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The Word and the War

ACCUSATIONS and counter-accusations between Federal MPs who have visited Nigeria and Biafra; insults shouted at Mr. Harold Wilson by pro-Biafran demonstrators during his visit to West Germany; embarrassment for the new U.S. administration; bitter words between British and French ministers at the Council of Europe; another clash between the USSR and China; these are among international consequences of the Nigeria-Biafra conflict. Inside many non-African countries (African countries are much calmer) pro- and anti-Biafran feeling is as strong as was that for and against the Franco rebels in the Spanish Civil War in the mid-thirties.

People with the flimsiest knowledge of the issues accuse Federal government supporters of murderous intentions. Behind it all is the newly fashionable and apparently scientific word "genocide". It is particularly popular among Germans, for whom it has more significance than for most nations, since the 1948 international "genocide convention" was thought necessary only because of what happened during the 1939-45 war. Yet Germans whose memory goes back to Hitler and who really know what the word might mean, are not now the first to use it, in relation to Biafra, and were probably not among those throwing blood at Mr. Wilson this week.

It reflects credit on their hearts that some Europeans will go to any lengths in their protests for Biafra. But although the fortitude and ingenuity of Biafrans must command admiration, and their suffering, particularly among children, excite anger, the Biafran cause deserves more intelligent examination than can ever be given it by those who cry "genocide". For this is, in any concrete circumstances, an emotional word: and since it can so easily be shown to be so, those who say that Nigeria is guilty of practising genocide are saying very little indeed.

The word has come into vogue for one reason only: the military action by the Federal government to end Biafran secession is seen as a continuation of the brutal and indefensible massacres in Northern Nigeria in 1966. Certainly few

Eastern Nigerians could easily forget those massacres in the following months, and the virtual withdrawal of Eastern Nigeria from the Federation some time before secession could be justified only on that ground.

We do not believe that the young officers who attempted to seize power in January 1966 intended to establish Ibo domination over the Federation, so that the later massacres of Ibo civilians cannot be excused on that ground. But the callousness with which the officers murdered political leaders, army commanders, and a number of lesser folk, played its part in creating the atmosphere which made the massacres possible. In that sense the present war is as much a continuation of the officers' rising as it is of the Northern massacres.

In fact, however, as the course of the war was to show, by July 1967, when fighting began, discipline had been largely restored in the Federal army. General Gowon, his military subordinates, and his civilian commissioners were determined that nothing like the 1966 events should ever again shame Nigeria, and civilians elsewhere in Nigeria sincerely believed that the events of 1966 belonged to the past. The whole tragedy of Nigeria's division rested on this. Easterners genuinely could not forget the massacres and, whatever the real intentions of the Eastern leaders, saw everywhere the possibility of more; supporters of the Federal government interpreted moves designed to meet such fears as sinister attempts to break the Federation or to establish Ibo domination.

Since the fighting began, the unanimous testimony of outside observers is that the federal forces in the field are disciplined. Whatever the offences of individual soldiers (some have been executed) to accuse the Federal government or the army command of intending or practising "genocide" is ludicrous. Anybody who has seen Nigerian soldiers looking after Ibo refugee camps will angrily reject the comparison with Hitler's treatment of the Jews which the Federation's critics imply.

Not all the critics however (none of whom has been near the front line Federal troops) claim that the Federal



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army—which, indeed, for been inactive except in def- instrument of the alleged gen- the Federal government's effo- the Biafrans into submiss- is alleged to justify the charge.

Both the numbers now what remains of Biafra and starving are normally much —and an improvement is now reported. But the situation is it, however, the Federal go- fault? Is there any evidence the Gowon and his colleagues, wh this would be a short war, ne to use starvation as a weapon.

General Alexander, one of "observers" has rightly said: reason why people, particular on both sides of the war fr- from malnutrition is not a sh foodstuffs, but because they fe- bush to escape the fighting. in the bush until the fighting h. This is often a long time, be war front has been very static. He adds that to talk of "blac the Federal army is totally u. The fighting is largely confi- roads and anyone who likes to roadways can easily move fr- supplies still come in to Bia- the north and across the Niger.

More important, the Feder permitted considerable quant- to be flown into Biafra and- Ojukwu, not the Federal author opposes both daylight flights a- corridor which could bring more. Indeed there can be fe- dents for a government in the of General Gowon's allowing fe- on this scale into what it must be the time being, as enemy territi-

There remains the charge Federal air force is waging civilians. It is impossible t- individual charges, but we ha- held that use of the Federal- now that Biafra is confined t- small area, probably does the cause more harm than good. A appear to strengthen Biafran m- whatever the effect on milita- civilian casualties, which are inevitable and are always reported, damage the Federati- at a time when international s- becoming a key factor in the w-

Oil Flowing Now

SOME recent reports of the in Nigeria wrongly sugges- growing oil production on the side might be threatened. The sure is very different and, al- must always be stressed that the tribution from oil production balance of payments is very m- than the value of oil exports, make possible limited modifi- the Federation's rigid import r- restrictions even before the fi- finally ended.

Workers at oilfields south of a line from Abu to Ahoada report undisturbed conditions, despite reports of a Biafran counter-attack in the oil areas. The Agip concession at Ebocha, held by the Biafrans since secession, is almost the only major oilfield not in Federal hands now. Repairs to installations, including pumps, tanks, pipelines and the Bonny terminal, are still incomplete, however. But, as we have reported, oil exports are nearing, and could soon exceed, pre-war levels.

Shell-BP restarted production in former Biafran areas last October; the rate is, according to a recent estimate, about 300,000 barrels per day, compared with 500,000 before the war. By the middle of this year about 365,000 will be added from the new facilities in the Mid-West. Gulf is now producing 175,000 barrels a day, and at least 50,000 a day are expected from Mobil by 1970. By the end of this year production by all companies, including Safrap and Agip, should be 800,000 a day; in 1970 it should pass the million mark. The Government would then receive in revenues some £N70m. in foreign exchange, almost half its total current revenue.

Ghana's Elite Families

From a correspondent

BECAUSE Ghana has no rigid social structure or class differentiation, some scholars use the term "elite" to describe the class now socially dominant in the country. Research into the composition, attitudes and family life of this class has been undertaken by both Ghanaian and outside scholars, but a new book¹ drawing both on detailed study in Ghana and on the very thorough 1960 Ghanaian census, presents for the first time a complete picture of the attitudes and practices of the Ghanaian elite concerning fertility, family size and the population increase in Ghana—probably some 3½ per cent a year.

Dr. Caldwell, who organised the study, is on the staff of the Australian National University, which originally published the book. In 1962-64 he was at the University of Ghana as a demographer and his research, in which a number of Ghanaians, including his students, assisted him, is based in this period. Dr. Dudley Kirk of the U.S. Population Council, which supported the research, says in the book's foreword, "at a time when population increase is greatest in areas least able to afford it, it is important to discover whether, in spite of Africa's special conditions, there is a prospect of a fall in birth rates there, and if harbingers of future reduction of the birthrate exist in Ghana, they surely are to be sought in the most modernised section of the population, the urban elite."

First, who are the elite families studied by Dr. Caldwell? He describes an average couple in which the wife is around 30 years old and the husband some seven years older. A smaller difference than the one traditional in rural Ghana. Most marriages have been "astonishingly stable" compared with the

traditional pattern, about three-quarters of those interrogated had participated in only a single, monogamous, marriage. Other investigations, too, have confirmed that "polygamous and unstable marriage patterns, as distinct from temporary liaisons and the possession of mistresses, are in contemporary Ghana very much more a feature of village life than of urban residence."

By the time the wife is 30, she has had three to four children, in most cases all by her present spouse; more important, in four cases out of five all have survived. Each of the four urban centres used for the study—Accra-Tema, Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi, and Cape Coast—has good medical facilities, and the families studied had usually made full use of them. In general the children have almost as much chance of survival as those in the West, although urban elite women on average bear about six children, "not appreciably fewer than is typical of Ghanaian society as a whole."

The elite is composed largely of families "with male household heads employed in administrative and professional occupations which they have been able to secure because of their educational qualifications." Education, indeed, is the hall mark of the elite. Many wives are in similar employment, which has led to their marriage, rather than the other way round.

Joining the elite has, over the last 20 years, not been particularly difficult because an expanding economy (in spite of Nkrumah) and "Africanisation" have offered jobs to those produced by an enormously expanded educational system. But "urban and especially urban elite background has helped substantially". So children of the elite will for the most part manage to remain within it. Practically all are Christian and a very large majority Protestant.



Achimota School, a nursery of Ghana's elite.

The females are likely to have married first between 20 and 24 years of age—no earlier than American women. Males are most likely to have married between 25 and 29. The most educated have slightly fewer children than the others but five living children is a likely number for the completed family.

This family pattern, says Dr. Caldwell, differs in many ways from the traditional Ghanaian one and "could be said to be more Western". Probably about one Ghanaian household in 50 is of this type; but their urban elite are far more significant than the numbers suggest. They are likely to increase in number and ultimately their way

of life might become fairly general. They channel new patterns of living into the country "and aspects of their way of life will, in perhaps diluted form, have a much wider influence in the society than the mere spread of their numbers would indicate". Even more important is their likely effect on formation of government policy, particularly in population planning.

The direction of change among the elite families is towards convergence with the Western family. "The most distinctive features of the Ghanaian marriage, unstable marriage and polygamy are disapproved by the great majority". Husband-wife relation are strengthening as measured by the husband "taking the wife out reasonably frequently"; this applies also to children in more than a third of families. The family is becoming more "child-conscious", especially in education, for the elite family knows that its children enjoy a life which they will, as adults, be able to attain only by securing jobs which usually demand high qualifications. Many of the elite see "nothing bad" about Western families, described as consisting of no more than three children.

What is the consequence of this family picture for the fall in birth rate for which Dr. Caldwell hopes? "Husbands and wives who talk about the number of children they should have, or who hope that their children will have small families or who practice contraception, or hope to do so, are much more likely to view high rates of national population growth with disquiet." Those beginning to wonder whether high population growth rates are a cause of economic difficulties, may begin "to look askance at the size of their own families" (although those questioned had enlightened views about the value of immigrants to the economy). But the consequences are probably more complex.

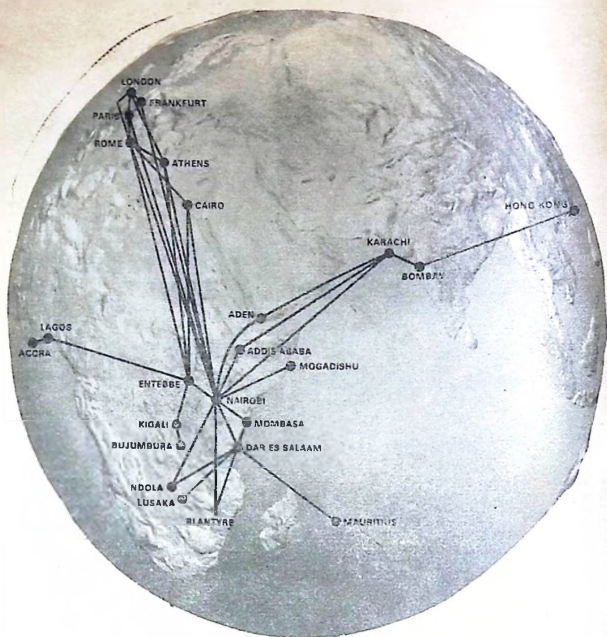
Over two-thirds of parents questioned have discussed family size with their spouses. Between a quarter and a third want no more children, the proportion rising much higher for wives who have borne four or more. Two-thirds believe that some people can successfully control family size.

The increased expenditure upon children, which nearly all the elite families report, does not primarily follow the rise in the number of surviving children. "It is more closely related to the expense of training children for high status, urban occupations". This means long years of schooling followed perhaps by university or teachers' college training. With increased education the position of children in the family and their ability to communicate with parents becomes ever stronger. They can exert pressure to be allocated a greater share of family expenditure and to extend their own schooling.

In general Dr. Caldwell finds a transition from very high fertility ideals and a readiness to attempt to control births (the gives much statistical evidence), although the trend is very complex.

Over two-thirds of those questioned favour establishment of family planning clinics "and almost three-fifths would expect to use them". There is a marked religious differential on the first point but not on the second. Only Catholics who wish, for personal reasons, to use clinics favour a public policy of establishing them. But many Protestants, who, for various reasons, would not wish to use clinics, nevertheless favour their establishment.

¹ Population Growth and Family Change in Africa by John C. Caldwell (C. Hurst and Co., London: 75s.).



