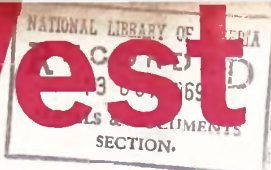


West Africa



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3

Freetown and Lagos

WHEN Presidents Nyerere and Kaunda recognised Biafra as a sovereign state in 1968, they were under the impression that in this way they could emphasise to the Nigerian Federal Government their concern not only over the bloodshed and the civil war, but also over the diversion, as they saw it, of African interest from the main struggle, that against Rhodesia and the "White South", which the civil war meant. The motives of Presidents Houphouët-Boigny and Bongo in recognising Biafra are more obscure but no doubt they, too, hoped recognition would encourage negotiations.

All four presidents have been proved wrong. It is true that President Bongo's Gabon has become a main base for flights into Biafra, but flights as much of French arms as of relief, most of which has been flown from countries which do not recognise Biafra. Recognition by these four states, however, has had no effect on the course of the conflict except to encourage the Biafran leadership in the venture, which, in spite of the fortitude of their people, has always been a perilous gamble. In any case, it was never at all obvious why recognition of Biafra would promote negotiations, since these depend on the attitude of the two sides in Nigeria to their own separate objectives; these attitudes are as far apart as ever.

It is strange, then, that at this time the Prime Minister of Sierra Leone should be considering recognition of Biafra as a means of lessening the bloodshed and suffering. We are not aware of any substantial contribution, either official or private, from Sierra Leone to the relief agencies which have done such a brave job in reducing the sufferings of Biafra's civilians. We know of no Sierra Leoneans who have gone to work for these agencies. We know of no contribution by Sierra Leone to solving the deadlock over the relief flights to Biafra. In what way, then, would Sierra Leone's recognition of Biafra lessen the sufferings of Biafra's civilians?

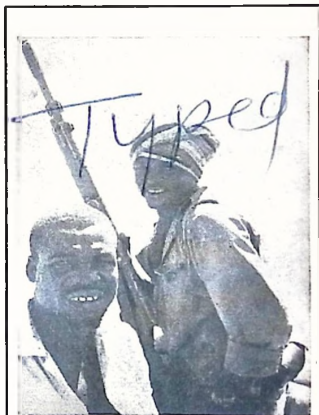
It would certainly have not the slightest effect on the Federal Government, whose spokesmen have referred contemptuously to the unimportance of any Sierra Leone

initiative. It would have no effect on the physical volume of relief going into Biafra; it might, on the other hand, make the Biafran leadership more intransigent in its attitude towards relief and towards negotiations; would that really assist Biafra's suffering civilians?

It is to the credit of Mr. Stevens that he is prepared in a matter like this to be "odd man out". It is certain that he realises that recognition of Biafra by Sierra Leone would incur the hostility of the vast majority of African governments, and, privately, at any rate, the criticism of the British and other non-African governments. It must be realised in Freetown, particularly after the last OAU meeting, that the two Commonwealth countries which have recognised Biafra have greatly modified their hostility to Nigeria. Is Sierra Leone not in danger, as it were, of passing Tanzania and Zambia on their return journey?

Sierra Leone can mollify Ghana's resentment at the large scale expulsion of Ghanaian fishermen, and Mr. Stevens appears to have mended Sierra Leone's broken fences in Liberia and Guinea—President Tubman objected strongly to a Sierra Leone "fugitive offender" being charged in Freetown on an offence different from the one on which he was extradited from Liberia, and President Sekou Toure was resentful at Sierra Leone's expulsion of Guinea citizens of Fula origin. The pragmatic nature of Mr. Stevens's foreign policy is shown by the fact that in the same week a new Sierra Leone embassy was opened in Bonn and a Ministerial delegation left Freetown to attend the 20th anniversary celebrations of East Germany.

Recognition of Biafra, however, would be an irrevocable step at this stage, which would naturally lead to a break in diplomatic relations with Nigeria. Whatever the virtues of pragmatism in foreign policy there must surely be some principles to give general guidance. One reasonable principle for Commonwealth West African countries, is that they should treat their differences as a family affair and never proceed to the point of an open break. This is not merely a matter of sentiment because of their long association and varied links. If there is ever to be West African unity



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and economic co-operation, the Commonwealth countries must take a lead and must, though in no spirit of hostility, remain united in face of the Franco-Portuguese bloc. A step such as Mr. Stoen's is contemplating would, probably in a few years, damage that unity, while contributing nothing to a solution of the Nigerian war or to the alleviation of the sufferings of Biafra's civilians.

The War and Uli

LATEST on-the-spot report from Biafra comes from Jonathan Aitken, of the *London Evening Standard*. He has little new to say, but he emphasises once again the confidence of Colonel Ojukwu in his military prospects.

Mr. Aitken, however, speaks of the delivery to the Federal Army of some heavy batteries with a considerable range. Now that it is clear that air attacks on Uli are, and will probably continue to be, ineffective, it is reasonable to assume that the Federal High Command will attempt to put the airfield out of action by artillery. There has been virtually no land advance for several months, the main action being in the Mid-West State where the 2nd Division, which has handed over its former responsibilities to the other side of the Niger to the 1st Division based on Enugu, has been almost continually in action against traitors in the State coming over the Niger from Biafra. The 3rd Division based on Port Harcourt appears to have been recently engaged only in holding its line, probably straightening its line.

Any major advance is likely to come from the 1st Division in the North, which is still said to be in better shape than the other divisions, partly because it retains a core of former regular Nigerian soldiers. But this Division, too, has been engaged in "mopping up" activities against Biafrans in the area north of Onitsha-Awka road, while the 2nd affects its mobility.

Presumably the Federal forces have used this period to build up stocks, particularly of ammunition. Their difficulties, partly because the Niger Bridge cannot be used, mean that operations can only be conducted by sea, and reserve stocks, since current supplies can never be adequate. For the Biafrans, so long as Uli airfield is operating, it is far less a problem in moving supplies.

If the heavier Russian guns have arrived, we can expect a thrust, probably along two routes, from the North. The attempt to establish the batteries in positions some 10 or more miles from Uli from which they could shell the airfield. The old tactics of attempting to "squeeze" the Biafran enclave are ineffective, since each squeeze requires more soldiers and equipment, through the lightly held Federal forces sometimes to operate far behind the front. The thrust to Uli will probably be the main feature of Federal strategy until the rains are over.

The End of Kaduna

From a correspondent

AT the end of the current financial year, the Interim Common Services Agency of the six new Northern States in Nigeria is to be wound up. Even the Produce Marketing Board, now serving all six states, as successor to the former Northern Regional Marketing Board, will be wound up and each state will have its own Marketing Board. Those who previously, and rightly, pointed to the economic advantages of maintaining a single board for the main agricultural export commodities of the Northern States (groundnuts and cotton) now agree that the old marketing board should give way to state marketing boards. This is not merely because a marketing board is such an important economic instrument that a State which, under the constitution, is entitled to have one is certain to demand it: it is also because it is felt that the central Produce Marketing Company in Lagos responsible for exports of marketing board produce, will be in a much stronger position if it is no longer over-shadowed by the very powerful Northern Marketing Board.

The Marketing Board, however, is not strictly speaking a subsidiary of the Interim Common Services Agency. This was established to carry on, until separate states themselves could handle them, many of the former functions of the Northern Regional Government. The Agency, headquarters in Kaduna, has estimated expenditure for 1969-70 is £5½m.

The most important single item in the budget is the group "Subventions, Pensions and Transfer of Funds," coming to £2½m. This includes £380,000 for the Ahmadu Bello University's current expenditure, substantial subventions to the various institutes connected with the University, a £180,000 subsidy to the *New Nigeria* newspaper, and over £200,000 for the radio and television services which formerly covered the six northern states. There is also some £200,000 for pensions and gratuities of the former regional government.

There will be considerable difficulty in any final division of the functions now operated by the Agency: for example the specialised medical services and laboratories. And will all the six states be willing to continue to subsidise *New Nigeria*, or the radio and television services from which they receive different advantages (this is recognised in the current estimate since only Kano and the North Central State contribute to the subvention for television, although all states contribute equally to the subvention for broadcasting). The important thing is that from next April 1 the six States are on their own financially.

Of the new 12 states in Nigeria, the West, which has lost only the former "Colony" Province to Lagos, and the unchanged Mid-West remain virtually the same in financial resources as the regions they have replaced. Lagos, unique

in almost every way, is financially sound. But in the North, only Kano with its vast groundnut crop, appears to be really viable even on current account.

The new northern states, since their establishment on April 1, 1968, have faced many financial difficulties. For example, the proportion of the "Distributable Pool" formerly allocated to the Northern Region as a whole was simply divided into six equal parts for allocation to the six new states, although clearly their needs and desserts were very different. Elsewhere in the Federation population was taken into account in the allocation of the Distributable Pool. Since the division of the former Northern Region into six separate administrations heavily increased the cost of administration itself, the six new states together had less to spend on

the 1969-70 budget does a single state have to provide as much as £1m, there will be further defaults.

Even for 1969-70 it is difficult to get hold of all the States' budget estimates but the differences in the recurrent budgets for 1968-69, based though many of these were purely on guesses, is significant. The revenue for North Eastern was £4-661m., for North Central £5-273m., for North Western £3-622m., for Benue-Plateau £4-265m., for Kano £6-858m., and for Kwara £2-468m. Their expenditure estimates allowed for deficits of £2-307m. for North Eastern, £0-645m. for North Central, £2-004m. for North Western, £1-328m. for Benue-Plateau and £2-489m. for Kwara. Only Kano, with a surplus of £1-374m., seemed viable but had a deficit with capital expenditure.

What will happen to "common services" which cannot conveniently be divided among the states? Presumably survey services, for example (£15,500 a year from each state), could be taken



essential services and the like than had the former Region, though they appear to have made no provision for servicing its debts. They have enforced considerable economies in "fringe benefits" to civil servants.

In the last full year before the crisis, the Northern Region itself had a budget deficit on current account.

Most of the Northern States were heavily in arrears at the end of last year in their subventions to the Interim Common Services administration. At that point, Kwara, financially the worst off, had paid no subvention, but even Kano was in arrears. The Common Services Agency had to resort to bank loans and, provided that its affairs can be wound up tidily, there is no doubt that, in view of the attitude of the states to it, it should be wound up. Their subventions are meant to supply well over half its expenditure, and although in no case in

over, though there is a staff shortage. But the *New Nigeria* cannot be taken over in this way (£30,000 a year from each state). Subventions to Ahmadu Bello University (£380,000) are proportionate to the number of students from each state, and this system can, presumably, continue. Each would like its radio service, but that is technically and financially impossible.

The important thing is that, contrary to a belief elsewhere, it is the Northern states themselves which have insisted in the final break up of the "Lugard system" and the Sardauna's North based on Kaduna. Over large areas of the former Northern Region there will continue to be a characteristic local government system. But as a political and administrative entity "the North" will finally die on March 31, 1970, and Kaduna will simply be the capital of a single state.



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The Bank is fine—but what about the customers?

By a correspondent

PAPER gold and a life expectancy of 25 years for the Gabonese male do not appear to be closely related, but they are: attempts to regulate the world's economy have a direct bearing on the effects of developing countries to raise their standards of living. Because of the particular features of African trade—primary commodities subject to fluctuations and imports consisting largely of goods necessary for development—African countries tend to be more dependent on a favourable balance of payments position than are industrial countries. There are several examples of factories established in African countries operating at less than full capacity as a result of insufficient funds with which to buy imports of raw materials and intermediary goods.

FOR this reason, the International Monetary Fund's recent meeting represented a great opportunity to link part of the newly-created Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), the world's first international money backed by co-operation instead of gold, with development finance. But appeals to do this were rejected by the industrialised countries on the grounds that the new reserves were needed just to finance the expansion of world trade. The failure to grasp this chance to achieve a significant breakthrough in international aid policies ironically coincided with the publication of "Partners in Development", the report of the Commission on International Development under the chairmanship of Nobel Peace Prize winner Lester Pearson, which will be discussed in greater detail next week. It is worth recalling that it was the Americans who suggested that the new "paper gold" should be given largely to the developing countries (who could then use this new money to buy capital equipment from the industrial world) and the Common Market countries which opposed them. Instead, the SDRs have been distributed as an extension of IMF quotas, the 10 wealthiest nations awarding themselves \$2.1 billion out of the first year's SDR issue, and Africa getting only \$60 million. The Economic Commission for Africa has pointed out that a deterioration in the terms of trade of less than one per cent would wipe out the increase in the reserves of African countries arising from the SDRs. All is not completely lost, however, for World Bank President Robert McNamara promised to investigate ways of using SDRs to speed up development in the poorer nations. Nevertheless, the very fact that SDRs are not tied to aid shows clearly that there is still no organised commitment to a serious effort to rectify the imbalance between rich and poor countries.

Sacrifices in consumption

As the report of the World Bank says, too, although the developing countries added \$15 billion to their combined gross national products, thus keeping to the Development Decade target of a five per cent annual growth rate, their share of world trade is small and declining, particularly per capita. The report also

points out that the developing countries have financed 85 per cent of investment in their economies from their own resources, "often at significant sacrifice in terms of their current levels of consumption".

Capital transfer remains the crucial factor in their economic growth and here again is the link between the problems of individual countries and the general economic situation. The Bank for instance, obtains funds from the major capital markets of the world and its borrowings are a reflection of the overall pattern of activity. Borrowing costs have risen from 5.52 per cent in 1966 to 6.46 per cent last year and the Bank's lending rate is at a record high level of seven per cent. This is particularly significant for Africa whose peak debt servicing level will occur next year (the variations are enormous: Mali's service payments on external official debt represents 29 per cent of exports, while Nigeria's is 66 per cent and Sierra Leone's 7.8 per cent). Rescheduling like that agreed for Ghana in 1968 is increasingly becoming seen as a form of aid rather than as an emergency measure—although Ghana's Minister of Finance says she cannot meet even the rescheduled payments without holding back development.

Shifts in emphasis

The problem is made even more pressing for Africa because of shifts in the World Bank's emphasis: its loans and credits to African countries during the last year increased by almost 150 per cent, and new stress is being put on agriculture (11 of the 24 countries assisted with agricultural projects were in Africa, which formerly obtained little agricultural assistance from the World Bank group) and education, where returns are not immediate. It is not even simply a matter of creating more places in schools, but of trying to make education more relevant to the needs of particular countries (the financing of a primary educational system in the Ivory Coast based on the use of television for instruction is expected to be announced this year).

