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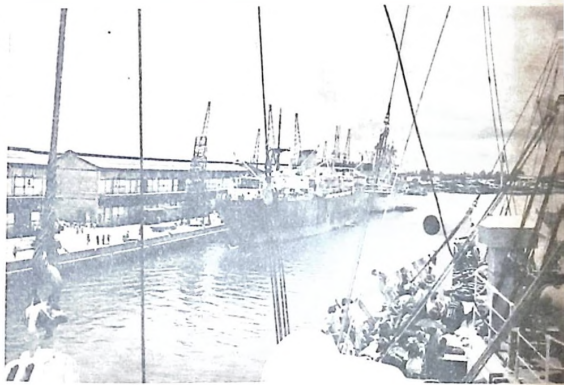
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Can UNCTAD Help Africa's Trade?

In the eve of the second UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in New Delhi, the failure of the U.S. world cocoa conference to reach agreement reinforced grievances against the richer countries held by the 77 "less developed countries" (still called "the group of 77", although since 1964 the number has swollen to 96). On the eve of the third UNCTAD, now meeting in Chile, the cocoa conference has again been in difficulties, although Britain and Ghana managed to produce joint proposals, the Americans refused to accept a "floor" price above 20 cents. Once again the grievances will be reinforced.

The fundamental grievance is that the major constraint on the development of the poorer countries is an external one, resulting from obstacles to their profitable trade. The chief of these obstacles, in the view of the governments of the poorer countries, is the constant deterioration in their terms of trade with the richer countries. But other grievances include the physical and other obstacles placed in the way of export of their manufactured goods; the burdensome terms under which they receive external loans, the monopolistic exactions from them for shipping and other services provided by the richer countries, the domination of world monetary arrangements, to their disadvantage, by a small group of rich countries, widely fluctuating as well as decreasing prices for their primary products, and the development in the richer countries of synthetic substitutes for tropical raw materials such as rubber.

It can be argued that there is no, or only a partial, basis for each grievance, for example the terms of trade have improved over a long period. But no demonstration will convince the governments of the poorer countries that their grievances are baseless. So strongly do these governments feel the grievances that they unite them politically when otherwise they might have nothing in common. Moreover communist countries were established at the first UNCTAD, in which presumably, they had expected to stand with the 77, to find themselves assailed,



as they will be in the present UNCTAD, for failure to promote their imports of primary, particularly tropical, products, and to extend untied aid. This time too, China appears at UNCTAD, perhaps to range herself with the 77 against the rich communists.

In 1964, it was a certain Mr. Heath, then U.K. Secretary for Trade and Industry, whose speech secured the widest acceptance. For, fresh from consultation with Commonwealth Trade Ministers and from talks with Commonwealth representatives at the conference, he urged a general expansion of trade with poorer countries, by removing tariffs and also the "quantitative" restrictions which communist countries apply. He asked EEC to remove its discriminatory tariffs against non-associates, and all countries to remove entirely tax and revenue duties on goods from underdeveloped countries. He offered to "trade in" Commonwealth preference in return for preferences extended by other richer countries to all underdeveloped territories. He also urged that there should at least be a "floor" for commodity

prices, although warning the conference that if prices were stabilised at too high a level this might lead both to chronic over-production and to the use of substitutes. He also gave guarded support to the idea of "compensatory" finance for catastrophic falls in the overseas earnings of the poorer countries.

Since that first UNCTAD, the idea of "special treatment" for the poorer countries has gained general acceptance, although it is now realized that such treatment leads to benefit the better-off among them leaving some 25 countries, nearly all in Africa, which have come to be categorised as "least developed". These require even more special treatment, because they may neither attract private investment nor be capable of using international assistance.

Special treatments in the shape of tariff concessions have now been extended by nearly all the richer countries, (except communist countries, whose close control of external trade makes their concessions illusory) to most of the products of the poorer countries, and steps have been taken towards "com-

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NIGERIA

Warri—Oil City: 2

Perhaps the best reflector of the changing economic position of the town is Warri port which was controlled by John Holt's until November 1969, when it was taken over by the Nigerian Ports Authority. Warri had just one berth with two mooring buoys for ocean vessels. But by 1970 the port had been expanded to take in four more ocean-going ships. Six years ago, the port was handling mainly import of capital goods and export of raw materials like palm kernels and rubber. Today Warri port is oil orientated — handling mainly oil pipes, casings and oil-well equipment, although the import of general commodities like cement, flour, salt and other domestic goods has also increased. Further development is envisaged to make the port up-to-date and prepare it for the expected upsurge of import-export activity in the Warri periphery. A programme of £4m is planned to increase the capacity to take in two more ships and to build modern transit sheds and warehouses, in addition to the rehabilitation of the old port and building of a new long quay wall. Already a survey has begun for dredging the port, whose present restrictions are due to the Escravos Bar, 30 miles out at sea. By 1970-71 the port handled 246,888 tons of imports and 25,020 tons of exports.

Another indicator of the increasing level of spending in the town is the growth of hotel and catering services. In 1962, Warri had only one good hotel, the Catering Rest House in the former "European quarters". Today Warri can boast of at least five international-standard hotels, including the Palmgrove Motel with its sixty air-conditioned chalets. All have air-conditioned rooms with restaurants which serve European, Oriental and African dishes. The fully air-conditioned Warri Club, which up to 1960 was open only to Europeans, but membership of which is now determined by class rather than racial origin, is another picturesque rendezvous for a quiet meal and drink. Right on the bank of the river, the club has a beautiful swimming pool in a garden, a modern restaurant and bar, a dance/conference hall and two tennis courts. Apart from these hotels and clubs, there is a mushroom of smaller hotels and night clubs.

The great strides being made in the industrial and commercial fields are unfortunately not matched by comparable progress in social welfare services. It is true that Warri is now covered by a large fleet of taxis and the Delta Bus Service which runs along the main streets — thus making public transport much easier than it was a decade ago when there was only one taxi serving the whole town, and no bus service at all. The state of the roads, however, leaves much to be desired. The volume of traffic has tripled in ten years, with heavy vehicles moving

oil pipes, casings and other industrial equipment from the port transit sheds to bases in the outskirts of the town or to wells in the hinterlands. The roads have in fact deteriorated in the face of heavier traffic. Apart from the newly-built, well tarred, roads leading to the Shell-BP installations at Ogonu and Effurun and to the air-strip, many of the new roads are untarred, very dusty and uneven.

On the health side the picture is slightly more encouraging, with the newly built, air-conditioned Shell Staff Hospital at Effurun posing a challenge to the long established State-run General Hospital, with its 120 beds and eight doctors serving a population now well over 200,000. Plans for expansion have already come out, including a new theatre, X-ray department, dental department, a ward and a mortuary. To ease the strain on the General Hospital, the state government is planning two new hospitals at the nearby villages of Agharo and Oseroke. In Warri, a few private clinics, like the one run by Dr Isari in Cemetery Road, provide a better and more personal service for those who can afford it.

There is little doubt, however, that with the progressive outlook of the Mid-West State administration, improvements in the social services will catch up with the advances on the economic front. Already the Warri-Benin road is one of the best in the country and the Mid-West line and the Delta Bus Service, run by the State, are among the most reliable transport systems in the country.

Cash flowing like Oil

With more money in more hands, and the prospects of even more going into more hands, Warri is bubbling over with activity. In the wake of the easy cash flow are the evils which money brings. The popular attitude already is that the oil will not flow for ever, so grab the money while it still flows and make sure you are well stocked before the wells dry up and the heavy machines, tractors, bulldozers, cranes, and the ocean liners roll away. Consequently, the Urhobos and the Isekiri, the two main tribal groups in the town, who have always been disputatious people, quarrelling over land ownership and chieftancy titles, find that they have no choice but to have more land disputes and quarrels over titles, although inter-tribal rivalry as such, which was the greatest bane of the people, seems to be dying out.

A possible explanation of this latter development is the experience of the Civil War, plus the growth of the oil economy, which is making people think mainly in terms of money rather than tribal origins. Warri girls, too, are out to get their fair (if not fairer) share of the oil money. Their target is however not the oil wells but the pockets of the men. The European and American technicians, engineers, adminis-

trators and other staff working on the r in the hinterlands flock into Warri in the evenings and on their days off in search of fun and excitement, pockets loaded with Nigerian and foreign money. The find company easily among the night-club girls who are only too anxious to relieve them of the weights in their pocket.

Warri is slowly being transformed in a mecca for prostitutes, pleasure-seekers, gamblers, racketeers and hand-its. Crime is escalating in the face of the temptation. While 2,496 criminal cases were investigated by the Warri Provincial Police in 1961, by 1970 the figure had jumped to 5,781. Wealth, or seeming wealth, is far from evenly distributed. The gap between the rich and poor is widening, so in the midst of plenty the deprived child has little alternative but to turn to crime.

Having conceded the inevitability of an increase in crime and other social evils attendant on an improving standard of living and growing wealth, one must be impressed by the economic out-look. The oil flow is only beginning to gather speed and it will be a long time before the wells dry up. Shell-BP alone is at present producing 680,000 barrels daily from its wells in the Mid-West and Western States Division, controlled from the Warri headquarters. On shore and off-shore oil exploration is being intensified by all companies. Already, the Sub-Sea Oil Services Company of Italy is building a diving school of international standard in Warri at a cost of £N50,000. The school, first of its kind in Africa, will train Nigerians to dive up to 700 feet below sea level and stay up to seven days underwater for fishing and oil exploration. If the present feed-back of industrial growth continues, by the turn of the century Warri could be a computerised concrete jungle in the wilds of Africa, with endless rows of tall office buildings and commercial houses, factories, assembly plants, industrial centres and housing estates buzzing with air-conditioners.

A shuttle air service now links Warri to Escravos, Benin, Lagos and Port Harcourt. But the small air-strip between Ogonu and Effurun, used only by light aircraft, is already inadequate. Nigeria Airways would be the first to admit that a majority of passengers to Benin are bound for Warri. There is a need, therefore, to build an airport at Warri and I understand plans are being discussed for one capable of handling the rising traffic. Later there could be an international airport, handling flights to and from Europe, America and the Far East.

Warri citizens have every reason to be enthusiastic about the present, hopeful and yet apprehensive about the future. There's a city full of promise in a rich, progressive and forward-looking state. For them also is the lot of being one of the first black societies that could reap the fruit of man's technological progress — a process which involves an increasing rate of dehumanisation and impersonalisation as the society approaches the ultimate goal, the computerised and electronically controlled human zoo.

Bob Okonedo

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pensatory finance". Although the Americans are still equivocal, preferences are not now the key issue.

That is probably the monetary one. The poorer countries, complaining that their overseas trade and their balance of payments are affected by the monetary crisis of the rich, see particularly in the IMF's Special Drawing Rights a chance for relief in the balance of payments.