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PIONEER SURGEON

From a Freetown Correspondent

INTENDING doctors who think that the profession of medicine is all glamour should take a look at the career of Mr. Olu Williams, a pioneer of surgery in Sierra Leone. True he has a great reputation both inside and outside the country; he has just ended his two year term as President of the Association of Surgeons of West Africa. Yet what all this means in terms of everyday living is an abstemiousness which leaves reserves of mental and physical energy for the taxing and unremitting practice of repairing the human body. The stories are numerous of Mr. Olu Williams being summoned at the beginning of one of those chic dinners organised by his wife, Marietta (Sierra Leone's only woman Permanent Secretary), to an emergency at the theatre, and never being able to return to his guests for the rest of the evening; or stories of him returning uncalled to the hospital late at night to check on the progress of a patient on whom he had earlier performed a delicate operation. There can be no better example anywhere of a man devoted to his profession.

If he is frustrated by inadequate supporting services in Sierra Leone's hospitals, he wastes little time complaining, but devotes energy to planning better hospitals and more facilities. A reluctant talker about himself, he never tires of talking about plans for the improvement of medical services. The old Connaught Hospital Extension has had a new floor added to it, and Olu Williams is excited about the possibility of fitting out the ground floor as an intensive care unit where the victims of very bad accidents or patients in need of special care can be insulated by artificial ventilation from extra hazards, and be provided with specially trained nurses. When he talks about projects like these, Olu Williams ceases to be the rather reserved person that he first appears to be.

He is excited by prospects of better training facilities for nurses in the new Sierra Leone College of Nursing which he hopes will provide more expert nurses with a local orientation. The building which will house the college is already towering over other hospital buildings in Freetown's Oxford Street. But probably his favourite project at the moment is one which was discussed

throughout his term of office as President of the Association of Surgeons of West Africa, and which came to fruition at the end of his two year term. This is the foundation of a College of Surgeons of West Africa, a project whose realisation gives him a great sense of achievement. The College, which will be international, will provide post-graduate training for doctors throughout West Africa. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh is co-operating in this scheme and is inaugurating a Fellowship scheme as part of its contribution to establishment of the College. An interim council has been formed of which Olu Williams is (inevitably) a member.

He also talks enthusiastically about the part Sierra Leone could play in such



a scheme. He hopes that funds would be made available for a post-graduate medical Institute in Sierra Leone. This, he thinks, should be a medical centre *par excellence* where doctors could have post graduate training.

"We lose our doctors during some of the best years of their lives because they have to go away for four or five years for post-graduate training. At one time nearly a quarter of Sierra Leonean doctors were away on post-graduate training in foreign hospitals. We are having a growing number of specialists and there are young doctors, but the gap is in the registrar grade. A first-class medical centre could keep doctors working in their own environment while improving their academic qualifications and experience."

Mr. Williams thinks the diplomas would be good, but the experience invaluable. With such a high-class medical centre, a nurses college, an upgrading of the country's hospitals, and the provision of the four basic clinical laboratories — Haematology, Morbid Anatomy, Chemical Pathology, and Bacteriology—a medical school for under-graduates would be easy to fit in. This, too, is a scheme for which this indefatigable man is working.

Olu Williams looks back with some satisfaction at the medical scene in Sierra Leone today even though he is conscious of the tremendous amount that needs to be done. In 1956 he was the only qualified Sierra Leonean surgeon in the country. Now on the surgical side alone there are thirteen specialists, and there are others in training.

After finishing Prince of Wales School, Mr. Williams worked for three years in the Provincial Administration before going to Dublin in November 1944 as a private student, paid for by his father, a well-known Freetown businessman, Mr. A. E. O. Williams. He had a brilliant career at Dublin, winning a number of prizes, including two silver medals in Anatomy, and was demonstrator in Anatomy and Physiology. He graduated L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S. in July 1950. He worked in the United Kingdom for four years and obtained his primary for the F.R.C.S. before returning to Sierra Leone. After 15 months he returned to the United Kingdom and qualified as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (F.R.C.S.) in February 1956. He has since added O.B.E. to this string of titles.

In 1963 he went to Newcastle and the Great Ormond Street Hospital to study Paediatric Surgery on a W.H.O. fellowship and has recently returned from the United States, where, as an Eisenhower Fellow, he visited 14 hospitals, medical centres, and medical schools. These tours abroad only strengthened Olu Williams' resolve to stay in Sierra Leone and raise the standard of local medical facilities. Very few Sierra Leoneans could be more attractive material for the brain drain to more lucrative jobs overseas. But he says quietly: "I feel I am much more needed in Sierra Leone."

He finds relaxation from surgery in gardening—one suspects because this keeps him near the telephone, and keeps his mind free to think and plan. If Sierra Leone has a post-graduate medical centre or a medical school, Olu Williams is bound to have a vital part to play in organising it, teaching in it, and inspiring young doctors who can have no better professional leader. There is still a busy life ahead for Sierra Leone's brilliant pioneer surgeon.

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Womb and Navel of Africa

Oho! Congo Oho! Pour rythmer ton
nom grand sur les eaux
sur les fleuves sur toute mémoire

Que j'enlève la voix des kòras Koyate!
L'encre du scribe est sans mémoire.

For Senghor to visit the Congo for the first time is something in the nature of a pilgrimage, to the place he hymned with so much feeling some twenty-five years ago without ever having known it, the place he once described as "the womb and navel of Africa". It is interesting to read, therefore, the texts of two speeches he delivered in the course of last month's state visit there, on the two subjects, which of all his themes, have been the most recurring, *la francophonie* and *la négritude*.

The speech on *francophonie* delivered at the OAU village in Kinshasa went over much ground that is familiar to students of Senghor's speeches—all politics "must have culture as both foundation and ultimate goal", *francophonie* is a noosphere (a mental zone), *francophonie* should become a brilliant pole of the Universal Civilisation, and other concepts from Teilhard de Chardin. But he also went over the historic ground of the history of the French language and the reasons it is possible to accord it special status. It was almost as if he felt that these were things that the Belgians could not have been expected to tell the Congolese: and being Senghor he did it very well, covering great historical panoramas from Descartes and Pascal through the Encyclopaedists to the great romantic writers of the 19th Century in speaking on these he reveals his own infatuation with the French language: they gave the language "image, that is colour and relief; music that is melody and rhythm; the interior heartfelt resonance that is better called soul".

Négritude and Soul

He squares the concept neatly with *négritude*, the promoters of which "knew how to use the French language to translate the originality of our genius and the authenticity of the values of our civilisation" (he would, one imagines, find much to justify his views in the way black Americans use the word "soul"). But he goes on specially to stress the complementarity of *francophonie* with other world cultures, in particular in the African context with *anglophonie*: "If I were anglophone I would be for *anglophonie*" (it is curious how no word exists in English for *anglophonie*), and to deny that *francophonie* involves submission to French cultural imperialism. At the same time French is for him, the language of ideas, the language of humanism, the lan-



guage of liberty, the language with a vocation for universality, "for us what Greek and Latin were for the world until the 19th century."

Soyinka and Langston Hughes

He dealt with the question of the relationship between French and English in Africa more directly in the introduction to a lecture on *négritude* he delivered at the *Maison du Parti* of the Popular Movement of the Revolution (MPR) in Kinshasa. This was significant as a pained public reply to the attacks the concept has experienced at the hands of "Negro-Africans of the English tongue", that it has been used as a vehicle for French cultural imperialism, with its mania for "abstraction and schematisation", and that "we are content to proclaim *négritude* in our works without creating properly negro works". He rebuked his critics (he named particularly Mphahlele and Soyinka) for passing judgment without being able to read French, and recalled that the inspiration of the *négritude* movement in the 1930s was from anglophone negroes of the Negro-Renaissance movement, such as W. E. B. Du Bois and Langston Hughes, who wrote in 1926, when Césaire, Damas and Senghor were still at school: "we younger negro artists who create now, intend to express our individual dark-skinned selves without fear or shame," a quotation, said Senghor, which was more concrete, more racial than the word *négritude*. He quoted a Serer poem, by a popular poet who could not speak a word of French and had experienced no French influence, singing the praises of "the man with the black skin, beautiful with eyes closed, beautiful in the arena". He was quite happy, to please Mr. Soyinka, to declare that negro-African literature in French, especially poetry, was of mediocre value. But that could not disguise the fact that it sprang directly from African sources. "The truth is that our anglophone brothers are only the instruments of a concealed imperialism, of an old Anglo-French rivalry which should, today be outmoded, in this 20th century, which is the century of the universal. For us, we



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do not see in negro-African literature English a rival, but rather a vast supplementary region of *négritude*." In reply, then, he said, was not to vituperate against that literature, but to teach the university of Dakar.

Mali Military Moves

I see that several senior officers of the Mali army are to be pensioned off. In May: notably the former Commandant-in-Chief, Col. Sekou Traore, who was arrested with ex-President Modibo Keita last May; Col. Pinana Drabo, who is the present C-in-C, and Lt.-Col. Balla Traore, who is the present Commander of the gendarmerie. Both Col. Drabo and Lt.-Col. Traore supported the *coup*, and are now members of the ruling CMLN. These officers are surely to make way for the promotion of a group of younger, better-trained officers such as those who were over in Mali are surely championing. While on the subject, it is worth remembering here that one of the younger officers who staged the *coup* was the son of the late Fily Dabo Sissoko, one of the leading opponents of Modibo Keita, who is in detention in mysterious circumstances in the summer of 1964. The explanation was that he and a fellow officer Hamadou Dicko, had been in a party that was ambushed by Toure's régime. Last week in Lagos, Col. Malick Diallo, leading one of the CMLN missions currently on tour in Lagos that Keita would be brought to trial, for as yet undisclosed offences. One wonders if the deaths of Sissoko and Dicko might figure in the *coup*, but the Mali military insist that there will be no executions: "We are not interested in destroying lives," said Col. Diallo. The alternative is that the President might be tried for corruption. If it happens he would be the first head of state or government in Africa to have been brought to trial (other than absentia). Most countries have preferred to let sleeping dogs lie, and it is surely he those who will count on Malians to do the same.

Guinea and Nigeria

Moving over to Guinea (where the régime still seems very much on the defensive; a sure sign is that they are up to their traditional pastime of playing Ivoirien tawlers) I see that President Sekou Touré has reiterated his past support for Nigeria, as part of a denunciation of some of his French-speaking colleagues (no names, of course). He says certain Africans were supporting foreign capitalists in the division of Nigeria, with a view to exploiting its oil. At the same time in France the autonomy movement which has arisen in "the West of the country" (Brittany) is the object of threats, and General de Gaulle, "who is ready to crush secessionists and defend French interests, gives billions and sends mercenaries to divide Nigeria." The President also

cised certain mendicant Presidents, of whom, each time they went to Paris, the Parisian population said "they have come to beg again." At least they knew Guinea was not a beggar.

Griot

Eduardo Mondhlane

THE assassination near Dar es Salaam early this month of Eduardo Chivambo Mondhlane adds another memorable name to the lengthening list of brave men and women who have died as victims, directly or indirectly, of Portuguese imperialism.

Mondhlane will be mourned by everyone who knew him, who followed his leadership, who admired his courage, who enjoyed his friendship, who understood the value of his gifts and devotion to Mozambique, his own country, and to the wider cause of African advancement. On any count of virtues or of personality, he was among the outstanding men of his time.

He will be sorely missed by his own movement, as well as by his companions in Angola and Guine-Bissau with whom, at the time of his death, he was in closer sympathy and co-operation than ever before. But if Eduardo could speak to us now, I think that his main point, apart from sorrow at leaving a wife and three children and many friends whom he loved, would be that those who killed him have missed their moment. He was never at all sure, as one remembers, that his enemies would not kill him sooner or later. He never allowed this constant threat of death to affect his behaviour, his temper or his policy. He took it wonderfully in his stride, a big laughing man whose clear sincerity and seriousness lay even in his laughter. Yet up to about a year ago he knew that his going must be a very harsh and perhaps fateful blow to the movement he had done so much to build since the beginning of the 1960s. There were too many things to be made secure and firm; too many incipient conflicts within this growing independence movement to be brought out into the open, resolved, removed; too many questions of international attitude to be developed and made clear.

He will undoubtedly be hard to replace. But it happens that it was in the last twelve months of his life that Mondhlane worked for his movement, for the unfolding of his vision, for the clarification of what the future ought to be—a future, in his evolving view, of revolutionary change in the whole socio-economic structure of Mozambique—with a commanding success and skill, and with qualities of drive and understanding that surprised even his friends. In these twelve months he had gone far to carry FRELIMO to a level of organisation and

overall policy that could make it unbeatable, no matter what individual losses it might suffer in the meantime. This work was largely consummated during the triumphant Congress (and its sequel) that was held in the province of Niassa last July.

This Congress signalled FRELIMO's maturity, whether in terms of internal organisation, military and political planning, or long-term policy; and it likewise witnessed Mondhlane's own re-election as president by an enthusiastic unanimity of the 150-odd delegates who were present from all the provinces of Mozambique. More than this, the Congress also led to an open confrontation with certain dissident provincial politicians in Cape Delgado; and once again this was resolved in favour of unity under Mondhlane. By September the movement was far stronger than before both in fighting potential and political coherence, and there was even good hope that certain hesitations and oppositions on the Tanzanian side would at last be overcome and removed.