In the coming years there will be a third switch in emphasis, to population control, which the Bank report says is

"crucial". In Africa, Government sponsorship of birth control is still political dynamite. But there are other equally controversial political implications for development which are not allowed to ruffle the Bank's report. Robert McNamara rightly told the Governors that the wages of unskilled labour in the industrial sector are often allowed to rise above their real value and grow seriously out of line with those in agriculture. But Government attempts to stop this inevitably produce active political opposition. Similarly, McNamara argues against "indiscriminate protection of import substitution industries" on the ground that they perpetuate inefficiencies, and he warns against "frittering the decade away with feeble and half-hearted measures". True, but how many people have considered the implications of such tough policies, particularly in countries where there is yet no national ethos? The resulting strains will certainly not "create a favourable environment for foreign private capital flows into the developing world", which is one of the aims of the World Bank group which includes its soft-term affiliate, the International Development Association, and the International Finance Corporation.

Strategy for development

The Bank itself appears to be doing well. Repayments are flowing in (nearly \$300 million last year), financing of development projects increased by 87 per cent over the previous year and it has sufficient cash to cover two years disbursements. Congo Kinshasa's Finance Minister M. Louis Namwisi, has suggested that reserves are so high that the Bank could use them to cover the difference between the cost of borrowing on the market and a tolerable minimum for the borrower. Despite burgeoning administrative costs (which rose by \$7 million last year) 1970 should end with a profit of over \$200 million. Mr. McNamara's target of lending in the five-year period 1969-1973 a total approaching the entire amount lent in the first 22 years of operations is likely to be achieved.

More significantly, however, is the role that the Bank, as well as the International Monetary Fund, can play in formulating a strategy for development. Both organisations were revolutionary innovations, initiating measures for the access of development countries to capital markets. Although they are to some extent already identified with the international monetary "establishment" their officials are in a better position than those of member countries to see the problems and needs of developing countries and despite flops, such as the failure to produce any radical ideas on commodities, there are increasing signs that these officials realise that if they do not speak up for the poorer countries no-one will.

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CHAD'S WAR: 2

The Internal Stresses

By a correspondent

Last week's article dealt with some of the factors behind French policy towards Chad, especially in the African context. Ultimately, however, the success of this policy depends on the internal situation within Chad: that is, if the French military intervention succeeds in breaking the backbone of the rebels, on whether political reconciliation is possible.

One major difficulty in this respect is that Frolinat, the organisation which claims to co-ordinate the different spheres of rebel activity has only recently been revealed as a serious organised force, and has had little chance to indicate what it is after, let alone formulated proposals. Dr. Abba Siddick, whose interviews with the French press early in the summer really began the campaign in France, has concentrated more on the promises of those opposed to the Tombalbaye régime such as oppressive tax collection and corruption, than on any positive programmes but Frolinat may be taken to represent a more radical "Arab socialist" point of view, looking towards Cairo and Algiers more than Paris.

Chad has always been difficult to govern because of its sheer size as one of the largest countries in Africa, and its lack of adequate communications (not helped by the fact that one half of it is desert). The three Northern provinces of Borkou-Tibesti-Ennedi (the BET) were always under military administration under the French (an arrangement which continued after independence in 1960) and rule from Fort Lamy, whether from the French or anyone else was only reluctantly accepted by the nomadic population of the North. Not surprisingly this has been one of the areas most affected by rebellion. These provinces, however, although they form a sizeable part of Chad's area, only contain 78,000 people, in a country of 2.5m. The more serious areas of opposition lie in the East and Centre, especially in the Ouaddai province bordering on Sudan; but it seems that disaffection has penetrated to the south-east, and to the Kanem and Baguirmi areas near Fort Lamy. It has, for example, been widely reported that all travel on roads out of Fort Lamy is done in convoys.

Frolinat was formed in 1966 from dissidents from the ruling PPT like Siddick himself, and opposition parties which had been banned in 1962 (with apparently no chance of ever returning after President Tombalbaye formed his one-party state in 1964.) They were the MSA of Ahmed Koulamallah and the UDT of Jean-Baptiste, two Moslem leaders who were jailed in 1963 (and did not incidentally profit from the amnesty declared by the President after his re-election in June this year). It has been



Soldiers of the Chad armed forces pause during the action.

sustained by the large numbers of expatriate Chadians including an estimated one million in Sudan and 50,000 in Libya.

At the time of its formation there had already been at least one outbreak of violence in the form of tax riots at Mangalme in central Chad in June 1965. These were put down vigorously by the government. Although a sporadic *jacquerie* seems to have continued (officially categorised at the time as "banditry"), the next serious outbreak was Frolinat-organised, and centred on the Ouaddai. In the course of this the first Frolinat leader, Ibrahim Abatcha, was killed (there is some doubt as to when, as the government in Fort Lamy announced his death twice), but was replaced by Abba Siddick. Captured documents show that Frolinat has a carefully geared system for automatic replacement of leaders if one is eliminated. The next outbreak was in Tibesti; in August 1968 French troops were used there for logistic backing. An apparent spreading of the rebellion this year resulted in the calling in of the Foreign Legion, and the present intensive campaigns.

The most frequently asserted commonplace about the Chad rebellion is that it is at one and the same time racial and religious—opposing "white" Northern Moslems to black Southern Christians and animists, in the manner of the Sudan. This is a simplification, not least because the ethnic composition of Chad is not so straightforward as a simple Arab-Negro divide. There are very few Arabs, other than a cluster of Arabic-speaking peoples in the Salamat in the South-East, and those there are form elites superimposed on other peoples. The jailed opposition politician Ahmed Koulamallah, for example, is from the ruling class Arab of the Sudanic Baguirmi people. The nomads of the



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north are largely related to the Berber Touareg group, although the Touareg the Tibesti mountains and neighbouring areas are a distinctive group on their own with black skins and European features. The Sudanic people of the centre—Kanembu, Baguirmi, Ouaddai—are not but extensively Islamised, and it is known that Islam has been making headway even among the animist tribes of the south on recent years, apparently because of the prestige of Moslem traders. Only 5 per cent of the people are Christians. The Sara tribes of the Chari valley (Tombalbaye is a Sara).

There is no denying that Tombalbaye's main support is from the Sara, who are also in the vast majority in the area. The Sara used to be known as the "Senegalese" of the AEF, and so many volunteered to fight in Vietnam that they had to be turned away. Like the others they are ideal rank and file material. Also, the main politicians opposing Tombalbaye have been Moslems, although the lack of Moslem support did not become acute until the plots of 1963 removed major Moslem leaders from the political scene. The rebellion in June of his former PPT colleague Djibrine Kendallah may be an effort to win back Moslem support. The 1963 plotters were accused of wanting Moslem secession, just as in 1959, when for a moment it looked as if Northern Cameroons might be gaining control in Fort Lamy. Southern assemblymen appealed to Paris to partition the territory.

There are other issues too. President Tombalbaye has experienced the post-independence "backlash" which has affected many other African leaders and has survived by concentrating authority in his own hands. The majority of his cabinet are young men in their thirties while he is over 50. Most of the politicians of his age group are now out of politics. He has not been without critics in the south either. The jailing of Outel Bono and Michel Ngangbet, two southerners who attacked the government, is a case in point. His critics accuse him of putting relatives in key jobs, of authoritarianism, and of tolerating too much corruption and maladministration. His reply to this has been to bring in a French adviser, M. L., to overhaul the administration, the abuses of which played a significant part in triggering off the rebellion. (M. L., a former Governor of Chad, was once sent as a technical assistant to Cono-K when M. Tshombe was Prime Minister, to advise on a similar administrative overhaul.)

* See Robert Cornevin: *Histoire des Peuples de l'Afrique Noire*, Page 10. Some authorities believe the Touareg whose language is of the Central African Group and is closely related to the Hamari language, to be descended from original inhabitants of the Sahara.

† They were amnestied in August.



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VALCO in the new Ghana : 3

From a Correspondent

EVEN before Valco's Tema Aluminium smelter came into production, the firm was believed to have approached the then Ghana Government about the possibility of basing fabricating industries on the smelter's aluminium. Yet in spite of the Nkrumah regime's addiction to industrialisation, no attention seems to have been given to Valco's suggestion. Nor was Valco, in which the main private partners are Kaiser Engineers International and Reynolds Aluminium, required to do anything about developing industries in Ghana to use what was to become in effect one of Ghana's main raw materials. Yet, as I suggested in a previous article, since the smelter so far uses imported alumina and not Ghanaian bauxite, its contribution to the economy as a whole is far less than it might be.

It is true that a local fabricating industry would have little advantages in the cost of the aluminium itself. But it would have an advantage in the cost of transport of finished products for the Ghana market and it would also be in a better position to gauge the possibilities of this limited market than an overseas supplier would be. Moreover the capital required for relatively simple fabricating plants is not great and, perhaps with some assistance from Valco, Ghanaian entrepreneurs could operate such plants.

There is already at Tema a government plant, operated in co-operation with Alcan of Canada, making roofing sheets. Another government plant, with West German participation, also makes aluminium cutlery and domestic utensils. Both plants could probably be extended to meet Ghana's own needs. But with the ever increasing uses of aluminium, other kinds of aluminium fabricating could be introduced. For example aluminium is now used not only for pipes but for culverts. It is widely used in building, for windows, shades, screens and now even for fencing. It is increasingly used in the manufacture of furniture and even for nails.

No Hopes for Cans

Unhappily, developments in Ghana since the original VALCO proposals for fabrication were made seem now to exclude the use of aluminium for one important new field, that of cans, though it could be used for a variety of containers. The Nkrumah régime allowed the canning industry to develop its own manufacture of cans, based entirely on imported materials, and it might be difficult now to turn this over to aluminium. Crown corks is another possibility, in Ghana's growing bottling industry, as are electricity wire, cables and poles—though again there was no industry in Ghana to take advantage of the needs of the big new distribution net-work set up to carry Volta power.

One should not exaggerate the scale of the industry that might be developed. While one rolling mill could roll all VALCO's output, this would also be much greater than Ghana's requirements. Fabrication takes many forms and for some products plants could be small, even if they have to be much bigger to produce semi-fabricated forms of aluminium suitable for final fabrication.

One thing is certain; new uses for aluminium will continue to be found and, so long as Ghana's economy expands, the Ghana market will be able to absorb an increasing amount of aluminium products. The cost of many traditional materials is rising faster than the cost of aluminium, though costs of aluminium itself are also rising. Ghana could also attempt exports to her neighbours, but it is unlikely that Ghana products would be competitive in Europe.

Indeed, the possible Ghanaian aluminium fabricating industry is yet another example of those industries which, in West Africa, require a bigger market than any single national one. There is a particularly strong case for Ghana's neighbours to make concessions for imports of aluminium products from Ghana, partly because the technical improvements incorporated in the Tema smelter make Ghana-produced alumi-

nium of unusually fine quality. It is true that there is already a fabricating industry in Nigeria but it is limited in scope and it should be possible for the Ghanaian industry to export even to Nigeria.

The really important thing is that Ghana has all the technical conditions for a major new industry, but that the size of the domestic market is the limiting factor. This is one of the many test cases for the sincerity of those who talk about African, and particularly West African, economic co-operation.

In his "speech from the throne" Brigadier Afrifa last week said that the new government was determined to press on with the development of Ghana's own bauxite reserves and an alumina plant. Mr. Kaiser himself has already in Ghana, as I said in my last article, given his blessing to VALCO's participation in this project—a blessing of particular importance at a time when important developments are reported in the aluminium industry elsewhere. For example, work has now started in Guinea on the \$160m. Boke bauxite project in which a number of firms and international agencies are participating. The prospects are that within a few years Ghana will have an integrated aluminium industry—from bauxite to finished products, which, though based on the great \$50m. Tema smelter and Volta power, will be a significant factor in the economy and in the balance of payments.

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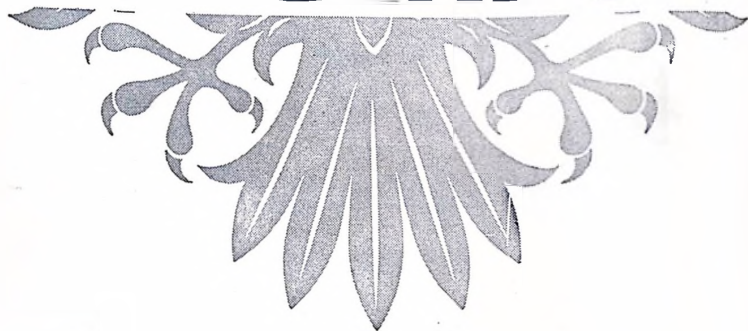
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MATCHET'S DIARY

IS the new Ghana Government giving sufficiently urgent attention to cocoa? In his speech opening the new Parliament, Brigadier Afrifa, as Chairman of the Presidential Commission, emphasised that the price of NC 8 per load for cocoa farmers would not under any circumstances be reduced in the next three years and that, if the world market permitted, the price might be increased. He also said that subsidies for spraying and other equipment would be increased and that the quality of extension services would be improved. There is also to be comprehensive research into the industry's problems. Clearly a sudden steep increase in the farmers' price is not possible, both because this would mean inflation in a country where prices are still rising steeply and because it might make the new Government appear to be ready to appease immediately anybody making financial demands on it, even if their right to be representative was uncertain. But the Ghana cocoa farmer does now get a lower price than any other West African cocoa farmer and there is general agreement—though this is, at any rate to my satisfaction, still has to be proved—that the admitted deterioration in the cocoa farms is a result of the farmers' resentment of their low price. In the absence of a price increase, is it not possible to offer them something more exciting than was offered in Brigadier Afrifa's speech? Nor can the malaise of the industry be improved by the reports that perhaps NC 4m. advanced to licensed buying agents of the Cocoa Marketing Board last season cannot be accounted for.

