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## The long road from Monrovia

Why is there such a confusion about economic unity in West Africa? A few years ago, when the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in pursuance of the notion of unity through regional groupings, divided Africa into four (North, West, East and Centre), it seemed as if there would be a slow staggered progress towards some kind of economic co-operation among the 14 countries of the West African group.

Nobody expected the road to be easy. Barriers erected in the colonial era have proved surprisingly durable. There are, after all a number of different currency areas in the group - sterling, franc, Liberian dollar, Guinean franc - and even the sterling area currencies are not exactly homogeneous. There are also a number of different customs systems, and matters that if anything have tended to harden as the independence years progressed. Trade that in some cases followed centuries-old patterns, has increasingly found itself as smuggling. Moreover, other attempts at regional co-operation in the area have not been staggeringly successful. The road to unity in the area is littered with skeletons of defunct groupings.

But the logic of the situation, especially for the smaller states, was in developing co-operation on a regional basis, which meant involving all the countries in the area. Accordingly a number of meetings were held under the auspices of the ECA which culminated in the signing of articles of association for a West African Economic Community in Accra in 1967. The moment seemed ripe for a political initiative to give such a grouping, which would at any rate commit all governments to the intention of working together to achieve a common end, a more solid structure. Accordingly it was decided to hold a summit in Monrovia in 1968, at which it was intended to set up the Community.

In the event this was not a complete success because of the absence of delegations from Ivory Coast, Togo, Niger and Dahomey, whose official reason for not attending was that the pace of the whole project was being rushed, and they needed more time to consider it. It was also known that the French had reservations about a project that they felt might be "Anglo-Saxon" dominated. It was at a time when this view dominated French attitudes, and the President of Ivory Coast was known to share it. It certainly dictated attitudes to the Nigerian war.

Thus although the Monrovia meeting produced a protocol (signed by nine of the fourteen: Sierra Leone was also absent because of a *coup*) setting up the West African Economic Grouping, and made provisions for a further treaty-signing summit to be held in Ouagadougou, the Grouping (even though it had been downgraded from the grander Community) was put on ice. And there it has remained, in spite of repeated declarations from a number of quarters on how important it is to re-activate it.

The only area in which progress has been made appears to be in a number of bilateral relationships between countries, such as Mali and Upper Volta with Ghana, Nigeria with Niger and Dahomey, Sierra Leone and Guinea, The Gambia and Senegal. Even groupings of more than two states, like the recently metamorphosed Organisation of Senegal River States, and the Council of the Entente have known their difficulties. And these are the states of the former AOF with plenty of reason to cling to the shreds of their pre-Balkanisation connections.

The argument of the francophone states increasingly seems to be that they have to sort out their own affairs before they can consider coming closer to anyone else. This was why they decided in 1970 to try and set up a West African Community of their own (CEAO), based on the insubstantial fabric of the West African Customs Union (UDEAO), set up in 1962 along with their monetary union to provide some sort of common institution after the break-up of the AOF. The UDEAO had never really worked (even the Council of the Entente is not a customs union), so it was decided that a new political initiative, with a raising of sights to include co-ordination of

development plans, etc. might give the whole move to unity a new boost.

Heads of state of CEAO met in Bamako in 1970, and following the new understanding between Presidents Senghor and Houphouët-Boigny last December, it was agreed to launch the Community at a summit in Bamako in early June. A report from the conference on page 866 suggests that this was not the success hoped for, citing on the one hand continued tension between landlocked and coastal countries, and on the other doubts as to whether a francophone unity grouping was the answer, especially given the present influence of Nigeria in the area.

There has been a tendency to describe the francophone-anglophone division as the great divide in West Africa, but it is good to be reminded that there are other differences, as well as considerable common ground. The Manding Congress in London this week, celebrating the culture of the old Mali empire, if nothing else gives cause for reflection on how superficial in many ways are the old colonial frontiers. Can it not be argued that, far from trying to achieve unity through linguistic stages, the revival of the 14-nation grouping might be simpler, more appropriate, and might even help francophones to resolve some of their own differences?

The union set up by Nigeria and Togo at the end of April designed to serve as an embryo for a West African Economic Community was simply a mark of impatience at the collective lack of action, and could be made compatible with CEAO. As General Aferi, Ghana's External Affairs Commissioner, says in an interview on page 853: "It doesn't matter who starts the grouping: our main interest is to get things going".



RABAT: after the OAU summit

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## OAU

### The Reconciliation Summit: 2

*By our correspondent recently in Rabat*

Last week's article dealt particularly with the wide range of matters on which reconciliation and harmony were achieved at the Organisation of African Unity's 9th summit in Rabat. Aside from individual inter-state reconciliations, however, it seemed as if there was a greater collective harmony between states on issues which in the past have tended to create friction between states.

The most obvious example was that of the question of "dialogue" with South Africa, which last year had proved to be one of the more vexatious summit subjects, coming soon after President Houphouet-Boigny's news conference on the matter. This year there was scarcely a mention. Ghana, which last year caused a conference sensation by changing its mind on the subject in mid-conference, was this year totally against, as a result of the change in regime there.

Likewise, the May events in Madagascar have forced a change of heart there, which is much more serious for the South Africans in view of the close ties which had been developing with President Tsiranana. Now during the conference the leader of the Malagasy delegation Capitaine de Corvette Didier Ratsiraka announced that Madagascar would revise its policy towards South Africa, as well as pay up its arrears to the Liberation Committee. This statement was later confirmed by the Malagasy government which said the co-operation agreement with South Africa under which aid for tourism, roads and electricity and water supplies were provided, was being cancelled.

After the meeting, the Ivorian Foreign Minister Arsene Usher deplored what he described as a "tragic misunderstanding within the OAU on the virtues of dialogue rather than violence. At a new conference in Abidjan, the ministers recalled the words of President Bourguiba of Tunisia, who had appealed in Rabat to member nations to work for reconciliation. M. Usher claimed that M. Bourguiba's words were "in perfect harmony" with those a year ago of President Houphouet-Boigny, in which he advocated the dialogue policy. "Thus their own different styles, one in 1971 and the other in 1972, two men had diagnosed the evil that threatens to engulf Africa - violence. And they have both recommended the same remedy dialogue".

A study of the text of President Bourguiba's speech, however, turns out only a number of oracular statements which could be used to sustain the argument for dialogue, but may mean such thing. Having asked whether it is conceivable that the EEC and G7

Britain, who have all de-colonised successfully, could not find the ways and means which would allow Portugal to repatriate its last soldier and its last colon, and at the same time find a definite place in the European community, he said simply that the only way to put an end to bloodshed would be to seek in this direction. "This would be the only form of useful dialogue". If one is reading this correctly, and taking into account the wholehearted commitment to African liberation, one is not at all sure that Bourguiba is really saying the same thing as Houphouët-Boigny last year.

## Middle East unanimity

Another resolution which aroused interest was that on the Middle East, which was also, for the first time for some time, approved unanimously. Although in the past the Middle East resolution at the OAU has been a fairly mild statement of support for Israel (a consensus, if not unanimous view), this year's was a slightly stronger resolution. This must be seen as a reflection of a slight change of emphasis *vis à vis* the Middle East question on the part of African states, and appears directly related to the lack of visible achievement of the OAU mission (the "ten wise men"), whatever misgivings some members of the mission may have had about the language of the eventual report of the Chairman of the Ten, the Mauritanian President. He put the blame in his speech to the summit squarely on Israel, mentioning that the mission had had greater co-operation from Egypt. Even those who disagreed with the tone admitted that the stumbling block to the re-activation of the Jarring mission was the attitude of Israel, and the resolution deplored Israel's "negative and obstructive attitude". The resolution protested against Israel's "continued aggression against Egypt", and called for an immediate withdrawal of troops from occupied Arab territories. The Egyptian Foreign Minister Mourad Ghaleb expressed delight that the vote had been unanimous, claiming that it showed the spirit of solidarity between African peoples and governments in the face of Israeli aggression.

In Jerusalem government sources described the resolution as a "negative distortion" of the UN Security Council resolution of 1967, and by supporting Egyptian demands for a solution of the Middle East crisis "by all means" contradicted the peaceful purposes of the United Nations. The sources minimised the importance of the resolution, suggesting the unanimity was to show the OAU's solidarity and courtesy to its Arab host. The resolution as passed did not reflect the views of the OAU delegation of four African presidents who visited Israel at the end of last year.

Inevitably some divisions remain. It would be altogether too much if nobody disagreed with each other about anything,

and a body as diverse as the OAU should thrive on the healthy interplay of forces. As soon as it looks too much like a Holy Alliance of heads of state it begins to stultify. Thus Colonel Gaddafi refused the blandishments of Hassan to come to Rabat and talk about their differences. The fiery Libyan leader still seems convinced that the Moroccan monarchy will go the way of the Libyan. He has also started to needle the King about the lack of action over the decolonisation of Spanish Sahara, whose freedom was "part of Libya's freedom". The problem should be settled "or else we will shoulder the responsibility for waging a peoples' war", Col Gaddafi said, giving the end of 1972 as a deadline. There was no representative of any Spanish Sahara liberation movement as observer in Rabat, and even the Canary Islands movement (also unrepresented) issued a statement from Algiers deploring the fact, as well as complaining that the meeting had only condemned Spanish colonialism "in passing and in a strictly formal manner". This neglect was all the more dangerous, because Spain was preparing, together with Portugal and the United States, for "joint exploitation, along with neighbouring African countries of the riches of Rio de Oro". King Hassan himself, however



*Diallo Telli gives way to Nzo Ekanaki as OAU Secretary-General.*

also said "we cannot allow the continued existence of a colonial enclave in the south of Morocco", but he also said Morocco and Mauritania wished to pursue a "dialogue of understanding" with Spain on the subject. Significantly, after calling for Spain to hold the much delayed referendum there, he rejected the idea that Spain should "withdraw and set up an artificial state" which he said would threaten the security of both Morocco and Mauritania. This was a strong hint that he still favoured the idea of partition of the territory between its two neighbours. The subject was discussed at a meeting of the Presidents of Mauritania and Algeria with the King at the close of the summit - the first meeting they had had since Nouadhibou more than a year ago, when they agreed in principle to work together for the decolonisation of Spanish Sahara.

