headquarters operation, the machine assembly shop, the territorial parts distribution centre, a technical training centre and the various area sales and product support operations.

The increasing agricultural potential of the northern part of Nigeria had also been recognised as far back as 1969 when a T&E branch was established in Kano. A service engineer and staff were established in a small office in Gidan Guide with a two-way radio and a small

construction industries in Kano, Bauchi, Borno and Gongola State. These states which constitute T&E's north-eastern area of operations have Kano as their parts distribution centre. The T&E branches opened in Maiduguri in 1975 and in Yola in 1978 along lines similar to the earlier small Kano store witnessing rapid expansion both in terms of demand and up-grading of facilities. Customers being served by the branches will no doubt benefit from this excellent warehouse in Kano. With customers in Kano and environs uppermost in mind, the new complex also has a full equipped service workshop including utility and undercarriage repair shops.

There is also a staff welfare block which consists of a modern canteen equipped to provide employees with first class meals at subsidised rates and a recreation with lockers and other amenities for their convenience. Apart from rendering vital services to customers to maintain the reputation and efficiency of CATERPILLAR equipment, T&E recognises that training is a crucial factor for the continued success of the company and for the benefit of its many customers. A fully equipped residential service training school is situated



CHIEF E. A. SHONKAN
Chairman/Managing Director
UAC of Nigeria Limited

Classified Adverts

CHANGE OF NAME

QUASKEY — I, formerly known, called and addressed as Miss Quaskey, now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs Roseline Adjoa Long John. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Ministry of Education, Rivers State College of Education and the general public should please take note. Mrs Roseline Adjoa Long John.

IRENE — I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Irene D. K. Bobma, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Irene Inko Quakers. Former documents remain valid. Ministry of Education, Schools Directorate, Port Harcourt. Rusbos Crouther Memorial School, Abennema and the general public please take note. Mrs Irene Inko Quakers.

ISVANGI — I, formerly known, called and addressed as Ekechimeke, now wish to be called and addressed as Peter Anuque Ubebi. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The Management staff of the Nigerian Caterers and Supermarket Port Harcourt and the general public should please take note. Peter Anuque Ubebi.

DEDE — I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Cordelia Dede, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Cordelia U. Harrison. Documents bearing my former name remain valid. Rivers State Transport Directorate and the general public take note. Mrs Cordelia U. Harrison.

AWOHITE — I, formerly known, called and addressed as Mr Isobara Benibo Awohite, now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mr Isobara Benibo Young Arney. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note. Mr ISOBARA BENIBO YOUNG ARNEY.

DIBIA — I, formerly known and addressed as Monday Edina Nwa, wish to be called and addressed as Monday Chidi Onuison. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Students' authority of Government Technical College Port Harcourt should please note. Monday Chidi Onuison.

Rufus — I, formerly known, called and addressed as Miss Idonso Rufus, now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs Idonso Princeswill. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Health Management Committee Akoka District and the general public please note. Idonso Princeswill.

BONAR — I, formerly known, called and addressed as Miss Edina Z. Bonar, now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs Edina Z. Inuwa. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Ministry of Education, Schools Directorate (Andoni) District Primary Schools Committee, Eggenim State School and the general public should take note. Mrs Edina Z. Inuwa.

ETUKUDO — I, formerly known, called and addressed as Aloysius Evans Etukudo, now wish to be known, called and addressed as Aloysius Evans Etukudo. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The Judiciary and the general public should please take note. Mr Aloysius Evans Etukudo.

JAJA — I, formerly known, called and addressed as Miss Betty Nwakaku Jaja, now wish to be known, called and addressed as Miss Betty Nwakaku Sodje. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Rivers State House of Assembly, First Bank of Nigeria, Rivers State Government and the general public please take note. Mrs Betty Nwakaku Sodje. Tetty.

AMADI — I, formerly known and called Abraham Amadi, now wish to be called Tassie Amadi. ThankGod Nyechie. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The Judiciary and the general public should take note. Mr Tassie Amadi. ThankGod Nyechie.

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The conditions of these mills are fairly good but they are not all exactly the same and so any person(s) or organisations interested in any of them should forward his proposals to:

The Acting General Manager
RISONPALM LIMITED,
35 Aba Road,
P. M. B. 5236,
Port Harcourt.

Sealed envelopes containing the proposals should be clearly marked "POM" and should be received not later than 20th November, 1981.