In an article from Washington, published in the *London Spectator*, Mr. Auberger Waugh, one of the most persistent advocates of the Biafran cause, suggests that Mr. Nixon might still take the line that he did during his election campaign about the Nigerian conflict. Then he spoke of "genocide" and of the need to brush aside diplomatic niceties to bring relief to Biafra. Mr. Waugh gives no real evidence to support this view, and his information, from both the State Department and the White House is—as he admits—that the Administration, while thankful that the US is not deeply involved in the conflict, can see no alternative to Biafran acceptance of Federal terms if the war is to be brought to an end. Far more important, I think, than this quite hypothetical change on Mr. Nixon's part, is the proposal, now associated with former Vice President Humphrey, to use helicopters based on aircraft carriers to take relief into Biafra. There is no doubt that helicopters could operate far more effectively than ordinary aircraft, particularly

as they need not land at Uli but can deliver their loads directly to distribution points. This would put an end to the Biafran allegation that daytime relief flights would be used by the Federal Government as a cover for military operations against Uli airstrip. The Federal Government has already agreed to neutral inspection of relief aircraft in Dahomey and would, presumably, agree to such inspection on the neutral territory afforded by an aircraft carrier. Could this, I wonder, help to mount the air armada suggested by Chief Enahoro?

Nothing, it seems, will persuade Biafra's British champions—except the suddenly converted *London Times*—that it is Biafran policy alone which is now directly responsible for starving the Ibos. Col. Ojukwu's objection to daylight relief flights—that he cannot allow them unless other countries "guarantee" that the Federal Government will not use them to military advantage—was suitably dismissed in London last week by Chief Enahoro. "That was never raised in our talks with the Red Cross. It would mean that we handed over our skies to another country." It would mean, in fact, inviting military aircraft of a foreign country to escort relief aircraft into Biafra—which would mean that the escort aircraft were allowed to shoot down Nigerian aircraft which appeared to offer a threat, a quite preposterous idea. In conversation Chief Enahoro seemed to me to be genuinely angry that innocent people were now being made to suffer in order to save the faces of leaders who would not admit that their cause was lost. "I have suggested to some concerned with relief that we should organise a great air armada," he said. "Thirty or 40 aircraft should defy the Biafran leaders to take food into Biafra. Mankind as a whole must now take responsibility for relieving the suffering."

In a long letter in the *Freetown Daily Mail*, Mr. S. H. O. Gborie, an official of the ruling All People's Congress who recently visited Nigeria, opposes the idea of Sierra Leone's recognition of Biafra. He says that there is no evidence of "genocide" and that recognition would only aggravate the situation, since Sierra Leone can have no effect on the course of the conflict; Sierra Leone cannot even send any food to Biafra. They would only be adding to the number of their enemies. He points out that at the Addis Ababa OAU Conference even the African countries which had recognised Biafra had abstained from voting on the Nigerian resolution, and had not attempted to oppose it.

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books and publications

BENIN, BAMBARA AND BUSHMEN

Negro Art by *Dmitry Oldorogge and Werner Forman* (Paul Hamlyn, 59s.).
African Rock Art by *Burchard Brentjes* (J. M. Dent, 52s.).

IN his short introduction to *Negro Art* Dr. Oldorogge reviews the development of African art from rock engravings to the decoration of gourds; but he lays most emphasis on developments in Benin, and almost a third of the illustrations, which, both coloured and black-and-white, are the essence of this splendidly produced volume, are also of Benin work. This, in turn, reflects the composition of the collection of African work at the Institute of Ethnography in Leningrad, since all examples in the book are taken from that collection, making the title somewhat misleading.

What we have, in effect, is a most attractive illustrated catalogue of a single collection—just as the same publisher's *Tribal Masks* concerned really a collection in Prague. But while that collection contained some surprises, the Leningrad one appears to offer little new, and the Benin heads illustrated, in particular, become repetitive.

Dr. Oldorogge is right to emphasise that although they are in no way connected with magic or religion, objects in everyday use, such as mats and cooking utensils, as well as house decoration and architecture, should be included in a survey of African art, and his illustration of basketwork and other household artefacts in the Leningrad collection are most attractive.

Among the sculptures there are some striking stylised Bambara antelope head-dresses masks from Mali (though these are familiar in many collections). Dr. Oldorogge offers the most interesting explanation of these, borrowed from Mrs. Margaret Plass. "In the Bambara language the word 'sogoni-kun' means 'antelope's head', but the animal is barely recognisable in the masks. The people have a legend to explain their masks. Once upon a time there lived Chi wara, who was half man and half serpent. He taught men to cultivate the soil. When they had learnt how to bring in rich harvests, they stopped worshipping Chi wara, who became very angry. He 'dug himself a grave with his head which was like a sharp hoe, with his neck for a handle, and in this grave he buried himself.' And in memory of Chi wara the people began to make themselves masks and to dance every year before

the sowing. This legend was recorded by the French ethnographer Solange de Ganay in 1946-1947 in the Sudan and is an excellent example of the aetiological legends invented to explain customs whose actual origin has long been forgotten. From it we learn one important fact, that for the present-day Bambara the sogoni-kun mask is nothing more than a symbolical representation of a hoe. The name and the form of these masks, however, show quite clearly that—although the Bambara have now forgotten it—long, long ago they represented antelopes, the ancient totem belonging to the far-off times of hunting customs and the tribal system. Now, having lost its original meaning, the mask showing the Chi wara antelope has become nothing more than a lovely but stylised sogoni-kun mask."

African Rock Art is a systematic survey by a lecturer in archaeology in an East German university. There are 56 drawings, a map and three colour and 23 monochrome illustrations from photographs, and the book is most attractively produced.

The artistic value of rock paintings—not only in Africa—is now universally recognised and some hundred thousand have been discovered in Africa. They are, naturally, a feature of the desert and savannah, but not of the forest areas; the creation of hunters, herdsman, chiefs and priests. The best-known examples are the Bushmen paintings, but so far as is now known, West Africa has relatively poor examples. This is a dead art, arising out of social and technical conditions that no longer exist. It was the art of "hunting magic," as well as the religious expression of Egypt's mighty Pharaohs; but the artistic feeling still lives.

Dr. Brentjes, rather than his translator, must accept responsibility for some of the over-coloured writing; is it really true that all that was left after the advent of Europeans in Africa were "the naked workers toiling on the plantations"; or is this not rather insulting to Africans? But perhaps it is the translator who is responsible for the references to "primaevial jungle" to describe the area from Cameroon to Ghana.

Negro Art, like *Tribal Masks*, was printed in Czechoslovakia but *African Rock Art* was printed in Britain—and for once a British product of this kind can compare in price to the Czech.

D.W.

Exports and Economic Growth of Developing Countries by *A. Maizels* assisted by *L. F. Campbell-Boross* and *P. B. W. Rayment* (Cambridge, £3).

This book forecasts what will happen in the 'seventies by examining what happened in the recent past, and extrapolating trends. It is a technical study of statistics, not of facts at first hand. Its sponsors (National Institute of Economic and Social Research, Rockefeller, Colonial Economic Research Committee, FAO and Ministry of Overseas Development) are impressive, but it may be doubted whether it will help readers of *West Africa* in understanding the problems of the area.

The authors assume that foreign exchange availability is the effective constraint on economic growth in the less developed countries. There is, in their view, a definite relationship between exports and foreign capital inflows, on the one hand, and the rate of growth in the real product, on the other. The foregoing sentences are expressions of the basic idea, that the quantity of capital is what counts: that the other factors of production are abundant, waiting to be activated. The authors have worked out ICOR (Incremental Capital-Output Ratio) for 12 countries; i.e., the relationship between investment in fixed capital and the associated increase in real output. They say, however, that it would be unwise to assume that ICOR for any country would be the same in the future as in the past, in view of the many

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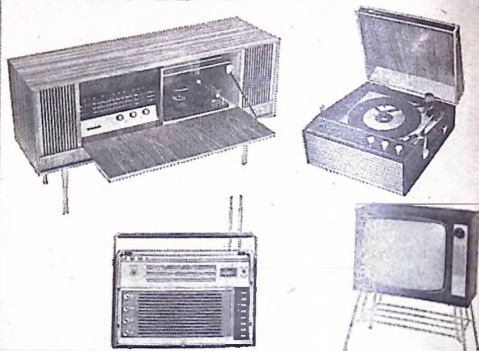
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factors which could result in a shift in this ratio. It would indeed be unwise. Experience in Africa suggests that human beings have much influence on ICOR.

In the studies of countries, 1964 is the base year. This renders it uninteresting for West Africa, since in Nigeria petroleum had not begun to flow, and in Ghana it was an exceptionally bad year. No other West African country is mentioned. From some of the tables, Nigeria and Ghana drop out for lack of statistics: "particularly Nigeria, for which the available national accounts data are too scrappy or unreliable to be of any use", while Ghana has to be omitted from some tables "because adequate constant-price series are not yet available".

Readers concerned with West Africa will therefore tend to skip the study of countries and pass to the study of commodities. In the summary, forecasting prospects to 1975, coffee comes off best, and cocoa does well. Natural rubber (in spite of synthetics) is slightly ahead of cocoa, and raw cotton slightly behind. Hides and skins make poor showing and vegetable oils and giseeds are near the bottom of the league.

The general conclusion is that the developing world will not make much progress on the basis of the domestic savings which it can make out of trade in commodities. So what about industrial exports? This depends, the authors say, on a willingness in developed countries to relax protectionism, and it involves the operation of international commodity agreements with the prime purpose of phasing out excess capacity, not (as hitherto) of stabilising the world price. But even after all that, backward countries "may find the costs of industrialisation virtually prohibitive". So all that is left is to get capital from outside.

Private capital? The authors assume that in West Africa the cost of interest, profits and dividends on private capital investment will be 7½ per cent. But "it would probably be unrealistic to expect a substantial rise in foreign private investment . . . in countries which insist on retaining company control in the hands of their nationals, or which restrict the repatriation of dividends". The reader is left to infer that this is how "countries" will behave.

So everything depends on Aid. According to the projections and subject to the hypotheses which are assumed, the developing countries will not achieve a "tolerable" rate of growth without a vast increase in the quantity of aid. The authors express pessimism about the prospects of this. But they do contribute some thoughts as to how aid should be distributed. As statisticians, they consider three alternative criteria:

(1) Aid per head of population should be equal for all recipient countries.

(2) Aid should form the same proportion of GDP for all recipient countries.

(3) Aid should be inversely related to the level of GDP per head in the recipient countries.

They indicate a preference for (3).

In 1962-63 Ghana got £M18 of aid (=£252 per head) and Nigeria got £M21 (=£046 per head). If aid had been distributed between the less developed sterling countries in accordance with the third principle, Ghana would have got £M2 and Nigeria £M43. The Volta would not have been dammed. But nobody was distributing aid on such principles, nor is likely to do so.

The major conclusion is, that it is necessary to find less capital-intensive ways of developing; but that, say the authors, is outside their scope.

F.J.P.

Oxfam's Year 1968-69, published—also Oxfam annual reports have been— with a useful list of the year's relief and development grants added, briefly outlines the contribution to relief on both sides in the Nigerian conflict. The organisation paid for food to go to the bases of the airlifts into Biafra, and provided funds and supplies for relief teams on the Nigerian side of the front, including a team recruited by Oxfam for relief work in the South-East State. This team and another in Biafran territory played their part in reducing the appalling civilian suffering due to the war. Other groups aided by Oxfam included the Catholic Secretariat in Lagos, the

Nigerian Red Cross, the Christian Council Group in Biafran territory, and the Christian Council of Nigeria. Non-emergency aid continued in Nigeria (for a hospital at Vom and a Lagos school for handicapped children, for example), as in other countries; a rural development programme for women in Upper Volta and a Land-Rover for rural clinics in Sierra Leone were among objects of Oxfam aid in other West African states. West Africa in all received about £489,000 in aid from Oxfam in 1968-69, and Equatorial Africa £77,000; total aid commitment was £3,422,000, considerably in excess of the funds raised by Oxfam.

D.J.

Vulture! Vulture! *Two rhythm plays by Efua Sutherland. (Ghana Publishing House, Accra, no price given.)*

An attractively presented and illustrated paperback of two plays by one of Ghana's best-known artistic personalities. These two rhythm plays—*Vulture! Vulture!* and *Tahinta* are good examples of Mrs. Sutherland's distinctive and highly animated work. The chorus, the hand-clapping and the simple action seem to make them ideal for use in schools.

O.C.S.

CORRECTION

In the "Books" pages of the issue of Sept. 27, on p. 1149, the phrase reading "Letter Society of Arts" should have read "Royal Society of Arts."

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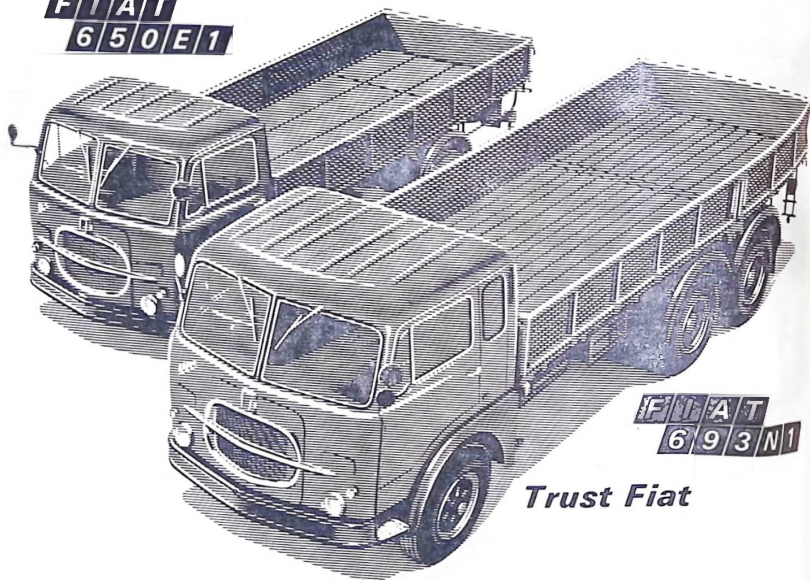
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ROUNDBOUT

Why the African Summit refused to sign the Algiers Charter

President Senghor of Senegal, as one might have expected, has produced a detailed and hard-hitting reply to "those who attack *négritude* in Algiers" at the symposium on culture and politics at the Pan-African Cultural Festival in July. Speaking to a seminar of the students of the Union Progressiste Senegalaise (UPS) in Dakar, the President said that those who dismissed *négritude* and *arabité* as "folklore" were in fact preaching the doctrine of assimilation which he had rejected in the fourth form when he affirmed the existence of a Senegalese civilisation. He went on to refute the theory that culture was merely a political instrument: "We have always thought the contrary," he said, quoting with typical Senghorean dexterity, Engels and Lenin to show "independence began with cultural liberation, which was the *sine qua non* condition of political independence and the ultimate goal of economic independence." In other words, the literary and artistic works that go to make up culture were ends not means. The denigrators of *négritude* at Algiers had drafted a charter "which denied the values of the African motherland. Well, the majority of the heads of state and their representatives, meeting recently in Addis Ababa in this continent where man emerged, refused to sign . . . out of loyalty to Mother Africa."