The Portuguese tried hard to kill Mondhlane and his companions during the July Congress. For reasons that remain to be explained, one of their spotter planes was actually able to locate the woodland campsite on the last afternoon of the assembly, and Portuguese bombers obliterated it the following day.



But Mondhlane and everyone else had left the previous night, and there were no casualties. Now that an as yet unknown assassin's hand has done its filthy work, one may hope that responsibility will be pinned on those who directed it. But for Eduardo himself, the great achievements of his life are alive for all to see, and there is probably no force anywhere that can any longer destroy them. It is a memorial that will not be forgotten.

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MATCHET'S DIARY

IN Britain now some people speak of cannabis as though its consumption was no more harmful than drinking alcohol or smoking tobacco. They should take a look at Nigeria. So serious has the effects of cannabis become there that in 1966 the first military government decreed death for peddling cannabis. No doubt the importance of the drug in political violence led to this decision, which might otherwise seem unreasonable; for there is no doubt that in the old Nigeria politicians could induce hundreds, sometimes thousands, to be indifferent to their own safety in political riots by supplying them with cannabis. Death was also decreed for producers of the plant. It was probably the most valuable crop a Nigerian farmer could grow—with a pound worth, even in Nigeria, £100, and probably £1,000 abroad. It can be grown easily and secretly in the middle of other crops and in Nigeria it is widely consumed in "wraps", crude cigarettes made from cannabis leaves.

Dr. Asuni, the specialist psychologist at Aro Hospital, has said that easy accessibility of cannabis was leading to widespread psychological disorders in Nigeria. The police had noted the terrible consequences of consumption of cannabis when long distance lorry drivers use it to keep awake, but consequently lose all sense of reality. The police have also noted the complete indifference to danger and the reckless violence of criminals who have consumed cannabis. Certainly it is not dangerous in the way opium or heroin are, and in Nigeria and other parts of Africa cannabis does not form the basis of a dangerous and cruel highly organised business. It is true, also, that what might be called the political effects of cannabis consumption, as noted by Flora Nwapa in her novel *Ejuru*, may be important only in Nigeria and the Congo (where "cannabis worship" among the Baluba rebels was said to explain their indifference to rifle fire). So far, too, there is no evidence in Britain or other European countries that taking cannabis has the disastrous economic consequences it has in some areas of Africa, where the drug makes farmers and workers idle for much of the working day. But all this could happen in Europe, too.

For an account of life inside Biafra held territory now, I recommend two articles last week in the London daily *Sun*, written by Michael Leapman. He says that, with the long stabilisation of the fighting lines, life now appears more normal than at any time last year during his visits to Biafra. Most astonishing, primary schools are now open for the

first time since the war began, while new wooden buildings are now going up in Umuahia to replace those damaged by bombs, and to house refugees. He confirms that, although vehicle fuel is very short, there is some local petrol distillation. The courts continue to function, and what Leapman calls the enforced centralisation of the administration means that the Government can more easily control affairs. The most serious economic problem, he thinks, is the severe shortage of ready cash. Nobody has any confidence in bank notes, but the old Nigerian coins, which were not replaced when Nigeria withdrew Federal currency, have almost all been used by Biafrans for trading with Federally-held territory. So now the smallest effective currency is the Biafran 5s. note, which means a quite ridiculous price for things like a chicken.

Leapman also reports that relief flights of food have made a tremendous difference, particularly to children. Everybody is afraid of the expected shortage of yams and other bulk food, particularly as the food growing campaigns will produce nothing in time to



Miss Wonu Odesanya, born in Ikorodu, now in Lagos State, where her father is a business man, has for the past two years been lecturing in Law at the University of Zambia.

meet this shortage, which will mean that actual starvation takes the place of malnutrition. I myself have even been told by people recently in Biafra that supplies of palm oil, one of West Africa's most nutritious products, are adequate and that the problem of the displaced persons, among whom malnutrition and starvation are most common, is in some ways a psychological one, because of their terrible experiences. It is also true that much starvation, both in Biafra and in Federally-held territory is the result not of absolute shortage of food, but of the fear of people who will not come out of "the bush" to get it.

As new Administrator of the US AID, President Nixon has appointed Dr. John Alfred Hannah, President of Michigan State University. His appointment is of particular interest to West Africa because Michigan State, and he personally, have been closely connected with the establishment of the University of Nsukka, Eastern Nigeria. Dr. Hannah's international interests, however, are much wider. His public appointments in the US are numberless but his new one, at the age of 66, suggests that, if the quantity of US aid is to fall, its emphasis may be on education and on agriculture, which has been his main academic interest.

"If Government decisions on industrial projects are to be used as electoral currency then all Governments will have a growing inducement to extend the area of State control.

"One can imagine the results in future elections. One candidate will pledge his party's support for an aluminium smelter, another will offer a veto on a nuclear power station or guarantee [an order] for the local shipyard. Pit closure postponements will be a major item, on offer in mining constituencies and the whole of the . . . programme for steel production will be parcelled up into constituency-sized bundles . . ." This is not, as some may conclude, an account of economic development in a West African state, but a warning, in an article in the London *Daily Telegraph* about what might happen in Britain.

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Letters to the editor

WHAT PRICE THE COMMONWEALTH?

Sir.—Like many other international conferences the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, 1969, has come and gone with the usual fanfare, parties, state banquets, Press and radio coverage. The communiqué issued at the end of the conference showed a wide range of topics discussed at the conference table.

But what is the achievement of the conference?

To Harold Wilson it was the most successful in the history of the Commonwealth. Many British people are likely to agree with this view on the ground that the expected "punches" over the terms of the *Feasibility Proposals* had not come and no damage was done to the continued existence and solidarity of the Commonwealth. But many Commonwealth leaders left the conference disappointed: President Kaunda of Zambia is one. The problem of Rhodesia remains unsolved and will continue, like a ghost, to haunt the conscience of the British people.

This conference has marked the beginning of the end. Mr Wilson has come out with an I-couldn't-care-less attitude. The Commonwealth means much less today than before to the British people and government. The other members of the Commonwealth are not prepared to treat each other better than countries outside the Commonwealth.

Many people are rightly asking, what are the justifications for the continued existence of this body? Could its existence be justified for mutual and common defence, or is it for economic ties, or is it for assistance for developing countries by the developed countries, technical or otherwise? The answer in each case is no, for instance, the USA, not a member of the Commonwealth, gives more assistance and aid to the developing countries in the Commonwealth than any of the developed countries of the Commonwealth. What the Commonwealth requires is a decent burial.

D. S. GEORGE.

Port Harcourt

Sir.—It is most gratifying to learn that the Sierra Leone Government (and possibly other Commonwealth governments) is taking steps to control immigration and may require citizens of Commonwealth countries, including Great Britain, to have visas for entry. It has been hard to understand why Britain required visas from other Commonwealth countries' citizens when British people could enter Commonwealth countries without a visa.

I was on several occasions in groups of so-called Commonwealth citizens who had to go through the ordeal of interrogation for 15 minutes or more by British immigration officers, even though British entry visas were stamped on our passports. It was all the more difficult to understand this when, for example, Sierra Leone citizens did not require any visas or interrogations whatsoever for entry into West Germany, Italy, Denmark and Norway, so-called Continental countries which are

supposed to be so foreign to the "Commonwealth."

H.M.J.T.

Freetown.

STUDENTS' UNIONS

Sir.—The multitudinous students' unions in UK are alarming. And if the proliferation of these unions presents some qualms, is it not more disturbing that these unions break-up and form new ones? Students unable to contain themselves within the opposition do this, with the result that there are sometimes two, three, four, five or more similar unions competing for nothing.

Your policy in the case of a split seems to be refusal of publication for all parties. The danger in this is that it allows a dissident fraction to hold others to ransom, and so to win. You ought to ban a dissident group on proof that it was so formed. I am sure that through this means, you will solve many difficulties and problems.

This matter is all the more perturbing and problematical because students carry these practices to their fatherland, to spread ideas of secession, new empires, sovereign independent states and provinces and disintegration of society.

Students who form dissident tribal unions should be ashamed of themselves and they should pack them up.

(DR) P. O. ONAGHISE.

TRANSMUTATIONS?

Sir.—Many of your other readers must have been amused by Mr Tunde Eleidemi in your issue of Jan 25. Writing about the demonstration in London for an independent "Oduduwaland," he said *inter alia* "... the emphasis now is on the transmigrations of tribal loyalties to the largest loyalties of nationhood." But he himself is the General Secretary of the Yoruba

Council of Great Britain and Ireland—one of the clubs in the milliard of similar narrow-minded organisations!

OSMIR NUBI.

DETENTIONS IN SIERRA LEONE

Sir.—In your issue January 18 you reported that during the Commonwealth Conference, I issued a statement in London alleging that more than 500 civilians, civil servants, and opposition members were in detention. In the same issue Mr. Stevens is reported to have admitted at his news conference that many SLPP members were in detention; apparently he did not refute the numbers mentioned by me.

You quoted a public notice issued by the Sierra Government, as listing only 151 detainees. But your issue of February 1 reports the release of 200 detainees. Assuming the 151 people listed in the public notice were released, are we to assume that the additional 49 were detained since the public notice in January?

The relevant part of my statement to which you referred reads: "The most recent reports indicate that... over 500 civil servants and members of the opposition including the Attorney-General, the Financial Secretary, the Establishment Secretary, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Parliamentary Leader of the opposition, many Paramount Chiefs and opposition Members of Parliament and their candidates for the pending by-elections are languishing in prison without trial."

Many people earlier alleged to have been freed were, as an informant of mine puts it, "people of no consequence, many of whom could not even be identified."

A MARGAL.

London.

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other forms of private enterprise". Yet there are phrases from which one might deduce that it is not a form of private enterprise. It would have helped if the final chapter, on Government and Co-operative enterprise, had been placed near the beginning. **F.J.P.**

The Forest of Symbols: Aspects of Ndembu Ritual, by Victor Turner. (Cornell University Press: Oxford University Press, 142s. 6d.)

Based upon long and thorough field work among the Ndembu of Zambia, Professor Turner's new book is the culmination of his studies of this interesting people, whose ancient religion and ritual remains remarkably unchanged. He emphasises the astonishing contrast between the relatively simple and monotonous economic and domestic life of a people who live by hunting and subsistence farming, and the complexity and colourful symbolism of their religious life. The chapters on local medicine and disease treatment and on an Ndembu doctor in practice are particularly interesting. Professor Turner, while fearing that a rich system of magical explanation for disease does not improve public health, concludes that Ndembu practice may still have lessons for western medicine if stripped of its supernatural guise.

There are a number of photographs, and the book is magnificently produced.

Professor Turner has produced one of those studies in depth of a single people which are now going out of fashion, but which still enthrall and convince both the expert and the layman.

N.D.

An Introduction to Sociology, by J. E. Goldthorpe. (Cambridge University Press, 45s.)

When teaching sociology at Makerere University College, Dr. Goldthorpe learnt a great deal about Africa from his students and also about the sort of questions arising from their own societies to which they wanted answers. His book is written for such students: that is to say it begins with societies of the kind the Africans know and takes them on to urban industrial society.

Answering the question posed in the title of his first chapter, Mr. Goldthorpe says that sociology is an attempt to apply to the study of human society the scientific method and approach so successful in yielding an understanding of the physical world. Professor Audrey Richards, in her preface, says that in practice the study of an unfamiliar society often stimulates a person to examine his own society more fruitfully. She believes, therefore, that non-African students, too, can benefit greatly from Dr. Goldthorpe's special approach.

Subjects covered include family and marriage, magic and social classes and technology, as well as the methods used by social anthropologists. Each chapter has a bibliography for suggested reading.

Tobacco by B. C. Akehurst (L. 90s.)

Described as the only up-to-date of its kind, this gives a complete picture of all stages in the production of cigarette, cigar and pipe tobacco: the early culture of the plant, the point at which the finished product is ready for the consumer. The bewildering variety of types of tobacco and each major type is considered. Because, in spite of small export quantities, African tobacco is virtually all consumed locally, little attention is given to its growing in Nigeria although its growing is now a major agricultural activity in Nigeria and many other West African countries. But a great deal of Mr. Akehurst's book is relevant to West African tobacco growing and cigarette manufacture.

He dismisses easily, in an incoherent historical sequence, the recent evidence on smoking as harmful to health, noteworthy that originally tobacco was regarded in Europe as a panacea for a great variety of maladies.