Djibouti also caused some discord, when Somalia objected to the wording of a resolution on the subject (here too the observer from the liberation movement found the resolution too timid, but the obstacle of Ethiopia's opposition to any suggestion that the territory and the port of Djibouti might come under Somalia, is a strong one, especially for the OAU).

## Burundi discussion

Lastly there was a potential if suppressed division on what attitude to take to recent extremely disturbing events in Burundi. The head of the Burundi delegation read out a statement to the foreign ministers meeting, and it was agreed that a message should be sent to President Micombero. The statement had been a long defence of the government's action at what it called an invasion by mercenaries from outside (a pointed example of the trouble the legal committee has been having over the definition of what is a mercenary, as there was no indication of any Europeans among the mercenaries in Burundi). The statement thanked Zaire for troops they had sent, and also thanked Tanzania for military support.

The disagreement arose over what kind of message should be sent to President Micombero. Algeria and Somalia favoured one of solidarity, but Rwanda and Ivory Coast demurred, preferring simply an expression of hope that peace be restored and reconciliation effected. The final text was not released, but it was understood that "solidarity" was not mentioned.

Other decisions taken by the conference included, the holding of next year's summit in Addis Ababa on May 28 after the 10th Anniversary celebrations; and the holding of the next OAU Trade Fair in Algiers in 1976. Apart from the election of the Secretary-General, Nzo Ekanaki, four Assistant Secretary-Generals were appointed without dissent. Mohammed Sahnoun is to continue as the Algerian, Joshua Buliro as the Kenyan, Nigeria's incumbent Haruna Musa is to be replaced in September by their present Acting High Commissioner in Accra, Peter Onu, and the Dahomeyan, Gratien Pognon is to be replaced by a Zairian, Kamanda wa Kamanda. Thus the regional distribution is now more balanced, with one North, one Central, one East and one West African.

As for what will happen to Diallo Telli, the outgoing Secretary-General, King Hassan, in his closing speech, gave a broad hint that a new post would be found for him in the service of Africa commensurate with his previous responsibilities. Conference sources suggested that in fact this would be to run the proposed OAU Research and Information office to be set up in Geneva, which although scarcely equal to the job of Secretary-General, would be a prestigious post. Nobody seems to be suggesting that he might go back to Guinea.



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# Ghana back in Africa

By a correspondent

Ghana's foreign policy has tended to be a subject of unusual interest over its years of independence perhaps because of the priority that the late President Nkrumah gave to it during his years in power. In his somewhat peevish and uncharitable book\* on the subject, Scott Thompson quotes a remarkably succinct appraisal dating from 1967 of the achievements of Nkrumah by A. L. Adu. Although Thompson goes on to qualify the statement more than somewhat, it is still worth quoting, as representing the way in which Ghanaians still look back with pride to their early days of independence. "Ghana succeeded in making the impact of Africa diplomacy felt in international forums and international organisations. Ghana succeeded in mobilising Africa's efforts towards the emancipation of the dependent territories. Ghana succeeded against formidable obstacles of inertia and opposition, in making the idea and ideals of African unity accepted all over Africa as the ultimate objective for all African states, whatever disagreements there might be on the ways and means of achieving this objective. Ghana succeeded in making Africans everywhere feel proud of their Africanness and in a real sense of galvanising the spirit of 'African personality' in international organisations. Most of these successes are due to the sense of dedication, of purpose, of single-mindedness and the inspired leadership of Dr. Nkrumah".

It is true that, especially in the later years, the gap between the intention and the reality became uncomfortably wide. But the lack of impact of Ghana in African affairs since the departure of Nkrumah has been painfully apparent. It is true that there has been an attempt to repair the damaged relations with Ghana's neighbours in French-speaking Africa, begun by the military of the NLC and continued by Busia, but these were pursued with a very low profile. The impression was prevalent, especially under Dr. Busia, that the close relations enjoyed with the Ivory Coast served simply to neutralise Ghana as a force in West African politics, without enabling many meaningful strides in economic co-operation to take place, apart from the plans for the sale of Volta power to Togo and Dahomey. The disastrous policy towards "aliens" from neighbouring countries totally negated any real improvement in relations with other West African countries, above all Nigeria. The uncertain flirtation with "dialogue" with South Africa only added to the frustrations of Ghanaians, and others.

Since they came to power in January, this has been one area in which the military régime has seen the opportunity to restore prestige abroad and self-respect at home at the same time. If anything at times they seem almost over-anxious to re-establish their African credentials, but there is no doubting their sincerity. The most obvious practical demonstration of the new mood in Accra was the jettisoning of anything to do with the policy of "dialogue" with South Africa. (It is only fair to point out here, that at the 1971 OAU summit in Addis Ababa, because of African pressures, and maybe dislike of the policy within Ghana's own foreign ministry, Ghana's then Foreign Minister, Willie Ofori-Atta virtually abandoned "dialogue" it was clear that articulate public opinion always disliked it). More recently there has been the emphasis on the celebration of Africa Liberation Day on

May 25, and the desire at the OAU summit in Rabat to show that Ghana was back to its earlier African form.

In an interview during the OAU summit in Rabat, Ghana's Commissioner for External Affairs, General Nathan Aferi told me that "Africa is now very happy with Ghana. The handshakes and backpatting all round show that the old spirit of Ghana is with us again. What I find extremely touching is that countries much bigger than Ghana come up and say that Ghana should resume her leadership. We were unhappy to see Ghana in such obscurity". One immediate result had been that Ghana had been admitted to the enlarged Liberation Committee.



General Aferi

Mentioning particularly what he called the "rather tenacious and arrogant policy of dialogue", he said that in his period as Ghana's High Commissioner in Lagos he nearly resigned his post out of embarrassment at the policy. "I didn't see how I could defend dialogue. Even though as an envoy you are constantly putting a polish on things, on dialogue my position became more and more difficult. If there had been no coup I would have left within six months".

Ghana's foreign policy, he said, had always in theory been one of non-alignment. "It was our declared policy after independence and Ghana benefitted and the world benefitted". Soon after it became clear that while talking non-alignment Ghana was moving to one side. After the coup it had been thought there would be a shift back to the centre, but "in fact the pendulum swung to the other side". The present government, he said, is "fully committed to getting back that image of Ghana - a dead centre non-aligned country, friendly to all countries showing friendship. The basic tenet is very much African. That is, we are back to the militant approach of the first five years of independence. As a result we find the majority of the people in Ghana, especially the youth and the students, approve of our policy". The first five years had been when the independence of Africa had been paramount. Later Nkrumah became disillusioned and started trying to overthrow independent governments. "He was far ahead of his time, only because he was so married to his purpose his priorities got a little haywire". Africa Freedom Day was celebrated in Ghana this year as never before, with lectures, symposia, football matches, a film show attended by the NRC Chairman, and collections for freedom fighters, with all functions held tax free. There had been a tremendous response "politically, socially and otherwise".

When I questioned General Aferi about the African High Command, which Col. Acheam-

pong had mentioned in his militant message to the summit, the Commissioner said that the phrase High Command tended to frighten people. "I prefer to call it a common defence system in Africa. We start with a defence adviser's office in the OAU, and regional HQs studying the defence systems of the various regions, based on various bilateral agreements. Then we can bring these HQs under a Supreme HQ, when we have achieved a measure of standardisation, especially by producing our own weapons. Sooner or later we'll realise the need for an arsenal of our own, with certain basic weapons. We can build up our own tactics and achieve a standardisation of training, and work out intelligence and communications systems. All this was recommended six years ago, and if we had done something then we could have achieved some progress by now". He recalled that he had been the Chairman of the Military Committee which made the recommendation in 1966. The setting up of an African Military Academy was no problem if it was really wanted. "If we really get going and organise properly, with a NATO or Warsaw Pact style organisation, there is nothing to stop us pushing any aggressor off the continent".

On relations with West African countries, General Aferi said that one thing which had really cut Ghana off in West Africa had been the aliens policy of the Busia government. This had especially been the case with Nigeria, for Nigerians had been the majority of those expelled (General Aferi was High Commissioner in Lagos at the time, so he was well placed to judge the effect of the measure). Now, he says, relations are very much improved and "we are beginning to explore the possibility of a bilateral agreement".

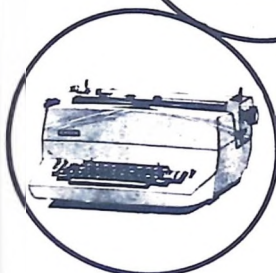
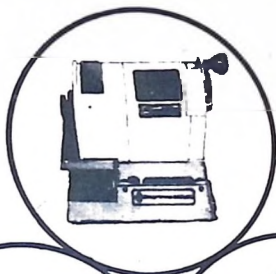
Asked about West African economic unity, the Commissioner said that before the francophone states met in Bamako in June, Chairman Acheampong had written to President Senghor to ask for the papers of the conference so that Ghana could go as an observer. Copies of the letter were sent to other anglophone states in case they were interested in doing the same thing. "It doesn't matter who starts the grouping. Our main interest is to get things going". However President Senghor had replied that it was then too late, but the intention was to invite the anglophones to join later. There is also the possibility that the anglophones might come together to go as observers to the next summit in Bamako in December. "A lot of effort has been exerted from Ghana on this. Colonel Acheampong has written to all West African heads of state on the subject suggesting that the appropriate ministers should come together to find ways and means of coming to an understanding on setting up a West African grouping, above all to secure the free movement of goods and people". On the reconciliation with Guinea Gen. Aferi said that this was progressing, even though "the Guineans had made it very difficult for us to reach out a hand". He pointed out that what had happened at the OAU, all the tributes to Nkrumah, and the formal announcement that Guinea was returning the body without conditions would have been greatly embarrassing to Busia. "But we were very happy". Of course, Busia would never have tried to negotiate the return of Nkrumah's body.