The Economic Commission for Africa has done an immense amount of preparatory work for the present UNCTAD, including the production of "action programmes" for the least developed countries, particularly land-locked ones.

Any UNCTAD success can never obscure the need for African countries to set their own houses in order. When UNCTAD last met we emphasised that if they had spent their capital inheritance honestly and competently the Commonwealth West African governments would have saved far more money than they could ever gain from any international arrangement. For Nigeria it is reliable power and transport services that may matter for export earnings far more than any UNCTAD resolutions. For Ghana it may be competent selling of her cocoa under present world arrangements rather than a world cocoa agreement that will be most profitable. For Sierra Leone and Liberia it could be the opening of the markets of their neighbours rather than those of Europe that would encourage their manufacturing industries. So long as African countries associated with the EEC virtually prohibit the import of manufactured goods from non-associated African countries it is idle for the "group of 77" to demand greater access for African manufactured goods.

In any case, whatever global arrangements may be made through the efforts of UNCTAD to give poorer countries greater access to the markets of the rich, these can in a sense only confirm the dependence of the poorer countries on the richer. As Mr Guy Hunter has put it, "by so doing they increase their dependence and multiply their risks; they narrow their choices of technology, and they distort their pattern of specialisation to an external demand which is beyond their control. Moreover, it is a peculiarly exacting type of demand. Nothing characterizes the developed market more than the high rate of change in demand. This is the most difficult field for countries short of capital and skills to enter." So long as African governments consider that the main constraints on their development are external, they are in danger of increasing their dependence on external factors. Their countries are, and should, remain part of a world system. But they should seek to minimise their dependence on this and not seek their salvation in the demand that richer nations should alter their patterns of trade and manufacture to suit the poorer. Closer examination should show that their salvation lies in a change in the patterns of trade and manufacture of the poorer countries themselves.

THE SEASON OF CRISIS

E. Y. Aduamah continues the life-history of Dede and her friend Madam Altastes begun in West Africa, December 3, 1971 and continued in last week's issue.

The unexpected devaluation and revaluation of the cedi during the 1971/72 harmattan are worth recounting, for they will remain the nightmare of numerous tradespeople for decades. Newspapers, workmen and their trade unions, the powerful soldiers, students and civil servants who had reasons for complaint, had all made themselves heard, not merely through sighs, but loudly, some indeed through demonstrations, petitions and even strikes. The mummies, however, despite the soft, mild way which they had with them, which could win the authorities, had not made their complaints heard.

But nobody likes to be discredited, and no one bears friendly towards any authority who gives the verdict. If the lay person could not answer back, they resigned themselves into cautious quiet, or went about with their work with sighs and mumbling curses or made unnecessary comments such as "the time will come" "A critical season, isn't it?", or showed by disdainful grimaces a disrespect for the authority, discussing his "strange" ways behind his back.

The laughter at these gossips eased the tension and made the mummies happy. But under these conditions the Authority was left with the unacceptable dilemma of strange and queer leadership. Though given a higher status than his people, yet he was isolated from them in an unwelcome rivalry of confrontation.

But this being a season when people were accustomed to converse, and the market place, like the watering place, being an airy, shady kind of place, it was no wonder that the mummies assembling here now felt disposed to voice out. And under these conditions it was very natural that the indulgence could be no other than an attack on the common enemy and the question of the tendency of mankind to oppress the weaker sex. It was natural because women talk freely with one another and because being assembled now together in a common current they were in close friendship.

Led by these considerations, the complaints and cries which politeness or, call it weakness, if you liked had held back now burst forth universally. The stout Anti Dede looked round the womentalk and then turned an angry look upon the workmen and opened the proceedings with great many flourishes of the arms.

"We hoard!" she roared. This was the signal for a general outcry which starting in a low murmur increased by degrees to a great noise which seemed to belong to a whole rural town arguing, moralising, sobbing, praying and swearing. In this some saleswomen turned away from their goods while others were at the same time shouting out the goods, eager, cajoling, persuading and flattering. In the midst of this a sudden gust of harmattan wind whirled dust and papers all over the

market place, and the mummies drew the edges of their cloths to cover their faces. Anti Dede who in the general confusion could no longer secure any listener was reduced to repeating "I hoarded?" "We hoarded?" until the noise subsided when she asked the workmen whether they had forgotten that the time was also that of the harmattan when the cassava she used to make the fufu became hard to pull from the hardened soil. Her friend Altastes also wondered whether the accusers had ever had the curiosity to see how and what she and her husband and the children ate in their house "Do I enjoy the whiteman foods with you?" In other words if inflation had not been kept to the minimum and if the failure of the current policies were to be determined, then it was the Government (the largest spender of foreign exchange) and the ladies and gentlemen who ate imported salad who must be questioned, not her. On her part she hated open display of wealth.

If she must eat sugar she must reduce the number to the calabash of porridge to three cubes. And if you suggested imported wigs to the market mammy, she laughed and went on, "Look here, here's all this child's clothes thread bare again," said the provisions seller, pointing to her little child sitting nearby.

"Who's your tailor then?" said the tax-collector. A laugh went round the workmen at this.

But the provisions seller still looking in a state of helplessness shook her head and cursed: "It's God's own ways."

This last clause being delivered with singular pathos, drew forth a similar murmur from the mummies, encouraged by which the provisions seller declared that if anyone had the leisure for banner raising then the first thing to raise it against was surely the Government who could not ensure continuous supply of the essential commodities. "When Britain devalued, Ghana also devalued, and when America devalued, Ghana devalued as usual."

"And therefore that the money fell down by a prearranged plan, that the Government hate us women, there is no doubt," said the tall, slim woman from the North, whose stock-in-trade comprised colas, cigarettes and matches, "for how," she argued, "could it be a mere accident when it all started with the dry season and ended neatly with the dry season?"

"No, to be sure," said the draughtsman who was given to be mathematically exact, "harmattan begins one and a half moons to Christmas and end with the first rains in the second moon after Christmas. And, you remember, the cedi was devalued in the Christmas moon and was revalued when the harmattan is not yet over."

At Christmas time! And there you

are!" exclaimed Madam Altastes. The woman had been very much surprised the sudden change in the circumstance which seemed to nip her prospects in the bud. With the approach of Christmas she had come prepared to suspend her trilling business of making plainant fabric and revert to sewing and selling children dresses. "Children's dresses will sell a Christmas time." With this conviction Altastes had gone to a store two months in advance of the celebrations and bought a quantity of brown papers. These she cut up and made into false dresses of various sizes and styles. Quite a large number of parents were attracted and gave orders.

The seamstress then went into a large departmental store to purchase textiles for real business. Here her eyes caught everything pretty or new — the sewing pins and needles, and the silk and cotton prints. But, when she had been thinking of all kinds of attractive approaches and of a busy time in a crowded tailoring shop and of the gains, here now were all the money fallen, vanished, devalued she knew not how, as if with a foreknowledge of the plan and a decision to frustrate it in the very beginning. She could not believe her eyes until she moved to another store which was rather closed. "Ah," she was saying now "it seems strange that these people should be blamed of hoarding when the big stores themselves were for some days not performing any business and were behind the doors, slowly doing nothing but what they called inventory, of all things inside."

The next to give evidence was the cloth merchant who recounted, word for word, some affronts she had received from a price control officer. But her words could hardly be heard by anybody because Altastes' pronunciation of the English word "inventory" had thrown the company into wild laughter. The child who had been crying for more sugar for the porridge also laughed with glee.

"Neighbours, I think the mummies are talking great sense, mind," said the polite schoolteacher. "To accuse the mummies is only to cure the disease rather than prevent its cause. What does hoarding have to do with cassava? In the same way as we were sometime ago inclined to believe that every trouble was the result of those isms — colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism — so are we to believe today that the scarcity and high prices are always the result of hoarding goods by market mummies."

All the mummies shook their heads gravely and brought their eyes to bear earnestly on the teacher, hoping to hear more from him. But the "isms" pronounced by him had already led to discussions, among the workmen.

It is true that the success of parliamentary candidates depends to a great extent on the votes of women. Despite this the isms, no matter how persuasively they are preached, are no more than faintly apprehended theories.

(To be concluded)

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MATCHET'S DIARY

Roberto Holden appears to have survived the latest rupture in his exile Angolan movement in the west of the Zaire Republic, though it may be doubted if much of his organisation has survived. Once again he owes his salvation to his close friend and ally, President Mobutu Sese Seko. This newest of many such affairs took the form of a mutiny by some or most of Holden's troops in the camp of Kinkuzu near Kinshasa where, for many years, Mobutu has permitted him to keep his "army in exile". One learns with some surprise that this totalled no more than a thousand men, a far smaller number than has been generally claimed. But their revolt against Holden's continued leadership — including, according to some reports, an attempt to kill Holden — was evidently serious, for it caused Mobutu in mid-March to turn out a tank battalion and an airborne battalion.

Surrounding the Kinkuzu camp, these Zaire troops evidently managed to overawe the rebels and to bring their commanders — according to one report, "the entire general staff" of Holden's force — to Kinshasa, where they are now lodged in gaol, no doubt awaiting trial. Why did they revolt? Kinshasa reports have spoken of "elements from across the river in Brazzaville" as being the ringleaders. But the record of the last few years, as well as the apparent size of the mutiny, suggests that this was largely if not entirely an internal affair. The reasons for it, going by what has happened in the past, will have lain partly in personal conflicts and ambitions, and partly in dissatisfaction at the general immobility and waiting-upon-events of Holden's policy and style of leadership.

Ever since the "government-in-exile" was formed by Holden in Kinshasa during 1963 there have been troubles of this kind. In 1964 his "foreign minister", Jonas Savimbi, left him with a tide of bitter words, accusing Holden of racism, tribalism, inactivity, and betrayal of the Angolan national cause. Somewhat later his "armaments minister", Alexandre Taty, mounted a *coup d'état* against him, and defected to the Portuguese when it failed. Not much later his "information minister", Rossario Neto, likewise withdrew.

Meanwhile Holden himself, sure in Mobutu's unflinching support, has neither budged from Kinshasa nor modified his policy. His principal object, at any rate since 1964, seems to have been to "keep himself in being", while, at the same time, doing whatever he could to obstruct and destroy any rival Angolan movement, above all the only really effective one, the MPLA led by Dr Agostinho Neto. To that end, he and Mobutu have combined to close the whole Zaire frontier with Angola to any use of it by the MPLA (as well as by Savimbi's lesser movement, UNITA) and these have had to fall back on use of the Zambian frontier, which is

very far from the main centres of population in Angola.