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World Bank, Farms and Africa

MR ROBERT MACNAMARA, World Bank President, has been on his first tour of Africa south of the Sahara. In Senegal he signed a \$9.5m loan agreement with Senegal (see below), for expansion of groundnut production. His tour is reported to have aroused interest because, since he succeeded Mr George Wood, last March, the Bank has expressed increased interest in Africa and in agriculture. In Dakar he said the Bank's loans to Africa would be tripled in the next five years, he was going to study Africa's agricultural problems at first hand, but added that loans would not be for agriculture only. Mr. MacNamara is also to arbitrate between the Congo-Kinshasa Government and the Union Minière on certain outstanding questions during his visit to the Congo after Senegal and Ivory Coast.



In Ivory Coast the World Bank is supporting the \$110m. SODEPALM project, for new palm plantations and attached processing mills. This, the major Ivory Coast agricultural development project, involves clearance of about 70,000 hectares; contract for half of this operation (illustrated here) has gone to JOLKACI, a German contracting firm, which is carrying out the task with about three dozen Allis-Chalmers crawler tractors and a crew of about 250. The European Development Fund of the EEC is the main source of outside finance for this project.

• The World Bank and IDA are lending \$9.5m to Senegal for continuation of a programme to increase groundnut production. The programme was originally started in 1964 with EEC finance to achieve 25 per cent increase of production of groundnuts and other crops, to make up for the loss of the French surplus, finally lifted a year ago. The total cost of the programme is about \$24m, so the Bank and IDA loans will contribute 39 per cent, the farmers 16 per cent, and the Senegalese government the balance of 45 per cent.

Ghana firms Build Uganda Schools

Two Ghanaian building contractors' firms have won a contract worth a total of 10m Uganda shillings for construction of secondary schools. They are S K Mairou & Co and E. K. Osei & Co., both of Accra.

• Industrial firms established in Ghana without the Industries Ministry's prior approval or an "approved status" granted by the Capital Investment Board must secure recognition from the Ministry of Industries which must also be approached for licences for new industries or expansion of existing ones, says a new Industrial Policy statement. All industries with more than 10 employees will have to make regular reports on value of investments, productive capacity of plant and other matters.

Investment proposals submitted to the Government should provide, in "some significant proportion", for efficient use of Ghana's own material and labour resources, import saving, convenience for markets, eventual viability, and other benefits, says the statement.

• 246 employees of the distribution branch of the Ghana Publishing Corporation have been laid off following the takeover by the Ministry of Education of the supply of free textbooks in schools. They have received severance pay and allowances.

Water for Ibadan

Master plans for waste disposal and drainage in Ibadan will be prepared under an agreement between Nigeria and the UNDP, whose contributions will be £195,000 and £296,000 respectively. WHO is the executing agency for the project, delegated by the UNDP. The project is expected to take two years.

The UNDP will also aid a pilot project for increasing employment opportunities in Western State of Nigeria by training of farmers, use of high yielding seeds, improvement of roads, and other measures.

• The Federal Nigerian Ministry of Education and the corresponding ministries in all the northern states have signed an agreement on continuation by the US Agency for International Development (AID) of its teacher training programme which is being administered by the University of Wisconsin, and concentrates on curriculum development, production of new teaching materials for Grade II training colleges, and participant training as Wisconsin. The USAID has granted another £230,000 for the project.

• A new £500,000 textile mill at Ilupeju Industrial Estate in Ikeja, Lagos, is to be commissioned next April. Run by Western Textile Mill Ltd., it will produce polyester-viscose suiting, new imported, and later nylon and other synthetic goods.

Cocoa Pact in '69?

A WORLD cocoa agreement will close this year if the USA agrees to it. Raul Prebisch, outgoing secretary-general UNCTAD, has declared in Geneva. Contacts between the seven main importing and seven main exporting countries have continued since last June's formal meeting which failed to agree on some points that had proved obstacles to agreement.

• Ghana cocoa purchases, after last week bought in 3,747 tons, totalled 311,310 for the season. Rudolf Wolff's *Market Review* says, however, that, "as the main contracts to a close we can expect some adjustments due to over or under declarations. Overall Ghana's current crop sales are estimated at 315,000 tons, says Wolff, an Nigeria sales at about 170,000 (James Thol quotes estimates of Nigerian purchases to Jan. 30 at 171,425 tons).

London prices have fallen a little, and Wolff says, "for the moment the heat is off cocoa. On both the London and New York exchanges with the absence of speculative liquidation and a steady actual market we have seen price levels recover quietly and a trading range appears to have been established". 1969 contract prices: generally under 400s per cwt, this week.

• General Foods of New York is reported to be maintaining its bid for control of Rowntree, despite the latter's rejection.

Schweppes has made a take-over offer to Cadbury, proposing to exchange 1½ Schweppes ordinary shares for every 100 of Cadbury's.

Planning ECA's Future

At the Economic Commission for Africa's full session in Addis Ababa a five-nation committee to define the Commission's future role has been chosen. Countries represented are Nigeria, Senegal, Congo-K, Tunisia and Kenya. Many delegates are reported to have called for Africanisation of the Commission (which, being part of a UN body, has a multinational staff); they allege that there is too much interference from non-Africans. Some disappointment was reportedly expressed at the state of co-operation between ECA and OAU.

The meeting has now unanimously agreed on recommendations for increased political control, it resolved that the two-yearly full sessions should be at ministerial level.

For Ghana, Mr. E. N. Omahoe has proposed complete decentralisation of UN activities by late next year, with a branch established in Africa.

The Addis Ababa meeting was due to end on Feb. 14.

• Ashanti Goldfields' profit for the four months from October (when the successful take-over bid by Lonrho was announced) to January was £1,555,000, including £290,000 in December and £314,000 in January. In January it milled 52,000 short tons for 40,400 oz. of gold, which fetched £713,000.

• Rice seedlings from Formosa are to be tested on Ghanaian soil as part of the new rice-growing project aided by Formosa. Ghana still imports a large

NOTICE

Western State Notice No. 24

COMPETITION FOR ENTRY TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND SPECIAL DEPARTMENTAL CLASSES OF THE WESTERN STATE OF NIGERIA PUBLIC SERVICE, 1969

It is notified for the information of intending candidates that the 1969 competition for entry to the Administrative Class and the Special Departmental Classes of Auditors, Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies, Produce Officers and Inspectors of Taxes, all in Scale 'A', in the Western State of Nigeria Public Service will start in April 1969.

2. The competition comprises:

(a) a qualifying written examination, conducted by the West African Examinations Council;

(b) a series of tests and interviews, known as an Extended Interview, conducted by the Public Service Selection Board;

(c) an interview before the Public Service Commission.

Only those candidates who reach the qualifying standard in the written examination will be invited for tests and interviews by the Public Service Selection Board. The Public Service Commissioners will subsequently select, in the light of candidate's performance at the Selection Board, those whom they will themselves interview.

3. To be eligible for admission to the competition, a candidate who is not already a serving officer in the Western State of Nigeria Public Service must hold a First or Second Class Honours Degree from a recognised University, or alternatively in the case of the Special Departmental Classes of Auditors and Inspectors of Taxes, a recognised professional qualification, i.e., the Final Certificate or Associate Membership of any of the following Professional Bodies:

(i) Institute of Chartered Accountants;

(ii) Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants;

(iii) Institute of Cost and Works Accountants;

(iv) Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants.

Note (1) For the Special Departmental Classes of Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies, an Honours Degree in Economics is preferable and for the Class of Produce Officers, the Honours Degree must be either in Agriculture or Economics.

(2) 'Recognised' in the above context means 'recognised by the Government of Western State of Nigeria'.

4. Candidates who are sitting for any of the above qualifications in 1969 will also be eligible for admission to the competition on the understanding that if they fail to secure the appropriate qualifications, they will automatically drop out of the competition.

5. The written examination will not be designed to test candidates on the subjects in which they hold degrees, but, to test their ability to think clearly and to understand and write English and also their knowledge of current affairs, with particular reference to West African Affairs. Notes for the guidance of candidates drawn up by the West African Examinations Council will be issued to all candidates in due course. The Examination will comprise the following papers:

(i) *English (Précis and Critical Appreciation)*. This paper will consist of a précis of a passage supplemented by a question asking candidates to comment critically on the central idea of the passage.

(ii) *Current Affairs*. This will be in two parts. Paper I will consist of three questions of the traditional Essay type, all of which must be answered. Paper II, an objective test, will consist of fifty questions, all of which must also be answered. In both papers the range of questions will be such as will cater for the graduate, the University student as well as the non-graduate. The questions are intended to test the in-

telligent awareness of current affairs which any educated person may reasonably be presumed to possess.

(iii) *General*. This will consist of two questions—one will test ability to detect dubious thinking, and will contain short passages of which the Logical Force is to be discussed critically. The other will test ability to draw Statistical Inferences from a table of numerical data.

6. The written examination will be held on the 25th of April, 1969 in Lagos, Ibadan, Ife, London, Washington and at such other centres as may be determined later.

7. Minimum transport expenses to and from London and Washington will be refunded to candidates who are in the British Isles or the United States of America respectively, who travel to and from those cities for the purpose of taking the written examination. In respect of attendance at the Public Service Selection Board, a detention allowance, subject to a maximum of two nights, will be paid to candidates who are neither serving officers nor resident in the city where the Board is held to help them in defraying the cost of their accommodation and transport expenses in that city. A refund of minimum local transport expenses to and from the place of interview is also payable. In all cases candidates will be responsible for arranging their own accommodation and transport and meeting the cost in the first instance.

8. Each candidate will be required to pay an examination fee of £5 5s 0d which is not refundable.

9. Serving officers are being informed of the special arrangements affecting them. Other candidates who have already applied on Form WNPSC 1 for appointment to one or more of the classes mentioned in paragraph 1 above should, if in Nigeria, send to the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Ibadan, Treasury Receipt for the £5 5s 0d competition fee or, if outside Nigeria, send £5 5s 0d by Money Order or Postal Order, crossed in each case, to the authority to whom they addressed their applications on Form WNPSC 1 under a covering letter referring to their applications. These must be received not later than 20th February, 1969. This Commission will not accept any responsibility for money sent in any other manner than that prescribed.

10. Candidates who have not yet applied but wish to do so should send the fee in the manner prescribed above, with their application on Form WNPSC 1, to the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Ibadan, if they are in West Africa, or to the Recruitment Attache, Nigeria High Commission (Recruitment Section), 9 Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2, if they are in Europe, or to the Head of Chancery, Embassy of Nigeria, 500 Dupont Circle Building, Washington & D.C., if they are in the United States of America or Canada. The applications and fees must be received not later than Thursday, 20th February, 1969.

11. Instructions as to the date, time and place of attendance will be sent direct to individual candidates.

12. Further information may be obtained from the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Ibadan, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Establishments and Training, Ibadan or the Recruitment Attache, Nigeria High Commission (Recruitment Section), 9 Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2.

E. A. EMULLOMO,
Secretary, Public Service Commission

NOTICES—Continued

COMPETITION FOR ENTRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND SPECIAL DEPARTMENTAL CLASSES OF MID-WESTERN NIGERIA PUBLIC SERVICE

1. The 1969 competition for entry into the Administrative and Special Departmental Classes of Mid-western Nigeria Public Service will start in April 1969. The Special Departmental Classes comprise the Scale A posts of Auditor, Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Produce Officer and Inspector of Taxes.

2. The competition will consist of:—

- (a) a qualifying written examination conducted by the West African Examinations Council;
- (b) a series of tests and interviews conducted by the Public Service Selection Board,
- (c) an interview by the Public Service Commission.

Only candidates who attain the qualifying standard in the written examination will be invited for the tests and interviews by the Public Service Selection Board. The Public Service Commissioners will subsequently select, in the light of the records and performances of such candidates, those who will be interviewed by the Commission.

3. In order to be eligible to enter for the competition, a candidate who is not already in the Public Service of Mid-western Nigeria must either possess the following qualifications or intend to sit in 1969 for the final examinations leading to them:—

- (a) For the post of Administrative Officer, Class IV
A degree, preferably in Arts or Economics, from a recognised university.
- (b) For the post of Auditor or Inspector of Taxes
A degree from a recognised university.
- (c) For the post of Produce Officer
A recognised degree in Agriculture or other suitable degree, preferably in Commerce or Economics.
- (d) For the post of Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies
A recognised degree, preferably in Economics

"Recognised" in the above context means "Recognised by the Government of Mid-western Nigeria."

4. The purpose of the written examination is not to test the candidates in the subjects which they studied for their degree but to test their ability to think clearly, to understand and write English as well as their knowledge of current affairs, particularly West African affairs. Notes for the guidance of candidates drawn up by the West African Examinations Council will be issued to all candidates in due course. The examination will comprise the following papers:—

(a) English (Precis and Critical Appreciation)

This will consist of a fairly long and complex passage which the candidates will be required to summarise in their own words supplemented by a question asking them to comment critically on the central idea of the passage;

(b) Current Affairs

This will comprise two separate papers, one of which will consist of three compulsory questions of the traditional essay type and the other will be a fifty-question objective test paper. The questions are designed to test the candidates' intelligent awareness of current affairs which any educated person may be presumed to possess;

(c) General

This will consist of two questions. The first, known as the Logical Force passage, will test ability to detect dubious thinking and the second, known as Statistical Inference question, will test ability to draw correct inferences from a table of numerical data.