Grunitzky—End of an Era

The death of Nicolas Grunitzky last week, after a car accident, seems to close definitely a chapter in Togolese political history. For it was the contest between Grunitzky and his brother-in-law Sylvanus Olympio which dominated Togo's politics in the years before and after independence in 1960. Grunitzky had been encouraged by the French to lead the opposition to the radical Olympio party which had emerged from the post-1945 political upsurge. With French help, and the backing of the "bloc vote" of Northern chiefs (although he himself had an Ewe mother) Grunitzky's party was in office from 1951. Grunitzky headed the government from 1956-58, in which year he was thrown from power in the pre-independence elections insisted on by the United Nations. Olympio, after his election success of 1958, was in power as Prime Minister then as President of independent Togo until his assassination at the hands of soldiers in January 1963. Then it was Grunitzky's turn again, but he was forced to rule through an uneasy coalition, and by 1966 the feuds between

the different wings of his government had become so intense that the whole business of administration was threatened. The government crisis of November 1966, in which he dismissed the whole cabinet, and the strange affair of the abortive pro-Olympio *coup* staged the next day, demonstrated patently Grunitzky's tenuous hold on power, and the army then under Lt.-Col. Eyadema, one of the principal organisers of the 1963 *putsch*, was revealed as the mainstay of the régime, in that it was only a guarantee of support from Eyadema (who refused to respond to the crowd's appeal to take over) which kept Grunitzky in power. When, a couple of months later, Eyadema moved in, Grunitzky's real authority was already fairly ghostly, and he pulled out thankfully to life as a businessman in Abidjan. There was never any serious question of his returning, so his death does not alter the political conundrum, if and when Togo ever returned to civilian rule. A friendly, unpretentious man, who did not hide his preference for the French, he always gave the impression of having been reluctantly called to the highest office to coax Togo's warring factions to work together. His failure was as much a judgment on the politicians as on himself.

Nigeria: Nyerere's View

I have recently been examining President Nyerere's pamphlet on the Nigerian civil war, now released in Dar es-Salaam. This says that the Federal Government would have no hope of winning the war without British military and diplomatic support. Britain's motive was self-interest: "only great simplicity or even extreme naiveté could lead anyone to accept that Britain is defending the unity of Nigeria, or African unity in general." Without Britain the Soviet Union would have become a huge diplomatic embarrassment to the Nigerians . . . "for if Russia had supported Lagos and Britain did not, most of the Western world would have been anti-Lagos." Citing British support for self-determination in Gibraltar, President Nyerere said: "If British interests had been different, we would have self-determination being advanced as a reason for supporting Biafra." The great difference between Katanga and Biafra was that in Katanga the former colonial power had supported the secessionists because of the copper interests. On the "internal domino theory", the pamphlet said that it was an insult to the Hausa and Yoruba to say that Nigeria could not stay together without the Ibos. The President also rejected the African domino theory. While admitting the dangers of tribalism, he said its spectre was often raised by Africa's enemies against her: "it is dangerous for Africa to accept the argument of tribalism without examining its relevance in every given case." Africa was learning the wrong lesson from the Nigerian crisis. The OAU, he said, was not a trade union

of heads of state, "it must concern itself with the people of Africa".

. . . and Ngouabi's

In contrast to Nyerere (and to some extent, to his own predecessor Massemba-Debat), Major Ngouabi, Congo-Brazzaville's head of state, put his support solidly behind Federal Nigeria after the OAU summit, saying: "for us the word Biafra must disappear." The summit had been a success, he said, and had revealed that Africa was advancing towards progress. The progressive countries had gained the upper hand in pushing through certain resolutions. On the Middle East he said his country's stand was clear: "we are against Israel's expansionist policy. In fact we have recalled our charge d'affaires to inform us if this state Israel is our friend or enemy."

Gandhi Kits

Celebrations in Ghana of the centenary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi have included an exhibition of a "Gandhi kit," one of three presented to the Government by the Indian High Commissioner: each contains pictures, literature and recordings of some of Gandhi's speeches. The *Daily Graphic* has recently carried a quotation a way from the Mahatma's sayings.

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letters to the editor

SIAKA STEVENS' GOVERNMENT

SIR.—I find it difficult to swallow without qualification Mr. Dauda's (Sept. 20) allegation against the APC Government of Sierra Leone and its advisers.

It may be true that after the Kailahun/Kemba incidents, the Government made a series of arrests—most of those who were arrested having now been released. But I see no reason why Mr. Dauda should have cited this event in his attack on the APC Government; by so doing he, by implication, condoned the action of the supporters of the former SLPP Government, whose callous resistance to the APC Government (the only *de facto* and *de jure* authority in the country), coupled with an intolerable arrogance and contempt of the electorate, may have forced the APC Government to have taken such a decision.

It is the duty of every Government to maintain law and order. If a handful of fortune seekers tries to jeopardise the whole life of the inhabitants, no Government with sanity and sense of responsibility would sit idly by and watch. The APC could have acted in defence of its innocent nationals, or in reprisal to compensate those parents whose children's lives were sacrificed in the havoc caused by "devils."

What is victimisation by "demotion"? There is no *prima facie* evidence to support this allegation against the APC Government. Who are they that have been demoted? Why are they victimised? Why are many other Southerners still employed in the Government services, if victimisation by demotion is APC policy? If there has been any such demotion, it may have been due to the APC's desire to rectify the previous maladministration, nepotism and favouritism.

MAIDI MASSAQUOI.

TALKS IN VIENNA?

SIR.—The news that Nigeria and Biafra are again prepared to have peace talks without precondition, and the request from Biafra that Lagos should name a friendly and neutral country where the talks could be held, were received everywhere with joy.

All efforts must be made this time to achieve a lasting peace in Nigeria. Apparently no country in Africa could be acceptable to both sides. Why not hold the talks this time in a country far from home with acknowledged neutrality? The city of Vienna would be an appropriate place in this respect. In this city many peace treaties were signed. The Kennedy-Khrushchev meeting in Vienna in 1961 began the end of the "cold war".

Vienna is one of the UNO centres in Europe. The peace services of the Austrian's contingent in Cyprus and in Middle East are still remembered by all. Above all, Austria sent an envoy last year to Lagos, Addis Ababa and London to explore possibilities for peace in Nigeria.

A suggestion from Lagos of such places as Vienna may be given a high consideration by the Biafrans.

(DR.) OLATDE AREGBE

Ijebu-Ode.

OBSERVERS IN NIGERIA

SIR.—It beats me hollow to hear that Nigeria still accepts the observers. The reason for inviting them, as we were told, was to establish that there was no "genocide". The world has understood that the word exists only in Ojukwu's propaganda sheets. What then are they still observing? Our inclination to end the war in spite of our ability to do so, I presume.

But were Ojukwu in Major-Gen Gowon's position, would he allow all this sort of thing to impede the normal execution of the war?

Let the observers go to Northern Ireland to report on whether the British army has not committed "religionicide" in Bogside.

ADISA-ONIKOKO

TWO YEARS OF WAR

SIR.—Dr. Jennifer Gibson (August 9) does not agree with your leading article of 12/7/69 but fails to give reasons why she cannot. She asks "When did hatred and bitterness ever reunite a nation?" The fact that 5-6 m. Ibos are under the administration of Mr. Asika in liberated East Central State, and several thousands in other parts of the country, dismisses the claim of hatred and bitterness. The Federal Government is not fighting Ibos as a people but the rebels. If the foreign meddlers leave us alone, we shall settle the crisis soon, perhaps before this year ends.

Dr. Gibson is quite correct when she writes, "Love does not bomb, starve and shoot its opponents." Perhaps she will now

remember that the rebels started and continue aerial bombardment of the Federal positions. The Federal Government has no intention of using starvation as a weapon to win the war. That is why charity organisations, e.g. ICRC, are allowed to fly food and medical supplies into the rebel held areas. Neither does it want to shoot its opponents; for this reason, the international observers are invited to watch the conduct of the Federal troops. These are unique in the history of warfare.

Dr. Gibson calls for a cease-fire and reunification after some years. This seems to be a most wicked and ill-considered suggestion, as the East Central State will be encircled by the rest of the Federation; moreover, the area is too small to sustain the Ibo population. We do not want a Berlin-type wall in Nigeria. True lovers of peace and mankind will advocate nothing but to go back to the peace table and find a lasting agreeable solution to the war.

M. A. SHITTA-BEY.

May we remind those submitting "Letters to the Editor" to give their correct names and addresses and proper signatures; letters without these are not acceptable, although anybody can ask for his letter to be published under a pseudonym. Letters should also be originals (not copies) and should be offered to "West Africa" only; circular or cyclostyled letters are not acceptable.

There is no political censorship of letters and we publish letters from all sides in any political dispute, reserving the right to amend libellous or violent language.

EDITOR.

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commercial news

Food output remains depressed

AGRICULTURAL production in Ghana, Niger and Senegal, as well as Rhodesia, declined by about 10 per cent. in 1968, according to figures contained in a review published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). South African output fell by about 15 per cent because of drought.

Agricultural production on the continent increased by about two per cent. during the year and food production by slightly more. Per caput food output failed to increase for the second successive year, thus remaining at the lowest level of the entire post-war period. The value of agricultural exports showed an increase of eight per cent. in 1968 after failing to increase over the previous five years. Together with exports of forest and fishery products, they contributed the greater part of the region's increase in total export earnings.

Wide variations in production between countries were recorded. Due to severe drought in southern Africa and to both floods and drought on the west coast, cereal output in these areas was much reduced

from the high level reached the previous season. Although several countries have tried to restrict imports of cereals to save foreign exchange, the upward trend for the region as a whole had continued, said the report. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, however, were able to reduce significantly their imports of wheat and flour. In eastern Africa food production was above average.

Output of the major export crops was comparatively stable, except for cocoa which declined by about 10 per cent. Earnings from cocoa and coffee—which together accounted for 44 per cent. of the value of all agricultural exports—were higher. The volume of cocoa exports was at its lowest for seven years, but with prices up by 17 per cent., export earnings were considerably larger than in 1967. Coffee exports set a new record of 983,000 tons. A fall of about 10 per cent. in the Ivory Coast coffee crop was balanced by modest increases in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Groundnut production was down by about five per cent., with decreases in most countries, except Nigeria, where production

recovered halfway to the record 1966 crop. Earnings from groundnut oil and cake were higher, but palm oil exports remained depressed and prices were down considerably. These three products accounted for 25 per cent. of the value of agricultural exports in 1968. Palm kernel exports continued at about half of the level reached before the outbreak of civil war in Nigeria, but the export unit value rose by about 10 per cent.

A substantial increase in fishery production was achieved largely as a result of record catches for the South African fish meal and oil industry.

African exports of hardwood logs are estimated to have risen by some 12 per cent. in 1968, primarily because of increased European purchases. Exports of sawn hardwood rose even faster, especially from Ghana and the Ivory Coast. Ghana retains its position as the leading exporter of sawn hardwood to Europe.

● President Nixon said in his address to the UN General Assembly that, if in the Second Development Decade higher food output and lower population growth rates could be achieved, "we shall have opened a way to a new era of splendid prosperity." But, he added, if one was achieved without the other, "we shall be standing still." "If neither was achieved, "great areas of the world will face human disaster."

● The World Food Programme will supply Cameroon with over 650 tons of food for the Yahassi-Bafang re-settlement scheme in a forest region in the Adamaoua mountainous area.

MISSION LEAVES FOR CONGO

The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry's fiftieth overseas trade mission in four years leaves for Congo Kinshasa today. Export ventures organised by the Chamber are estimated to have led to orders worth well over £3m. for the companies taking part.

A final briefing session for members of the Congo mission (Oct. 11 to 25) has been held with the Congolese Ambassador in London, M. Gervais Bahizi, and Mr. Paul Wright, the British Ambassador to Congo, taking part. Three months ago Birmingham's Lord Mayor, Alderman Neville Bosworth, was the principal guest at the British Day held at the first Kinshasa International Exhibition.

The mission will be led by Mr. N. Bond-Williams, the Chamber's president. 11 companies will be represented.

● Ghana's Ministry of Trade will no longer issue import licences to industries and other trading concerns unless it is satisfied that previous allocations made to them have been properly utilised. This follows recommendations made to the Ministry of Industries after reports that people engaged in either industry or trade managed to obtain licences and sell them at a profit to some industrial concerns. Mr. C. W. Sackeyie, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Industries, announced the new regulations saying the issue of licences presented problems to the Trade Ministry.

● A display of Soviet-made cars and trucks has been on display in Nigeria's largest cities.

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Bank reviews African operations

The Société Financière Pour les Pays D'Afrique (main shareholders in the Bank of America, Banque Nationale de Paris, Banque Lambert in Brussels and the West German Commerzbank) in its annual report, examines the activities of its affiliates in Congo-K, Congo-B, Rwanda, Burundi, Cameroon, Senegal (with a new branch in Banjul), Ivory Coast, and Kenya.

The report comments that the majority of countries in which the corporation operates did not experience the political difficulties of other parts of the African continent. In spite of the general problem of world-wide deterioration in terms of trade, many of the countries have been able to take advantage of agricultural diversification and of more favourable trade trends in certain commodities; for example increased prices for cocoa, good coffee harvests, improvement in the market for bananas, increased cultivation of cotton, better conditions for hardwood timbers and the launching of large-scale agro industrial programmes. "On the other hand, the collapse of the world market for palm oil and the poor season for groundnuts adversely affected the economies of producer countries."

From the point of view of industrialisation, Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Kenya achieved notable success, and the development in relations between Belgium and Africa is underlined by the recent improvement in relations between Belgium and Congo-K.

On the banking scene 1968 saw a considerable increase in the interests of certain large American banks, which took either new participations or expanded their holdings in existing banks in Africa.