This frontier blockade has been particularly hurtful to the MPLA since their continued successes, after 1966, in the distant eastern districts of Angola. Not only has it prevented them from reinforcing their fighting units in the north-western areas, no less serious for the Angolan cause, it has kept them far away from the central districts of Bie and Malange. This attitude of Mobutu's, as well as of Holden's, has been noted with gratitude by the Portuguese who, so far, have entirely failed to get the better of the MPLA, debarré though the MPLA are from any access by way of Zaire. What thus emerges as an indirectly pro-Portuguese policy on General Mobutu's part seems so much in conflict with his new nationalist image that one wonders why he continues to stick to it. Holden's latest misadventure makes one wonder even more.

Packaging for all

The Intermediate Technology Development Group, the private organisation which urges the use in developing countries of labour-intensive or small-scale technology, has come up with another gadget for the third world: a pulp packaging unit, specially designed for small-scale production. It is designed to meet the packaging requirements of countries using their own raw materials, like waste paper, in production of egg trays and other packaging. Dr. E. F. Schumacher, director of the ITDG, told guests at an impressive London exhibition of the group's activities that the unit "could revolutionise the packaging industry in developing countries". Not quite, perhaps, but it could certainly save much foreign exchange. Yet most guests at the exhibition were from developed countries. African diplomats were thinly represented. There was only one African Ambassador — the ubiquitous and amiable Sudanese envoy.

The packaging unit is a simple but versatile machine. It costs £8,500, far less than the price of standard equipment. It has a capacity of between 120 and 150 units per hour, and is ideal for the small businessman. Its estimated weekly revenue is a modest £125, but it needs only three men to run it.

Intermediate Technology has gained popularity quickly in a number of African countries, notably Nigeria, Tanzania, Ghana, Zambia and Kenya. Dr. Schumacher has travelled extensively in Africa to advise on economic development. Nigeria, Zambia and Ghana have already taken interest in the new packaging unit. Some critics of ITDG point to the now deep-rooted traditions in developing countries that only the latest and most elaborate equipment can be any good. Others accuse Dr. Schumacher of offering "inferior and out-dated" technology to prestige-conscious governments. But the group's activities are its answer: "we shall go on experimenting," Dr. Schumacher told his guests.



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Letters to the Editor

Whither Nigerian Sociology?

SIR—I, as a sociologist, was thrilled to read Peter Waterman's appraisal. If the report reflects the mood of this momentous gathering, one must raise at least three points:

- the objective and the orientation of the Association.
- the role of sociologists and anthropologists in Nigeria in particular.
- the relevance of sociology and anthropology in the understanding of Nigeria micro- and macro- "life-crises"

First, for the distinguished Nigerian sociologists to form an association of this kind is a step in the right direction. Secondly, realisation that "colonial-loaded" sociology and anthropology must be de-emphasised is a leap forward.

However, many sociologists are appalled at the Association's declared aim. We are once again seeing a wrong diagnosis of the plague that has bedevilled Africa. It is sorry to see scholars who are better equipped to interpret the dynamic forces of their society becoming "customarily" deluded into believing that the enemy of Nigeria's and the Third World's social progress is "neo-colonialism". The role of a sociologist is one of disciplined and objective study of social interactions and processes. To become bonded from the start to non-value-free, subjective, sociology is to invite ethnocentrism in academic distance. Gavin William at the Conference saw this very clearly when he stated that the "discipline should seek an analytical interpretation of the world".

The sociologist provides information for those responsible for guiding society. We should not stop at the "formation of radical intellectual pressure groups in Nigeria to the point at which an indigenous social science can challenge the imported one"; but we should also be concerned with concepts which would enable us aptly to tackle social problems which are uniquely Nigerian, if not African.

We are not politicians. We are not "guerrilla" fighters. We are scholars. We should not alienate other members of the scholastic in-group who happen to be separated from Africa either by geography or the colour line. Our Nigerian sociologists and anthropologists have recognised the dichotomy between our "colonial" and "de-colonised" societies. The task now is one of dealing

with the "life-crises" in Nigeria. Recognizing this cross-fire of cultures and mixed civilization, a new radicalism of the kind elicited by the conference cannot academically deal with our problems.

We can tackle these problems by encouraging individual and theme researches on cognitive social problems. The results would guide community leaders, businesses and governments in planning. Emphasis should move from quantitative to qualitative sociology and anthropology. Only then can we understand the total social system of our communities and our Nation.

Finally, if we must break with tradition, we must explore the value of multi-cultural and cross-fertilization of contact and sociological ideas, in studies of our society.

OLIVER V. MADU, (Professor)
University of New York

SIR—I was interested in Matchet's Jan. 21 column about tourism in Sierra Leone, particularly problems management is having finding guests for the Cape Sierra Hotel.

I visited Freetown recently and agree that the hotel should be a big foreign exchange earner. But like many such "luxury" ventures, it needs to encourage more local trade, particularly in the early years when it is having trouble just meeting staff salaries. The nightclub for instance charges a one Leone cover, too much for the average Sierra Leonean to pay just to listen to the discotheque. But without people the place is like a morgue.

It doesn't seem to have occurred to anyone, either, to try to persuade the 500 or so Europeans working at the mines in Koidu to come down for a long weekend. If the hotel could provide transport, they would be delighted with a chance to get away to the beach. They come out on a twelve month contract and the only occasion now for visiting Freetown is to go to the dentist.

ANDREW JAFFE

Nairobi

SIR—One of the greatest achievements of Gen. Gowon, which has received little publicity, was to put tribalism where it should be—in the "Cellar". Nobody wants it. If he can attack corruption and nepotism with the same vigour, he should win the hearts of us all.

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Books and Publications

Nigerian Artists Today

The Living Arts of Nigeria edited by William Fagg (Studio Vista £5.00)

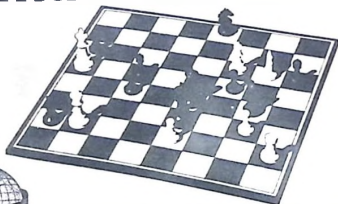
Almost without exception, says William Fagg in his introduction to this handsome book, the crafts and techniques of Africa are to be found within Nigeria. This richness, as well as the richness of Nigerian sculpture, he explains, is possibly due to the fact that Nigeria contains not merely two or three times as many people as other tropical African countries but that she contains something like a quarter to a third of all the separate tribes in Africa. Nigeria is also in the position of a "fulcrum", and many currents of diffusion of culture have passed through her down the ages.

The book is not a catalogue or an encyclopedia, but gives us a sample from all over the country of the arts and crafts flourishing today. There are seven sections, dealing in turn with bead work, brass work, dyeing, leather, pottery, weaving and carving. In each section there are several pages of full colour, with the really magnificent photographs by Pecconotti, a short description of the craft by William Fagg, and then some very attractive and informative coloured illustrations by Michael Foreman showing how the craftsmen concerned work. Mr Fagg says that the material was collected in 14 days by four people and that the result is one that should be copied by every African country. We learn no more of the expedition, but Mobil Nigeria made it possible. Dr. Saburi Biobaku, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos, who contributes a foreword, assisted in the book's development, as have Mt. Ekpo Eyo, Director of Nigerian Antiquities, and his staff.

As he has done in the case of sculpture, Mr Fagg makes a plea for recognition of the individual craftsman or craftswoman rather than the attribution of all work to anonymous "tribal artists". He claims that experience makes it possible to identify the hands of individuals. For example, in Yoruba *Adire* dyeing. This individuality emerges very clearly in the pottery and weaving sections of the book.

The only living craft which seems conspicuously absent is that of architecture and building. One would have liked to see included descriptions of house building and decoration, particularly in the far north, and even a reference to the vast variety of granaries found in Nigeria, often of superb workmanship and very pleasing design.

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A potter at Buda, the Nupe capital, with an elaborate pot produced by the "coil method" with the help of a turntable which she rotates slowly with her foot. Women are Nigerians main potters. The true potter's wheel was not used in Africa south of the Sahara not, Mr Fagg says, from ignorance, but from "positive aversion to it".

Journey through Ethiopia

The Heart of Ethiopia, by Duncan Forbes (Robert Hale, £2.60)

It is astonishing that, in the end, it was Addis Ababa which became the capital of Independent Africa. For Ethiopia, in spite of its gallant resistance to the Italian invaders and the personal prestige of its Emperor, still seems to have so little in common with the vast majority of the member states of OAU and ECA, which have made their headquarters there.

Mr. Forbes, in his capacity as English Language Teaching Adviser to the Imperial Ethiopian Ministry of Education, was able to travel very widely in the country in the years 1969 to 1971. He tells us, for example, of a secondary school in the South-West, where the pupils had not been able to move into new buildings put up with Swedish help because the class rooms were not big enough to accommodate the large classes made necessary by the shortage of teachers. In the same town elementary classes consisted of 80 or 90 children. Even so, in a country where "everybody wants to study, but no one wants to teach," school attendance is only a minute proportion, five per cent of those of school age.

Most of Mr Forbes's book, however, is a travelogue, as he obviously feels it impossible to indulge in too much political or social criticism. He reminds us of the Amharic proverb: "Keep your mouth shut or the flies will get in." Fortunately he is an experienced travel

writer, having written about countries as diverse as Greece and Nepal, and his is one of the best accounts of this fascinating country (it is a pity that amongst the excellent photographs not one shows the fantastic scenery).

In the South Mr. Barnes stops short of the Ogaden, and the inadequate map does not show us Giggiga, Capital of the area. He has an interesting chapter on Rimbaud who, after apparently abandoning the pursuit of poetry, settled as a trader in Harar. We go as far North as the Eritrean coast of the Red Sea, and as far west as Lake Tana, via Gondar and its fascinating stone castles, so often wrongly attributed to the Portuguese. Mr. Barnes thinks that King Fasil may have had the help of an Indian architect. But the most interesting section of the book covers a visit to remote areas of Wollo Province for the celebrations of the Finding of the True Cross at the Festival of Maskal.

Mr. Barnes went as far as the Church of Gishen Mariam, reputed to be the home of the True Cross, an extremely difficult journey by mule through unchanging villages. The church is built on top of one of those mountains on which sons of the Emperors were supposed to have been imprisoned to prevent fighting over the succession. These places are not marked on the map which makes them seem even more remote than they are.

D.W.

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A Modern Approach to the Economics

West Africa by *Arcybe Oyebola* (*Educational Research Institute, Ibadan, N1.20*; obtainable in London at *Foyles Bookshop, Dillon's University Bookshop and Distributing and Publishing Company, 177 Regent Street, E1.60*).

Mr. Oyebola has written a pedestrian but valuable book. It is particularly useful in that the term West Africa in the title does not simply refer to Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone but the region as a whole, including the Francophone countries. The 16 chapters cover a great deal of ground, making extensive use of available statistics.

Oyebola's approach to the subject is undogmatic, and on topics such as the impact of marketing boards he is careful to provide the arguments both for and against their existence. There are, however, a number of inaccuracies. Australia is listed among the non-Commonwealth buyers of Ghana's cocoa, aluminium in Ghana is made not from the country's own bauxite deposits but from imported raw materials. Such errors are unfortunate in a text book.