5. The written examination will be held on Friday, 25th April 1969, in Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu, Benin City, Onitsha, Zaria, Accra, Freetown, London, Washington and at such other centres as may be determined later. The dates and centres of the sittings of the Public Service Selection Board will be announced later.

6. Candidates will be responsible for arranging and meeting the cost of their accommodation and transport.

7. Each candidate will be required to pay a fee of 5 guineas and fees are not refundable. No responsibility will be accepted for money sent in any other manner than that prescribed in paragraph 8 below.

8. Serving officers will be informed of the special arrangements affecting them. Other candidates who have already applied for appointment to any of the classes mentioned in paragraph 1 above should, if in Nigeria, send to the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Benin City, crossed postal or money order for the examination fee of 5 guineas. If outside Nigeria, a candidate should send the fee of 5 guineas by crossed Money Order or crossed postal order to the authority to whom he addressed his application. The name of the applicant should be inscribed on the reverse side of the remittance, the serial number(s) of which should be recorded in the accompanying application form or letter. All applications and fees must be received not later than Thursday, 27th February, 1969.

9. Candidates who have not yet applied but who wish to do so, should send their fees in the manner described above together with their applications on the official form to the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Benin City, if they are in West Africa, or to the Nigeria High Commission (Recruitment Section), 9 Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2, if they are in Europe, or to the Chancery, Embassy of Nigeria, 1333 Sixteenth Street, N.W. Washington D.C. 20036, if they are in the United States of America or Canada. The applications and fees must be received not later than Thursday, 27th February, 1969.

10. Instructions as to the date, time and place of attendance will be sent direct to individual candidates by the West African Examinations Council.

(Signed) J. A. Ohiorenyo
Ag. Secretary,
Public Service Commission

NOTICES—Continued

OGBOMOSO PARAPO (Gt. Britain and Ireland) ANNUAL CONVENTION

This is to inform members that the Annual Convention of the PARAPO will take place on Sunday, 16th February, 1969, at All Saints Church Hall, Prince of Wales Drive, Battersea Park, London, S.W.11.

STARTING FROM 12 NOON prompt.

AGENDA

1. Reading and adoption of minutes of the last meeting.
2. President's Report.
3. Correspondence.
4. Finance.
- BREAK FOR REFRESHMENT.**
5. Debate on President's Speech.
6. Motion to amend the constitution—Mr. A. Emlola.
7. Election of Officers.

"DUNNI AYANDIPO,
Publicity Secretary,

IDANRE DESCENDANTS UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. 1969—EXECUTIVE.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Union held at Sun 101, Gower Street, London, W.C.1, on Sunday, 5th January, 1969, the following officers were elected:—

Mr. Wole H. Dembade	President
Mr. S. Akintall	Vice President
Mr. E. Adesote	General Secretary
Mr. F. Olajundoye	Asst. Gen. Secretary
Mr. A. Omolola	Social Secretary
Mr. C. Akinmosoyi	Asst. Social Secretary
Mr. R. Ogunwusi	Publicity Secretary
Mr. Ade Akintomide	Asst. Pub. Secretary
Mr. F. Iyobakin	Treasurer
Mr. J. Akintofunso	Financial Secretary
Mr. C. Oloruntimehin	Asst. Financial Secretary
Mr. A. Oluwatoye	Auditor

Welfare Officers:—

Mr. G. Adelowoye	S. W.
Mr. B. Aruloye	S. W.
Mr. A. Omogbehin	N. W.
Mr. F. Akundoye	E.
Mr. D. Balajay	S. E.

R. Ogunwusi, Publicity Secretary.

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NOTICES—Continued

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PRO-TEM WORKING COMMITTEE—

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- Vice Chairman Mr. D. T. Misa
- General Secretary Mr. M. B. Conteh
- Asst. General Secretary Mr. M. F. Mansaray
- Organising Secretary Mr. C. M. Campbell
- Publicity Secretary Mr. J. A. Kamara
- Finance Secretary Mr. A. Samura
- Asst. Finance Secretary Mr. H. R. Conteh
- Membership Secretary Mr. M. K. Sama
- Asst. Membership Secretary Mr. S. S. Karama

- Social and Liaison Officer Mr. P. A. Johnson
- Asst. (1) Mrs. R. A. Waray
- (2) Mr. D. D. Korema

OFFICERS ADVISING

- Head Adviser Mr. John Arka
 - Asst. Advisers Mr. S. B. Sankoh
 - Mr. M. B. Kallay
 - Mr. F. M. N'Jai
 - Advisors Mr. M. H. B. Tejan
 - Mr. E. S. Tholie
- Sured; M. D. Conteh, General Secretary.

NOTICES—Continued

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kaffu Akangbe Oladejo, wish to be known and referred to as Richard Ademola Oladejo. Former document valid.

MEETINGS

WESTERN STATE (NIGERIA) STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

At a recent meeting of the students of the Western State origin, a committee of five was elected to prepare a constitution and to convey a meeting of the various 'divisional unions' representatives for consideration.

A meeting has been fixed for Monday, 19th February, 1968, at a place and time to be announced later. All divisional unions of the Western State should please forward their addresses to:

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MEETING ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (London Branch)

Meeting on Monday, 27th February, 1968, at 10.00 am, 101, Strand, London, W.C.2. The meeting will discuss matters of interest to members.

- Chairman Brother A. R. A. Durozola
- Vice Chairman Brother C. A. Johnson
- General Secretary Brother R. E. A. Adams
- Asst. Secretary Brother M. A. Adams
- Publicity Secretary Brother H. A. Oshodi
- Finance Secretary Brother A. S. A. Adeniji
- Asst. Finance Secretary Brother C. A. Oshodi
- Membership Secretary Brother R. A. Johnson
- Asst. Membership Secretary Brother Y. A. Adeniji
- Local Secretary Brother T. A. Lawal
- Asst. Local Secretary Brother C. A. Nwagwu
- Female Officer Brother N. A. Mchugh
- Trust Brother T. A. Oshodi
- Female Trust Brother A. A. Durozola
- Executive Committee Brother R. E. A. Adams
- Brother T. A. Oshodi

All communications should be directed to: Mr. S. B. Johnson, 101, Strand, London, W.C.2. (Telephone: 01-607 6573).

GENERAL UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Notice is hereby given of the following meetings:

- President Mr. Kenneth Caplan
- Vice President Mr. Ross Taylor
- General Secretary Mr. George Collins
- Asst. Gen. Sec. Mr. George Collins
- Publicity Officer Mr. George Collins
- Finance Officer Mr. George Collins
- Asst. Finance Officer Mr. George Collins
- Membership Officer Mr. George Collins
- Asst. Membership Officer Mr. George Collins
- Female Officer Mr. George Collins
- Female Trust Mr. George Collins
- Trust Mr. George Collins
- Female Trust Mr. George Collins

Secretary: Address: General Union, 101, Strand, London, W.C.2. (Telephone: 01-607 6573).

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SITUATIONS VACANT—Continued

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MEETINGS—Continued

AFRICAN CENTRE

Monday, 17 February, 6.30-9.30 p.m.

CHURCH AND POLITICS IN CHANGING SOCIETIES—SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA
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Thursday, 20 February, 7.30 p.m.

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IKEJA DIVISIONAL UNION

The inaugural meeting of the above named Union will be held on

Sunday, 23rd February, 1969, at 2 p.m. prompt.

All Indigenous citizens from Agege, Ikeja and Mushin Districts are cordially invited to attend.

Meeting place: 9 City Mansions, North Rd., London, N.7. Nearest tube station, Caledonian Road. Buses 14, 17, 221, 196, 127, 253.

Conveners: R. B. A. Jafajo, A. A. Shogobiyi.

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GHANA

"Conakry Boys" at Otu Commission

TWELVE East German jet fighters were sent to Guinea in the latter part of 1967 for an invasion of Ghana by Dr. Nkrumah, a former senior member of Dr. Nkrumah's security guards. Mr. I. Y. Anaman, said in evidence at the Amissh Commission of Inquiry into allegations against Air Marshal Otu. He said he had been on a course in the USSR at the time of the 1966 coup, and then went to Guinea with other trainees, and stayed there two years himself; he and others formed two political committees, one of which investigated the causes of the coup and (he said) found them to be dissatisfaction at salary differences, CPP members' lust for wealth, inadequate security services, and the work of the CIA and British and West German intelligence services. He claimed that a list of people to be arrested when the ex-President was restored was drawn up, and included Air Marshal Otu.

Another so-called "Conakry boy," Mr. I. S. Essuman, said a detailed chart had been prepared in Guinea showing Ghana's strategic points and military positions, and the Cuban ambassador in Guinea and two other Cubans had studied with Dr. Nkrumah a map of Ghana brought from Sierra Leone. He alleged that he had heard of A.-M. Otu and a Captain Chikata writing to Nkrumah, and said arms from the USSR, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Cuba and Egypt had been collected for the President in Guinea, where—the witness claimed—he also saw the 12 East German fighters on exercises. Dr. Nkrumah, he alleged, had told him that he gave £50,000 to Mr. Ekow Eshun, and that when he (Eshun) was kidnapped the sum was lost. Another allegation by this witness was that a radio transmitter had been set up for broadcasts by Dr. Nkrumah, but he (Nkrumah) had stopped them, saying an American radio station in Liberia was trying to locate the transmitter.

Another former security officer, Mr. G. K. Adani, said he had had weapons training in Guinea, some of it at the Alpha Yaya camp; East European weapons were used. Another still, Mr. S. K. Ibrahim, said he drew a map of Accra when in Guinea, marking targets for aircraft being used for subversion (he could not say whether it was for bombing); and he helped to make anti-NLC placards to greet the OAU mission which, in November 1966, went to Guinea to see if Ghanaians there were staying there voluntarily or not. Several witnesses mentioned visitors to Dr. Nkrumah in Guinea: Mr. Ekow Eshun was frequently mentioned.

Eshun himself, due to testify, is to be represented by Mr. B. Kwaw-Swanzy, former Attorney-General.

● The 25-man crew of one of the Soviet trawlers detained at Takoradi have been taken to Accra for an "identification parade." The ships were arrested last October, on suspicion of illegal trading; since then Mr. J. W. K. Harley has

alleged that they were connected with alleged subversive plans in support of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

● The ban on political parties imposed after the 1966 coup might be lifted in three months' time. Brig. Afrifa, of the NLC, said last week. Speaking at the inauguration of the Mampong (Ashanti) local branch of the Centre for Civic Education, he also urged people to forget the past and accept former CPP members if these came back as "true prodigal sons." Dr. Kofi Busia, head of the CCE, appealed at this meeting for an end to apathy.



Nkrumah—story of Guinea plots.

● At the Constituent Assembly Dr. F. T. Sai (Ga-Shai Administrative District) said the members of the NLC should be protected by law from legal action relating to, or emanating from the coup. Mr. James Mercer (NLC nominee) said the proposal that NLC men should be retired on the return to civilian rule should only apply to General Ankrah, who was "already a retired man"; the retirement of all of them had been proposed by Mr. Richard Quarshie (NLC nominee), Resident Director of CAST, who said there might otherwise be embarrassment after the return to civilian rule. Mr. Mercer also said it should be stated in the Constitution's preamble that, "The Kingdom of God and His righteousness will be the cornerstone of the Second Republic of Ghana."

Mr. Paul Soghodjo (Ghana Journalists' Association) said no government should own any newspaper, and Government newspapers should be placed under a trust. Mr. David Egyir (TUC) said a proposal in the draft constitution (drawn up by the Constitutional Commission for consideration by the Assembly) suppressed workers' freedom to strike, and this freedom should be protected.

Mr. S. D. Sorpor (Keta District) said

the Assembly should appeal to the M to suspend lifting of the ban on politics until the Assembly had completed its work. There have been calls for recognition of the Greater Accra Region.

Mr. Issifu Ali (Muslim Association Commissioner for Works, proposed two-thirds majority of the legislature should be required for amendments to the Constitution. Mrs. Sylvia Boyd (NLC nominee) said all those guilty of political offences should be barred from office for 15 years by a clause in the Constitution.

Dr. K. A. Busia proposed a commission to inquire into chieftancy and see what rôle it can play in politics; he opposed any suggestion that chiefs alone should be Presidents. Mr. William Ofori Atta said the Government should not have power to recognise chiefs, but should give publicity to their enstoolment; the Chieftancy Secretariat should be abolished, nothing similar put in its place, he said. He defended the powers of the Supreme Court in the Constitutional proposals, saying they did not place the judiciary above the legislature, but ensured the supremacy of the Constitution.