Asked about the possible rehabilitation of the ex-President, General Aferi said that at the moment Ghana consisted of Busiaites, Nkrumahites and the uncommitted. The Ghana government had to be a government of all the people, so there had to be a policy taking account of all these three groups. "You can only go to the limits or there will be disturbing vibrations. There has been rehabilitation up to a point, but one should leave the rest to posterity and time".

\*Ghana's Foreign Policy 1957-1966.

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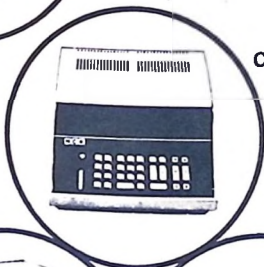
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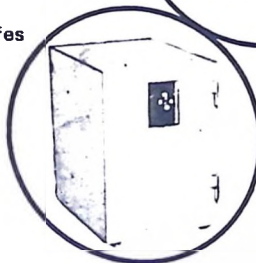


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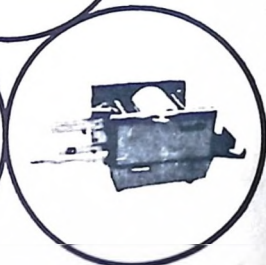


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# West Africa and the floating pound

By a correspondent

Unless the current controversy over the parity of the pound escalates into a major international currency crisis, the effects on Commonwealth West African countries should not be too serious. But, as always, when London sneezes Freetown, Bathurst and the other anglophone capitals have to take health precautions.

Two main developments are discernible as a result of the downward floating of sterling: the pound (at the time of writing) has undergone a virtual devaluation of about five per cent against the dollar, and the demise of sterling as a reserve currency has been accelerated.

Devaluation does not arouse the terror it once did, largely because it is no longer considered a national disgrace and occurs more frequently — the pound was devalued in 1967, the franc in 1969 and the dollar was devalued last year. The Nigerian pound did not follow the British pound in 1969, and a similar decision now would increase the gap between the two currencies, making it far more difficult to hold Nigeria, however, is to some extent insulated by the dominant position held in her export trade by oil, earnings from which are expressed in dollars.

In the upheavals of the final weeks of 1971 the Nigerian pound retained its gold parity, so that it followed sterling with a revaluation of over eight per cent against the dollar. The Gambia and Sierra Leone also followed sterling, the parity of which, in terms of gold, remained unchanged. The Gambia, which, of the four Commonwealth West African countries, has the closest economic ties with Britain, will certainly follow sterling now as will, probably, the Leone. The main concern in Freetown is that a floating, or even a suspect pound, increases enthusiasm for the dollar and thus encourages the smuggling of diamonds to Liberia.

## Ghana's experience

In Ghana, decisions on currency policy are inhibited by the experiences of the country's only partially successful devaluation in July 1967 and, more vividly, by the contribution to "a coup atmosphere" of the massive 48 per cent devaluation effected by the Busia Government. The National Redemption Council will shy away from playing around with exchange rates, but some of its economic advisers will certainly argue that since the NRC's revaluation on assuming power was as much a political as an economic decision the opportunity should now be taken to adjust the exchange rate in line with the pound, and

thus effectively devalue the cedi.

Other ramifications of the British decision to float the pound have not been fully clarified — and it must be remembered that African countries are particularly vulnerable to exchange rate problems because of the relatively large size of their external transactions in relation to domestic output and incomes (unfortunately, their need for currencies which allow them to buy the capital goods and transport equipment necessary for development is also a powerful restraint on the development of intra-African trade). The ramifications arise mostly from the implementation of new exchange control regulations by the British Treasury which have created some uncertainty over the details of new British investments in the Overseas Sterling Area and the future of sterling accounts held by African countries, organisations and individuals.

## "Sterling area dismantled"

The new exchange control regulations mean, in effect, that the sterling area is now confined to the United Kingdom and Ireland. Malaysia and Singapore reacted to this situation by ending their use of sterling as an intervention currency. "By limiting the [pound sterling] Scheduled Territories", said the Malaysian Foreign Minister, "without any prior consultation whatsoever with other sterling area countries, the British Government has, in effect, unilaterally dismantled the sterling area".

Ten years ago this would have been of major importance to Commonwealth West African countries — Ghana, for example, had sterling foreign reserves totalling about £300m. In 1960, African countries held the second largest amount of sterling balances, but these reserves have been systematically drawn on to finance development.

Britain has already agreed, as part of the terms of joining the European Economic Community, that sterling's role as a reserve currency should be ended and that the privileged access of Commonwealth countries to the London capital market is bound to be circumscribed.

Ghana, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Nigeria have relatively little at stake in the implementation of this decision, although they obviously have an interest in ensuring that the process of running down the sterling balances in London does not affect world liquidity, and thus world trade, and that changes in emphasis on the direction of Britain's capital flows are not too pronounced. If sterling became really unstable, however, the considerable amounts held by West African institutions such as universities could be adversely affected.



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# Letters to the Editor

## Dr. M. C. F. Easmon

SIR—I read with interest Bankole Timothy's suggestion (May 19) that the authorities re-name the Sierra Leone Museum "The Easmon Museum". While this suggestion may do honour to a man who well deserves it, it does seem to me to imply a negative approach.

I agree that it is desirable to do something in the memory of the late Dr Easmon. A beginning should be made by establishing an Easmon Memorial Fund. Perhaps, the initiative should come from the executors of the late Doctor. Appeals will then be made for contributions. The Government should patronise it, making perhaps the most substantial contribution at the initial stage, and ensuring that the administration of the fund is in the hands of competent and incorrupt persons.

The University of Sierra Leone and particularly the Institute of African Studies should be involved. Moderate beginnings could be made in conjunction with the Sierra Leone Museum to establish annual "Easmon Memorial Lectures" incorporating African Studies in all branches of the Social Sciences and Humanities, which it may be advisable to publish. As the fund grows, then "Easmon Fellowships" should be established, perhaps as one year awards, to rising Sierra Leone scholars, to conduct research into our culture.

Of prime importance is the necessity of completing his "last ambition... a monumental history of Sierra Leone... which Dr Easmon could never write because of prolonged illness". Sierra Leone has produced no historian of significance or intellectual magnitude. But if Fourah Bay could be involved in the "Easmon Memorial" as it should then perhaps encouragement should be given to young graduates until one is found to consummate Dr Easmon's work.

Carried out with enthusiasm, these suggestions may perhaps end in more positive results, not only to the late Doctor's memory, but to the future development of Sierra Leone as a whole.

ARTHUR ABRAHAM

Centre of West African Studies  
University of Birmingham.

*Owing to an error the first part of one of the letters below and the second part of the other were run together in last week's issue. We are therefore reprinting them both in full—Editor.*

## Macmillan in Africa

SIR — In the latest volume of his memoirs, *Pointing The Way*, Mr. Harold Macmillan insists that Britain's with-

drawal from her Empire was not an act of frivolity, but one of set purpose. Britain, he contends, had not withdrawn because it had lost the will to govern, but rather because it did not conceive of itself as having the right to govern in perpetuity. He seeks to represent the process of decolonization as having its roots in 19th century English liberalism.

Mr. Macmillan is right on the first count that Britain had not lost the will to govern. No empire ever does. But it is a profound misreading of history for him to represent British abandonment of its Empire as voluntary. Winston Churchill had earlier sworn that he had not become Prime Minister to preside over the liquidation of the Empire. It is just over a decade since right-wing, old-fashioned imperialists in Macmillan's own party had to be dragged, screaming, to accept the inevitability of the loss of the Empire, at considerable political cost to Macmillan's administration itself.

The fact, which Mr. Macmillan himself admitted in a television interview, is that though it had won the war, Britain was too weak to hold the Empire. You can hardly run an Empire when your Treasury is virtually empty, and you yourself dependent on American subsidies to keep you going. And when people demand to have their freedom back, it is not much use denouncing them as savages. A naked Emperor is hardly in a position to stop them, no matter how strong his will to govern may be.

OLADAPO O. FAFOWORA

Oxford

## Develop rural areas

SIR — The call (May 26) by the Lagos State Military Governor to his counterparts in other states to provide more amenities is a welcome challenge, but a challenge that must be met with caution if past mistakes are to be avoided.

In the past, authorities in Nigeria tended to think that the best way to spend government funds was to beautify the capitals leaving only scraps for rural development. Thus the capitals become imposing facades which impress the tourists until they go into the countryside and see how little has been done for the great majority of people. This is unfortunate because the authorities should by now have realized that these capitals are not going to stay beautiful for long since the concentration of development in these towns will certainly attract people from the countryside and slums will consequently multiply even faster than the magnificent structures being erected.

Though it might be argued that the present imbalance in development between urban and rural sectors is not the making of the present military regime, however, given sound economic policies, it can mitigate this unhappy situation. It is therefore important that we realise before it is too late that as long as our plans for provision of amenities and job opportunities are urban-biased so long will people continue to desert the countryside for the cities.