D.N

Financial Control in Developing Countries by *G.W.F. Pidgeon* (*Longman E1.50*)

After many years of accountancy experience in Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia, Mr. Pidgeon in this 100-page text-book offers guidance to those in charge of the

finances of state corporation. He suggests that the problems and practices he has experienced in West Africa offer lessons for all "developing" countries, so long as "developing" is intended to indicate a sense of vigorous forward thrust rather than to be a polite euphemism for "backward". He suggests, too, that because the number of students in most developing countries is unlikely for some time to justify the publication of special text-books or the preparation of special correspondence courses for them, this would be an appropriate field for international assistance.

Although the book is intended primarily for those working in statutory corporation it will also be valuable to those working in private business.

A.M.

Books and Publications received:

IFC in Africa, published by the *International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank*.

The IFC was established in 1956 and "encourages the growth of productive private enterprise in the developing countries". Its membership is open to all governments which are members of the World Bank. It has 95 member countries, of which 26 are in Africa, including Nigeria, Zaire and Ivory Coast.

Beginning English with Younger Children by *Clifford N. Fyle* (*Evans Brothers Ltd, no price*).

Deals with the problems of teaching English to primary school children in countries where English is the second language.

Practical Teaching by N. C. Kay (*Evans Brothers, 70p*).

A handbook of advice and ideas for student teachers and those about to begin teaching.

The Geology and Geophysics of Coastal Tanzania, *Geophysical Paper no. 6, Institute of Geological Sciences, natural Environment Research Council, (London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, E1.20 net)*.

Demographic Handbook for Africa 1971 (*Economic Commission for Africa*)

Model Rules for Use in Establishing Co-operative Housing Societies (*IECA*).

Report of the seminar on Approaches to the Regional Harmonisation of Development plans (*IECA*).

Report of the First Session of the Conference of African Demographers (*Accra, December 20-22 1971, IECA*).

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People

From nautical engineering to beautician - that was the extraordinary career switch made by Solomon Boyo. Better known as "Soul-Brother No. 1" in the many circles he moves in, Boyo runs the Solomon's Atari Hairdressing Salon, one of the most swinging ladies hairdressing establishments in Lagos. Not only is the salon equipped with the latest in hairdressing equipment and cosmetics, but it boasts a record-player supplying non-stop music - Afro-beat, soul, reggae and rock. In a corner of the reception lounge are displays of leather goods, such as handbags, belts and sandals. The walls are covered by posters.

Boyo, whose personality dominates the scene, is also a night-club "go-go dancer", and magazine model. He came to women's hairdressing by chance. "Years ago I used to dream about



Boyo "I like beautiful people"

becoming some sort of a showman but my parents wanted me to become a naval officer, so I was sent to England to study nautical engineering. In my last year as an engineering student a chance happening made me change my course. You see, I like beautiful people. I was walking along a street in London one evening and was attracted by a smart window display. I peered in and saw some well dressed boys and girls dancing around and generally messing about with the hair of ladies seated in front of huge mirrors. It was a ladies hairdressing salon, I was so taken in by the spectacle that I just stood there for a while, watching. I got hooked on the profession straight away and decided there and then to become a hairdresser and not a naval officer." His parents disapproved of his change of heart and sent emissaries to London to persuade him to revert to his original course. But he was adamant, and now that business is flourishing, his parents are no longer afraid he has picked the wrong profession.

Boyo gets on well with his clients,

calling all the regulars by their first names. "They are rather pleased to have a man around the salon - more so because of the fact that I am a trend-setter in male fashions and I always go to the salon looking neat and smart. At first it was difficult getting used to the idea of being the only man among so many women," he admits, "but now I am used to it and don't mind it at all."



Bruce Ovbiagele, who took over as sales representative of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation in London on April 1, chats with Richmond Postogate, former Director General of the NBC.

West Africans have been placed first, second and third in a short story contest organised by Radio Nederland, an independent broadcasting station. Nearly 1,000 entries were received but the first prize, a model golden windmill and two weeks in the Netherlands, went to Rashied Gbadamosi of Lagos, for a story about two African students who meet on a London bus but whose relationship is broken by a war in their homeland. Nathan Okonkwo Nkala, a member of the East Central State Public Service Commission, won the silver windmill and Samuel Appiah-Ampofo, a Ghanaian currently studying in Britain, won the bronze.

Asked why she was wearing a blouse and trousers in court and not covering her head like other Alhajias, a witness in a Lagos case replied, "I am a psychedelie Alhaja. Alhaja or no Alhaja is not my business. I am a beautician and I have to dress to promote my business." She said that she had made the pilgrimage to Mecca "for fun... it is just like going to Ikoyi Park."

The ICFTU has cabled its "deep sympathy" to the Senegalese trade union federation, CNTS, on the death in Dakar of CNTS Assistant General Secretary Allasane Sow. He was founder of the African Trade Union Confederation and its general secretary until his death.

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Commercial News

Cocoa pact stalemate?

Preliminary talks in Geneva about the establishment of an international cocoa pact were extended for three days in an attempt to break the stalemate which had arisen. As we went to press, however, most observers were not confident of success.

The matter will certainly be discussed during the UNCTAD conference in Cile this month and a further preliminary round of talks will be arranged before July with the aim of gaining sufficient agreement to stage a full negotiating conference in October. As reported last week the main stumbling block is the setting of a minimum price. The British and Ghanaian delegations — the latter led by Mr Kwaku Asante — tried to break the deadlock by proposing a compromise formula which put the minimum price range between 21 and 24 US cents per lb. The Brazilians — the biggest producers outside West Africa — are demanding a bottom level of 25 cents while the

Americans have been refusing to discuss any suggestion above 20 cents a lb.

Other differences have arisen, but it is generally considered that compromise on these issues is possible. They include the levels at which sales from the buffer stock should be made when prices start to rise.

In Accra, the Commissioner for Labour, Social Welfare and Co-operatives, Mr. Kwame Asante, said that the Government had made available 2.5m cedis to the Ghana Co-operative Association for the purchase of cocoa, and that part of this money would be used in paying farmers who had been given "chits" for cocoa bought during the last season. He assured farmers that the chit system had been abolished and stressed that anyone issuing chits for cocoa should be reported. Steps were being taken, he added, to retrieve money lost through misappropriation of funds by some cocoa buying agency officials.

Cameroon Blow to Air Afrique

• Air Afrique's managing director, Cheikh Fall, reporting on the latest profit figures, said that it would be two years before the airline recovered from the withdrawal of Cameroon. Receipts for January, he said, were slightly up on those for the same month in 1971, totalling 1,551m francs compared to 1,535m francs in 1970.

• Canada is to contribute 1m dollars to the Association of African Universities based in Accra to finance over a five-year period annual scholarships of 2,000 dollars each. They are to be divided equally between the 20 English speaking and 15 French speaking African countries where Canada operates aid programmes.

• Ghana is negotiating a 10m cedis loan from the World Bank for a dam at Weija near Accra to provide more water for drinking and farmland irrigation in the Accra-Tema metropolitan area. The irrigation scheme is planned to cover six villages which would be resettled to grow such crops as rice, maize and vegetables. Provision would also be made for live-stock rearing.

• Last year Ghana imported 80,000 tons of rice valued at 12m new cedis. Northern Region Commissioner, Lt. Col. Iddisa, told a meeting of grain farmers at Tamale, Ghana, he said, had the resources to produce rice and it was therefore a challenge to farmers to make the country self-sufficient in rice production.

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Ivory Coast displaces Ghana

The Ivory Coast has become Africa's leading exporter of hardwood logs to the United States and in 1971 nosed out Ghana as leading exporter to the United States of hardwood lumber, says an article in *Fairtel Lines' Trade Trends*. "This is impressive since the heavily forested southeast quarter of this country was almost untouched only a decade ago". The principal species harvested in the Ivory Coast were African Mahogany, Obeche, sipo, kumbo, okoume, sapele, makore, tiamia, massonia, dibetoro, iroko, ayadire, kokrohia and framire. The export totals of the two countries — 6.5m board feet for the Ivory Coast compared to 6.2m for Ghana — were so close that it was difficult to tell who would dominate the market in the future. Also, with the drop in cocoa prices, Ghana had been placing emphasis on building exports of its other agricultural products, and this emphasis included timber. Important export species were Obeche, African mahogany, sapele, okoume, makore, kokrohia, sipo and mangon.

While Gabon exported both logs and lumber of various species, its timber export trade was concentrated on okoume. Most of the okoume veneer and plywood exports went to Europe, since these products were unable to compete in the United States with Philippine luan. However, the United States still found Gabon a good source of logs and lumber, importing over 200,000 board feet in 1971.

Other "noteworthy exporters" to the United States in West and Central Africa were Nigeria, the Congo, Zaïre and the Cameroon. Both Congo and Zaïre were major African sources for the United States of hardwood veneer. More limited supplies of hardwood and hardwood products were produced by Angola, Tanzania, Kenya, Guinea and Liberia.

Because wood products from Africa represented a type of low grade traffic, the magazine points out, and because of limited volume at outports, the importation of these products had largely depended on the general cargo steamship. It seemed unlikely in the foreseeable future that the United States would need to import hardwoods from West Africa, and all reports indicated the traffic would increase in the next ten years.

Africa contains about 16 per cent of the world's total forest area, almost all of a hardwood — 99 per cent of 1.7 billion acres.

• The African Development Bank has opened a line of credit of 2m units of account for Upper Volta's National Development Bank. Part of the money will be used to help finance a tyre factory. It is the Bank's first loan to Upper Volta. The credit will be paid off over an 11-year period, starting in four years with interest at 5½ per cent.

Conferences merge

The member lines of Continent West Africa Conference (COWAC) and of Conférence des Lignes de Navigation desservant la Côte occidentale d'Afrique (COLINAV) have decided to merge the two conferences with effect from 1 March 1972. The aim is to reach a better coordination of their carrying capacities and a better service to their customers".

The new Conference will be known under the name of Continent West Africa Conference (COWAC), Conférence de la Côte Ouest d'Afrique. It will be split into two sections — a Northern section: Scandinavia/Baltic, Hamburg/Antwerp range, and a Southern section: Dunkirk/Bayonne range.

The Northern Section members are Compagnie Maritime des Chargeurs Réunis, Compagnie de Navigation Denis Fieret, Deutsche Afrika Linien (Woermann Line), Elder Dempster, Guinea Gulf Line, Hoegh Lines, Leif Hoegh, Koninklijke Nedlloyd, Palm Line, Societe Ivoirienne de Transports Maritimes, Societe Navale Chargeurs Delmas Vieilleux, Societe Navale de l'Ouest, Nigerian National Shipping Line, Scandinavian West Africa Line, Black Star Line.