M. D. OPUYO
Acting General Manager

Appreciation and Thanks

The children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of

MADAM EKAWHEME ESEMEDAFE EJOFODOMI

wish to express their sincerest thanks and gratitude to all those who by personal calls, letters and telegrams sympathised with them on the occasion of the death of their beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away after a brief illness on Wednesday 19th August, 1981 and was buried on Saturday 19th September, 1981.

They are also grateful to those who by their generous gifts and moral support contributed immensely to the success of the funeral ceremonies.

May God bless you all.

ENOCH O. EJOFODOMI
for the family

Government of the Rivers State of Nigeria

1981/82 Joint Common Entrance Examination into Schools of Nursing & Midwifery

The public is hereby notified that there will be a Joint Entrance Examination into the Rivers State Schools of Nursing and Midwifery on 7th November, 1981.

Candidates wishing to take part in the above examination should possess the following:

- (a) Full Secondary School Career with an attempt at the West African School Certificate Examination.
- (b) West African School Certificate or General Certificate of Education "O.L." with at least a pass in English Language, Biology and at least one other Science subject.
- (c) Not less than eighteen (18) years old at the time of the interview.
- (d) Both male and female candidates are free to apply.

They are therefore advised to pay N10.00 (ten naira) at the Treasury and obtain a Receipt which must be produced at the School before they are registered for the examination. Entries close on Friday 23rd October, 1981.

S. D. EDEH
for Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare



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PORT HARCOURT

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Intending candidates should write to:-

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P. M. B. 5769,
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Envelopes and applications should be marked "SP01 - CS" at the top left-hand corner.



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COMMENTARY:

REALITIES BEHIND
A ZERO MISSILES
OPTION

CHANCELLOR Schmidt and US Secretary of State Haig are keen to reach agreement on missiles negotiations.

The intensity of demonstrations and riots when Haig visited West Berlin was not able to hide this.

The two, of course, were bound to demonstrate harmony and cooperation in the face of the anti-American sentiment which culminated in a pro-Soviet campaign.

But did Mr Haig and Herr Schmidt reach agreement on medium range missile negotiations with a view to the zero option?

Both mentioned the subject and each in his own way but with diplomatic circumspection indicated that while he might accept the idea as a theoretical concept he did not consider it a realistic possibility.

Mr Haig was able to state his views frankly and without prevarication. Herr Schmidt had

difficulty in implementing a missile modernisation programme aimed at the United States stationing Pershing 2 and Tomahawk missiles in Europe.

The missile debate usually ignores the East bloc's existing advantage over the West not only in airborne and sea-based devices with a range of between 1,000 and 5,000 kilometres but also in other categories that are no less of a nuclear threat.

The long range SS-11s can cover intercontinental distances but are aimed solely at continental targets. They appear to be in the process of being replaced by SS-19s, which are likewise both continental and intercontinental in range.

The short range Frog, Scud and Scaleboard missiles are capable, depending on where they are based, of hitting targets in Germany and neighbouring countries. They too are in the

Soviet-African
conference begins
in Moscow

MR EDEM KODJO
OAU Secretary

Political
parties
dissolved
in Turkey

TURKEY's ruling generals have dissolved the country's political parties.

A spokesman for the National Security Council said new parties would be formed under a constitution to be drawn up by a constituent assembly which starts work next Friday.

Political activity has been suspended since the military took power.

1980 because of terrorism and economic upheaval.

The spokesman said that of seven political parties, only the National Salvation Party (RPP) of Necmettin Erbakan

remained. That is why both as regards the zero option as no more than a negotiating tactic and certainly not as a strategic objective for security policy.

So Washington, siding by the NATO security concept, will be aiming at arms limitation rather than at disarming with arms altogether.

It will be trying to persuade Moscow to agree to a serious solution to the problem that ensures for both sides equality of defensive opportunity and would thus rule out any imbalance in offensive capacity in the East Bloc's favour.

That was why the NATO missile modernisation proposal was limited from the outset to 572 missiles even though the East Bloc's existing land, sea and air-based medium-range capacity is already four-and-a-half times higher in terms of

FOR peace and social progress — it was under this motto that the Soviet-African scientific and political conference began its work in Moscow on October 13. In the conference were eminent Africans and Soviet scientists, political leaders and public figures.

On the agenda were topical and complicated questions, pertaining to a wide range of problems. The participants in the Moscow meeting reviewed the present situation in the world and the ways and means

of averting an escalation of tension.

They also analysed Soviet-African relations and exchanged views on basic matters of the economic and social development of the world.

There was prolonged applause when a message of greetings from Leonid Brezhnev was read out. The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union welcomed the conference success.