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# People



Margaret Busby has the face (above) and figure of a filmstar, but is in fact a partner and director of an English publishing firm, Allison & Busby. Ghanaian-born Margaret, who was sent to Britain for her education when she was seven and has lived here ever since, and Clive Allison, an Englishman, met at Oxford in 1965 when they were reading for their final examinations. Like most final year students, they were considering what career to pursue after their graduation. "We finally decided we both wanted to go into the publishing business. So after leaving university we took up jobs with different firms to acquire the necessary experience." A chance meeting in 1968 with Sam Greenlee, a black American, provided the key that was to unlock the door to the new publishing house. "Sam had the manuscript of his first novel, *The Spook Who Sat By The Door*, which had been rejected by scores of publishers in America and in Britain, including the one for which Clive was working", recalls Margaret. "We thought it was good, and decided to publish it ourselves. So we quit our jobs to seek ways and means of starting our own publishing firm, looking for backers and offices. Our experience at the publishing houses where we had worked proved very useful - at least we knew where to begin".

In March 1969 they published the book. Greenlee, who served in the US foreign service and received a Meritorious Service Award for activities during the 1958 Kassem revolution in Baghdad, was recalled to Britain for radio, television and press interviews; extracts were serialised by a national newspaper. "Then we began to get offers from publishers in the States who wanted to buy the American publishing rights. We even had offers from those publishers who had previously turned down the manuscript. We eventually sold out for a large sum of money, and subsequently sold translation rights in Germany, Italy, France, Holland, Sweden, Japan and Finland. A paperback edition came out in Britain last year. It was our first novel and our first book and

it was an enormous success". The company has now published over 40 books, fiction, non-fiction and poetry. "So far we have no African writers on our list," she admits. "But this is due more to chance than editorial policy. When we started, most of the good and well-known African writers already had publishers and when a new firm starts, people tend to approach it cautiously. The longer we can survive, the more we will be able to do the things we want to do. I would love to have some really good African writers on our list but it is important not just to say, 'Here's an African writer so I'm going to publish him whether or not he is good.' Then again, in Africa, as in Britain, there are the giant publishing firms to compete with. Although African literature is becoming increasingly popular, we are holding back from jumping onto the bandwagon as we have not as yet established an efficient distribution system in that continent." Apart from holidays, will she return to Ghana? - "Yes, perhaps I'll go back. But I still regard myself as undergoing an apprenticeship in publishing. When I am ready, I will check out the publishing scene in West Africa."



A 20-year-old prediction came true when London bus conductor Steve Bammeke learned that he had won £57,061 on the pools last month. For in Ibadan in 1952, when he was only 18, he was told by a soothsayer that he would one day make a journey to a distant land and would return home laden with wealth. When he came to Britain in 1964 he filled in his pools coupons regularly, and was further encouraged three years ago when a palmist told him that he was a lucky man and would soon come into wealth.

The £25-a-week conductor, who won with a 60p stake, celebrated his first day as a rich man in a modest way with a few cans of beer and soft drinks and a handful of friends in his Brixton "bedsitter". "I need at least two weeks holiday before I start planning my future," he commented. "Actually, it isn't so much my future I am worried about as much as that of my three children; how I can provide them with a better start in life than I had I have suffered a lot, especially since the death of my father in 1944. So even if I win five million pounds it will not make me overreact. The money seems good, but it is only a figure and it has got to be used wisely if it is to be of lasting value." He is therefore planning to continue working after his holiday - although he may take a different job - "because I need to keep my brain functioning and maintain a mental balance. That's the only way I can keep this money safe." He plans to return to Ibadan eventually - "and I would like to go back with lots of money like the fortune teller said."

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# Books and Publications

## RIGHTING MAURITANIA'S ECONOMY

The Economy of Mauritania by Richard M. Westebbe (Pall Mall, £6.25)

Since it has only a million people spread over 416,000 square miles, bigger than Nigeria, and has almost as many camels as people, Mauritania's economic problems may be thought to be unique even in West Africa, even if Niger, Mali, Chad and Upper Volta are in a somewhat similar situation. But this study, by a former chief of a World Bank Mission to the country, who later returned as an adviser on specific problems, has urgent lessons for other African countries and deserves the closest study by economic planners everywhere.

There have been spectacular economic developments in Mauritania since independence, but the main lesson of this book is that these have had little effect on the general standard of living.

"The economy of Mauritania is intensively dual in character. The traditional rural economy was little affected by the sharp changes that occurred in the northeast as a result of the introduction of the MIFERMA iron mines, a fish-processing industry at Port-Etienne, and the creation of the new administrative capital at Nouakchott. [Before independence the colony was administered from St. Louis in neighbouring Senegal]. It is estimated that the modern sector employs less than 5 per cent of the labour force, while a considerable part of the wages paid goes to expatriates, who predominate in the middle and higher paid positions.

"In aggregate national income terms, the growth of the economy has been nothing short of spectacular, even when figures are reduced to an average per capita basis. These figures are, however, relatively meaningless when account is taken of the wide disparity in income distribution between the modern and traditional sectors: average GDP per capita in the modern sector may be roughly estimated at ten times that of the traditional sector."

Particularly disappointing has been the effect of the MIFERMA Project, and the position of the great SOMIMA copper operation at Akjoujt, some 250 km. north-east of the capital, adds a topical comment. Hopes for this were not as great as for MIFERMA but, according to the recent statement of the Chairman of Charter Consolidated, the main company concerned, the project is making a loss and will only slowly become profitable.

"The MIFERMA project" says Mr. Westebbe "was originally regarded as the

key to the future economic development of the country that would enable it to accelerate the pace of very slow progress that its otherwise limited resources made possible. It was to bring the age of industrialization to Mauritania, while providing budgetary surpluses that would make the country self-supporting, as well as able to finance an investment program. In fact, its influence on the economy in terms of income, employment, and technological change has been slight, while it has not lived up to expectations in providing revenues to the state budget."

This "dual character" of the economy is reflected to a greater or lesser extent in most parts of West Africa, notably in Liberia. Nobody needs any longer to be told how meaningless are figures of gross national product and the like; but Mauritania is almost a classic example of this lack of meaning.

Nor is Mauritania without its "white elephants". For reasons which even Mr. Westebbe does not fully explain, huge sums were invested in cold storage and other facilities for fish and fish processing at Port-Etienne (now called Nouadhibou). Nevertheless, these facilities are seriously under-used, while at the same time international fleets are over-fishing the seas beyond the Mauritanian territorial limits. In the meantime Mauritania is herself establishing a large fishing fleet whose viability is also in doubt.

Mauritania has also fallen prey to "contractor finance". She has been unable to make any significant contribution to her own capital budgets, which have been financed largely by France and the EEC; with the fall in the French subsidy there has been heavy recourse to suppliers' credits. There is also heavy smuggling, particularly over the Senegal border, with "unrecorded imports" in 1965 estimated to have exceeded the value of "recorded" imports. There has been some improvement and because of the workings of the Franc Zone, competently described in the book, Mauritania is free from the balance of

payments problems which menace Ghana. Mr. Westebbe's first mission to the country had among its objectives the preparation of the ground for a second development plan covering 1970-73. On the first development plan, which covered 1963-68, Mr. Westebbe has serious criticisms.

"In summary", he says "the plan may be said to have been based in large part on three conceptions that are no longer valid. First, it was not oriented towards increasing output but, rather, emphasized investments that either inherently involved no rate of return or, at least after the fact, cannot be justified in terms of any rational calculation of returns. Second, the basic assumptions with respect to the productive possibilities in the traditional sectors containing the bulk of the population were not well founded. Not only did this lead to too low a share of investment funds being allocated to these sectors, but even the funds provided can be considered to have been to a great extent mis-allocated. No doubt the conceptions with respect to the production possibilities in livestock and agriculture also influenced the programs of technical training for these sectors. Third, the plan did not adequately provide for widening the scope for profitable investments that could be undertaken in the future. The program of projected studies was limited, and the program for training the personnel needed to enable new investments to be undertaken and manned was inadequate."

There is much else of value in the book, and much to remind us of problems elsewhere. For example, Mauritania's airline was presented with a Russian aircraft but its operating costs are so high that the airline loses more money by flying it than when keeping it on the ground. The Veterinary Service serves a pressing need in the country which depends so heavily on livestock, much of which is owned by nomads; but during the first plan period the service lacked vehicles because of neglect of maintenance. An expensive abattoir was built before the supply of good quality meat was assured and before marketing arrangements were investigated. Mauritania has a woefully low standard of literacy and school attendance, even so there is grave imbalance between the south and the sparsely populated north.

Mr. Westebbe, however, is not really concerned with such details. He is concerned with the vicious circle.

"In short," the author concludes, "the country seemed to be in a vicious economic circle. Output was too small to



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justify or provide the resources for major infrastructure investments. Accordingly, incomes of the bulk of the population were low, and government revenues, despite revenues from mining, were inadequate to finance a major expansion in public health and education. Public investments, largely financed with French and EEC aid, were not having the desired effect of changing the structure of production of the rural population [in the new plan] "

"Accordingly, the basic strategy adopted of developing the rural sector is one most likely to permit the gradual evolution of traditional ways in step with economic potential of live stock herding and peasant agriculture. Mauritania is fortunate in having unexploited margins for expanding output on its grasslands and for increasing returns from peasant agriculture while population pressures are comparatively low. By concentrating development efforts in the rural sectors, a significant rise in the well-being of the bulk of the country's inhabitants should be possible "

"In this process, the resources can be acquired from the incremental growth of per capita incomes to provide for future development opportunities, as well as to anticipate the demographic consequences of the general introduction of modern medicine and sanitation. These future opportunities will have to be based on higher-productivity activities and will involve more sophisticated techniques in both the livestock and agricultural sectors. They will bring with them demands for related services. When the time comes, the country will be better prepared in human and material resource terms and in terms of institutions to absorb the changes in technology and ways of living that development will bring "

"It would be easy to be misunderstood in drawing this kind of lesson from the circumstances and experience of a country as poor and relatively untouched as Mauritania. There can be little dispute with the facts concerning the social conditions of much of the country's inhabitants, who have little or no access to modern medical care, education, housing and opportunity. Yet, it is also true, that this human condition has existed since prehistoric times in the sub-Sahara. It is really a matter of alternatives. Would the people of Mauritania be better off if the great mass of them has migrated to the towns and demanded services and jobs that could not be provided?"