• The Elder Dempster passenger liner *Aurcal* is to operate from Southampton on a revised 35 day round voyage schedule in place of the present 42 day cycle. This will provide increased sailing opportunities to West Africa. The first sailing from Southampton will be on April 26. The usual calls at Las Palmas, Freetown, Monrovia, Tema and Apapa will be maintained.

A company spokesman said that the decision to move the *Aurcal* from Liverpool has been caused by her replacement on the UK West Africa Lines express cargo service from Liverpool to Ghana and Nigeria by a cargo liner, and the forthcoming closure of the Prince's Landing Stage passenger facilities at Liverpool.

• Britain is giving a £70,000 twin-engined Islander aircraft to Zaïre for use as an ambulance. Apart from the pilot, the aircraft will carry three stretcher cases and two attendants, and will support the Zaïre hospital riverboat project which is based on the General Hospital at Kinshasa. This project comprises a boat, fully equipped as a small hospital, with accommodation for over 20 patients. It operates along the banks of the river and provides medical services for fairly inaccessible villages and settlements in the region.

• The Sierra Leone government has voiced concern over the cost of motor spare parts and what it describes as, "the miraculous rise in the cost of vehicles". The Minister of Finance, Mr. C. A. Kamara-Taylor, said some firms deliberately refused to order enough spare parts, thereby inflating prices.

Golden Opportunity to save Money

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WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

ELDER Dempster Lines

SOUTHBOUND - From Liverpool: **FOURAH BAY** due Tema Apr. 9; **KUMBA** slg. Apr. 9; **IBRAH** slg. Apr. 6; **DEIDDO** slg. Lohito Apr. 3; **OWERRI** slg. Warri Apr. 1.
From London: **FULANI** slg. Apr. 6; **EBOF** slg. Apr. 13; **KABALA** slg. Apr. 13; **IGORI** slg. Douala Mar. 31.
From S. Wales: **KADUNA** slg. Apr. 6.
From N. Continent: **LAERTIS** due Antwerp Mar. 31; **PATANI** due Hamburg Mar. 31; **DUMURRA** slg. Hamburg Apr. 7; **BIHAMO** due Sapele Apr. 7.

NORTHBOUND - To Liverpool: **DUNKWA** due Apr. 6; **PERANG** due Apr. 6.
To London: **FALAAO** due Apr. 9.
To Southampton: **AUREOL** slg. Lagos Apr. 5.
To Avonmouth: **DUMBALA** slg. Apapa Apr. 1.
To Pooler: **CLEARWAY** due Apr. 1.
To N. Continent: **DINCOVE** due Takoradi Apr. 2.
To Ft Ferrol: **ONITSHA** due Freetown Apr. 2.
To Bilbao: **KOHIMA** slg. Takoradi Apr. 2.

EASTBOUND - From USA Canada: **DALLA** due Dakar Apr. 2.
WESTBOUND - To USA Canada: **CALCIAS** due Montreal Apr. 9; **DEGEMA** due Takoradi Apr. 1; **DONGGA** due Baltimore Mar. 31.

BARBER Lines

OUTWARDS - **FERRGATE** due Monrovia Apr. 10; thence Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala.
HOMEWARDS - **FERNLAND** ldg. Abidjan/Monrovia 2nd week Apr. for US North Atlantic; **FERRGATE** ldg. Lagos S. Bound about Apr. 29; Ghana 1st Half May; Abidjan/Monrovia mid May for US North Atlantic.

'K' LINE

WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong to Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown etc. **TENNISSEE MARU** slg. Japan Mar. 5 due Lagos Apr. 14.
EASTBOUND - From Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. via Hong Kong: **TENNISSEE MARU** slg. Lagos Apr. 21; Tema Apr. 23; Freetown Apr. 28 due Japan June 8.

WOERMANN LINE

HERMANN RESS due Libreville Apr. 14; Port Gentin Apr. 16; Matadi Apr. 19; **JEAN GUITON** slg. Rouen Apr. 12; Bordeaux Apr. 13.

DAFRA LINE

EASTBOUND - **DAFRA 'N'** due Warri May 2; Agoo Apr. 27.
WESTBOUND - **BELGIEN** due Takoradi Apr. 19; Abidjan Apr. 21.

GOLD STAR LINE

WESTBOUND - **TSEDEK** due Singapore Apr. 20.
EASTBOUND - **NOGAH** Singapore May 7; Moj May 19.

BLACK STAR LINE/USNH/WEST AFRICA

WESTBOUND - **OFFIN RIVER** Philadelphia Mar. 29.
BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT/EAST AFRICA
SOUTHBOUND - **NASIA RIVER** Antwerp Mar. 28; Rotterdam Mar. 30; Dunkirk Apr. 1.
LAKE BOSOMTWE Liverpool Apr. 13.
NORTHBOUND - **IBADAN PALM** Hamburg Mar. 25; **LAKE BOSOMTWE** Avonmouth Mar. 17.

DELTA LINE

DELTA PARAGUAY slg. Dakar Apr. 21; Conakry Apr. 23; Freetown Apr. 25; **DEL RIO** slg. New Orleans Apr. 5 due Houston Apr. 22.

PALM LINE

SOUTHBOUND - From Liverpool: **ILORIN PALM** due Lohito Apr. 28.
From Continent: **ILESIA PALM** due Dakar May 10.
NORTHBOUND - To Continent: **ILESIA PALM** slg. Abidjan Apr. 4; **MATADI PALM** slg. Abidjan Apr. 7.

N.Y.K. LINE

WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong to Lo-to, Maadi, Lagos, Abidjan etc.: **SAIKYO MARU** slg. Kobe Mar. 5 due Tema Apr. 10; Lagos/Apapa Apr. 11.

EASTBOUND - From Lagos, Tema, Takoradi, Abidjan, Lome etc. to Japan: **SAIKYO MARU** slg. Pointe Noire Apr. 21 due Japan Jun. 3.

CHARGEURS REUNIS

KERGULEN due Lagos Apr. 11; Tema Apr. 18; **SURCOUF** slg. Kobe Apr. 28.

MITSUI OSK LINE

PHILIPPINE MARU slg. Kobe Mar. 19 due Lagos Apr. 27; **MONTEVIDEO MARU** slg. Kobe Apr. 4 due Lagos May 10; **HODAKASAN MARU** slg. Kobe Apr. 19 due Lagos May 17.

MAERSK LINE

INWARDS - From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan; **STENA MAERSK** slg. Kobe Apr. 5 due Luanda May 2.
OUTWARDS - From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi: **MAREN MAERSK** slg. Freetown Mar. 25 due Bathurst Mar. 26.

FARRELL LINES

HOMEWARDS - **MERIAN CRESCENT** lge. Luanda Apr. 2 for Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports; **AFRICAN STAR** lge. Lagos/Apapa Apr. 16 for Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports.
OUTWARDS - **ALGERIAN HIGHLINE** due Monrovia Apr. 9 for Abidjan, Tema Apr. 15; **MARU LOHITO** Douala; **ALRICAN MOON** due Dakar Apr. 23 for 1st return, Monrovia Apr. 27; Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema May 5; Lagos/Apapa May 7; Douala.

KONSLINDE NEDLLOYD NY EUROPE/ WEST AFRICAN SERVICES

HOFGH AUGVALD Antwerp Apr. 10; Bordeaux Apr. 14; **AMSTELSTAD** Hamburg Apr. 7; Rotterdam Apr. 10.

NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE

SOUTHBOUND - **RIVER BENUE** slg. London Apr. 27 for Freetown May 5.
NORTHBOUND - **RIVER OGUIN** due Avonmouth Apr. 28.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE

SOUTHBOUND - **HOFGH MELING** slg. Scan. early May for discharge WA end May/Jun; **AMSTELHOEK** slg. Scan. May for discharge WA end May/Jun.
NORTHBOUND - **INDIANA** lge. WA May for discharge Scan. Jun; **HOFGH HFRON** lge. WA end May/Jun, for discharge Scan. mid Jun.

HOFGH LINES

BANDA slg. Hamburg Apr. 21; Antwerp Apr. 24; **HOFGH MELING** slg. May 8; Bordeaux May 12.

ROYAL INTER-OCEAN LINE

INWARDS - **STRAAT FRIETOWN** from Japan slg. Feb 17 due Freetown Mar. 25; Abidjan Mar. 27; Tema Apr. 27; Port Harcourt Mar. 30; Lagos/Apapa Apr. 1; Takoradi Apr. 3; Abidjan Apr. 9; **STRAAT TOWA** from Hong Kong slg. Feb. 2 due Tema Mar. 19; Abidjan Mar. 21; opt. Monrovia Mar. 25; Freetown Mar. 27; Dakar Mar. 31; Conakry Apr. 3; Takoradi Apr. 14.

OUTWARDS - **STRAAT FRIETOWN** from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong and Japan early April; **STRAAT TOWA** from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong, Japan and Shanghai Mar. Apr.

EAL EUROPE - AFRIKA LINE GMBH

GRIMSNIS due Abidjan Apr. 1; Lome Apr. 4; Lagos/Apapa Apr. 6; **WERDERLAND** slg. Cotoum Apr. 3; Douala Apr. 6.

NOPAL LINES

WESTBOUND - **NOPAL TELLUS** slg. Savannah Apr. 13 due New Orleans Apr. 17; **NOPAL SUN** slg. Luanda Apr. 10 due Douala Apr. 13.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

NORTHWIND due Luanda Apr. 3; Freetown Apr. 10; New Orleans Apr. 26; **WESTWIND** slg. Houston Apr. 6 due Lagos Apr. 26; Freetown Apr. 30.



VIVE LE CHEQUE

The fascinating story is told, often enough, of the young lady, who upon being informed by a bank cashier that the cheque she presented for payment was a dud, cried out loud 'My God! I've been raped.'

One would have concluded that this episode would immediately and permanently put this daughter of eve off cheques in payment for services rendered. But really and truly who, in this day and age, would be so naive as to think that a small thing like an India rubber cheque would put off one of the moderns groupie hippie or any other type from one of the most practical institutions of modern times? There are cheques and cheques but the fact remains that Banks still enjoy even with the so-called flower generation, a fair amount of respect - after all there may not be much room for more than the odd piece of silver in a pair of hot pants, but you could always find room to tuck in a slim cheque book - folded, of course! So may be all is not lost yet - for what Americans, for ever coming new words and phrases, call "checking accounts".