Opening the conference, Professor Anatoly Gromyko, Direc-



LEONID BREZHNEV
USSR President

tor of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of African Studies, noted that it is a milestone in the history of development of Soviet-African relations, which have been built and continue to be built on the principles of full equality both in the political and economic fields.

KAUNDA WANTS
IMPROVEMENT INWORLD
FOOD
SITUATION

later. Politicians serving at the time of the coup are banned from the assembly and the first election after democracy is restored.

The two main parties are the Right wing Justice Party of Suleyman Demirel and the Left wing Republican People's Party (RPP) of Bulent Ecevit.

The leaders of the two smaller parties which had a share in power, the extreme right Nationalist Movement Party and the Islamic Fundamentalist National Salvation Party, are now standing trial.

both warheads and megatonnage.

The Soviet Union has thus shown scant inclination to make do with its existing capacity.

The neutron device, which was obviously mentioned by Chancellor Schmidt and Secretary of State Haig in their talks, has virtually nothing to do.



ALEXANDER HAIG
U.S. Secretary of State

PRESIDENT Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia on Thursday in Lusaka called

for a concerted international action to combat the deteriorating world food situation.

In a television broadcast on the eve of World Food Day, President Kaunda recalled that the 1974 world food

conference had resolved to eliminate the stunting of human physical and mental potential through malnutrition by 1984.

Three years away from that deadline, the statistics are truly depressing and distressing, he said, adding that

the average man today, especially in these outlying countries, had 10 per cent less food than 10 years ago.

Zambia, and on a small food production programme last year aimed at achieving self-sufficiency by 1980.

Its forecast harvest of corn for the year is between 650,000 and 700,000 tons, the first harvest approaching national requirements since 1976.

BRIEFS

New Delhi

INDIA and Ghana on Thursday in New Delhi condemned South Africa's armed aggression against the frontline states and demanded the withdrawal of South African troops from

Angola. In a statement, the two countries urged to western Contact Group on Namibia to secure the implementation of a United Nations resolution on the territory's independence. The statement was issued after talks between President Hilla Limann of Ghana and Indian Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Addis Ababa

The Conference of African Ministers of Trade, Finance and Planning has called for the establishment of a federation of African Chambers of Commerce by or before 1985. In the only resolution passed by the meeting, the ministerial states of the sub-region to ensure full attendance at a meeting of African Chambers of Commerce to be held in Salisbury, Zimbabwe, in May next year.

By A Correspondent

to make do with indirect negotiations.

The Chancellor had to be more circumspect because his part, the Soviet Democrats, regards the two-fold



HELMUT SCHMIDT
West German Chancellor
NATO members insist on a two-fold approach to disarmament, then a move to reducing armaments on arms.

What stage ought to be reached before a move to take? Let us assume the Soviet Union were prepared to accept the land-based missiles (the SS-4, SS-5 and SS-20) that missile modernisation is all about.

In this case the case for the NATO countries would doubtless have

process of being replaced by SS-21s, 22s and 23s, all of which can cover a wider range.

Let us again assume that Soviet medium-range missiles in those categories were scrapped in return for a US undertaking not to station a new generation of comparable missiles in Europe.

A zero option along these lines would be more likely to increase, not reduce, the nuclear threat to NATO territory, especially Germany.

NATO would then lack an adequate US deterrent to the instruments of intimidation at the Soviet Union's disposal.

In this state of affairs, the United States would have to choose between an immediate long-range missile strike against the Soviet Union and instructions to NATO to fight it out with short-range tactical nuclear weapons.

Theatre nuclear weapons would devastate Europe on both sides of the Iron Curtain while sparing the sanctuaries of the superpowers. Alexander Haig is well aware of this fact. So is

NIGERIAN TIDE

Tuesday, October 20, 1981

ACB opens 3 rural units

The authorities of the African Continental Bank Limited (ACB) have embarked on a massive decentralisation programme aimed at bringing the bank's services closer to the rural population in the Rivers State.

Under the scheme, three new branches of the bank were opened at Okrika, Abua and Okomoko at the weekend, while the fourth one is expected to go into operation towards the end of this year, at Kikangha in the Bori local government area.

Declaring these facts at the opening ceremony, the area manager of the bank, Mr. Phibove Owi stated that the new programme was part of the steps being taken by the establishment to identify itself with the state government's decentralisation policy.

He noted that the rural banking scheme would greatly help in reducing the present high level of demands for banking facilities in the rural areas as a result of increase in commercial activities since the introduction of the government's decentralisation policy.