All these suggestions, and others, were made in general discussion of the Constitutional proposals, before the Assembly formally adopted them as the basis of discussion. This it has now done.

● Gen. Ankrah was due to pay an official visit to Kenya from February 12 to 15, accompanied by the Commissioners for External Affairs (Mr. P. D. Anin) and Economic Affairs (Mr. E. N. Ombao), and several officials.

● All 140 buses imported for the Electoral Commission for issue of identity cards to voters have now arrived. There are 60 from Japan, 50 from West Germany (with wireless sets, record players, and microphones with loudspeakers), and 30 from the U.S.A. The *Daily Graphic* has reported that gear were stolen from eight buses at Tema harbour.

Photographic equipment for the buses carry has not yet arrived.

● Wage and salary rises of more than 5 per cent. must be referred to the Incentive Commission for advice from now on. In mid-1970, the Government has deducted 10 per cent. from the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union has said this is "unrealistic", and salary increases should not be restricted unless prices are kept down. The rise does not affect Civil Service rises already agreed, to be applied from next April.

● Ten miners working at the State Gold Mining Corporation's mine at Prestea charged with murder, have been acquitted and discharged. A Sekondi High Court judge dismissed the case against the 10, which concerned the murder of a police corporal in last May's riots at the mine.

● All persons who have registered as voters are advised to keep duplicate copies of their registration forms and refuse to surrender them to any unauthorised persons.

CHAD

The Chad State Prosecutor, Emmanuel Verges, a Frenchman, has been shot dead in a corridor of the Law Courts. The alleged killer, Christophe Nadou, Clerk of Court, committed suicide after

EDUCATIONAL—Continued

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Your loss has been like a long continuous dream to us. We miss you more than we can say. Please continue to rest in peace.

By Matthew Omosola Akinsiku, A.M.I.E.S., your children and grandchild, Omosola, Folajimi, Folasayo, Oladipupo and Olaiya.

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the assassination. President Tombalbaye has declared a day of national mourning for M. Verges, who had been 15 years in Chad under a French Technical Aid Scheme. M. Verges had charged the Clerk with breach of trust in his work, and was subsequently shot as he left his office.

● President Tombalbaye has announced a series of measures aimed at improving the tax revenue situation, which, he said, was "so catastrophic that it could plunge Chad into a political crisis." Under the new measures, traditional chiefs are to recover their former prerogatives to "correct imperfections" in the central administration and ensure a more "normal" collection of taxes. Secondly, the civil service is to be thoroughly reorganised at all levels and there is to be a census.

● The ICFTU has asked the Director-General of the ILO to intercede with the Chad government to secure the release of seven trade union leaders arrested in February 1968, on a charge of plotting. They include MM. Gabriel Dombal and Justin Issaka, both senior officials of the National Union of Chad Workers (UNATRAT).

CHAD BASIN

Delegates of the four member states of the Chad Basin Commission (Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger) have been meeting in Fort Lamy, the commission's headquarters. In his opening speech, M. Georges Diguimbaye, Chad Planning Minister, called for the launching this year of the scheduled \$3,500,000 programme for the development of the Chad Basin. "The year 1969 should mark the end of great theories and the start of concrete realisations aimed at touching off the economic development of the region." Main subjects discussed at the meeting were the development of rural economy, the opening of the region to the outside world by building lines of communication and harmonising transport, stocktaking of the Lake's resources, and the building of an executive secretariat in Fort Lamy. Among observers at the meeting were the IDA, Unesco and FAO, and the European Development Fund.

CAMEROON

In an interview on Radio Cameroon after his tour of Southern and Eastern provinces, President Ahidjo said that in his remarks on the multi-party system he had not actually been condemning the system. He had only wanted to explain that "a young and developing country such as ours can only be built within the framework of an all-embracing national party and not within a multi-party system which brings about division through demagoguery prejudicial to the national cause." (See last week's *West Africa*.)

● France's Aid and Cooperation Fund has agreed to lend Cameroon 100m. CFA francs for telecommunications extension and modernisation (including a Yaounde-Fort Lamy line), 30m. for creation of small industries with Cameroonian directors and capital, and 132m. for continuation of the reform and mechanisation of Cameroon's accounting system by the French firm Simorg.

● The Cameroon National Union, the only party in Cameroon, will hold its first national congress at Garoua on March 10.

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dateline Africa

SIERRA LEONE

The Soldiers' Legacy

THERE was little or no growth in the economy during the year, says the Annual Report of the Bank of Sierra Leone for 1967. The only possible exception was in the mining carried on by the big firms; but in agricultural output and exports there was probably a "real decline". The report also points out that the problems of unemployment, rapid urbanisation, and inadequate growth of domestic incomes, may be aggravated by measures such as devaluation, tax increases and government economies, which may be required by immediate balance of payments and budget needs. Even then, says the report, such measures cannot be maintained "except through major structural change or through socio-political repression." For most of 1967, however, Sierra Leone was under a military regime so "the suppression of fundamental liberties made it relatively easy to handle the pressures of unemployment and later income growth". But in 1968, the report concludes, the problem of real economic growth would be for the government "at least as critical as those of balance of payments and budgetary deficits".

A correspondent writes:

The very serious situation described in the report, particularly the decline in agricultural output and exports has, fortunately, now been reversed, or the report's implicit warning that a civilian regime may not be able to maintain the economic restraints which a military regime can, may have been tested. In his speech at the "Governor's Banquet" of the Bank of Sierra Leone, Mr. Nicol-Cole said that, particularly since 1965, the flow of private and public external capital had been declining, but long term investment of government and public corporations, although small, held up well. Higher unemployment and prices had been experienced, and the stern deflationary measures of the military regime reinforced the "recession" in personal incomes and employment.

1968, however, the Governor said, showed a different picture, with marked advances in production and exports in mining and agriculture and, to a lesser extent, manufacturing for domestic consumption. Both the budgetary and the external payments positions were much improved, with a good surplus likely in the 1968-69 budget, and with the reserves at the end of December having doubled during the year. There was, however, an intensification in price rises. Total deposits at commercial banks rose by Le5m. to Le22m., largely as a result of trade revival.

Higher diamond production and sales through the GDO, continued Mr. Nicol-Cole, higher levels of agricultural production and the greatly improved position of the Produce Marketing Board were largely responsible (for part of 1967 the Marketing

Board experienced a crisis, could not even provide cash for produce buying, and had to sack most workers from its plantations. A £2m. loan from the Standard Bank rescued it).

Mr. Nicol-Cole, however, stressed that improvement in the budgetary position and in external reserves resulted from the considerable restraint imposed by the government, while it was possible in Sierra Leone to experience "growth without development" in the economy. It was essential to reduce the "underutilisation" of productive capacity in the country. There were vast reserves of idle land, and some industrial capacity. They should also use existing facilities more productively. Inflation must also be kept under control and the techniques of government planning refined.

● Inauguration of the University of Sierra Leone, installation of its Chancellor and the first Congregation for conferring degrees, began this week. Sir Samuel Bankole Jones, President of the Court of Appeal, was installed as Chancellor by S. T. Matturi, Vice-Chancellor of the University and Principal of Njala College, which, together with Fourah Bay College, constitutes the University. The inaugural lecture at the new African Studies Centre, Mary Kingsley Building, Fourah Bay College, was given by Dr. Kenneth D. Professor of Social Anthropology at Edinburgh University, a leading authority on the Mende people of Sierra Leone and a champion of Fourah Bay in the days following the last war when its future was in some doubt.

● Replying to an address from Paramount Chiefs and people from the Kenema district during his first visit there as Prime Minister, Mr. Siaka Stevens said that



The new no. 12 Plant at SLST's Yendi diamond mine, which has been opened by the Minister of Lands, Mines and Townships. At the ceremony he said the Government intended to review all mining agreements. SLST's resident director said that the company faced a serious security problem which could only be solved by getting rid of "strangers" in the area together with "foreign elements."

need have no fear of the present government; but they had to co-operate with the government which, if it displeased the people, would be thrown out at the next general election.

Kenema was one of the areas where there was serious political trouble during the by-election campaigns.

● According to a report in the Accra *Daily Graphic*, more than two thousand Ghanaian fishermen and their dependents, due to be repatriated from Sierra Leone, cannot be traced. In consequence the charter for a Britannia aircraft, chartered by the Ghana government, which has already repatriated some thousands of the fishermen, has been ended. Many fishermen returned to Ghana in their own canoes and others in a Black Star Line ship. The Sierra Leone government claims that the fishermen, of whom there were some ten thousand, might endanger the country's security by their presence in such numbers on the beaches.

● Sixty-one more people detained under the State of Emergency have been released. They included the leader of the SLPP, Mr. Salia Jusu Sheriff, and the party's Secretary General, Mr. Julius Cole. Two hundred detainees were released last month.

● Later four of the detainees were charged with incitement, organising a secret society, and organising a riotous assembly. They are Mr. Jusu-Sheriff, Dr. Doyle Sumner (former Ministers of Works), Mr. Edward Palmer (SLPP propaganda secretary) and Mr. Samuel Goba.

● One million smallpox vaccinations have been given in the first year of the Sierra Leone Smallpox and Measles Programme, in which the US Public Health Service participated. Dr. George Lythcott, Regional Director of the programme, said that with the possible exception of Nigeria, Togo, Guinea and Sierra Leone, all 19 West and Central African states participating in the programme, are now free from smallpox.

● Ginger is once again to be bought by the Produce Marketing Board. Announcing this the government warns traders against smuggling produce across the border. A motion that piassava should no longer be the responsibility of the Board was recently debated in the House of Representatives. It is expected that piassava will soon return to private trading.

● The first export to The Gambia of flour milled in Sierra Leone by Seaboard West Africa, 600 bags, has arrived in Bathurst. The Freetown mill, which started production in 1967, has an output of 12,500 bags a week. It is hoped to export to Liberia as well.

● Government Diamond Office purchases in January, at Le2,138,000, exceeded Le2m. in a month for the first time. Total 1968 purchases reached the record figure of Le 25m.

● Bankrate has been reduced by 1 per cent. to 6 per cent.

THE GAMBIA

Customs Union With Senegal?

PRESIDENT SENGHOR visited Bathurst last week for the annual meeting at head of government level provided under the Senegal-Gambia Treaty of Association concluded in 1967. Prior to the summit, a meeting of the Inter-ministerial committee agreed to conclude a customs agreement, to be discussed at the next ministerial meeting, in September. In a speech at an official dinner the Senegalese President proposed an "economic union". It was also agreed to take interim measures to struggle against

smuggling. A committee of experts would study the problem in detail in an extraordinary session in April. The Senegalese delegation proposed a co-operation between the customs organisations of the two countries, which would form the basis of an agreement. A report to the committee by the Executive Secretary, M. Seydina Sy, said that customs barriers were a "fetter on the development of relations", and recommended that studies should be undertaken to see what projects could be undertaken to be financed in common. He also said that Senegal was prepared to assist the Gambia in training cadres for the fishing industry.

● During President Senghor's visit there was a demonstration during which stones were thrown at vehicles, and at the Senegalese High Commission in Bathurst. Youths who tore down bunting, and burnt two Senegalese flags were dispersed by police. The demonstrators were protesting at remarks made by President Senghor and his Finance Minister, M. Colin, in the subject of smuggling (see *West Africa* last week).

● A general wage increase, affecting all daily paid workers and certain Civil Service grades, of one shilling a day, has been announced in Bathurst. The pay award, which in the case of the lowest paid daily worker, amounts to a nearly 20% increase, comes into immediate effect. A Salaries Commission will also be appointed to review and report on Salaries and Scales in the Public Service.

● The prime Minister, Sir Dawda Jawara, announcing the new scales, said that an adjustment in the minimum wage is now urgent if the standard of living of lowest paid workers is not to sink below acceptable standards. "The Gambia's financial stability and economic progress is closely tied up with the budgetary restraint exercised by Government and the commendable good sense and responsibility of her citizens," he said. "Any disproportionate increase in Government expenditure due to excessive wage and salary increases is bound to lead to higher taxation which in turn would lead to higher prices. It is of vital importance that the Gambia should not get into a vicious wage/price spiral with the results that can be seen today in many other countries."

● The Government had stretched its resources to the utmost to "cushion the economy against the effects of outside influences including devaluation, increases in the price of rice and fluctuations in the world market price of groundnuts. It is hoped that the measures outlined above will be viewed in the light of these considerations."

● The Premier stressed that his Government will not tolerate any action by the commercial sector which will nullify the effects of these modest increases. In the next week or two, price control will be extended to cover certain essential commodities which are not already controlled. Already oil and rice are price-controlled and my Government is now considering measures which will bring other commodities within the same kind of control."

● A team of two from the World Bank, Mr. Haasjes and Mr. Helmers, has been in Bathurst on a follow-up mission on rice development.