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New three-state organisation formed

Senegal, Mali and Mauritania have set up a new three-state regional organisation called the Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Senegal (organisation for the Development of the Senegal River), to be known as OMVS. This replaces the four-state Organisation of Senegal River States (OERS) which collapsed last November after a year's boycott of meetings by the fourth member, Guinea. OERS ceased to exist following a meeting of foreign ministers in Nouakchott, the Mauritanian capital on November 29, at which Senegal resigned from the organisation. The new OMVS was set up at a summit of the three heads of state concerned, Presidents Senghor, Ould Daddah and Traore, also in Nouakchott. President Ould Daddah, outgoing Chairman of OERS, was elected, Chairman of the new organisation for a two year term. M Robert Nday, Mali Development Minister, was named as Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The difference in name underlines the more exclusively economic objectives of the new organisation. Studies are already underway for a dam on the river at Manatli in Mali, and for irrigation and improvement of transport on the waterway. Guinea, although it contains the river's source, has always been marginal in these plans. However the convention of the new grouping is open to any riverain state of the Senegal River to join who accepts the "spirit and letter of the convention". The new convention, too, cannot be abrogated by any of its signatories before ten years.

President Senghor's comment after the meeting was that this was the first stage towards the member states' objectives of economic cooperation, the second stage of which would be the signing of a treaty of economic cooperation for West African states. Colonel Moussa Traore's comment was that the new grouping aims at the integration of the economies of member states.

Prior to the meeting, Radio Conakry said that OERS was written into the destiny of the four peoples, and had been created by them. Thus the heads of state or some of them could never create another OERS unless it was the will of the people. The radio accused M. Foccart of wanting to dislocate OERS and create one of his own.

• A chartered aircraft has landed a consignment of 3,000 cases of Argentinian corned beef and 600 kilos of Argentinian ham for the Sierra Leone government-sponsored National Trading Company. The aircraft took back 450 bags of coffee, 40 bags of ginger, and palm kernels and some cocoa.

• The first of six ferries ordered from West Germany under a special loan agreement has been delivered to Ghana to operate on the Volta Lake from Yeji.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Government of the Northern States, Rivers State and Mid-West State of Nigeria

Applications are invited from

GRADUATES

- (a) With teaching qualifications and teaching experience.
(b) With teaching experience

NON-GRADUATES

With teaching qualifications and experience.
With Applicants must be registered with the Department of Education and Science if they have qualified outside the United Kingdom.

Duties:

To teach any one or a combination of the following subjects in secondary schools, technical colleges and teacher training colleges (the latter are institutions where pupils are receiving secondary education at the same time as they are being trained to be primary school teachers; pupils are mainly of secondary school pupil age).

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Subjects are to be taught to 'O' and 'A' level equivalents.
Applications are also invited for posts in the ADVANCED TEACHERS' COLLEGE, SOKOTO, NORTH-WEST STATE.

TEACHERS

With suitable qualifications and experience to teach ART or PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

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Honours graduates with post-graduate qualifications in Education plus experience in teacher training to teach EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, CHILD STUDY, PRINCIPLES OF EDUCATION and ASPECTS OF PHYSIOLOGY and also to deal with administration of Education.

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Honours graduates with experience in teacher training and experience in administration (plus the ability to teach one of the main subjects). Salary Group B: £N1,947 - £N2,268 consolidated.

Emoluments (applicable to all posts except Vice-Principal) Salary in Scale 'A' (U) £N1,548 - £N2,700 (Consolidated), entry point being determined by Public Service Commission according to qualifications and experience.

Application forms may be obtained quoting Ref: GA/A/72, from:
The Recruitment Attaché,

NIGER HIGH COMMISSION, 9, Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5BX and should be returned to the same office as soon as possible.

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN. Applications are invited for the post of Curator in the Institute of African Studies. Applicants should have a good degree in the Arts with Postgraduate qualification in Ethnographic conservation. Candidates who have Diploma in Museum conservation, with relevant experience will also be considered. Appointment, for three years in the first instance but subject to review thereafter, is to commence as soon as possible. Salary scales: Technician: £N1,070 x 50 - £N1,120 x 110 - £N1,230 x 50 - £N1,530; Senior Technician: £N1,380 x 50 - £N1,680 a year. Point of entry depends on qualification and experience. Family passages are paid on appointment, approved overseas leave and termination, where applicable. N.U.J.S.S. or F.S.S.U. Children's and car allowances are also paid. Part-furnished accommodation is provided. Detailed applications (EN4 copies), stating age, full qualifications and experience and naming three referees by 14th April, 1972 to Registrar, University of Ibadan, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN. (a) Senior Lecturer in French. (b) Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer in German. Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the above posts, in the Department of Modern Languages. Candidates for (a) should have a good honours degree in French or its equivalent and appropriate research experience in one or more aspects of French Literature since C.1600. For (b) candidates should hold a good honours degree in German or its equivalent and research experience in one or more aspects of German Literature since C.1700. Appointments, for three years initially and subject to review thereafter, are to commence as soon as possible. Salary scales: Senior Lecturer: £N2,515 x 75 - £N2,875; Lecturer: £N1,380 x 75 - £N1,830/£N1,905 x 75 - £N2,415; Assistant Lecturer £N1,070 x 50 - £N1,220 (or if holding a higher degree £N1,120 x 50 - £N1,270) a year. Passages are paid for appointee, wife and five children, on appointment, approved overseas leave and termination, where applicable. The successful applicant is also entitled to part-furnished accommodation or housing allowance. Detailed applications (4 copies) stating age, qualifications and experience and naming three referees by 17th April 1972 to the Acting Registrar, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, from whom further particulars about the Department of Modern Languages may be obtained.

WEST AFRICA

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SITUATIONS VACANT cont.

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Entry into any of the posts listed below will however, be by the passing of a competitive examination comprising three papers in English, General Papers I & II and subsequent interview:

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Assistant Inspector of Customs
Commercial Officer
Industrial Promotion Officer
Projects Officer
Assistant Projects Officer
Education Officer
Assistant Archivist
Assistant Statistics Officer
Assistant Statistics Officer (Bio-Statistician)
Assistant Pay Analyst
Assistant Transport Analyst.

Interested Ghanaians may apply for forms and other details from the Director of Recruitment, 38, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, to whom completed application forms must be returned not later than 15th April, 1972.

NOTICES cont.

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NOTICES—contd.

THANK YOU

The entire family sincerely thank all friends and sympathizers for unflinching support, calls, and attendance at the memorial service. May god bless you all.

Segun Omogbehin
for the family

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President	J. A. Fawehnnmi
Vice President	J. O. Samuywa
General Secretary	O. B. Faturoti
Publicity Secretary	E. O. Akinboyewa
Treasurer	D. Adenitire
Financial Secretary	C. I. Fapohunda
Social Secretary	A. Folorunso
Chief Welfare Officer	V. O. Akinrinlode
Welfare Officer - South West	Stephen Akinrodoye

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS:

North	Olu Fawehnnmi
West	Soji Oladapo
Auditor	F. T. Akinsiku

The above is verified and certified as correct transmission of events on 5th December, 1971.

E. O. Akinboyewa
Publicity Secretary

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GHANA

Acheampong C-in-C

The Chairman of the National Redemption Council, Col. Acheampong, has become Commander-in-Chief of the Ghana Armed Forces under an amendment decree. Officers will now be commissioned into the armed forces by the C-in-C and not by the President, as was required under the Armed Forces Amendment Act of 1962. The C-in-C may appoint any officer to any command he may determine. He will have power to order any member of the armed forces to engage in operations for the defence of Ghana, preservation of public order, relief of emergency and for any other purpose which the C-in-C deems expedient.

Also reconstituted under the decree is the Armed Forces Council. It will be presided over by the C-in-C and advise the National Redemption Council and the Executive Council on all major defence and strategy matters. Under the 1969 Constitution the Prime Minister was chairman of the Armed Forces Council, which included the Minister of Defence, the Chief of Defence Staff, the Minister for the Interior and two other persons appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

• The border guard division of the Police service has been placed under the Ministry of Defence. A government statement said that information had been reaching the NRC for some time that "some members of the border guards have been deliberately assisting in the smuggling of goods — essential commodities — across the borders". The government viewed this with dismay "especially at this time when the whole nation is engaged in economic war aimed at reviving our economy". The takeover of the division by the army was "a direct result of these continuing acts of disservice by members of the border guards and in line with the policy of the NRC to ensure that every wing of the law enforcement agencies operates solely in the supreme interests of the nation." Since the coup the NRC has instituted a series of measures to try and curb smuggling.

• Lt. Col. Baidoo, Regional Commissioner for Ashanti, has told an agricultural committee in Kumasi that its members could deploy any youth found at "afternoon jumps" in the production of food. The dances are mostly patronised by secondary school pupils. The Commissioner told the committee to use

all available labour and resources and not to hesitate to march afternoon dancers, if necessary, to the fields to work. He appealed to youth to embrace the new agricultural programme — Operation Feed Yourself.

Workers found sleeping or idling at the Ministry of Trade have been drilled for a few moments by the Army. They had to squat, stretch their arms and carry heavy stones and walk too and fro for some time. The drill, said an army spokesman, was to wake them up.

• Black Star Line is to re-engage some of the 200 seamen dismissed in June 1970 after they went on strike for better working conditions. Major Kwame Asante, Commissioner for Labour told members of the National Union of Sea and River Transport Allied Workers that only competent men would be considered. Their demands 21 months ago had been unrealistic, he said, and the men were being reconsidered purely on humanitarian grounds. He urged workers to be patient in dealing with employers and preserve industrial peace.

• In Accra, the Commissioner for Labour, Social Welfare and Co-operatives, Maj. Kwame Asante, said that the Government had made available 2.5m. cedis to the Ghana Co-operative Association for the purchase of cocoa, and that part of this money would be used in paying farmers who had been given "chits" for cocoa bought during the last season. He assured farmers that the chit

system had been abolished and stressed that anyone issuing chits for cocoa should be reported. Steps were being taken, he added, to retrieve money lost through misappropriation of funds by some cocoa buying agency officials.

• Kenya's *Sunday Nation* is reported to have claimed that ex-President Nkrumah, who is living in Conakry, has cancer. A reported appeal by President Sekou Toure for Dr. Busia's government to allow him to return to Ghana had gone unanswered. The newspaper further claimed that Nkrumah had gone to Rumania for medical treatment which had proved unsuccessful. Says the Yugoslav news agency: "The paper feels that Ghana's military administrators will not allow Nkrumah to return because of the great popularity he enjoys among the broad masses."

• Anyone wilfully misrepresenting the cost of goods or services provided abroad to obtain foreign exchange shall be guilty of an offence punishable by a fine triple the amount misreceived in foreign exchange according to a new decree. Anyone who directly or indirectly assists in the offence shall be equally guilty and face the same penalty. If the fines are not paid within a specified period the accused will be liable to a fine not less than 5,000 cedis or not less than three years imprisonment. If the offence is committed by a body of people in partnership each person will be deemed guilty and if by a corporate body every director and officer would be deemed guilty.