In a book which is, perhaps inevitably, in view of its specialised subjects, very expensive it is surprising to find such poor maps and no index, although there are an abundance of statistical tables, and although, it was a good idea to include a list of the abbreviations, now so commonly in use - AID, SOMIMA, etc. - and to spell them out, many of these need further explanation if the non-specialist is fully to understand the functions of the organizations the initials identify.

D.W.

### Economic Theory and the Underdeveloped Countries, by H. Myint (Oxford University Press £5.50)

Where do correct ideas come from? Do they drop from the skies? No. Are they innate in the mind? No. They come from social practice. If we accept that correct ideas (theories) come from social practice, does that imply that it is legitimate to transfer ideas which evolve from one "species of social practice to the other"? Apparently not. Different social practices have ideas appropriate to them. This point is being reiterated because Professor Myint says that the aim of his volume "is to examine the realism and relevance of practical concepts and doctrines, both orthodox and modern in relation to the broadly observable patterns of economic change, the salient features of the economic situation, and the general aims of development policy in the underdeveloped countries".

To be sure, he is concerned with a particular variant of the older, classical economic theory, the static neo-colonial approach, which he contrasts with the so-called dynamic theories. Professor Myint is concerned with the former model because "the latter approach is beset with the contradiction that while they advocate the necessity of breaking out of the static equilibrium framework by deliberately introducing fallacies and tensions are in effect advocating at the same time the need to break out of the planning framework". Thus we may

advocate social evolution and planning later, but one may not advocate social evolution and planning at the same time without getting into serious contradictions. In other words, social revolution and planning are incompatible. Now I am not sure about "dynamicals" and their "deliberately" introducing balances and tensions, but one knows that nothing is more dynamic than the practice of war, but this does not excuse military strategists from having a plan of war. To be sure a dynamic plan of economic development in the third world has to span a much shorter space of time, most of the so-called development plans which are cluttered with econometric models which zoom to the millenium are clearly inconsistent with a dynamic theory of planning. One suspects they are more designed to scare the populace from the development process rather than giving a true projection of the economy.

What happens when one derives one's theories not from a relevant social practice? One resorts to trying to shuffle reality to correspond with one's ideas instead of fitting the theory to the facts. And this is precisely what Professor Myint does: because his theory will not adequately explain the reality of underdevelopment, poverty and stagnation in the third world, he declaims their relevance to the most important development/underdevelopment experience, that of India and China, on the pretext that their problems are unique.

S. Egwuekwe

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## NIGERIA

**Boosting Benue Plateau's agriculture**

To most people Nigeria's Benue-Plateau State is the centre of the tin and columbite mines. But in a speech announcing the budget for 1972/73 the Military Governor, Police Commissioner J.D. Gomwalk, emphasized that agriculture was still the mainstay of the state's economy. But this is a state which produces very little agricultural produce for export and the Governor emphasised that they were concentrating on increasing food production and on production of raw material for industry. They would extend irrigation and train far more extension workers. High yielding strains of rice and maize would be widely distributed.

**Price increases for export crops**

They had great hopes of the state's own Produce Marketing Board which, he promised, would give "substantial" price increases to farmers in the coming season for export crops such as groundnuts. The state had also bought 120 tractors complete with equipment, half of which would go to the state hiring units and the rest would be sold at subsidised prices to farmers (a farmer could save "over £1,000 which he could use profitably on other aspects of farming" and there was also a substantial subsidy for pumping

sets for those using them for irrigation). Experiments were being conducted in the use of Japanese hand tractors.

In the veterinary department emphasis was now on increasing production rather than on disease control. There were plans for afforestation of the Jos Plateau and for conservation of wild life. In education they hoped to enrol some 50 per cent of the school age group by 1974. Anybody born in the state accepted by any Nigerian university would automatically receive a scholarship if he failed to get one from the Federal Government. The World Bank's soft-loan affiliates, IDA, was helping to finance the school building programme.

Efforts would continue to be made, said the Governor, to recruit Nigerian doctors and to keep them in government service. This year they hope that four indigenous doctors would join the state service.

Referring to the state's investment in commercial enterprises the Governor said that some £646,000 had gone to the joint river transport service, in which several other states were participating, to Nigeria Textiles, and to Northern Nigerian Fibre Products. The climate would encourage tourism and Jos Hill Station was being expanded, as were catering rest houses. A weekly newspaper, which would later become a daily, was being planned and

there would also be limited television services.

Like other new states, Benue-Plateau suffers from poor communications between outlying areas and the centre. The governor announced an ambitious road programme, including a new road which would shorten the journey from Woukari in the state's south-eastern area to Jos, the capital, by some 145 miles. The drift to the towns, said the Governor, accentuated the problem of water shortage but work is in hand to deal with this problem.

**Staff shortages**

Serious staff shortage continues to hamper all the state's development efforts. The Governor announced the establishment of a local government service board and the expansion of the staff of the Economic Planning Unit.

Estimated recurrent expenditure for 1972/73 is just under £12m. compared with £9,343,000 last year. The estimated increase in revenue is almost the same and a small surplus is expected on current account. Capital expenditure is estimated at some £15m. The Governor said that the increased revenue was due both to the expected increase from Federal sources and to improved efficiency in raising local revenue in the state.

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## Nigeria's shadow at Bamako

In terms of concrete results, the summit meeting of Francophone countries held in Bamako earlier this month to establish a West African Economic Community (CEAO), was a complete failure; the Treaty signed by seven countries at the end of the conference has not been published and is, according to the final communiqué, subject to amendments, additions and omissions. No President or Secretary General has been appointed, and no headquarters decided upon. Togo maintained its observer's status, and did not sign. The Heads of State agreed to meet again in Bamako in December to ratify the protocols, which are to spell out the practical details, and the amended Treaty.

All the same, the Bamako summit was an event of some importance: first, because the leaders present refused to sign a meaningless document merely to maintain an appearance of unity. Second, because for the first time some Francophone countries opposed the creation of yet another exclusive organisation of Francophones which would tend to perpetuate the pre-independence cleavage, in the face of strong French encouragement, if not pressure. Third, because during the meeting one of the bitterest realities of Africa was brought frankly into the open — the conflict of interests between the relatively rich coastal countries and the impoverished, semi desert land-locked states of the interior.

The Malians emerged during the conference as the middle-men between the Senegalese and Ivorians on the one hand, and the Nigerians and Mauritians on the other. Like Niger and Mauritania, they demanded that the Treaty should contain provisions to relieve the land-locked countries of transit customs charges for goods imported into their countries through the coastal ports. But the Malians also showed understanding of the coastal countries' position that such an arrangement for the free transit of goods could only be introduced after a considerable interval (twelve years was often mentioned), and that if ports are to operate on an economic basis, they must be paid for.

Many of the hard, and at times heated, debates were devoted to article 14 which would provide that taxes paid in the coastal countries for their industrial exports should be credited to the CEAO Fund. The coastal states, and in particular the Ivorian Finance Minister, Henni Konan Bedie, were willing to accept this arrangement for a limited period only, and when this suggestion was rejected, they proposed that the article should be withdrawn altogether. But even this compromise was not accepted. The countries of the interior said they would not accept an organisation which would replace the economic domination of the former colonial powers by that of the coastal states.

The Treaty, it should be emphasised, was adopted only *in principle*, despite efforts by certain observers to present it as the Charter of the CEAO, and it is open to alterations. It contains many other economic clauses dealing with the establishment of a unified customs system, the organisation of industrial development on a regional basis, and the eventual free circulation of goods and capital among member-states. The model was, of course, the European Common Market. M. Deniau of the EEC Commission, as well as a representative of the French Co-operation ministry were present.

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Senghor and Houphouët: the problem is political

The presence of a French observer did not help to ease the tension. It strengthened the hands of those who claimed that this was a French attempt to organise their former colonies to face the growing economic strength and activity of Nigeria. They recalled the statement made earlier this year by President Georges Pompidou during his visit to Niger, the French President said, when asked if he thought that British entry to the EEC could have an effect on the African Continent, "It is only logical that Francophones and Anglophones should co-operate more fully" but he hastened to add a warning that relations between Anglophones and Francophones should not be a "one way relationship, there must be a just equilibrium". This equilibrium could be achieved, according to President Pompidou, only if the Francophones "harmonise their efforts so as to counter-balance the heavy weight of Nigeria".

The CEAO in the form proposed was to do exactly this — to harmonise the actions of the West African francophones as they moved towards more co-operation with the Anglophones.

The questions put to the supporters of this line was why not invite the Anglophones, at least as observers, if indeed it is open to "all African states, be they Francophone or Anglophone . . . to join us and adhere to the Treaty", to use President Felix Houphouët Boigny's own words. The reply was that Great Britain did not take part in the establishment of the EEC and has only later asked to join. But it seems that to draw such a parallel in the local circumstances is a grave misjudgment. The weight of Nigeria, relative to the membership of the CEAO, is enormously greater than that of Great Britain relative to the EEC. The entire population of the CEAO (including Togo which has so far refused to join) is less than 30m, hardly more than half of that of Nigeria. The gross national product of the CEAO countries, except for the Ivory Coast and Senegal, is pitifully small, and so is their economic growth rate. Geographically, the Francophone CEAO is not a unit. Nigeria is already Niger's major trading partner, while Ghana separates Togo and Dahomey from the other members of the CEAO and has strong economic ties with Togo.