MEETINGS, VISITS

● The OAU will reportedly be urged to cut about £83,000 off its present budget for

the coming financial year. The recommendation will be made by the Consultative Committee for Financial and Budgetary Questions which met at the end of last month in Addis Ababa. The committee had received requests for increases, particularly for mission costs and the budget of the Liberation Committee. But it had finally decided to propose to the next OAU Ministerial Council, due to meet February 17-21, approval of last year's budget, while recommending the above economy. The 1968-69 budget was about £920,000.

● Committee members are Burundi, Gambia, Nigeria, Senegal and the UAR.

● In the wake of the OCAM conference it has been announced that President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast is to visit Congo-K later this year. On his return to Abidjan the Ivorian President especially praised the Congolese President's "great elevation of soul," and his "great qualities of heart and great understanding which has brought what we all wished—the reconciliation of our brothers." He also paid homage to the great national work of reconstruction going on in the Congo, and expressed his hope that exchanges of "personalities, students, unionists, peasants, and sportsmen" could be arranged between the two countries.

● President Mobutu is also to visit Senegal in December of this year, following President Senghor's visit to the Congo just before the OCAM summit.

● Following a meeting in Algiers of the OAU committee responsible for the forthcoming Pan-African Cultural Festival, it was announced that the festival will be held in Algiers from July 21 to August 1. The committee will meet again in March (members are Mali, Senegal, Algeria, Guinea, Nigeria).

● A preparatory meeting for a summit of non-aligned nations is to be held in Addis Ababa in late April or early May. The meeting is being organised by Indonesia and Yugoslavia. There is no date decided for the summit, which would be the first since the Cairo meeting of October 1964.

● A meeting of the management committee of UDEAC (the Central African Economic and Customs Union) has been postponed to March at the request of Cameroon.

● Sudanese President Ismail El Azhari and Chad President Francois Tombalbaye will meet this month in Khartoum to hold talks on construction of a continental railway link through Nigeria, Chad, and Sudan. The UN Economic Commission for Africa has recommended that the link be financed by specialised United Nations agencies.

MALI

Budget Austerity

● The Mali budget for 1969 is 23,000m. Mali francs (about £19m), about 3,000m. less than the last full budget, that for 1966-67. This budget, described as one of "severe austerity" marks the completion of the switch to coinciding the financial year with the calendar year. In recent months government expenditure has been maintained through treasury bills, repayment of which on December 31, was made possible, according to informed sources, partly through French budgetary assistance.

● M. Hamacire Ndouré has replaced M. Ibrahim Sall as Mali's Justice Minister in a

WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

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From London:—EBOE slg London Feb. 14; ONITSHA slg London Feb. 13; DEGEMA slg London Feb. 21, KUMBA slg London Feb. 25; EBANI due Victoria Feb. 18; PANANI due Tema Feb. 17.

From Continent:—FORCADOS slg Hamburg Feb. 21; FIAN due Warri Feb. 15.

NORTHBOUND—To Liverpool:—OWERRI due Avonmouth Feb. 14, DARU due Lagos Feb. 16; DONGA due Liverpool Feb. 18, DUNKWA due Lagos Feb. 16, KABALA due Las Palmas Feb. 20.

To Dublin:—CITY OF GUILDFORD due Dublin Feb. 15.

To Avonmouth:—IRISBANK due Takoradi Feb. 17.

To London:—BHAMO due London Feb. 20; EGORRI due Madiera Feb. 18; FALABA due Pointe Noire Feb. 17; OFFIN RIVER due Takoradi Feb. 18.

To Continent:—FULANI due Takoradi Feb. 17.

EASTBOUND—From USA/Canada:—DUMB-AIA due Dakar Feb. 16.

WESTBOUND—To USA/Canada:—DALLA due Port Gentil Feb. 17; DEIDO due Jacksonville Feb. 14; FREETOWN due Norfolk Feb. 25.

From India/Pakistan/Burma:—NAIRNBANK due Takoradi Feb. 23.

BARBER WEST AFRICAN LINE

OUTWARDS—TEMA due sail New York/Halfax (NS) third week Feb, for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala and Takoradi.

INWARDS—CORNWELL due sail New York/Halfax (NS) end Feb, for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala and Takoradi.

HOMEWARDS—TIANIA now due US North Atlantic.

JAPAN "K" LINE

WESTBOUND—From Japan (via Hong Kong and Cape) to Madag, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan Freetown etc.—NORWAY MARU slg Japan Feb. 4, due Lagos Mar. 14.

EASTBOUND—From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown etc. to Japan (via Cape and Singapore):—ISUNESHIMA MARU slg Lagos Feb. 13, Tema Feb. 16, Freetown Feb. 19, due Japan Mar. 30.

PALM LINE

SOUTHBOUND—From Liverpool:—IKUJA PALM slg Dakar Feb. 16.

From Continent:—ILESHIA PALM due Bahrusa Feb. 15.

NORTHBOUND—To London:—IBADAN PALM slg Port Gentil Feb. 15.

To Liverpool:—LOBITO PALM due Matadi Feb. 15.

To London and North Continent:—SAGA STATE slg Congo Feb. 18.

WOERMANN LINE

POSEIDON slg Amsterdam Feb. 10, due Las Palmas Feb. 18, Monrovia Feb. 23, Tema Feb. 28, Lagos/Apapa Mar. 2, MOSSEL BAY slg Antwerp Feb. 17, due Dakar Feb. 25, Matadi/Boma Mar. 6, Pointe Noire Mar. 11.

NPAL WEST AFRICA LINE

EASTBOUND—NOPAL SUN slg. New Orleans Feb. 5 Takoradi Mar. 10, Lagos Mar. 13, due Warri Mar. 17; NOPAL TELLUS slg New Orleans Mar. 6, Takoradi Mar. 26, Lagos Mar. 29, due Warri Apr. 2.

WESTBOUND—NOPAL LUNA slg Luanda Mar. 3, Takoradi Mar. 9, New Orleans Mar. 27, due Houston Mar. 31; NOPAL SUN slg Luanda Apr. 2, Takoradi Apr. 10, New Orleans Apr. 24, due Houston May 2.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINE

INWARDS—STRAAT BALI from China and Hong Kong slg Hong Kong Jan. 8, due Lagos/Apapa Feb. 7, Cotonou Feb. 16, Lome Feb. 19, Tema Feb. 20, Abidjan Feb. 22, Monrovia Feb. 24, Freetown Feb. 25, Dakar Feb. 28, Conakry Mar. 5; STRAAT FRANKLIN from Japan slg Kobe Jan. 21, due Lagos/Apapa Opt, Tema, Feb. 24, Monrovia Feb. 26, Freetown Feb. 27, Abidjan Mar. 5, Takoradi Mar. 6.

OUTWARDS—STRAAT BALI from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong and China

first half Feb.; STRAAT FRANKLIN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan second half Feb. first half Mar.

EDWARD NASSAR LINE

EMIR BECHIR slg, Famagusta Feb. 13, due Beirut Feb. 14, Gibraltar Mar. 2, Tema Mar. 13, Lagos Mar. 16, Monrovia Mar. 22, Freetown Mar. 23, Famagusta Apr. 11.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE

SOUTHBOUND—HJELMAREN ldg. Scandinavia and Bordeaux during Feb; YARRA-WONGA ldg. Scandinavia and Bordeaux during Feb. 6, due Lagos Mar. 14; MANGARELLA ldg. Scandinavia and Bordeaux during Mar.

NORTHBOUND—INNAREN ldg. West Africa for Scandinavia second half Feb./early Mar. MINNESOTA ldg. West Africa for Scandinavia during Feb./early Mar.; HJELMAREN ldg. West Africa for Scandinavia during Mar./early Apr.

CHARGEURS REUNIS

CIRCEA arr. Lagos Feb. 12, Tema Feb. 18, Freetown Feb. 26, TANAGRA slg. Kobe Feb. 24.

MITSUI OSK LINE

KINKASAN MARU slg. Kobe Jan. 22, due Lagos Feb. 21; HOEISAN MARU slg. Kobe Feb. 6, due Lagos Mar. 14; KASUGASAN MARU slg. Kobe Feb. 20, due Lagos Mar. 22.

MAERSK LINE

ANETTE MAERSK slg. Takoradi Feb. 20, arr. Luanda Feb. 22, arr. Matadi Feb. 23.

HOEGH LINE

HOEGH ALLETTE slg. Antwerp Feb. 10, due Dakar Feb. 18, Monrovia Feb. 21, Abidjan Feb. 24, HOEGH WILRI slg. Rouen Feb. 25, due Dakar Mar. 3, Freetown Mar. 7, Monrovia Mar. 8, Abidjan Mar. 11.

HOLLAND WEST AFRICA LINE

SOUTHBOUND—From Continent:—SCHUTTING due Douala Feb. 18; SENEGALKUST due Matadi Feb. 17; CONGOKUST due Lagos Feb. 18.

NORTHBOUND—To Continent:—BALONG ROTTERDAM Feb. 26, DAHOMEYKUST due Bremen Mar. 2, Hamburg Mar. 5, KATSÉDYK due Rotterdam Feb. 27, Amsterdam Mar. 3, Hamburg Mar. 6.

HUGO STINNES TRANSOCEAN SCHIFFFAHRT GMBH

ATLAS HUGO STINNES slg. Bordeaux Jan. 31, due Lome Feb. 16, Douala Feb. 19, Libreville Feb. 21, Port Gentil Feb. 21; KOHOYLI HUGO STINNES slg. Dunkirk Feb. 1, due Abidjan Feb. 17, Cotonou Feb. 19, Lagos/Apapa Feb. 20, Douala Feb. 23.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

BIJENA FORTUNA slg. New Orleans Feb. 5, Houston Mar. 2, SOPHE C slg Houston Feb. 13, New Orleans Feb. 18; WESTWIND slg. New Orleans Mar. 25, Houston Mar. 30.

GOLD STAR LINE

SHAVIT slg. Lagos/Apapa Feb. 30/21, Tema Feb. 22/23, Takoradi Feb. 24/25; NOGAH slg. Singapore Feb. 19/20, Durban Mar. 6/7, Lourenco Marques Mar. 8/9, Cape Town Mar. 12.

BLACK STAR LINE/SEVEN STAR LINE/USNH WA

WESTBOUND—BELLAVIA Luanda Jan. 22, Douala Jan. 25, Tema Jan. 27, Abidjan Jan. 29; SAKUMO LAGOON Ghana Jan. 26/Feb. 1.

BLACK STAR LINE/CONTINENT/WA

SOUTHBOUND—KULPAW RIVER Dakar Jan. 20, Freetown Jan. 23, Abidjan Jan. 25, Takoradi Jan. 27, Tema Jan. 29, Lagos/Apapa Jan. 31; BIA RIVER Hamburg Jan. 30, Antwerp Jan. 22, Rotterdam Jan. 24, Dakar Jan. 30.

NORTHBOUND—KORLE LAGOON Takoradi Jan. 21, Rotterdam Feb. 1; BENYA RIVER Abidjan Feb. 12, Avonmouth Feb. 24, London Mar. 6.

NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE

SOUTHBOUND—ODUDUWA slg. Liverpool Feb. 20; NNAMDI AZIKIWE slg. Antwerp Feb. 22.

NORTHBOUND—RIVER OGUN due Liverpool Feb. 16; ORANYAN due Newcastle Feb. 20.

FARRELL LINES

HOMEWARDS—AFRICAN GLADE slg. Matadi Feb. 18, Luanda Feb. 21, Lobito for US Ports.

ministerial reshuffle. Captain Yero Dal remains at the head of the provincial Government and the number of cabinet members is increased to 14 from 12.

CONGO-K

The Kinshasa buying office of Ben Congo Diamond Distributors (BCDD) now been inaugurated. The ceremony month was attended by a high-ranking government official.

BCDD, which is a subsidiary of London based Central Selling Organisation had sole rights for marketing the output of Congo diamonds since its agreement with the Congolese government June, 1967. Last year total official production amounted to about 12m. carats, this some 10m. carat were industrially processed distribution took place through Brussels by arrangement with the (Société Minière de Bakwanga). Now Miba production has been channelled since June, 1967, through the Kinshasa direct to London, for which the Congo government has derived, from 7% per cent turnover tax and the export duty, at £44m. for 1968.

Since October 1, BCDD has been opening a buying office at Tshikapa, an alluvial diamond area outside the concession, largely mined by local villages between Luluabourg and Kinshasa. It has been one of the main sources of industrial gem diamonds in the Congo (Miba produces largely hoard—industrial diamonds). However, there has been a mining wave there since the termination of the Formosa concession in 1964. The Congo government is at present taking steps to relocate area and return certain parts to be aside for local diggers.