• Major Asante has warned junior civil servants against revealing official secrets. He proposed to improve the lot of junior civil servants, including allowing all contributors to the Social Security Fund to benefit from it while still employed and building cheap houses for the workers. Major Asante reassured national trade unions that the NRC did not intend to interfere with their activities to build a free and democratic labour movement but warned them to refrain from politics so as to stop the infiltration of their ranks by politicians as happened before.



COL. ACHEAMPONG, NOW C-IN-C, BEING SWORN IN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NRC IN JANUARY BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE, MR. E. A. L. BANNERMAN

• "If any foreigner in our midst practises racial discrimination the government will take immediate and effective steps to show him how opposed Ghana is to this evil practice. If a Ghanaian indulges in this evil he too will face the full rigour of the law". Maj Gen Aferi, Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, told a symposium organised by the Ghana United Nations Association.

The association had earlier called on the NRC to ban the use of the word "tribe" on application forms for employment. "This is breeding discrimination in our society", the general secretary of the Association, Mr. Ray Kakrabah Quarshie, told a news conference.

• Excessive use and definition of the word "tribalism" had been the cause of endless confusion in Ghana, Dr Robert Gardner, Executive Secretary of the ICA, said in the first of this year's Aggrey - Fraga - Guggisberg Memorial lectures at Legon. It was a conception of foreigners trying desperately to understand the Ghanaian society. The development of Ghana as a nation should be seen not as a collection of tribes but as a process which consisted of the merging of states. Many scholars who wrote about Africa had tended to emphasise divisive forces, labelling tensions as tribal and thereby making problems more difficult to solve.

In another of the lectures Dr Gardner expressed his disgust at what he described as the tendency of some Ghanaians to act "as if they are second class Brits".

• The NRC intends to establish an organisation to promote a new sports development programme, under which district sporting committees and regional associations will be set up to assist the national sports associations, said Lt. Col. Ntegbe, Commissioner for Education and Sport, when launching the 1972 Olympic Games Appeal Fund A Sports Talents Committee would also be established.

• Col. Acheampong has announced the setting aside of EN80,000 for the import of cattle from Nigeria to form the basis for cattle rearing and dairy farming in Ghana. He charged the National Investment Bank and the Agricultural Development Bank to encourage Ghanaians who wished to rear sheep and goats on a large scale to make the project a success. Rural industrial units should be set up by the banks to promote viable rural development projects.

• Ghana is negotiating a 10m cedis loan from the World Bank for a dam at Weja near Accra to provide more water for drinking and farmland irrigation in the Accra-Tema metropolitan area. The irrigation scheme is planned to cover six villages which would be resettled to grow such crops as rice, maize and vegetables. Provision would also be made for livestock rearing.

• Col. Acheampong has ordered the reactivation of the Bolgatanga Meat Factory within two months.

• Akpeteshi, the locally distilled spirit, has been banned in Northern Ghana, the Regional Commissioner announced at a Durbar. Ccl. Mnyila said that the ban was the result of a Ministry of Health report that distillers were now using substances such as Omo, Brasso and carbide to make the spirit. He claimed that consumption of such a mixture appeared to have affected the vitality of farmers, who therefore were producing too little food.

• A five-day symposium on African and Afro-American music has taken place at Legon University. Participants studied aspects of the musical culture of Africans and black Americans and the problems they pose.

• Graduates from local universities, local external degree finalists and graduates overseas seeking jobs in certain sections of the civil services are to sit a competitive examination. Those applying for jobs in law, agriculture, engineering, architecture, surveying and teaching are exempted.

• An Austrian, Herr Hans Gazda, has acquired 10,000 acres in the Accra plains for establishment of a dairy farm. He is negotiating for a further 20,000 in the Central region. Herr Gazda said that the projects, estimated to cost 2.5m cedis, would begin as soon as the Ghanaian authorities gave the go-ahead. He claimed that a Swiss finance institution will provide funds for purchase of pedigree cattle, and of equipment.

• The NRC has set up a nine-man Cattle Development Board under the chairmanship of the Upper Region Commissioner, to purchase and transport cattle imported for consumption and to sell direct to butchers.

• A 300-strong crowd besieged a home in the northern town of Tamale where a girl wearing hot pants had taken refuge from their missiles and taunts. Steel-helmeted police broke up the crowd, but no-one was arrested.

• A six-man North Korean mission led by Mr. Kim Il Ho, special envoy of the North Korean President, Kim Il Sung, has paid a five day visit to Ghana.

• The Netherlands government has promised the Presbyterian Church of Ghana 156,000 cedis for extensions to a hospital at Bawku.

• Schoolteachers who embezzle school and textbook fees have been given three months by the NRC to pay back the amounts in full or face dismissal and court action. "This does not preclude their being dealt with summarily according to military standards."

• The annual foreign exchange allocation for private and business travel have been abolished. The Bank of Ghana says that foreign exchange for travel will now be based solely on the requirements of travellers.

SIERRA LEONE President and Tonkolili

During discussions with two geologists attached to the UN office, Freetown, the President expressed the government's interest in iron ore at other deposits in the Tonkolili District which, he said, had been inadequately surveyed. The reserves have been examined by many groups, including Sierra Leone Development Company, which already mines iron ore at Matampa, and has made extensive tests. So far no one has found it possible to work the deposit economically.

• A grant has been made of a special exclusive prospecting licence to the Spencer Engineering and Exploration Company to prospect for chromite, nickel, copper, cobalt and associated minerals in the Bonthe, Bo, Kenema and Pujehun district. A mineral exploration licence has also been granted to Aracca Petroleum Corporation to explore for areas within the continental shelf. This brings the total number of mineral exploration licences issued to four.

• The first Sierra Leonean to graduate from the Soviet Union in Physics and Electronics, Mr. Emale Davies-Venn, has been granted membership of the Institution of Electronics and Radio Engineers in London. He was granted exemption from examinations conducted by engineering institutions in Britain. Mr. Davies-Venn is an employee of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

• Speaking to a delegation from the Lebanon which is investigating the possibility of investment in low cost housing, tourism and hotels, the President said that the government would welcome any offer. The delegation's leader said that his company, Honard Beirut, was ready to construct some 500 houses as well as a first class tourist hotel.

• The US government will continue the Peace Corps Programme in Sierra Leone, despite earlier rumours of world-wide reductions. Five senior Peace Corps nurses have arrived in Freetown at the request of the Sierra Leone Government. During the next few months some 60 teachers, mostly replacements, will arrive.

• Mr. R. K. Bennett, assistant General Manager, Barclays Bank International, has told Dr. Stevens that Barclays Bank would soon be ready to issue shares to the public in Sierra Leone on what he believed would be attractive terms.

• The UNDP is providing about £600,000 for the development of a fishing industry on the Bandama artificial lake caused by the building of the Kossou dam.

• A National Council of Social Services, embracing all voluntary organisations in Sierra Leone, has been formed in Freetown.

CHAD Sudan agreement applauded

The Chad President has welcomed the agreement between the Sudan government and the Sudan Liberation Front. "It is a very fine thing which will allow the Khartoum government to face the problem of development", he said. Early in February President Tombalbaye was on a five-day state visit to Sudan, and Chad-Sudan relations are now thought very good, in contrast to relations with Libya, where, despite much talk of mediation by both President Diiori of Niger and President Numeiry of Sudan there is no immediate sign of detente. Libyan news agency for example reported demonstrations hostile to President Tombalbaye when he visited Port Sudan. The crowd was reported to have said "Long Live Libya", and "we do not want the butchers of Islam in our country".

President Tombalbaye has started legal proceedings against two of Chad's leading political figures to halt what he described in a statement to the nation as "a campaign of calumny" against himself and his family. He accused three men of responsibility for the campaign, adding that one of them, whom he did not identify, had apologised and had been forgiven. The other two he named as a director of the development bank, M. Georges Diguimbaye, and M. Moussa Pierre, director of administrative affairs at the Foreign Ministry. No details of their alleged offences were given.

OAU

The Lesotho government has approached nearly all the African states favouring dialogue with South Africa to ask them to postpone further moves until a joint approach, approved by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) can be worked out. A government spokesman said Lesotho had no intention of sabotaging dialogue attempts, but hoped rather to strengthen them by gaining full OAU backing. It specifically wanted to avoid splitting the OAU into blocks.

The statement followed disclosures that last autumn Lesotho had sent a special envoy to Ivory Coast in an attempt to persuade President Houphouët-Boigny from sending a representative to hold talks with the South African government. The reason was that Lesotho, described as the self-appointed "watchdog" of African countries in their relations with South Africa, felt that Pretoria might try to take advantage of pro-dialogue countries. Thus the government spokesman said that Lesotho, as the state most immediately involved with South Africa, wanted to prevent other states from acting individually — from a variety of possibly conflicting standpoints — and so prevent fragmentation of the OAU. Lesotho had asked the other pro-dialogue states to act on the suggestion of President Senghor of Senegal, that

no more steps be taken until a programme of action could be put to the OAU summit to be held in Rabat in June. The spokesman also denied that Mr Vorster's warning to Lesotho last autumn that they should not interfere in the affairs of South Africa had been promoted by Lesotho's action in preventing the Ivory Coast's representatives from going to Pretoria.

Fourteen OAU member states were among the thirty countries attending the conference of Islamic foreign Ministers in Jeddah, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco. A draft Islamic charter was submitted to the meeting, which according to a conference source was "sufficiently vague to enable to all the delegates to adopt most of its articles without difficulty". The text will be set up to promote liaison between Islamic governments, as well as an Islamic Bank and an Islamic News Agency. The next foreign ministers' meeting is to be held in 1973 in Afghanistan. The Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister said the Charter would be the first document produced by the united Moslem nation since the time of Islam's greatest prophet.

SENEGAL

Iron ore deposits at La Falémé in Eastern Senegal are estimated at 1,200m-1,300m tons, Development Minister Daniel Cabou told an inter-ministerial council. With the gross investment of £143m and an annual turnover of £57m, the exploitation of the reserves and the building of a railway would open up the southeast of Senegal. The ore was 60 per cent rich in iron, the minister added. The minister's report also said that gold prospecting with the aid of the USSR had been found worthwhile and would continue (there is an agreement with the USSR for prospecting gold in Eastern Senegal).

The European Development Fund is providing loans and grants worth about £3m, for agricultural projects in Senegal. More than three-quarters of the money will go to an irrigation development in the Nianga basin aimed at bringing 25,000 acres under rice production.

Senegal is to establish a fishing limit of 110 nautical miles to prevent depletion of fish stocks.

Premier Abdou Diouf has been in Kuwait to sign cooperation agreements.

UPPER VOLTA Lamizana on tour

President Lamizana has been on visits to Egypt and Libya. In Cairo he said his country supported the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Egypt. In Tripoli, after his talks with Col. Gaddafi, a communique expressed support for liberation movements in Africa and rejected any dialogue with the South African government, as well as affirming support for the "rights of the Arab people and their

struggle to liberate their land". They also affirmed the Palestine people's right to return home "by any means". On his return to Ouagadougou the President stressed the warm welcome he had received in the two countries, saying "our position has always been in favour of Egypt, both in the OAU and at the UN". Col. Gaddafi is to visit Upper Volta at a date to be announced later.