Still the main problem is not economic. It is political. The CEAO has been the result of an initiative by President Senghor, supported by President Houphouët Boigny, who has always been known for his aversion to large and ambitious groupings. Neither suggested that the CEAO should replace the Entente (grouping Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Niger, Togo, Upper Volta) and the new OMVS (the Senegal River Authority, grouping Mali, Mauritania and Senegal). They themselves are not, apparently, quite convinced that the CEAO can supersede the existing organisations. Niger and Mauritania

seemed even less enthusiastic about the new union. In the past few years, President Dion has made successive attempts to find new economic partners and reduce his dependency on the former colonial power — France — while maintaining cordial relations and avoiding any compromise of France's vital financial and technical assistance. His flirtation with Nigeria and Libya is, according to sources in Niamey, causing him great difficulties. What exactly these difficulties are is not easy to say. France remains Niger's main European trading partner, French troops are still based in Niger and the number of French "co-operants" is the highest per inhabitant of any country in the area. At the same time, the Nigeriens are known to be displeased at French unwillingness to develop their uranium deposits as rapidly as planned (owing to the world oversupply of uranium). Moreover, requests by the Nigeriens that transfer from Nigeria of payments for cattle exports should be made through French firms established in Nigeria to facilitate money transfer from the Sterling to the Franc Zone, has been

rejected by the French.

President Hamani Dion remarked at the end of the CEAO meeting to an Ivorian friend: "Do not be surprised if we are swallowed up by Nigeria. Our natural trade routes are directed through Nigeria, our cattle are exported to Nigeria, and many of our people come from there. If we are swallowed up, it will be as much your fault, for leaving us alone, as it is ours".

What the Niger delegation tried to emphasise during the meeting was that the geographical realities of the region were as important as the colonial past, if not more so. The feeling among the younger experts of all the Sahelian countries was that there was no need to wait for Europe to be unified before setting up a West African economic union. On the contrary, it was in Africa that tribal and historical links established a *rapprochement* long before the arrival of the White man and his monetary zones.

Apart from the question of Nigeria, the other Anglophones, Ghana, Liberia or Sierra Leone were almost "taken for granted". This is undoubtedly another grave misjudgment. Francophone Africans are, perhaps, too used to French centralism so they assume that once the problem of Nigeria is solved, the rest would follow. This, of course is very far indeed from being the case, and the sooner the CEAO leaders realise it, the better. All were aware, however, of the "Embryo Economic Market" formed by Togo and Nigeria at the end of General Gowon's visit; the message sent by the Nigerian Head of State to the conference wishing it success in its deliberations "true to African aspirations", aroused quite a few reactions, later news of the brief visit paid by General Gowon to Niger as soon as President Dion returned from Bamako could not pass unnoticed.

Tamar K. Golan

## DAILY TIMES FINAL DIVIDEND

The Directors of the Daily Times of Nigeria Limited have announced the payment of a final dividend of 12½% in respect of the trading year ended 29th February 1972, subject to the approval of members in General Meeting.

The dividend will be payable on 4th August, 1972 to Stockholders registered at the close of business on 6th July, 1972.

This final dividend together with the interim dividend of 12½% less income tax paid on 31st December, 1971 amounts to a distribution of £N151,381 compared with £N102,182 in the previous year.

## THE DAILY TIMES OF NIGERIA LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books and Ordinary Stock Register of the Company will be CLOSED from 6th July, 1972 to 24th July, 1972 (both dates inclusive) for the preparation of Dividend Warrants payable on Friday, 4th August, 1972.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD.

A. A. Igbokoyi  
Company Secretary.

LAGOS  
17th June, 1972.

# MATCHET'S DIARY

In most of his very fruitful research in Africa the late Melville Herskovits was assisted by his wife Francis. After his death in 1963 she continued some projects he had begun, edited some of his unpublished work, and conducted courses in African literature. She, too, has now died at Northwestern, the university with which the name Herskovits will always be associated. One of his most striking tributes to her work was paid by Mel Herskovits in his preface to his standard study, *Dahomey*, which was published in 1938. "My wife participated fully in the field-work in Dahomey. All the information pertaining to the woman's side of the culture was gathered by her, and much of the data on religion and art. Her work in the field is to no small degree responsible for the amount and quality of the data collected, and if I have not done justice to this work in presenting it in its present form, the fault is mine alone".

In another of his books, *The Human Factor in Changing Africa*, he spoke of his wife's extensive knowledge of Africa: "her sensitive interest in the values of African life have led to stimulating discussions as the writing proceeded; her comments on the whole manuscript, at every stage, have been invaluable". The Herskovits name is now carried on in African Studies by Professor Jean Herskovits, their daughter, who is associate Professor of African History at

the State University of New York, and is doing field research in Nigeria.

Another sad loss to African studies is the death of Dr. Margaret Field. Her most recent book, *Angels and Ministers of Grace*, was reviewed in this journal by Basil Davidson in April. He said of it, "in a new work of remarkable pith and brevity, Dr. Margaret Field, who is well known for her study of Ga religion and of Akan shrine belief and custom, now sets forth her reasons for thinking that the African evidence, when applied to the Biblical scene, can indeed transform 'great wastes of unedifying myth into sober chronicle'. The result is an 'ethno-psychiatrist's contribution to Biblical criticism' which cannot fail, it seems to me, to interest Biblical critics, but which also, far beyond their ranks, should be obligatory reading for everyone concerned with African cultural history".

Her most famous work, published in 1960, was *Search for Security*. This dealt with mental illness in rural Ghana and the ways in which traditional practitioners attempted to deal with it. Dr. Field developed a deep respect for the local priests and the deepest sympathy for their patients. She had come to Ghana in the 1930s, to do ethnographical field work for the government, chiefly among the Ga. Through this work, she wrote, "I became aware of a widespread new movement, mainly in the forest-country.

This was the springing up, like a crop of mushrooms, of new shrines, all designed to give supernatural protection and help to people increasingly pre-occupied with a sense of insecurity. Among the pilgrim supplicants seen at these shrines were many who, even to the untutored eye, were mentally ill. Some were deluded, some hallucinated, some in morbid fear. Some believed themselves bewitched, some felt themselves being changed into witches, others thought themselves already witches, mysteriously disseminating destruction. Their compatriots, invited by them to share their beliefs, readily did so; mental illness was not recognised as such, for it wore the garments of traditional ideology".

It became clear to her that the key to an understanding, not only of witchcraft but of many other pre-occupations of such people, was clinical psychiatry. She then, with typical determination, obtained a medical degree and some experience in clinical psychiatry, and returned to Ghana in 1955. She made the shrines she had previously noted her "source" for cases of mental illness. Her book was hailed by Geoffrey Gorer, "No review can exhaust the richness of the data and the suggestive generalizations produced by the combination of Dr. Field's anthropological and clinical skills. This book is a landmark, and essential reading for all who wish to make statements about the nature or character of the African or the relationship between cultural conditions and mental health".

②

A press release from Lagos states "A chartered Boeing 707 arrived at Kano from Britain last week with a cargo consisting of South Devon cattle, goats, dairy machinery borehole equipment, butchery aids and veterinary equipment worth around £100,000. The complete order is being supplied to the Kano State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources by the Flower Group of Companies of Plymouth, official agricultural advisers to the Kano and North Western State governments. The cattle, ten in-calf heifers, seventeen bulling heifers and four bulls - are to be crossed with local Zebu cattle to improve beef and dairy stock and will also be used as foundation stock for a prime South Devon herd".

For several years now such unusual loads have been carried to Nigeria by Tradewinds Airways Ltd., the freight carriers in which the Crown Agents have a substantial interest. Indeed such is the diversity of the loads they carry - one cargo included such diverse items as bone china, an electric switchboard and a live dog - that the crew no longer regard any load as unusual. Much of their cargo is material ordered by the Federal and state governments through the Crown Agents and can range from enormous pipes to carry water from Bagauda into Kano Metropolitan Area to a cap and gown for an academic ceremony.

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# "THE STAR OF SIERRA LEONE"

by a special correspondent

Collectors place a high premium on Sierra Leone's stamps. They were the first in the world to be "non-adhesive". They also publicise Sierra Leone as "land of diamonds and iron ore".

On February 14, 1972, the news spread that a diamond weighing 968.9 carats, nearly half-a-pound, had been found by a Sierra Leonean, Mr. E. O. Williams, engineer-in-charge in the Separator House at Yengema, where the leases of Diminco, the joint government-SLST company which has taken over the former SLST leases are situated, together with Mr. W. D. Adams, the Security Officer.

This stone was later transferred to Freetown under escort and arrangements were made for President Stevens, ministers, representatives of the Diamond Corporation West Africa, managers of the Government Diamond Office, and of two American diamond merchants to see the stone in the Diminco sorting offices in Freetown. Dr. Stevens, after seeing the stone, named it "The Star of Sierra Leone". No stone of such a size had been found in Sierra Leone, and "The Star" is the largest single stone so far produced anywhere this century.

Sierra Leone's claim to being "land of diamonds" was substantiated when experts announced this stone as "the third largest diamond" ever discovered, after the *Cullinan*, which weighed 3,106 carats, and the *Excelsior* with 995.20 carats.

Diamonds were first discovered in Sierra Leone by the then government geologist, Mr. J. D. Pollett, in 1930 - the year that the Central Selling Organisation (CSO) was created in London for controlling the release of diamonds to the world market. Fifteen years later a 770 carat rough diamond known as the "Victory" diamond was found in the Woyie River in Sierra Leone. This held the distinction at that time of being the largest alluvial diamond ever discovered. A stone of great clarity, it was cut into 30 gems, the largest of which was 31.35 carats.

In the early 1950s the vast Sierra Leone deposits attracted many illicit diggers although Sierra Leone Selection Trust had been given a monopoly for mining the whole country. Smuggling also became rampant so that government received hardly any revenue from diamonds. Finally SLST was compensated for surrendering its nation-wide monopoly and was granted a new concession over 309 square miles with an option of a further 150 square miles. Under a later agreement this area was reduced to 284 square miles. The areas surrendered were opened up to licensed Sierra Leone diggers under the alluvial diamond mining scheme, and the government invited the Diamond Corporation to set up an official buying organisation to regulate diamond marketing.