■ The terms for the merger of the Chartered and Standard Banks have been agreed and the new company will take effect on January 1. The merged company will be the largest British overseas banking corporation, with assets of £2,129m (seven per cent. more than the next largest, Barclays DCO) and deposits exceeding £1,750m. (1.8 per cent. more than Barclays). It will have about 1,400 branches in Africa and the Far East.

Copper deposits reassessed

Copper deposits in the Kienda area of the Congo are now believed to total 30m. tons, twice the original estimate. Deposits in Mushoshi, where prospecting work has finished, amount to over 100m. tons. These figures were announced by Mr. Masao Yanaga, president of the Société de Développement Industriel et Minier du Congo (Sodimico), the joint Congo-Japan concern which is the first Japanese venture to develop overseas copper reserves with Japanese capital and technology.

Mr. Yanaga said in an interview that the company would start production on schedule in September, 1972. Japan plans to buy 53,000 tons of copper a year from the company.

■ The International Tin Council has agreed to ask the UN Secretary General to convene a negotiating conference for a fourth International Tin Agreement in 1970.

WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

ELDER DEMPESTER LINES

SOUTHBOUND—From Liverpool:—DEIDO s/g Liverpool Oct. 23; OBUASI s/g Liverpool Oct. 24; DUNKWA due Takoradi Oct. 11; KUMBA due Apapa Oct. 11; AUREOL s/g Liverpool Oct. 14.

From London:—EGORI s/g London Oct. 14; ONITSHA s/g London Oct. 23; FALABA s/g Madras Oct. 14.

From Middlesbrough:—OTI s/g Middlesbrough Oct. 18.

From Continent:—FORCADOS s/g Hamburg Oct. 24; SADIUNA s/g Hamburg Oct. 24.

NORTHBOUND:—From Liverpool:—KOHIMA due Liverpool Oct. 11; DONNA s/g Takoradi Oct. 10; FOURAH BAY due Las Palmas Oct. 14.

To London:—EBANI s/g London Oct. 12.

To Glasgow:—DUMURKA due Las Palmas Oct. 14.

To Hull:—KABALA due Lagos Oct. 11.

To Belfast/Dublin:—OWERRI due Belfast Oct. 13.

To Avonmouth:—PERANG due Avonmouth Oct. 10; BHAMO due Port Genil Oct. 10.

REGU due Apapa Oct. 16.

EASTBOUND—From USA / Canada:—TULANI due Dakar Oct. 6.

From India / Pakistan / Burma:—DIXCOVE due Abidjan Oct. 10; DUMBALA due Pointe Noire Oct. 12; DARU due Baltimore Oct. 11.

From India / Pakistan / Burma:—TEVIQT-BANK s/g Abidjan Oct. 11; TWEEDBANK due Douala Oct. 25.

BARBER LINES

OUTWARDS—TEMA due to sail from New York Oct. 21; Halifax N/S Oct. 24 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos, Apapa, Douala and Takoradi; CORNEVILLE due to sail from New York on Nov. 7; Halifax N/S Nov. 10 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos, Apapa, Douala and Takoradi.

HOMEWARDS—FERNWOOD due to load Takoradi Oct. 14 then Abidjan, Buchanan, November; CORNEVILLE due to load Buchanan then Monrovia for Carteret due Oct. 23; New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore Nov. 15.

JAPAN "K" LINE

WESTBOUND—From Japan (via Hong Kong) to Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc.:—TEXAS MARU s/d Japan Sept. 9, due Lagos Oct. 18.

EASTBOUND—From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. to Japan:—JEXAS MARU s/g Lagos Oct. 24; Tema Oct. 26; Freetown Oct. 30 due Japan Dec. 5.

PALM LINE

SOUTHBOUND—From Liverpool:—LAGOS PALM due Tema Oct. 13; ELMINA PALM due Las Palmas Oct. 15.

From Continent:—ANDONI PALM due Tenerife Oct. 16.

NORTHBOUND—To London:—AKASSA PALM s/g Takoradi Oct. 11.

To Liverpool:—ILORIN PALM s/g Lagos Oct. 15.

FARRELL LINES

HOMEWARDS—AUSTRALIAN GEM s/g Apapa Oct. 16 for Abidjan Oct. 18; Monrovia for Montreal and US Ports; AFRICAN RAINBOW s/g Lobito Oct. 29 for Luanda, Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia and US Ports.

OUTWARDS—AFRICAN CRESCENT due Monrovia Nov. 1 for Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Nov. 9 and Apapa Nov. 11; AUSTRALIAN REEF due Monrovia Nov. 8 for Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Nov. 14 Douala, Matadi and Lobito.

HOLLAND WEST-AFRICA LINE

SOUTHBOUND—From Continent:—CONGO-KUST due Lobito Oct. 16; GAASTERKERR due Rotterdam Oct. 18.

NORTHBOUND—To Continent:—GIESSENKERK due Amsterdam Oct. 15; Hamburg Oct. 16; KATSEDYK due Hamburg Oct. 16.

From West Africa Line

NOPAL WEST AFRICA LINE

EASTBOUND—NOPAL TELLUS s/g New Orleans Oct. 2, Takoradi Oct. 24, Lagos Oct. 26 due War. Oct. 27; NOPAL LUNA s/g New Orleans Oct. 24, Takoradi Nov. 15.

WESTBOUND—NOPAL LUNA s/d Luanda Sept. 2, Takoradi Sept. 17, New Orleans s/g Luanda Oct. 26; Takoradi Nov. 2.

GOLD STAR LINE

WESTBOUND—SHAVID due Durban Oct. 4; Lennox Marques Oct. 8/10; Capetown Oct. 12/13; Lobito Oct. 16, Luanda Oct. 17/18.

EASTBOUND—TSEDEK due Singapore Nov. 6; Japan Phosphates Ports Nov. 15, 22; Kobe Nov. 21/22.

BLACK STAR LINE/US/NW/AFRICA WESTBOUND—SAKUMO / WAGON Abidjan Oct. 28; New York Nov. 10; Philadelphia Nov. 14, thence Great Lakes.

BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT/ WEST AFRICA

SOUTHBOUND—NASIA RIVER Hamburg Oct. 21; Antwerp Oct. 23; Rotterdam Oct. 24; Dunkirk Oct. 25; LAKE BOSOMTWE London Oct. 28; KORLE LAGOON Liverpool Oct. 27.

NORTHBOUND—LAKE BOSOMTWE London Oct. 10; BENYA RIVER Amsterdam Oct. 9; Rotterdam Oct. 11; Bremen Oct. 15; Hamburg Oct. 17.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE

SOUTHBOUND—MINNESOTA s/g Scan. and Bordeaux first half Oct. for discharge WA S Route first half Nov.; MANGARELLA s/g Scan. including Finland, Bordeaux first half Oct. for discharge WA and Oct. first half Nov.; HEOGH HERON s/g Scan. including Finland, Bordeaux second half Oct. for discharge WA second half Nov.

NORTHBOUND—LJELMAREN s/g WA first half Oct. for discharge WA and Oct. first half Nov.; INDIANA s/g WA S Route Oct. for discharge Continent early Nov. and Scan. second half Oct. for discharge WA and Oct. late Oct. early Nov. for discharge Scan. early Dec.

EDWARD NASSAR LINES

TIKESA s/g Genoa Oct. 5 due Famagusta Oct. 10; Beirut Oct. 11; LAIR BECHIR s/d Genoa Sept. 18 due Famagusta Sept. 25.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINES

INWARDS—STRAAT FRANKLIN from Japan s/d, Kobe Sept. 21 due Lagos/Apapa Oct. 22; Tema Oct. 29; Monrovia Nov. 1; Freetown Nov. 3; Abidjan Nov. 9; Takoradi Nov. 12; STRAAT MOZAMBIQUE from China and Hong Kong s/d, Hong Kong Sept. 15 due Lagos/Apapa Oct. 18; Cotonou Oct. 26; Lome Oct. 27; Tema Oct. 28; Abidjan Oct. 30; Monrovia Nov. 2; Freetown Nov. 4; Makar Nov. 9; Conakry Nov. 11; Takoradi Nov. 15.

OUTWARDS—STRAAT FREMANTLE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan; Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan; Lagos Nov. 1.

CHARGEURS REUNIS

KERGUELEN due Lagos/Apapa Oct. 12; Tema Oct. 17; Freetown Oct. 23; CIRCEA s/g Kobe Oct. 26.

MAERSK LINE

INWARDS—From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc.:—S. P. F. R. E. M. A. E. R. S. K. s/g Japan Nov. 7.

OUTWARDS—From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. to Japan via Hong Kong and US Pacific ports:—S. P. F. R. E. M. A. E. R. S. K. s/g Japan Nov. 7.

MITSUI OSK LINE

HARUNASAN MARU s/d, Kobe Sept. 20 due Lagos Oct. 20; AWAJISI MARU s/g, Kobe Oct. 4 due Lagos Nov. 9; CHICAGO MARU s/g, Kobe Oct. 20 due Lagos Nov. 20.

PICARDA s/g Rotterdam Oct. 8 due Dakar Oct. 28; Abidjan Nov. 1; Lome Nov. 5; NATAI s/g, Antwerp Oct. 13 due Dakar Oct. 22; Abidjan Oct. 26; Lome Oct. 28; Cotonou Oct. 28 due Dakar Nov. 5.

HOEGH LINES

HOEGH MELING s/d, Rouen Oct. 7 due Dakar Oct. 14; Conakry Oct. 17; Freetown Oct. 18; Abidjan Oct. 23; HOEGH AURORE s/g, Bremen Oct. 23; Rotterdam Oct. 24; Rotterdam Oct. 28 due Dakar Nov. 5.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE LTD.

BUEANA FORTUNA s/d, New Orleans Oct. 8; Houston Nov. 5; SOPHIE s/g New Orleans Nov. 1; Houston Nov. 5; Lagos Nov. 24.

HUGO STINNES TRANSCOZEAN SCHIFFAHRT GMBH

ELLEN HURT s/g, Monrovia s/d, Diep s/d, Dakar Oct. 15; Monrovia s/d, Diep s/d, Dakar Oct. 22; HENRIETTE RETZLAFF s/g, Conakry Oct. 15; Dakar Oct. 18; Freetown Oct. 25.

NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE

SOUTHBOUND—RIVER NIGER s/g London Oct. 23; KING JAJA s/g, Dunkirk s/g, London Oct. 23; ODUJWA s/g, Antwerp Nov. 7.

NORTHBOUND—AFRICA PALM due Hull Oct. 13; WESTERN PRINCE due Hull Nov. 4.

commercial news

FRANC ZONE TALKS

Ministers of the 15 countries of the franc zone met in Paris last week prior to the meetings in Washington of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. French Finance Minister Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who presided at the meeting, thanked the franc zone states for their "unflinching solidarity" last August and said that France recognised that devaluation of the franc (and the CFA franc) in August had aggravated the foreign exchange debts of certain countries, but this was compensated by the effect on international aid. He also said that each country was free to decide whether or not to ratify the Special Drawing Rights scheme proposed by the IMF. This followed the announcement just before the meeting that France would adhere to the scheme (both France and the representative of the franc zone at the IMF last year abstained in a vote on the scheme. The franc zone vote was reportedly criticised at a subsequent meeting of finance ministers by representatives of countries which supported the scheme).

The Ministers agreed to maintain exchange controls in view of foreign trade and balance of payments position in the franc zone. Information is to be exchanged between member states on price changes.

Prior to the meeting M. Konan Bedié, Ivory Coast Finance Minister, said that his country would be one of the most affected by the devaluation because of its exterior commitments in terms of servicing foreign debts outside the zone. Although more could be earned for exports of coffee, cocoa and timber, industrialisation plans would be threatened by the increased cost of non-franc zone goods. Conference sources said the French government agreed to help those countries in difficulties because of devaluation.

● Following the franc zone ministers' meeting, the Council of Administration of the BCEAO (Central Bank of West African States) and the BCEAEC (Equatorial Africa and Cameroon Central Bank) met in Paris to consider the effects of devaluation.

New Douala service

Alitalia, the Italian airline, has inaugurated a new air link between Douala and Rome. Cameroon's Minister of Information and Tourism, M. Paul Fokam Kanga, was one of the passengers.

● Aeroflot, the Soviet airline, is to start a Moscow-Lagos service on November 1. The first technical flight, to be made this month, will carry the Soviet deputy Civil Aviation Minister.

● Air Congo and Swissair have agreed to operate direct flights between Kinshasa and Geneva.

More enumerators needed

About 15,000 enumerators will be required for the 1970 census, not 10,000 as originally planned, the Ghana News Agency reported.



The SRN-6 hovercraft, to be used by the Trans-Africa Hovercraft Expedition 1969, is loaded on to m.v. "Lagos Palm" at Falmouth. The craft weighs 10 tons and is powered by a Rolls-Royce "Gnome" Gas Turbine. Maximum speed is 32 knots. The expedition, a project of the newspaper and magazine division of the International Publishing Corporation, leaves St. Louis in Senegal on October 13. It will go up the Senegal river to Kayes, down the River Niger from Bamako to Lake Chad, via the rivers Benue and Logone to Lake Chad, and along the Chari and the Oubangui to the Congo, arriving in Kinshasa on December 18.

New W. African express service

A counterpart to the well-established express service from Liverpool to West Africa is being introduced for London by the UK/West Africa Lines Joint Service. Fortnightly sailings will commence with the "River Niger" on October 23, "Hoegh Beaver" on November 6 and "Falaba" on November 20. A regular sailing schedule for the three ships is expected shortly.

The fortnightly sailings are based on a 42-day turnaround by each vessel. Leaving on a Thursday, a ship will arrive in Tema on Sunday and Apapa on Tuesday, 10 and 12 days respectively after leaving London. Northbound, the Express Service ships will load for London at Apapa and Takoradi with the same voyage times as southbound.

A statement released by the Joint Service said that in order to maintain this fast, regular service the cargo will be restricted and that no cargo will be received for the service unless it has been booked with the loading brokers and is accompanied by a shipping note bearing the booking reference number. The statement also stressed the importance, because of the fast voyage time, of ensuring that Bills of Lading are in the hands of the loading broker before the ship's closing date, at the latest.

● A group of Soviet hydrographers, at the invitation of Guinea, are to do research on the West African coast. In four months they plan to log depths, to survey the seabed in the Gulf of Guinea and the mouth of the River Mellakure, and to build a protective system of floating navigating facilities in the ports of Conakry and Benty.