Observers noted that the statements during the visits mark the most positive commitment yet of Upper Volta to the Arab side, the more notable as Moslems are in a small minority there. However, at the end of January, the Foreign Minister Dr. Joseph Compaoré paid on a five-day visit to Israel.

Chief of Staff of the Voltaic army, Lt. Col. Baba Sy has denied rumours that the French might return to Upper Volta. Interviewed by the daily *Kibara* the Colonel said "There will never be any question of foreign bases on Upper Volta soil. We have no defence pact with France, unlike Senegal, Togo, Ivory Coast and Niger, but enjoy a logistic agreement. Hence there never could be any question of a French base in Upper Volta nor of joint Upper Volta-France military manoeuvres." The absence of a Defence Agreement (Upper Volta, Mali and Guinea are the only former French colonies in Africa not to have one) dates to the period immediately before independence when M. Yameogo, then the Prime Minister, quarrelled with the French High Commissioner, and insisted on the withdrawal of the large French base at Bobo-Dioulasso.

CONGO-B Plotters sentenced

Sentences ranging from the death penalty to five years imprisonment have been imposed on 178 people in Brazzaville for their part in February's attempted coup. The death sentences were immediately commuted by presidential decree. Former Prime Minister Ambrose Ntoumazay, former First Secretary of the Congolese Labour Party, Claude Ndalla and all others implicated in the affair were sentenced to death by the court martial. Alfred Raoul, former Vice President and President Nguabi's collaborator in the 1968 coup which toppled President Massamba-Debat, was jailed for 20 years. All army officers charged with involvement in the coup had earlier been reduced to the rank of privates by presidential decree.

The first passenger-freight boat built by the Chaconia shipyard in Brazzaville has been launched. The yards were built with aid from Peoples China, and President Nguabi and the Chinese Ambassador attended the launching ceremony. The first vessel is named *July 31, 1968*, after the date on which President Nguabi was released from a brief detention to become head of the army, and a few weeks later to take power.

NIGERIA

Cost of Civil War

Civil war damage is officially estimated to have cost £N300m. President of the African Development Bank, Mr. Wahab Labidi, said in Lagos during the signing of a £17m. Bank loan for the rehabilitation of Enugu airport and expansion of the Bacita sugar factory Federal Finance Commissioner Alhaji Shelm Shagan said that Nigeria was financing the £N12m foreign exchange costs of the airport project. He noted although Nigeria was trying under "very difficult circumstances" to provide the necessary finance she still needed assistance from organisations like the ADB to supplement the ever-widening gap between available internal resources and development needs.

• Mr. Sam Ikoba, East Central State Health and Social Welfare Commissioner, said in a lecture that the State's public service was overstuffed. He said that there were 800,000 unemployed in the State including 11,000 school-leavers, but teacher training colleges had been reduced because there was insufficient demand for the teachers. Noting that social services in the country were expensive and failed to benefit large sections of the population, he said that any new social order must complement political independence with economic independence. "If there is to be social peace, then universal welfare cannot be denied the bulk of the people while a small stratum of society lives in obvious opulence."

• More than 100 final year students of Nsukka University have been recruited into the Federal and state public services, the chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission, Alhaji Sule Katapum announced.

Judges salaries up

According to a report in the *Daily Times*, High Court judges throughout the Federation have been awarded pay increases with effect from last September. The newspaper reported that state chief justices now received £6,200 a year (£2,200 of this amount being tax free) instead of £4,420 a year and judges £5,500 (£1,500 of it tax free) compared with £3,720 previously. Allowances for drivers and domestic servants have been scrapped.

• Because of an unusually large amount of cheating the results of a number of candidates in the 1971 West African School Certificate Examination and the General Certificate of Education were being withheld "pending further investigation". The West African Examination Council has announced The senior deputy registrar, Mr. Dotun Oyewole, said that some youths "are daily perfecting the art of cheating"

• Benue Plateau State Governor Joseph Gomwalk has criticised the admission policies of Lagos and Ibadan Universities, and called for the institutions to conform with the federal structure of the country. Speaking at the opening of the Jos campus of Ibadan University, he said that the present policy of the two universities implied that they were set up primarily to serve a section of the community.

• Ibadan University students union has appealed to Gen. Gowon to save the institution from "a crisis similar to that of February 1 last year". The call was made after student representative had resigned from a panel set up to investigate allegations of victimisation against a student, Mr. Kumolu-Johnson.

• Seventy-six university lecturers have called for a public inquiry into the death of Prof. Obasanmi Olakanpo in Lagos General Hospital because "from the allegations and stories circulating in the city of Lagos it appears that gross negligence and carelessness were involved in the circumstances surrounding his death." A Lagos State Government statement said that an internal inquiry had been instigated immediately after his death.

Oil revenues rise

• Revenue from oil exports rose to £489m. in 1971 from £4.4m. in 1960 and accounted for 73 per cent of Nigeria's export earnings, the deputy governor of the Central Bank, Mr. Samuel Asabia, told the Nigerian Institute of Management. As a result less emphasis had been placed on external finance in the current national development plan. The crucial issue, however, remained the effective use of these funds.

• A budget of £7.1m. for the financial year which began April 1 has been approved by the Interim Common Services Agency for the institutions owned jointly by the six northern states. Of this amount, £5.5m. will go towards the Ahmadu Bello University, £0.4m. to the New Nigerian Newspapers, £0.8m. to Kaduna Polytechnic and £0.3m. to the Broadcasting Company of Northern Nigeria.

• Prolonged delays in the issue of visas and entry permits is hampering the recruitment of medical personnel from abroad, the National Council on Health said in a communique after its 11th annual meeting, in Kaduna. It called on the Federal Government to remove the red tape surrounding immigration in view of the acute shortage of doctors and paramedical staff.

• The 200 members of the Nigerian External Communications staff who were ordered to proceed on compulsory leave for an indefinite period after damage to equipment during a go-slow action are on full pay, the counsel for the NET management told the industrial arbitration tribunal which is looking into the dispute.



Dr. Thomas Adeoye Lambo, former Vice-Chancellor of Ibadan University, is now on the staff of WHO. He is seen in London with Dr. C. E. Gordon-Smith, Dean of the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, where Dr. Lambo had given a lecture during a tour of Europe.

• Nigerians owned 39 per cent of the paid up capital of Nigerian Textile Mills, Ikeja, the chairman, Mr. Erskine Rockhill, told the annual general meeting. More than 1,000 Nigerian individuals and institutions, including the Western Nigeria Development Corporation, owned shares. He said that gross profits for the year ended August 1971 totalled £1,834,414, a decrease of £294,000 from the previous year. A dividend of £152,000 was declared. One shareholder, Mr. J. Dina, complained that this represented a dividend of 2.5 per cent whereas the company had forecast a dividend of 8.6 per cent. The Lagos Stock Exchange later issued a statement that said the company had failed to meet the forecast in its prospectus but Mr. Dina would "certainly not be tight about certain insinuations".

Ahidjo honoured

Lagos University conferred an honorary doctorate on President Ahidjo in appreciation of his contributions to African unity during his four-day state visit. The President was accompanied by a delegation of 18 officials.

• Dr. Okoi Arikpo, Commissioner for External Affairs, said that Nigeria would continue to give moral and financial support to the elimination of apartheid, racial discrimination and neo-colonialism. He was speaking in a television broadcast to mark the opening of anti-apartheid week.

• Nigeria and Lesotho discussed possible areas of technical co-operation during Commissioner for Finance Dr. Adebayo Adedeji's visit to represent Nigeria at celebrations marking Moshoshe's Day in Maseru, according to an official announcement.

• Ireland's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Patrick Hillery, was due to begin a week's visit to Lagos on April 4.

- Mr. Philip Chambers has died, aged 62. He was a former Director of Agriculture in Northern Nigeria and agricultural adviser from 1957 to 1960.
- University of Lagos students have appealed to the Federal Government to initiate vocational national service projects.
- About 900 Nigerians died from cerebro spinal meningitis last year.
- Nigeria Airways has lost about £1m. in the last 18 months as a result of gross inefficiency and bad administration, a lawyer, Mr. Lase Ladimeji, claimed during a court case in Lagos.
- The Nigerian Ports Authority has bought 12 new diesel and electric fork lifts and seven diesel locomotives to help ease cargo handling at Lagos. 251,093 tons of cargo were handled there last month, compared with 158,843 tons in February 1971.
- A £250,000 scheme to transform Ikorodu into a holiday resort has been announced by Chief E. Wilkey Sobalolu of Ikorodu and managing director of Wilmer Publicity. He said that it might be necessary to involve foreign interests in the execution of the scheme.
- Nigeria is to prepare a draft agreement for scientific, technical and economic co-operation with Egypt, said Commissioner for Economic Development, Dr. Adebayo Adedeji.

- Applications for export licences now have to be supported by relevant sales contracts or other documents showing the terms of sale. Exporters are required to submit applications at least three weeks before the date of shipment to allow time for processing.

News from the States

Since most people in the country were involved in bribery and corruption, said Kano State Governor Audu Bako, the probing of public officers assets and liabilities would be useless. It was necessary instead to educate people against these twin evils.

- The Broadcasting Company of Northern Nigeria has earmarked £630,000 for the expansion of its radio and television services, the chairman, Malam Idris Gana, announced. A new transmitter is to be obtained to enable more effective country-wide coverage to be given.
- A £4m. cement factory is to be built in Kwara State, the Governor, Col. Bamigboye, announced. Speaking in Enugu, he said that more than 50 people of East Central State origin were working in his state, and arrangements were being made to recruit more personnel, including teachers and doctors.

- Substantial deposits of tin ore have been discovered near Sahontida Kanar in Benue Plateau State, the general manager of Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria, Mr. David Dent-Young, has told the German ambassador.
- Chief Samuel Kombo-Ighetta, Rivers State Commissioner for Establishments has expressed concern over the growing wave of missing official Federal and State correspondence.
- Speaking at the opening of a session of the Supreme Court in Enugu, Dr. Justice Coker said that Nigeria was on the threshold of extensive judicial reorganisation. The changes were "a necessary consequence of advancement and maturity".
- Western State school violence was partly caused by the poor treatment and unhealthy conditions to which pupils were exposed in most hostels, the State Education Commissioner, Mr. Olanrewaju Ajayi, has said.
- A Development and Property Corporation has been set up to take over the functions of all town planning agencies in Lagos state.
- A bureau to review the history of Nigeria is to be set up in the North Western State. Chief Supt. Usman, Military Governor, told members of the ad hoc committee to examine recommendations for its establishment.



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