In Tshikapa, for the three-month period October 1-January 1, 550,000 carats, or at just over 1m. carats (about 80% were purchased, results sufficiently successful for the trial period to be extended another three months.

BCDD only pays 23 per cent duty on the Tshikapa diamonds (which are exempted from the turnover tax), but Congo government finds this well worthwhile, because of the foreign currencies involved, as it helps divert some of the large numbers of diamonds which smuggled out through Brazzaville, at a lesser extent. Burundi, both of which have only a 2% per cent duty. Latest show that at least 4m. carats are still smuggled out every year mainly through the Miba concession area.

The Tshikapa buying office has been to offer diggers prices for their diamonds which compete with those offered by intermediaries in the smuggling network. The chances of stamping out trafficking completely are still remote. office is in extremely rough country poor communications (BCDD have chartering a small aircraft as it take or three days by road from Kinshasa).

Since January this year HCDD has been authorised to buy non-Miba production in Kinshasa itself.

GUINEA

The Guinean Navy has arrested trawlers—one flying an Ivory Coast flag—the other a Greek flag—off the G coast near Cape Verga. A Presi communique said the boats were about 10 miles from the Guinean coast last. It said they would remain in detention enquires had been completed.

dateline Africa

NIGERIA

Ojukwu's View of the War

TO a joint meeting of the Biafran Council of Chiefs and Elders and the Consultative Assembly in Umuahia on Monday, Col. Ojukwu announced a new issue of Biafran currency and coins.

On the military situation he said Biafran forces had stabilised their fronts "We have built up our forces and seized certain initiatives" and the future could only generate confidence. He claimed that Biafrans were still in the suburbs of Onitsha, and at some points, inside it. On the Abagana-Awka axis, one of the areas where "enemy activity had been the most felt" federal troops had been "indiscriminately shelling villages" and had made some advances, now controlling an area from Ifite-Ukpo junction to AWKUZU market. Biafrans had regained some lost ground, however. On February 3, he said, Biafra attacked in "all areas of Okigwi and seized the provincial office, police barracks and the Ihube-Ururu-Okigwi junction." The past few days had witnessed "fierce enemy counter-attacks and our troops are maintaining their positions." The fiercest action had been in Owerri, where for the past few weeks "our troops have been trying to clear the town of enemy presence". He claimed "fighting is going on in many areas right inside the town". He also claimed that, while fighting for the town itself, Biafran troops were pushing along the main Port-Harcourt-Owerri Road, and in a "lightning move in Oguta sector had cleared the enemy from Egbema beyond Ebocha where the oil field is firmly in our hands. We are now fighting the enemy at Omoku." Col. Ojukwu also hinted that he would soon have fighter planes, in response to the people's desire for "air cover".

He warned that when any "British-sponsored offensive" became evident Britain would forfeit all its interests in Biafra. He claimed that Britain's diplomatic activity had aborted the negotiations at Kampala and Addis Ababa, and British influence had prevented the OAU summit in Algiers from acting objectively.

On peace plans he repeated his New Year offer of a truce and negotiations for a cease-fire, saying he would consider a "Commonwealth" arrangement between Nigeria and Biafra. "The signs are healthy; we are now on the threshold of a great event."

On Chief Enahoro's statement that the war would only end when one side decided to give up, he said: "We cannot give up. We will fight Nigeria and her imperialist collaborators with a ferocity that will shock and frustrate them until they leave us alone. The old will fight, and unborn children will fight and their children will fight." He concluded "we are going through the last stages of this bloody war with our heads still high. The end is in sight."

Reports said mentions of "Harold Wilson and his clique" were hissed by the assembly, while France was cheered wildly.

● Dahomey has invited the federal government to station a permanent mission

in Cotonou to examine cargoes carried in Red Cross aircraft. The Dahomeyan community in Lagos has sent a petition to President Zinsou protesting at Dahomey's decision to allow Cotonou to be used for relief flights. President Zinsou has sent a message to General Gowon (delivered by Louis Ignacio Pinto, President of Dahomey's Supreme Court), outlining his reasons for allowing the relief flights. The President has been criticised by the government-owned *Morning Post* in Lagos, which said Nigeria should not be misled by Zinsou's explanation that his decision had nothing to do with politics. The federal authorities should not be lulled into a false sense of security and should take the "necessary precautions and draw the right conclusions from the latest actions and statements of President Zinsou".

After the OCAM conference, Dr. Zinsou went with President Senghor to Yaoundé where they briefed President Ahidjo on the



Presidents Zinsou, Ahidjo and Senghor, in Yaoundé.

summit. Dr. Zinsou then went on a short visit to Libreville for talks with President Bongo of Gabon, who has recognised Biafra. In Yaoundé, the Dahomey President had said "Dahomey is neither for Nigeria, nor Biafra. Dahomey is for peace." He denied that the permission given to the Red Cross was a tacit recognition of Biafra, and said he did not see why it should be seen as a stand favouring one side. If someone asked him whether he was working for a united Nigeria, he would say yes: "but this is absolutely not a stand on the civil war". He repeated that the agreement on using Cotonou had been reached after discussions with the interested governments.

● Evidence that there was after all an OCAM Peace Mission on Nigeria (see last week's *West Africa*) was provided by President Eyadema of Togo who on his return from the OCAM mission of representatives of Gabon and Ivory Coast will visit Biafra, and another, composed of representatives of Cameroon, Dahomey and Niger will visit Nigeria.

A Lagos radio talk said that the OCAM mission showed the genuine concern the organisation had "for a fellow African country with an internal problem," and while it was welcome "one cannot help having reservations about it."

● In a sharp exchange between two ministers at last week's meeting of the West European Union, Lord Chalfont (Britain) and M. de Lipkowski (France), Britain claimed that Col. Ojukwu was the

main obstacle in the way of organisation of effective relief, saying that he was using the night flights of relief supplies to conceal arms deliveries. M. de Lipkowski said that the obstacles were on the Nigerian side too—it was not helpful for Nigerian planes to have twice bombed a French hospital in Biafra, he said.

● President Tubman has confirmed that new efforts are under way to reactivate the OAU Consultative Committee. He said he had sent a telegram to the Ethiopian Emperor a few weeks ago suggesting that it should hold a meeting with both sides. There had been some expectation early in January that the committee might meet in Monrovia, but no meeting materialised. It is understood that strong diplomatic efforts are still under way, and the committee may meet in Monrovia soon. The Emperor had talks last week with U Thant on the subject.

● The International Committee of the Red Cross has said it faces serious problems in obtaining Nigerian visas for its personnel. (The Red Cross' Cotonou-Uli relief flights, however, are proceeding successfully; on one night last week the target of six flights a night was reached.)

A large-scale rice-growing project has been started in Biafran-held territory by the World Council of Churches and Scandinavian church organisations. The Norwegian ship *Forra*, chartered by two Dutch relief bodies, has started unloading food, clothing and medicine at São Tomé, for airfreight to Biafra.

● A report in the *Sunday Telegraph* in London says French arms are now entering Biafra at the rate of up to 150 tons a week, five times as much as were going in last August.

● Jean-Marie Koné, Mali Foreign Minister, on a goodwill mission to Lagos, condemned secession in any part of Africa: "There is hardly any African country without the threat of secession; we have the same problem even in Mali."

● Six Catholic bishops from both sides of the front have met in Rome, including Archbishops Aggey of Lagos and Arize of Onitsha, and Bishops Whelan of Owerri and Reddington of Jos.

● Radio Kaduna, commenting on Senator Kennedy's call for a ceasefire, has said "The last of the Kennedys has let us down. He has gone out of his way and betrayed the cause for which his famous brothers lived and died, to encourage rebellion and secession, to encourage the most criminal of crimes."

● Mr. A. A. Ayida, the Nigerian delegate to the ECA in Addis Ababa, objected to a reference to the war by a US observer, the historian Waldemar Nielsen. Mr. Nielsen, of the African-American Institute, said both the humanitarian and political issues involved commanded the utmost attention of "all true friends" of Nigeria.

● The West German Government has announced a further contribution of 15m. marks (£1.5m) for relief.

● Speaking on his return from Nigeria, M. Achille-Fould, leader of a parliamentary delegation, said there had been no appearance of a genocidal aim on the part of the Federal Government, but the continuation of this "atrocious war" could

NIGERIA—continued

lead to effective genocide. He said General Gowon was trying to restrain the hostile Nigerian reaction to French support for Biafra. Another member of the delegation said he did not think French recognition of Biafra could lead to a negotiated settlement, but the Biafrans' right to self-determination should be defended.

On behalf of the other (two-man) French parliamentary delegation which went to Biafra, M. Jean-Claude Fortuit, called for French recognition, to awaken the world to the problem and stem the rise in Soviet influence. He said the "intention of the French forces, while the genocide is clearly demonstrated" in the conduct of Federal forces, while the Biafrans, despite this, showed "not hate, but a ferocious determination to resist".

The government will not go back on its decision to implement the Ani Report on salaries of senior staff of corporations and state owned companies, but would consider representations for an adjustment of posts, salary scales and regrouping within the approved salary structure. Chief Awolowo said last week. He said the government had rejected alternative salary scales proposed in place of the Ani recommendations.

Fifty-five lorry loads of contraband ungraded cocoa have been intercepted on their way to Dahomey. The Chairman of the Western Nigerian Marketing Board has said Abeokuta was the base for the smuggling. Intensive patrols have been set up.

More than 3,500 displaced Ibo people have returned to their villages in the Asaba

and Ibusa areas of the Mid-West after being moved by the Federal forces after the Biafran infiltration into the area last April.

Total external reserves of the Central Bank on January 31 this year amounted to just under £N 39,200,000, an increase of almost £N1m. above the Jan 15 level, itself an increase on the Dec. 31 level.

Bombing Denied

Nigerian Air Force commander Col. Shittu Alao has said that reports of bombing of the village of Umuohiagu were totally untrue. The reports, apparently eyewitness accounts of the aftermath of the raid from the news agencies AP and UPI, quoted Biafran officials as saying that over 400 people had been killed in the air raid, and many more wounded. Chief Enahoro told newsmen in Lagos that there had been air raids on Umuahia area in the previous few days, but denied this specific raid. Told of eyewitness accounts he said: "There are military targets sited near civilian population. One must allow for an element of error."

In an interview with the Benin Nigerian Observer Col. Haruna, commander of the Second Division, has rejected criticisms of the division on the grounds of slow progress, saying it was raised in a very short time and yet advanced through the Mid-West and via Awka to the capture of Onitsha. He also suggested that the observers, who had done good work, should leave now, and said his wife was an Ibo from Onitsha. The interview was part of a special supplement on the "Nigerian soldier."

The Nigerian Observer (Benin) public lacks a "seriousness of purpose about the war, and "even the mention . . . seems to have been inflated this virus." It calls for reactivation of War Council set up at the beginning of the war.

At the commission of inquiry into Western State tax riots, headed by Justice Ayoola, an Oyo trader said that installation of a new Alafin would end civil disturbances there. He has been no Alafin since the old one died about a year ago, because of a dispute about the succession.)

The inquiry also heard of an Alafin made that six Egba leaders of the State had planned to murder State Commissioner Alhaji Adegbenro in Ramadan last December. The Commissioner was molested by a gang near Abeokuta and escaped.

The Sunday Times of Lagos, in its anti-corruption campaign, has called for implementation of some points in the paper which followed the 1966 Jeds on the Northern Nigerian Marketing Board (now Northern States Marketing Board) noting that there had been no inquiry, as recommended, into as certain named people, in particular Muhammadu Bashar, recently dismissed as Emir of Daura, and the Northern Development Minister in the pre-1966 government, and no copy of the results of a verification of assets could be found in the offices of the Board or of the Common Services Agency.

Hundreds of Nigerians forced to leave their businesses in Ghana by the restrictions on non-Ghanaian businesses there have arrived in Nigeria, says a Times report. In a comment, the Times says "it is a pity that some States of late have been pursuing policies which are likely to impede our African unity," and suggests the Government and other Governments do little to protect Nigerians in other countries.

The Tiv local administration in Benue Plateau State has been dissolved by the Governor, Mr. J. D. Gernon. Part of the state government's reorganisation of local administrative council of council of this sort has been set up with the Tor Tiv as ex-officio chairman.

IN BRIEF

Sir Paul Gore-Booth has been appointed Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Commonwealth and Foreign Office, succeeding Sir Denis Greenhill. He has eleven Deputies.

The death is announced of Sir J. Mooring, former deputy governor of Western Nigeria. He was appointed governor in 1957, after being appointed administrative officer in 1948 in Nigeria. He was financial secretary in the West in 1951, permanent secretary to the Ministry of Finance in 1954. In 1956 he became the last British resident in Zaire.

Mr. Bruce Greatbatch, former secretary of the Premier of Northern Nigeria, has been appointed Governor of the State. He was previously secretary to the Northern Governor and Executive Council and entered the Diplomatic Service on Nigeria.



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