LOAN FOR GHANA FISHERIES

The International Development Association has approved a 50-year loan for expansion of the fishing industry in Ghana. The \$13m. interest-free credit (10 years of grace carries a service charge of 1/2 of 1 per cent). The loan is intended to assist Ghana in the first stage of a long-term plan to expand the fishing industry, whose production has increased annually since 1961, but still cannot prevent Ghana having to import 200,000 tons a year to meet domestic demand. The project being financed includes the addition of about 40 modern purse-seine fishing vessels, to be built in Ghana, for inshore fishing and studies fisheries port development.

● A Russian-built fishing vessel which Ghana bought for about 334,000 new cedis has sunk after lying idle in harbour for three years. The Ghana News Agency quoted the managing director of the Fishing Corporation, Mr. K. E. Adjei, as saying most of the other Soviet trawlers imported during the Nkrumah régime, and unused since its fall, had now sunk, because of lack of maintenance and repairs.

● The Soviet research vessel *Alenka* and the Senegalese fishing boat *Laurent Armand* have completed another stage of a joint fishery research in Senegalese waters.

Cocoa price rise

Producer prices for main crop cocoa have been increased in the Cameroon from CFA70 to CFA85 a kilo for graded cocoa and from CFA65 to CFA70 for ungraded.

● A 10-day general meeting of the Cocoa Producers Alliance has begun in Yaounde.

MEETINGS

AFRO-CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION FIRST GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 18th October, 1969
at 1 Hans Crescent, London, S.W.1
at 6 p.m. prompt.

Agenda: (1) Report of Interim Committee

(2) Approval of Constitution

(3) Election of Officers

Jones Aggrey, AG. Secretary

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Mr. S. Edutie.....President
Mr. C. O. Okene.....Vice-President
Mr. Julius A. Sobotie.....Secretary
Mr. M. P. Oyegehe Assistant Secretary
Mr. J. O. Ibunwo.....Treasurer
Mr. D. O. Adjarhore Financial Sec.
Mr. A. Osiwewuru Assis. Financial Sec.
Mr. J. Takpimwivomo Soc./Pub. Sec.
Miss Alice Enakarhire

Assist. Soc./Pub. Sec.

(Un-Official Members)
Miss Alice Origho, Mrs. P. Okome,
Chief G. O. Oltite.

All correspondence to be addressed to the Secretary: Mr. J. A. Sobotie, 9 Sandrock Road, London, S.E.13, J. Takpimwivomo, Social/Publicity Secretary.

NOTICES—Continued

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Notice to Members

Members should please note that owing to expansion in our business the offices of the General Secretary have been moved into new premises.

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Kwesi Eyeson
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THANKS ABUNDANTLY FOR SYMPATHY
We employ this medium to thank all the Urhobos in London and our relations in Sheffield, for their kind gestures and messages of condolence in respect of the untimely death of our beloved Father. Please accept our deepest appreciation and kindly join us in prayer that his soul may rest in peace. Dan, Harry and Millie Idema.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at St. George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, Southwark, London, S.E.1,

on Sunday, 12th October, 1969, at 12 noon for the Repose of the Soul of the late **MR. IGHO C. SANOMI, L.L.B.** (London) B.L.,

who died in Nigeria recently.

Friends and sympathisers are welcome to join his family and mourners in prayers, to pay him our last respects.

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WILL ANYONE who cancels his sailing to Nigeria during December, kindly contact—J. C. Agbonnigbo, 6 Greenwood Road, E.B. 01-254 9763.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

EDITORIAL POST- LAGOS

There is a vacancy in the Public Relations Department of The United Africa Company of Nigeria Limited for an Editor for the Company's house magazine which is produced for Management and high level external readership. The Editor must be capable of planning, feature writing, editing, commissioning photography and supervising production. It is essential that he can get on easily with people at all levels and work as a member of the P.R. team.

The Editor's Office will be in Lagos.

Applications for this vacancy are invited from male Nigerians who are in the U.K. but will be able to return to Nigeria before the end of March 1970. They should be aged about 30 years. They must have at least five 'O' levels or the equivalent, including a good pass in English. They must also have at least two years experience in journalism, including sub-editing.

Commencing salary will be in the region of £N1,250 per annum. Interviews will be arranged in London. Write to Box No. X1285, West Africa, Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, London, W.C.1.

UNIVERSITY OF IFE, NIGERIA

Applications are invited for (a) 2 SENIOR LECTURESHIPS and (b) 2 LECTURESHIPS IN MANAGEMENT SERVICE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OR ECONOMICS in the Institute of Administration. Applicants must possess higher degrees in at least one of the disciplines and experience in the Public Service of any country, or in industry, would be an advantage. Candidates for Senior Lectureships must have considerable teaching and research experience in a graduate school or public administration and/or staff college. Salary scales (a) £N2,375-£N2,575 p.a. salary supplemented in range £450-£725 p.a. (Sterling) education allowances and children's holiday visit passages Supplemental Scheme. Superannuation Scheme. Family passages; various allowances; regular overseas leave. Detailed applications (6 copies) namely 3 referees by 14 November, 1969, to Inter-University Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0DT, from whom particulars are available.

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IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of my beloved husband Mr. Samuel Oluofunmilayo Ogunjide who died on Saturday 12th October 1968. You are sadly missed in the family and daily I mourn your death in silent agony. We love you but Christ loves you more. Rest in peace. Joke Ogunjide and children.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known and called Mrs. Caroline Ibor Allegebe, now wish to be known as Miss Caroline Ibor Iremerem. Former documents remain valid.

SITUATIONS VACANT—Continued

NIGERIAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Nigerians for appointment as:—
(a) **Secretary** to the Nigerian Council for Science & Technology;
(b) **Research Officer** in the Secretariat of the Nigerian Council for Science & Technology.

2. QUALIFICATIONS:

- (a) **Secretary:** Advanced University degree in natural, physical or social sciences, with at least ten years' working experience. Candidates should be familiar with or possess special interest in the development of science policy and the application of science to development.
- (b) **Research Officer:** An honours degree in natural or physical science, preferably with some years working experience.

3. DUTIES OF POSTS:

- (a) **Secretary:** The person appointed will be the Chief Executive of the Nigerian Council for Science & Technology. He will be required to ensure that the Council Secretariat functions smoothly and that it is able to serve the Council efficiently. He will be expected to be fully conversant with the machinery for science policy-making, the procedures involved, and the functions of bodies concerned with such matters in other parts of the world. He will also be expected to participate actively in the work of the Council and to stimulate policy and its implementation. He will be required to advise Government and non-Government establishments on all matters affecting science policy.
- (b) **Research Officer:** The successful candidate will be required to assist the Secretary of the Nigerian Council for Science & Technology in collecting information and statistics on scientific matters and will be responsible for their documentation. He will assist in the preparation of materials on science policy and in various scientific activities in the country as may be required. He will assist in the maintenance of registers and indexes on science personnel and research projects.

4. SALARIES:

- (a) **Secretary:** £3,000 per annum. Contract gratuity is also payable.
- (b) **Research Officer:** Scale A (£762; £924-£48-£1,020; £1,068-£54-£1,584). Entry point will depend on qualifications and experience.

5. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:

- (a) **In Nigeria:** The appointment will be on contract for a period of three years in the first instance but will be subject to renewal.
- (b) **Research Officer:** The post is pensionable and, in the case of a new entrant into the Public Service, appointment will normally be on probation for three years. Other conditions of service will be as prescribed for officers of equivalent grades in the Federal Public Service.

6. METHODS OF APPLICATION:

- (a) **In Nigeria:** Applications should be addressed to the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, P.M.B. 12586, Lagos, Nigeria. Applications from candidates not in Government Service should be completed in duplicate on the prescribed form which may be obtained from the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission. Applications from candidates in Government Service should be submitted through the applicant's Head of Department and should be accompanied by a confidential report on the appropriate Confidential Report Form.
- (b) **Overseas:** Applications should be completed in duplicate on the prescribed form obtainable from the Recruitment Attache, Nigeria High Commission, 9 Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2.

7. **CLOSING DATE:** 30th October, 1969.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WESTERN STATE OF NIGERIA

VACANCY IN THE POST OF STATISTICAL OFFICER Grade II

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Nigerian candidates for appointment as Statistical Officer, Grade II, Scale C (E) 2, 3, 4 in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Social Development, Ibadan, Western State of Nigeria.

2. QUALIFICATIONS

A recognised University degree in Economics, Sociology or Mathematics or a pass in the final examination (i.e. Parts III and IV) of the Institute of Statisticians.

3. SALARY

Scale C(E) 2, 3, 4 (£N621-£N1,116).

4. DUTIES

Execution and direction of Statistical analysis in all fields, including responsibility for the collection, analysis and compilation of all materials relating to a particular enquiry in accordance with the programme of work planned by the Ministry. In addition, a Statistical Officer, Grade II will be required to take charge of a branch or section of the Statistics Division and to undertake training duties.

5. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applications should be completed in quadruplicate on Form WSPSC. 1 obtainable from the Recruitment Officer, Nigeria High Commission, 9 Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2. Completed application forms should be submitted to reach the Recruitment Officer not later than 20th October, 1969.

E. ADE. EMULEOMO

Secretary,

Public Service Commission.

dateline Africa

GHANA

AFTER THE NLC'S HAND-OVER

GHANA'S new Constitution "seeks to place the exercise of power under restraint". Dr. Kofi Busia told crowds assembled in the Black Star Square on October 1. "It is the fruit of our recent experience. It bears the marks of our scars, our fears, and our aspirations," he added, after accepting the copy of the Constitution from Brig. Afrifa as a symbol of the transfer of power by the NLC to a civilian Government. An important function of the democracy his Government planned to establish, he said, was to ensure that loyalties to family, tribe or political party did not divide Ghanaians.

The prime minister thanked the army and police for their overthrow of the Nkrumah regime and paid tribute to Gen. Kotoka. On foreign policy, he said Ghana would not be "tied to the apron strings" of any country, East or West, though she shared interests more with some countries than others, and was aimed at "the closest links with our brothers in Africa" as well as friendly relations with all countries. He promised new roads and efforts to raise productivity "in shop, farm, office or factory", more water and electricity, and "health posts of hospitals or houses." Praising the NLC for handing over, he said there were 1,377 political prisoners at the time of the 1966 coup, and 1,850 people had been in protective custody since then, but now the NLC handed over power "without a single political prisoner in our prisons."

Among the 40,000 or more people who attended the ceremony of the NLC's handing over of power were the leader of the National Alliance of Liberals, Mr. Komla Ghedemah, and MPs of all parties, senior chiefs and judges, and foreign guests; these included Col. Mobolaji Johnson (Governor of Lagos State), who represented Nigeria's head of state, and Presidents Zinsou of Dahomey and Tubman of Liberia, Upper Volta's foreign minister Malik Zorome, M. Norma Kaka, Niger Minister for Defence, represented President Hamani Diori, M. Mamadou Coulibaly, chairman of Ivory Coast's Economic and Social Council, represented President Houphouët-Boigny.

Members of the dissolved NLC were decorated with the Order of the Volta at the ceremony in Black Star Square. Brig. Afrifa became a Companion, Mr. J. W. K. Harlley an Officer, and Gen. Ocran, Col. Yeboah and Messrs. Yakubu and Deku Members of the Order. Chief Justice Akuffo-Addo and the Asantehene were also made Members of the Order of the Volta, and 50 people received Grand Medal Awards from the outgoing NLC members including the Prime Minister and Mrs. Annie Jigge, Prof. K. Twum-Barima (Commissioner for Agriculture in the outgoing regime) and Col. Victor Coker-Appiah (outgoing Chairman of the Western Region Committee of Administration).

A 76-page booklet entitled *Let Us Forget: Ghana under the National Liberation Council* has been published by the

Ministry of Information.

The *Daily Graphic* had, on its front and back pages, the banner headline, "Here is Freedom—Don't Lose it Again!", referring to the photographs of the hand-over ceremony in Accra.

Celebrations of the Second Republic in the provinces included a parade at Sunyani, a candle-light procession at Koforidua, a football match between two local teams at Ho, processions at Kumasi, and a jazz festival at Cape Coast.

Two million bars of specially designed "Golden Tree" chocolate, produced by the Dreveci group's factory at Tema, were distributed to all primary and elementary school children.

● On Sept. 30 the National Liberation Council repealed the proclamation which the Dreveci group's factory at Tema, east over radio and television by Brig. Afrifa, the NLC ceased to exist. The Instrument, or



Attorney-General Adade—he proclaimed the end of the NLC.

Decree, repealing the proclamation of the NLC (made on Feb. 24, 1966) was read at the Oct. 1 ceremony by Mr. N. Y. B. Adade, the Attorney-General. It confirmed all NLC Decrees as remaining part of the laws of Ghana, and said the existing rules of the courts should continue. The Decree, entitled the Constitution (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Decree, says any enactment not yet in force may be brought into force in accordance with its terms. The Presidential Seal and Public Seal will continue in use until provision is made for a change, so will the Consolidated Fund and the Contingency Fund, which are provided for in the new Constitution.

The Instrument said any reference to the NLC should be amended to refer to "Government", except when the context required otherwise or other provisions of the same Instrument provided otherwise. The

Decree provided that the Secretary to the NLC should be the secretary of the cabinet, and references to him should be changed accordingly, while other alterations should also be made ("Commissioner" to "Minister", for example). It added to the 1960 Oaths Act a new section saying oaths should be those laid down in the Second Schedule to the Constitution and the First Schedule to "this Act".

● All prisoners under sentence of death had the sentence commuted to 10 years imprisonment, under the same Instrument that ended the NLC. People serving life sentences, who had served 10 years or more were freed, under an amnesty announced by the NLC. Other people serving life sentences will be freed when they have served 10 years; those in prison for three years or more who have served over half their terms were freed. But people guilty for murder, manslaughter, use of offensive weapons, rape, robbery and rioting will weapons do not benefit from the amnesty.

● The first Parliament of the Second Republic (the term now generally used for Ghana) was opened by the chairman of the Presidential Commission, Brig. Afrifa on Oct. 2 in a gaily decorated Parliament House. In his speech outlining the Government's programme for the coming year, he emphasised legislation on the marketing of agricultural produce, particularly food, help for the co-operative movement in its contribution to this, more efforts to develop roads, improvement in spare parts supply, and more vehicles if necessary. On industries, a programme would be started to ensure maximum use of productive capacity, he said.