The area manager spoke of the bank's contribution in the field of car loan advances, and announced that thousands of cars have so far been loaned out to legislators, political aspirants and civil servants in the state, as vehicle advances. Mr. Owi explained that the granting of car loans was keeping with the Federal Government's directives, adding that it was the established policy of the bank to identify itself with all government policies that affect the interest of the general public.

He spoke of the bank's decentralisation programme and announced with joy that all its branches in the state are currently being managed by indigenous.

The area manager also reaffirmed the determination of the bank to assist deserving businessmen as well as those engaged in agricultural projects, which he said was a priority programme to the Federal Government.



Mrs Beatrice Eke, wife of the Rivers State deputy governor was among the many distinguished personalities who worshipped at the St. Cyprian's Church, Port Harcourt last Sunday to mark the jubilee celebration of the Disciples Women's Guild of the St. Cyprian's Church.

Picture shows Mrs Eke (first from right) singing with others.

Church jubilee

FIRM PROBES CAUSE OF SHIPS' COLLISION

MARINE insurance experts working with the Lloyds Agency in Port Harcourt are now investigating the circumstances which led to a major shore collision between two foreign-owned cargo vessels at the Port Harcourt wharf.

The experts will also determine the extent of damages done to the two ships as well as evaluate their costs to enable the owners of the vessels receive compensations.

According to reliable sources, at the port, an Italian registered vessel, M.V. Timber, was said to have crashed into the Shell jetty, while attempting to berth at the Nigerian Ports Authority wharf.

The ship was alleged to have collided with another Russian ship which had already berthed.

Also affected in the accident were stationary tug boats and barges, which were pulled along by the Italian cargo vessel, carrying about 800 assembled Peugeot pick up vans.

Meanwhile, it was reliably gathered that the

by
Augustine Fombo

authorities of Shell Company, have forwarded a protest letter to the skipper of the ship and it was reliably believed it at this

might be followed by a letter of claim.

Last Thursday, an official of Lloyds Agency who visited the ship, had insisted that the damage done to the vessel be

repaired before it sailed out.

The surveyor also warned on the perils of a damaged ship steaming on the open sea without proper repairs

being effected.

When contacted in his office, the officer in charge of Marine division of the Nigeria Police was not available for comment on the incident.



DR WAHAB DOSUNMU

Food poison

from
Valentine Eke, Owerri

TRAGEDY has struck the people of Eninachi autonomous community in the Isukwuato-Ogigwe Local Government area of Imo State following the death of five persons as a result of food poisoning.

The background to the story, was a meal said to have been served to the members of the community at a wake-keeping ceremony.

After the meal, the victims were said to have started serious vomiting and were later rushed to the Ogigwe health centre where they died few hours after treatment.

Meanwhile, the entire community has been thrown into utter confusion, as people would not comprehend the strange circumstances that led to the death of more than five persons in less than two days.

A similar incident, an insider said, also occurred in the area in 1976, when ten people were reported to have died after they took part in a meal of pork meat at Anu-Ezi.

It was however gathered, that following the alarming and sombre situation in the area, most of the natives who were residing in various

parts of the country have already visited home, to assess the seriousness of the incident, while local

authorities are also working hard to arrest the situation and bring life back to normal.

FG spends #100m on rural homes

The Federal Government has so far spent about N100 million on the first phase of its housing programme while N300 million had been earmarked for the second phase of the project which will be launched before the end of this year, so declared the Minister of Housing and Environment, Dr. Wahab Dosunmu at Makurdi, Benue State.

Under the programme, christened 'rural housing scheme', the Federal administration will build 1,000 two bedroom units in each of the states of the federation.

Dr. Dosunmu made this known shortly on arrival at Makurdi to assess the progress of federal housing projects in the state capital.

The minister explained that the rural housing scheme would depend heavily on self-help efforts of the people in whose localities the projects were sited.

Speaking on the current austerity measures of the Federal Government, the minister assured that it would not affect housing projects and that commercial and merchant banks were being mobilised to play more active role in financing housing programmes in both private and government agencies.

He disclosed that the Federal Government was making arrangements with foreign concerns who are interested in estate development to participate on long term basis in financing the projects.

(Telephone: 331082/331083/Telex: 61144)

All correspondence to be addressed to FMB 5072 Port Harcourt 20/10/81



Sen Odu (right) discusses with the manager of the newly-opened Okrika branch. Photo by J. Ikene.