The Government would aim at a democratic welfare state which would give each citizen, as far as possible, "a life of dignity in freedom." Brig. Afrifa went on to say that foreign policy, it would work actively in the movement towards a West African Economic Community and with the OAU and the UN.

Outside Parliament House crowds waved various placards, mostly in praise of the Progress Party. There was an army guard of honour and traditional drummers, including the Ewe Ogbona and Fontomfon (Ashanti) groups.

Messages of congratulation on the return to full civilian rule have come from the British Government, President Pompidou, the World Council of Churches, President Nixon, the Prime Minister of Australia, Bulgaria's Head of State, and others.

● Parliament has approved a Selective Committee to appoint members of eight committees, whose appointment it also approved. They include a House Committee, Foreign Relations Committee, Agriculture and Education Committee, and Social Development Committee. A list of these was circulated with the names of their members, but the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. B. K. Adomah, withdrew the list, saying it did not have his approval (Opposition MPs shouted, "Shame, shame"). A new list was prepared; Mr. Ghedemah protested against the omission from it of Mr. Harry Sawyer (Independent) who had been on the other list, and Mr. Sawyer also protested.

The National Assembly then approved the setting up of 14 committees to investigate the administration and activities of the various Ministries. A committee will examine all agreements, treaties and con-

Members of the Government was also approved; it will be responsible for all the Ministries. In all 19 committees were approved, including a Selection Committee which will select members for the various committees, the Public Accounts Committee, Business Committee, Standing Orders Committee and Privileges Committees.

The Opposition blocked a private member's motion asking the Assembly to thank the Chairman of the Presidential Commission for his Sessional Address. The motion was tabled by Mr. B. K. Adama. Dr. G. Kporfute-Agama (NAL) asked for it to be rescinded to let an Opposition amendment be brought before the House, the Opposition having given notice of this. The Speaker upheld this request.

Air Marshal Otu, reinstated in the Armed Forces as a result of the Amisash enquiry which cleared him and his ADC, Lt. Kwapong, of any involvement in subversion, will be attached to the prime minister's office for special duties. Lt. Kwapong returns to his post in the Navy.

Two more reports of Assets commissions of enquiry were published shortly before the return to full civilian rule—the second and third report, of the Sowah Commission.

Several other Assets reports have appeared in the past few weeks. Parts IV and V of the Jiagge Commission's Report, and Part I of the Manyo-Plange Commission's, deal with 27 people in all. (More details of these reports later.)

The action brought by Mr. E. B. Awonoo-Williams, defeated PP candidate at Keta, against Mr. K. A. Gbedemah, who was elected MP there, is due to be heard on Oct. 13. Mr. Gbedemah, NAL leader, is to challenge the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal in the case, saying that, under the NLC's Representation of the People Decree and the Constitution, the High Court should have jurisdiction in such cases. He also challenges the NLC's decree banning appeals against the findings of a Commission of Enquiry.

Mr. Patrick D. Anin, former Commissioner for External Affairs and Justice, has been appointed an Appeal Court Judge, and Mr. J. N. K. Taylor, former Director of Public Prosecutions and until recently acting Attorney-General, becomes a High Court Judge, with effect from Oct. 1.

SIERRA LEONE

The departure of Mr. Anderson, Managing Director, and Mr. Campbell, Secretary, of the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company, the London selling subsidiary of the Produce Marketing Board, does not mean closure of the company's London office. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Campbell are now serving the Gambia Produce Marketing Company but the Sierra Leone company's operations continue under different management (the changes were announced in West Africa last week).

Changes in the management of the Marketing Board itself have also been announced.

A correspondent writes:

It would be a great pity if the London office were closed, since it would be extremely difficult to sell directly from Freetown cocoa, coffee, palm produce and ginger, the commodities now handled by the Produce Marketing Board. Both

Nigeria and Ghana removed the headquarters of their Produce Marketing Companies from London to their own capitals, but it is widely believed that, although these cities have better international communications than has Freetown, their selling has been less successful as a result. Sierra Leone is reported to have been particularly successful during the last season, when normal operations were fully restored after a period when the Marketing Board had been unable to function properly owing to shortage of cash.

Mr. Diallo Telli, Secretary General of OAU, is reported to have had a five-hour discussion with the Prime Minister on the Nigerian civil war. He arrived in Freetown by helicopter from Guinea, his home. This is the second time this month that the Secretary-General, who has been touring Africa following last month's OAU meeting in Addis Ababa, has had discussions with Mr. Stevens.

Jamaica's Prime Minister, Mr. Hugh Shearer, has paid a three day visit to Sierra Leone.

Mr. Salia Jusu Sheriff, Leader of the Opposition, is a member of the Sierra Leone delegation to the annual conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Trinidad. The Leader of the House, Mr. Hadson Taylor, leads the delegation which includes the Resident Minister, Southern Province, Mr. Prince Williams.

The board which considers residential permits for the Kono diamond area had, up to September 28, interviewed a total of 140 Lebanese applicants out of 211 Lebanese adults known to be resident in the district. October 3 was the closing date for applications from Lebanese either for renewal or for new permits.

During disturbances arising out of the strike at the Freetown Cement Works, now over, a number of workers were injured in a clash with police. The Commissioner of Labour declared the strike illegal and the strikers were given an ultimatum to return to work. They were demanding the removal of the Managing Director.

Striking workers at the Sierra Leone Electricity Corporation have returned to work.

A delegation led by the Minister of Lands, Mines and Labour is attending the 20th Anniversary celebrations of the establishment of the East German regime.

The USA has granted £10,000 to Sierra Leone for special self-help and development projects—schools, maternity centres, bridges and water supply.

Mr. Dale Gilpin has gained his Master's Certificate at the Liverpool Nautical College, the second Sierra Leonean to do so.

GUINEA

On October 2 work officially started on the \$160m. Boké bauxite project which involves a mine at Sangaredi, a railway link to a new loading port, and the construction of a 10-mile channel in the Rio Nunez to take 60,000 ton ore-carrying cargo ships. The Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée is 49 per cent. Guinea government and 51 per cent. owned by HALCO (Mining) Inc., a consortium grouping major aluminium companies. Financing arrangements for the

project are now complete. The Paris-based Société Financière Européenne has agreed to loans of \$10m. to mature in 1984, and an additional \$25m. has been authorised by the US Import-Export Bank to finance the purchase of machinery and equipment. Loans from the World Bank and AID totalling \$83m. announced a year ago, will aid the construction of rail and port facilities. Other costs, estimated at \$99m. for facilities for mining, processing and exporting the ore, will be met by the company.

The consultant engineers are Belgian. The Société de Traction et d'Electricité, an international consortium of companies, including the Westminster Dredging Company (a subsidiary of the Lonrho-owned John Holt Group) from Britain, Impresa Astaldi Estero from Italy and CEI, a Belgian construction company, were last month awarded a \$70m. civil engineering contract.

At the ceremony launching the project, M. Lansana Beavogui, Minister for the Economy, said that added to other production at Fria, Tamara and Kindia, when Boké starts production with an estimated 8-10m. tons Guinea would enter the first rank of world bauxite producers, with 15-20m. tons a year.

President Sekou Touré, broadcasting on the 11th anniversary of independence said that every day that had passed since October 2, 1958, had "brought its contribution to the building of a virile and prosperous Guinea," where banks, insurance companies and commercial firms were owned by the state. "The unjust social difference between workers and soldiers is now abolished. . . . as of October 1 all auxiliaries were integrated into the various grades of the civil service. The discrimination between civil servants and soldiers has also been abolished by the granting of political administrative and legal rights to our soldiers who now belong to the same civil service as any other public servant (applause). Our soldiers are now therefore eligible for appointment to any responsible political post."

In a few years, he said, Guinea would be able to export some 10m. tons of bauxite, 1m. tons of aluminium and 15m. tons of iron ore, as well as 50,000 tons of coffee, 24,000 tons of palm produce, etc. "Does this not constitute a guarantee for our national currency?" he asked.

President Sekou Touré opening the budget session of the National Assembly has stated that the International Monetary Fund has recognised the Guinea franc as an international currency, and, he claimed, has "recognised the validity" of Guinea's claim on France for 8,000m. francs (about £13.6m.). He said that arrangements were being made to pay the debt. The claim is for pensions due to ex-servicemen who served in the French armed forces before independence.

The budget approved by the cabinet last week and laid before the assembly provides for expenditure of over £4.2m., an increase of 6.5 per cent. over last year.

Guinea radio has charged Ivory Coast with a new plot to assassinate President Sekou Touré, revealed through a letter from "a good friend in Ivory Coast". Five Guineans who had infiltrated Guinea from Ivory Coast, had been arrested near Nzerekore, but had escaped at night leaving personal possessions, including arms, behind. Two were later arrested at Bozou near the Liberian border.

DAHOMEY

National University?

M. Chahi Mama, Education Minister has been visiting a number of West African countries to discuss the projected new university of Dahomey. Countries visited were Togo, Ghana, Upper Volta, Ivory Coast, Niger and Nigeria. He was also due to go to Poland and Rumania. Dr. Daouda Badarou, Foreign Minister, has also been having talks in a number of West European capitals about the new university. As well as Brussels (where he saw the Belgian authorities and the EEC), the minister paid a short visit to London, where he saw Mr. Foley, Parliamentary Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and officials at the Ministry of Overseas Development.

M. Chahi Mama, before leaving on his tour explained the decision to start the university in terms of putting students in touch with Dahomeyan realities, and avoiding the upsides students had experienced at the University of Dakar. He hoped the university would have a "regional vocation".

From Togo there are reports of reservations on the project, because of misgivings that it will prejudice the embryonic Togo-Dahomey university (at present an Institute of Higher Education with faculties in both Lome and Porto Novo).

Col. Alley, former head of state, has been condemned to ten years imprisonment by the security court. Lt. Yessouf Bouraima was also sentenced to 10 years. Seventeen others were judged at the same time: seven, including former Rural Development Minister Issakou Kouathon, were sentenced *in absentia* to life imprisonment, and six other civilians were acquitted. The remaining four, including three soldiers, were sentenced to terms varying from two to five years.

The accused were charged with plotting to overthrow the government by violence, arming and inciting citizens against each other, and stealing arms. Col Alley was specifically charged with plotting to kidnap the man who replaced him as army chief of staff, Major Maurice Kouandete. In the course of the trial defence lawyers complained at the irregularity of the proceedings, and that Major Kouandete himself was not available to be cross-examined in court. He had sent a letter excusing himself "for service reasons."

President Zinsou, on a tour of the Mono region, has said that, although real economic progress was being made, Dahomey's difficulties were still not finished. "I will be asking more of you because we are sworn to balance our budget by ourselves." Sacrifices were also being necessitated by the devaluation of the franc which had created new burdens. He also appealed to those who, whatever their position in the past, believed in the destiny of the fatherland, to rally behind the united front, which was the only possibility, in spite of "divergencies of detail or minor contestation". (Dahomey's "big three" political leaders are all still in exile: M. Maga is in Paris, as is M. Apithy, who was recently reported "visiting friends" in Cameroon; M. Ahamadegbe is still reported to be in Lome). The President told the people of the town of Agoué on the Togo border that their special position necessitated vigilance, and that he was confiding the "security of our Dahomey to them." He also denounced

anonymous tracts currently circulating in Cotonou, and said their authors would be dealt with.

Laying the foundation stone of a USAID financed secondary school at Grand Popo, President Zinsou said that people should learn to count on themselves.

Finance Minister Stanislas Kpognon has said that this year's provisional budget deficit had dropped from the 872m. CFA francs (£1.3m.) foreseen in January to 575m. CFA. The reason was a favourable evolution in the economic situation, owing to an increase in imports and thus in customs duties levied. The modification in family allowances and the fact that certain administrative services had not made full use of their personnel also helped lessen the deficit, as did the recent tax increases on petrol and soft drinks.

NIGER

President of the National Assembly Houhou Hama has strongly criticised the Congress of the National Workers Union for adopting certain resolutions, including one calling for a cut in MPs' salaries (the union's secretary-general, M. Sido Hassane, had appeared on television to urge reductions in government spending, curbs on overseas visits and cuts in transport allowance for state-sponsored pilgrimages). M. Hama said "a small minority obstinately refuses to understand the efforts necessary to remedy the present economic situation". Officials and civil servants took up about half the national budget, yet it was they who were complaining.

M. Hama said that trips abroad by ministers were justified, for they went to seek aid, and this was more than three and a half times the national budget. "Before criticising, people should remember that the government has restored stability, and allowed the country, with its modest means, to be in the forefront of African progress," said M. Hama.

MALI

Following another session of the Franco-Malian talks in Paris provided for under the 1967 agreements, Mali Finance Minister Louis Negre said "we began to envisage the technical conditions for the transformation of the Mali franc into the CFA franc. This operation will permit the normalisation and development of Mali's trade with its African neighbours". Mali's franc returned to full convertibility backed by the Bank of France on April 1, 1968, but the Mali franc retained its own title, and its own parity (one Mali franc equals 01 French franc).

IVORY COAST

Treichville Disturbances

On October 1 President Houphouët-Boigny denounced "agitators" who on September 30 incited "a number of young men looking for jobs" to commit acts of vandalism and looting. The President was referring to the incidents which had taken place in Treichville, the principal African ward of the town of Abidjan, during which a number of Ivory Coast job seekers

molested Upper Volta nationals and police and gendarmerie, aided by army units intervened. Several hundred arrests were made following the Treichville incident which occurred after a mass meeting of unemployed, protesting at the foreigner receiving preference for jobs in Ivory Coast.

It has also been announced that a census of all unemployed workers is to be taken, after which they will be sent to special camps.

Opening the National Assembly budget session, Assembly President Philippe Yao said unemployment, especially among young people would present a serious problem in the next few years.

Following his return from overseas, President Houphouët-Boigny presided over a three-hour meeting of the political bureau of the PDCI discussing national problems.

A tract circulating in Paris, described as from the Paris section of the Union of Ivory Coast students (UNECI), has denounced the attitude of the Abidjan authorities toward Ivorian students, in obliging them to join a new union installed in April, the Movement of Ivory Coast Students and Schoolchildren (MECCI), at the same time as UNECI (the previous union, was officially dissolved). Scholarship holders were now only awarded to members of MECCI, which is an integral part of the PDCI. Ivory Coast's ruling is only political party. The Ivorian Ambassador in Paris, M. Appagny Tanoé, recently circulated a letter to students in Paris informing them that all scholarships, assistance to needy students, holiday voyages and other advantages, would only be given to MECCI members. A census of MECCI membership would be made by the embassy.

The dispute seems to have been behind an attempt by a group of Ivorian students to take over their Paris embassy. They were dispersed by police.

President Tubman, returning from Ghana's handover to civilian rule, stopped in Abidjan for 24 hours, to see President Houphouët-Boigny.

SENEGAL

The Cité Universitaire of Dakar University is to be opened on October 15. A new regime there will give priority to students on scholarships. Students who have failed examinations for two years must lose their scholarships, students who have not presented themselves for examinations in the last two years will have scholarships cut of ten per cent. Each student will have to sign a document indicating his acceptance of the new regime.

IN BRIEF

The hearing of the libel action against *Le Courrier Enchaîné* by M. Foccart, Secretary-General for African and Malagasy Affairs, was postponed from September 29 to December 10.

The body of the late ex-President Grunitzky has been flown from Paris to Togo for burial.

The first issue of a quarterly review *Entente Africaine* edited by Justin Vuyt has appeared in Abidjan.

President Mobutu's official visit to Belgium is from November 3 to 5.

US Secretary of State William Rogers has said he is likely to visit Africa in February.

NIGERIA

Nigerian Red Cross Relief Take-Over

On Oct. 2 the Nigerian Red Cross Society assumed control of relief operations in the country. Sir Adetokunbo Ademola, Nigeria's Chief Justice and President of the Society, announced this while launching the NRC's second international appeal fund of the society. The International Red Cross is now replaced as co-ordinating authority for relief operations in Nigeria, as provided for in the new Federal relief policy announced on June 30.

Sir Adetokunbo said the Nigerian Red Cross had neither the financial nor the human resources to meet the huge operation of the ICRC, which was costing £250,000 monthly. The NRC must ensure that the standard already established is not lowered but enhanced, he said, adding, "My society has 650,000 people to feed and clothe." It proposed to spend £13m. for its operations in the current year, and to import an average of 3,025 tons of relief materials monthly to help victims of the war. He gave this expenditure breakdown: £300,000 for transport; £144,000 for fuel; £72,000 for spare parts; £48,000 for tyres and £30,000 for licences and insurance. The NRC also needed money for warehouses and office rents, wages and for the telephones and electric bills, he added. At the time of take-over, it inherited 103 vehicles, 19,300 tons of relief materials, and 116 doctors, nurses and technicians from the ICRC, but this was grossly inadequate.

The monthly distribution figures, as given by Sir Adetokunbo, of relief materials are 123 tons to Enugu, 340 to Abgor, and 932 to Uyo-Calabar. The NRC has 414 vehicles.

The Chief Justice called on voluntary agencies, private governments, firms, churches and individuals to rally round now in the interest of humanity "to save the dying or sooth the wailings of the homeless and the helpless before it is too late." The formal agreement terminating the ICRC's role was signed in Lagos by Dr. Enrico Bolognini, ICRC representative in Nigeria.

Wole Soyinka, the playwright, has been released with 150 other detainees under the Federal Government's Republic Day amnesty. He was detained for security reasons after the Biafran take-over of the Midwest in August 1967.

Dr. Okoi Arikpo, Commissioner for External Affairs, has denounced at the UN those countries which have recognised Biafra, they were like "the undisciplined soldier who believes that everyone else in his marching column, except himself, is out of step." He went on, "There is no longer any secret from where the rebel régime, which has no economic resources and which for over two years has had no export trade whatsoever, continues to obtain the hard currency to pay for the modern weapons it uses against its fatherland, and with which it pays those mercenaries from Sweden, France, Canada, Portugal, Belgium, South Africa, Rhodesia, the US and other Western countries."

Chief Enahoro, speaking in Geneva, has said that France under M. Pompidou does not have the same bulldozing attitude it had under General de Gaulle. In a speech to the UN General Assembly, M. Schumann, the French Foreign Minister, stressed the urgency of a ceasefire, followed by talks

without preconditions. Subsequently, in Algiers, M. Schumann told newsmen that it was possible to envisage a confederation-type solution which would not impair Nigerian unity. But the Ibos could not be denied the right of self-determination, so it was up to them to decide.

Miss Angie Brooks of Liberia, President of the UN General Assembly, has offered to use her good offices to help end the Nigerian conflict. She said she would "go anywhere at any time" if she could be of use in resolving the dispute. She was speaking to newsmen at a lunch, but said



Angie Brooks, U Thant (left) and Mr. Stavropoulos of the UN Secretariat.

she will repeat the offer in formal terms in her speech on UN Day, October 24.

Observers noted she made no mention of the OAU Nigeria Committee, and that her attitude contrasts with the more cautious approach of U Thant.

Mr. Wilson has said Britain will go on sending arms to Nigeria, despite a resolution at the Labour Party Conference, approved by the National Executive, that Britain should stop sending the arms. He told a TV interviewer, "If I thought I had been doing wrong all this time, I would not have been doing it. I believe our policy is right. I understand feelings, I understand the resolution. I have been out to Nigeria, I discussed it with them, I have been to Addis Ababa. I have asked Ojukwu to meet me to settle it. But as I say, if you have been doing something you passionately believe to be right, however unpopular, you don't just change because other people say it's wrong."

Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Cyril Foray asked the UN to consider as a matter of urgency "the starvation problem in Nigeria and Biafra." The UN should call for an immediate ceasefire and encourage both parties to negotiate a settlement. The involvement of Britain and Russia had made the war an international problem.

Criticising Mr. Siaka Stevens' stand on the war, the *Nigerian Observer* mentions—as other Nigerian commentators have done—the historic links between Sierra Leone and Nigeria. It also said Nigeria must start making arrangements now for evacuation of its citizens from Sierra Leone.

Sir Dauda Jawara, Prime Minister of The Gambia, went to Jos during a four-day visit to Nigeria. Quoted as saying in Jos that recognition of Biafra by Sierra Leone would not help African unity, he later denied saying this, adding that Sierra Leone could recognise whomever it wished.

Biafra has agreed to receive an ICRC delegation for talks on resumption of relief supplies to secessionist territory.

Mr. Ignatius Kogbara, Biafra's representative in London, has claimed in a letter to *The Times* that there were two draft agreements involving the ICRC on relief flights to Biafra, and asked, "Why start off parallel negotiations with two draft agreements only to rush to press after signing one of the agreements without complete reconciliation of the two documents?" He said the Red Cross was trying to persuade Biafra to accept Nigeria's terms, under which (he claimed) there would be fewer relief flights than now.

Biafra radio has accused the ICRC of trying to help Nigeria win the war. It asked how Biafra could accept "an agreement that confers on Nigeria the right to carry on normal military onslaught against Udi airport while the so-called daylight flights go on."

The Biafran Red Cross had earlier appealed to other Red Cross societies to send their aid to Biafra without listening to the policies of the ICRC.

The Owerri Provincial Land Army has started a fish farming scheme to raise protein production; work has begun on fish ponds at three sites. Biafran agriculture authorities are said to be disappointed at harvest prospects, though every available plot is intensely cultivated.

Biafra radio reports that many civilians have been killed and food crops and private houses damaged in new air raids in Mbidi division. It gave details of a few deaths.

The Nigerian Air Force has dropped more "Safe Conduct" passes on Biafran-held territory.

At a news conference in London on Wednesday, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe recounted his impressions of his recent visit to all twelve states of the Nigerian federation. He concluded that "if I and my second son are free to move about the regions of Nigeria, without any fear and without any harm being done to our persons, I think that it is sufficient evidence to conclude that all the and-Ibo displaced persons should leave rebel territory and come out of their hiding places . . ."

Dr. Azikiwe said that he had found a genuine desire for reconciliation on the basis of a settlement "which will not be featured by social humiliation and will not condone victimisation or vengeance", and for restitution of fundamental freedoms and human rights. The Federal Public Service Commission had assured him that all displaced persons who left their employment as a result of the war would be reinstated and their period of absence would be officially treated as leave without pay. The promotion prospects of those concerned would not be adversely affected. They would benefit from an innovation now introduced as "notional promotion".

Dr. Azikiwe denied that he had any plans to visit any of the countries who had recognised Biafra.

Mr. Wenike Briggs, Education Commissioner, has said Nigeria will not use Red Cross daylight flights as a cover for military operations.

NIGERIA—continued

● Biafra is to receive 25,000 tons of wheat from the EEC.

Pointing out that its member organisations operate in Nigeria although it was formed for aid to Biafra itself, the Joint Church Aid consortium of religious relief agencies has rejected allegations of helping only one side. A recent estimate said JCA had spent \$28m, on relief on the Biafran side and its members \$60m, on the other side, said a JCA statement.

The relief flights organised by the Dublin *Evening Herald* have flown some salt into Biafra, but it has been stated that much more is needed, as salt (available in Gabon) is desperately needed.

Dr. Nicole Grasset has been to Biafra with the first half million doses of anti-tuberculosis vaccine, as part of a shipment from UNICEF.

Rolls of cloth donated by Israeli textile factories have been flown to Biafra.

● The International Committee of Conscience has called on the US and other Governments to provide aircraft carriers and helicopters for a new food airlift to Biafra. The US Committee includes Mr. H. H. Humphrey (former Vice-President), Mrs. Coretta King (widow of Martin Luther King) and Gen. W. Turner, who organised the 1948 Berlin Airlift. The USA is asked to provide the helicopters and other countries (not directly involved in the war) the carriers, for a plan worked out by the Committee's US branch, the Committee for Nigeria-Biafra Relief. The Nigerian and Biafran authorities had seemed willing to discuss the issue, one of the last-named Committee said in New York. The Com-

mittee of Conscience has offered to allow inspection of shipments.

● Biafra radio has claimed that Equatorial Guinea government has not renewed contracts of Biafrans, mostly plantation workers; although they were without work, the authorities were preventing them from leaving for a friendly country or "going home to defend Biafra." This was, said the radio, because of intervention by the Lagos government. It was also claimed that those who refused to declare their support for Lagos were imprisoned, beaten and even killed by the Guinean governors.

● Major P. A. Gray has been named as the second member of the British contingent on the International Observer Team in place of Major Walsworth-Bell, recently recalled.

● Almost identical letters appealing for a ceasefire have been sent to Gen. Gowon and Gen. Ojukwu by Labour peer Lord Brockway on behalf of the Committee for Peace in Nigeria.

● A United Nigeria Ibo Union has been formed in London for expatriate Ibos "disenchanted by General Ojukwu's hard line in the Nigeria conflict."

● In a long and detailed statement on the Alafin of Oyo succession dispute the Western State Government says the ruling house which had to recommend a successor to the late Alafin recommended Prince Oladepo Adeyemi, who, it says, was the only candidate regularly proposed. It accused the Bashorun (the leading traditional office-holder under the Oba) of concealing this regular nomination from the "Kingmakers" who chose Prince Lamidi Adeyemi in Feb. 1968. Quoting the findings

of the enquiry ordered by the Government, the statement says the Kingmakers' reasons for rejecting Oladepo Adeyemi were dismissed by the Government. After the Kingmakers refused to vote for him proceedings were suspended and a year later—in default of their functions—were replaced by new Kingmakers, who appointed a candidate. The State Government says it does not care who is chosen as Alafin.

● Rioters besieged and burned down a police station and district treasury office at Egba Owode, near Abeokuta in the Western State, on the same day that the curfew imposed in Ibadan after the Agos' gaol break was lifted.

Over 300 people have now been arrested in villages in Egba Division by army and police, and numerous weapons recovered.

● Mr. Ayo Adedun, detained editor of the Ibadan *Daily Sketch*, has been released.

● Enugu post office has been reopened by Mr. Ukpa Asika, Administrator of the East Central State, after two years closure.

● The commandant of the Nigerian Military Training College, at Kaduna, Col E. Sotomi, was sponsored by the Nigerian Army to attend the recent 11th annual conference to the Institute of Strategic Studies in The Hague. He was the first African military member of the Institute.

BONN



Mr. Desmond Luke, Sierra Leone's first Ambassador to West Germany, with President Heinemann.

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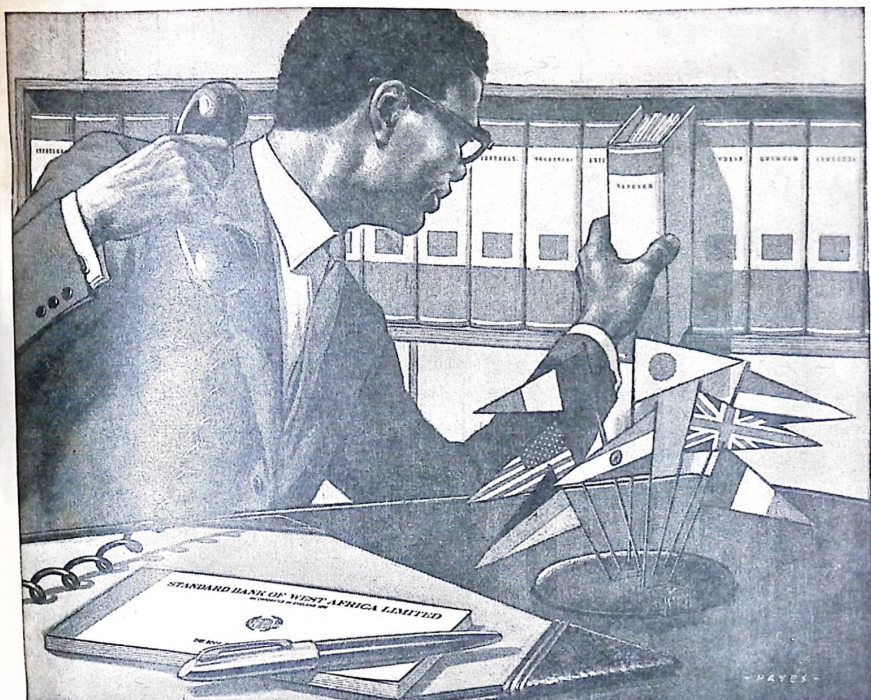
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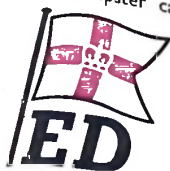
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