In 1959 the the Government decided that there was only one way to control

the diamond trade, that was to have one legal exporter. The government had invited the CSO to assist in the buying and marketing of alluvial production in 1956, when the Diamond Corporation Sierra Leone set up a buying office in Bo. This was followed, in 1959, with the formation of the Government Diamond Office (GDO), in Kenema. Diamond Corporation West Africa, which manages the GDO for the government, provides a service including the collection of export duties, valuation of parcels brought to the office, operation of the tender system and marketing of production. Information of transactions carried out at the GDO, ranging



Dr. Davidson Nicol, Sierra Leone High Commissioner in London, examines the stone.

from the price at which the shipment is purchased to the valuation at which it is sold in London, is submitted to the Ministry of Mines.

Early in 1970, the President announced a new mining policy and in December Parliament ratified the agreement reached between the Government and SLST. Out of this emerged the state controlled mining corporation, The National Diamond Mining Company (Sierra Leone), (Diminco), in which the Government has 50 per cent and SLST 49. A Sierra Leonean economist, Mr. Juma Sei, was appointed Chairman of Diminco. The results of its first year's operations were encouraging.

"The Star of Sierra Leone", was sent to the CSO in London, where 85 per cent of the world diamond production is marketed, with the request that it should be sold there on behalf of Diminco. "Sights" are held by the CSO in the London offices ten times a year. A "sight" is an allocation of diamonds in different sizes, shapes and qualities, offered to some 230 of the most important dealers and manufacturers throughout the world. All these, together with other diamond merchants, have been given the opportunity to tender for "The Star". In fact, there is no important diamond firm in the world which has not seen "The Star of Sierra Leone".

The tender for "The Star" is expected to take place on July 18. Representatives of the Sierra Leone Government and of Diminco will be present at the opening of the tenders.

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# Commercial News

## Growers' price rise welcomed

The outlook for Nigerian groundnut production in 1972 has been substantially improved by the announcement of an increase in producer prices to £N40-6sh. a ton compared with the 1971 price of £N33-16sh., says the US Department of Agriculture's latest statistical *Report*. Trade sources had indicated their belief that a price of £N40 was required to return output to the pre-1970 level.

Nigerian production in 1971, points out the report, was the principal disappointment in what was, otherwise, a generally good year for producer-exporter countries in Africa. Commercialisation in Nigeria is expected to reach about 330,000 tons, or only 50,000 tons more than the 290,000 tons in 1970, and 320,000 tons below the 1969 level. Smuggling into Niger is believed to account for a further 100,000 tons. On the basis of these estimates, plus quantities consumed domestically, and seed and waste, total 1971 production is put at 880,000 tons or only 105,000 tons above the previous year. Late reports from Nigeria now estimate 1971 commercialisation at 305,000 tons.

Weather was not considered to be of primary importance in explaining the small 1971 crop although it was a factor contributing to the equally small 1970 crop. More important in 1971 was the fact that the Northern States Marketing Board set producer prices at the same level as those for the 1970 crop. Furthermore, the prices were not announced until early October which was, of course, too late to affect plantings. Strong competition from food crops probably influenced growers to reduce acreage to some extent. In addition, low producer prices also contributed to the illegal movement of produce into Niger for commercialisation.

Preliminary estimates place Senegalese groundnut commercialisation at 800,000 metric tons which compares with official estimates of 447,000 tons commercialised a year earlier. The addition of 145,000 tons for seed and domestic consumption yields an estimated total crop of 945,000 tons for 1971 against 545,000 tons for 1970. Weather was favourable for most of the 1971 growing season, especially compared to 1970 when 90 per cent of the country experienced drought. Farmers were encouraged by government policies which provided for debt write-offs, improved distribution of payments

for the groundnuts, increased prices for the current crop, and the possibility of additional price increases. The government distributed 100,000 tons of seed for the 1971 crop, compared to 93,000 tons in 1970, although the poor quality of the seed is considered to have been an important limiting factor on 1971 output. Higher producer prices in 1971 were expected to reduce illicit border traffic to a minimum; however, the fact that The Gambian commercialisation may be greater than warranted by the harvest, may indicate a Senegalese crop even larger than 945,000 tons.

A "good deal of optimism" exists as to the possibility of Senegal achieving its goal for groundnut production of 1.2m. tons in 1972. The report says that the government will probably raise seed distribution to 120,000 tons and that quality will improve. "In addition, present plans are to double the use of fertilizer from the 33,000 tons used on the 1971 crop and there remains the possibility of an increase in producer prices".

Production in Niger is expected to reach 260,000 tons compared with 236,000 tons in 1970, although it appears that part of the increase could reflect increased smuggling from Nigeria. "Fragmentary information" from The Gambia indicates that the commercial crop should reach 130,000 to 140,000 tons, which would be perhaps 15 per cent higher than the previous year. "It is possible that some of these nuts were produced in Senegal and smuggled into the country but such traffic is said by Senegalese sources to be at minimum levels this season".

Total African production in 1971 is estimated at 5m. tons, compared with 4.2m. tons in 1970.

## Rubber in balance

World supplies of natural rubber in 1972 will amount to 3.18m. tons, the same as estimated consumption, according to the International Rubber Study Group. Synthetic rubber production, however, is forecast to exceed consumption, 5.42m. tons to 5.27m. tons.

• Ghana will start exporting natural rubber within the next few years, the managing director of Firestone Ghana has announced.

## BRAZIL LOOKS TO AFRICA

Brazil's current sales drive in Africa is to be supported by a tour of several African countries by the Foreign Minister, Sr. Mario Barbosa. A delegation recently completed a tour of Nigeria, Togo, Senegal, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Zaire; an embassy is to be opened in Kinshasa and Lloyd Brasileiro recently inaugurated a regular shipping service to Dakar, Monrovia, Abidjan, Takoradi, Lagos and Luanda. According to a report in the *Financial Times* one of the objects of a 50-strong trade mission which visited London last month was to seek advice from the City in gaining access to African markets.

- Brazil and Portugal are expected to announce a decision to form a multinational investment bank to operate in Mozambique, Angola, and South Africa.
- Milk in plastic bottles is being exported to Senegal, Guinea and Ivory Coast by the Asturian Dairy Pool Association of Spain, using the Canary Islands as a production base.
- Ghana's trade surplus in April amounted to 28.4m. cedis, compared with a deficit of more than 12m. cedis the previous month, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.
- Following a visit to Peking by Niger's Minister of Rural Economy, M. Noma Kaka, China has made a loan of \$3m. for agricultural development.

## IRAN BREAKS RANKS

Iran has broken ranks with the other major oil exporters by rejecting the issue of participation in the oil companies' operations and instead offering a new deal: the Iranian oil consortium will maximise production, and guarantees for supplies and investment will be given to the companies until 1994. The Shah has also proposed that after 1975, when the present OPEC revenue pact expires, new tax references should be adjusted according to an inflation index based on an "international basket for prices". To achieve a production level of 400m. tons a year, which the Shah set as a target, would require substantial investment by the oil companies.

## PROJECTS APPROVED

Nine projects valued at \$5.2m. have been approved by the International Coffee Organisation's Diversification Fund to be carried out in Burundi, Central African Republic, Madagascar, Rwanda, Togo, Uganda (two projects) and Zaire (two projects). In the Central African Republic, the \$180,000 project is for construction of a warehouse for the storage of coffee; in Togo, \$167,000 has been allocated for the development of fruit production; and in Zaire \$442,000 will go towards a coffee census and \$400,000 for construction of a warehouse for the storage of coffee.

## British aid reviewed

Total net disbursements of British official development assistance increased by some 25 per cent during 1971 to reach \$561m., representing 0.42 per cent of gross national product compared with \$447m or 0.37 per cent of gnp. in 1970. Noting this in its annual review of British aid policies and efforts, the OECD Development Assistance Committee pointed out that the United Kingdom had not accepted the 0.37 per cent of gnp target for official development assistance (ODA). On the basis of the medium-term aid programme figures published and of the estimates of forward gnp made by the DAC Secretariat, ODA disbursements appeared likely to reach 0.45 per cent of gnp by the middle of the decade.

On total net flows, the Committee noted that on the basis of provisional figures Britain had exceeded one per cent of gnp for the third successive year. This was due not only to the increase in ODA but also to a sharp rise in officially guaranteed private export credits from \$436m in 1970 to \$583m in 1971. The Committee expressed the hope that this increase would not give rise to indebtedness problems but said that for the most part new British credits were being extended to developing countries with a higher-than-average gnp per head. About \$54m was disbursed in official development assistance to the 25 "least-developed" countries in 1971, of which \$30m was in the form of technical assistance. Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda received the major part of this aid.

The Committee welcomed the improvement in the overall terms of British Official commitments in 1971 in spite of a slight decline in the share of grants in the total. The overall concessional element of total ODA commitments had increased from 80.2 per cent to 82.7 per cent. With a few exceptions, official assistance to the poorer developing countries was either in grant form or were loans on relatively soft terms.

• Liberia's Marine Inspection Division has forbidden 30 vessels to sail because they violated the country's tougher laws and regulations which were imposed last year after allegations that many ships sailing under the Liberian flag were unfit to sail. A further 15 vessels have had to make adjustments to equipment before being allowed to sail. Mr R V Vaughan, deputy commissioner of Maritime Affairs, told a news conference in London that about 1,500 ships — about 75 per cent of the total registered under the Liberian flag — had been inspected and £190,000 a year had been allocated to the inspection division. "Owners and masters have been most receptive to the new inspection procedure", he commented. "I think we can look forward to continuing success in achieving a higher standard of operational safety on board Liberian ships".

## WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

### ELDER DEMPSTER LINES

**SOUTHBOUND** - From Liverpool: FOURALL BAY due Tema Jul 2; KUMBA s/s. Jul. 20; BIIAMO s/s. Jul. 13; DARU due Apapa Jul. 1.; DEIDO s/d. Matadi Jul 5.

**From London:** FULANI due Tema Jul. 9; EBOE s/d Port Harcourt Jun 30.

**From North Continent:** KABALA s/d. Hamburg Jun 30 for Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam

**From Southampton:** AUREOL s/d Jul 5.

**NORTHBOUND** - To London: FALABA due Jul 2. EGORI due Jul 3.

**To Poole:** CLEARWAY due Jul 4.

**To Avonmouth:** DUNKWA due Jun 30.

**To Glasgow:** KOHIMA due Sapele Jun 30.

**To Le Havre:** MANO due Jul. 6. FREETOWN due Monrovia Jun. 30.

**EASTBOUND** - From USA/Canada: DALLA due Abidjan Jul. 12. DUMURRA s/d. New York Jun 30.

**WESTBOUND** - To USA/Canada: AKOSOMO due Apapa Jul. 12. DEGEMA due Freetown Jun 30. FIAN due Lobito Jun. 30.

**Eastern Service to West Africa:** GOWANBANK due Douala Jul. 2. TAYBANK due Matadi Jul 20.

### BARBER LINES

**OUTWARDS** - FERNLAND due Monrovia Jul. 11, thence Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala; FERGATE s/g. New York Jul 18 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala.

**HOMEWARDS** - FERGATE due New York Jul. 12. FERNLAND l/dg. Lagos S. Bound about Jul. 18, Calabar Jul. 20, Ghana Jul. 23, Abidjan/Monrovia end Jul.

### 'K' LINE

**EASTBOUND** - From Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. to Japan via Hong Kong: DOMINICA MARU s/d. Freetown May 27 due Japan Jul 13.

### WOERMANN LINE

LOULEFA s/g. Le Havre Jul 1 due Dakar Jul 9, Abidjan Jul. 13, Cotonou Jul. 16; MALAGA due Lome Jul. 24, Cotonou Jul. 26, Libreville Jul 29.

### DAFRA LINE

**SOUTHBOUND** - ZAIRE s/g. Antwerp Jul 12 due Las Palmas Jul 18.

**NORTHBOUND** - BANANA s/g. Matadi Jul 19, due Lome Jul 20.

### GOLD STAR LINE

**WESTBOUND** - NOGAI Luanda Jul 9, Matadi Jul. 16, Douala Jul. 19.

**EASTBOUND** - ISIDEK Singapore Jul 10, Kobe Jul 22.

### BLACK STAR LINE/USNI/WEST AFRICA

**WESTBOUND** - SUBIN RIVER Douala Jun 19, Lagos Jun 17, Ghana Jun 22, Abidjan Jun 23, Lower Buchanan Jun. 25, Montreal Jul. 5, thence Gt. Lakes.

### BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT/WEST AFRICA

**SOUTHBOUND** - BIA RIVER Hamburg Jul. 4, Bremen Jul. 5, Antwerp Jul. 8, Rotterdam Jul. 11, BILNYA RIVER London Jun 29.

**NORTHBOUND** - BIA RIVER Rotterdam Jun 27, Amsterdam Jun 30, OTTIL RIVER London Jul 3, Middlesborough Jul 14.

### DELTA LINE

DILIA ARGENTINA due Lagos/Apapa Jul 11, Port Harcourt Jul 12, Douala Jul. 14, DEL RIO Dakar Jul. 12, Conakry Jul. 14, Monrovia Jul 18.

### PALM LINE

**SOUTHBOUND** - From Liverpool: ANDONI PALM due Lagos Jul. 9.

**From Glasgow:** BANI NDA PALM due Lobito Jul 21.

**From London:** LOBITO PALM due Lobito Jul 11.

**NORTHBOUND** - To London: LAGOS PALM due London Jul. 16.

### NYK LINE

**WESTBOUND** - SHIMANI MARU Lagos/Apapa Aug 5/8, Abidjan Aug. 16/17, Takoradi Aug. 18/19, Tema Aug. 20/21, Japan first Port Sept. 23.

### CHARGEURS REUNIS

BOURGAINVILLE due Lagos Jul 10; JOINVILLE s/g. Kobe Jul. 28.

### MITSUI OSK LINE

HAVANA MARU s/d. Kobe May 20 due Lagos Jul 22, HAKONESAN MARU s/d. Kobe Jan. 22 due Lagos Jul. 27, TAI SUN s/d. Kobe Jun. 19 due Lagos Jul. 30.

### MAERSK LINE

**INWARDS** - From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan: JESPER MAERSK due Hong Kong Jul 10, Luanda Aug 1.

**OUTWARDS** - From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi: JOHANNES MAERSK from Abidjan Jul 14 due Takoradi Jul. 15.

### FARRELL LINES

**HOMEWARDS** - AFRICAN STAR s/g. Luanda Jul. 2 for Lobito, Matadi, Douala Jul. 11, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports; AFRICAN MERCURY s/g. Lagos/Apapa Jul 18 for Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports.

**OUTWARDS** - AFRICAN PLANIT due Monrovia Jul 8 for Abidjan, Tema Jul 14, Matadi, Luanda, Lobito. AFRICAN CRESCENT due Monrovia Aug. 7 for Abidjan, Tema Aug 13, Matadi, Luanda, Lobito.

### NEDLLOYD - SWAL JOINT SERVICES

AMSTELHOEK due Boma/Matadi Jul 21, Pointe Noire Jul 23, Luanda Jul. 26; HOEGH AUGVALD s/g. Bordeaux Jul. 7 due Lobito Jul 29, Sao Thome Aug. 15.

### NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE

**SOUTHBOUND** - LEVANTES due Port Harcourt Jul 9 Calabar Jul. 12.

**NORTHBOUND** - HERBERT MACAULAY due Belfast Jul. 24.

### SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE

**NORTHBOUND** - HOEGH HERON s/g. WA mid Aug/early Sept. for discharge Scan. late Sept., MINNESOTA s/g. WA end Aug./Sept. for discharge Scan. mid Oct.

### HOEGH LINES

HOEGH BENIN s/g. Rotterdam Jul 11 due Dakar Jul. 19, Abidjan Jul. 23; HOEGH BREZE due Cotonou Aug. 8, Lagos/Apapa Aug. 12, Warri Aug. 17.

### ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINE

**INWARDS** - STRAAT FRANKLIN from Japan s/d. May 19, due Luanda Jun. 21, Monrovia Jun. 25, Freetown Jun. 27, Port Harcourt Jul 3, Lagos/Apapa Jul. 5, Takoradi Jul. 9, Abidjan Jul. 11, STRAAT BALI from Hong Kong s/d. May 2, due Lagos/Apapa Jun. 3, Cotonou Jun 12, Lome Jun. 15, Abidjan Jun. 16, Monrovia Jun. 18, Freetown Jun. 20, Dakar Jun 23, Conakry Jun. 25, Takoradi Jul. 5, Luanda Jul. 17.

**OUTWARDS** - STRAAT FRANKLIN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong, Shanghai opt. Japan Jun./Jul. STRAAT BALI from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong Shanghai opt., Japan Jun./Jul.

### EAL EUROPE - AFRIKA LINE GmbH

AQUILA 1 due Abidjan Jul. 14, Cotonou Jul. 17, Douala Jul. 20; BLOCKLAND due Las Palmas Jul. 8, Dakar Jul. 11, Abidjan Jul. 16.

### NOPAL LINES

**WESTBOUND** - NOPAL LUNA due Abidjan Jul. 19, Monrovia Jul. 22, Freetown Jul. 24; IVORY MOON s/g. Luanda Aug 2, Douala Aug. 5, Takoradi Aug. 7.

### WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

WESTWIND s/d. New Orleans Jun. 26, Houston Jul. 2 due Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire, Freetown. SOUTHWIND s/g. New Orleans Jul. 30, Houston Aug. 4 due Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown.

### THE EAC LINES

**SOUTHBOUND** - SIMBA s/g. Rotterdam Jul 9, ROUIN Jul. 12 due Dakar Jul. 19, Monrovia Jul. 22, Abidjan Jul. 24, Tema Jul. 26, SARGODHA s/g. Sean Jul. 15, Bremen Jul. 17, Antwerp Jul. 22 due Dakar Aug. 3, Freetown Aug 5.

**NORTHBOUND** - PANAMA s/g. Lagos/Apapa Jul. 4, Cotonou Jul. 7, Abidjan Jul. 10 due Rotterdam Jul. 22, Denmark Jul. 26, SINALOA s/g. Cotonou Jul. 13, Lagos/Apapa Jul. 20 due Amsterdam Aug. 6, Denmark Aug. 10, Bremen Aug. 16, Hamburg Aug. 18.

## COCOA: A 'remarkable change' in the situation

A progressive change in the world supply-demand balance for cocoa has been taking place throughout the current cocoa year (October 1971-September 1972), reports Gill and Duffus. At the time of the company's first forecast, world production was assessed at 1,625,000 tons, world grindings at 1,463,000 tons, giving a surplus of 146,000 tons. "A remarkable change has come over the picture since that time. Production is now estimated at 1,554,000 tons, a drop of 71,000 tons, due entirely to the sharply lower crop in Nigeria and the anticipated a poor temporary crop in Brazil". Grindings are now estimated at 1,524,000 tons, an increase of 61,000 tons since the original November estimate. This level is a record, being 7.6 per cent over the previous highest year - 1,416,000 tons - in 1971. The reduction in supply and the expansion in consumption has, therefore wiped out the estimated surplus, which is now only 14,000 tons and well within the margin of error of the production/grindings estimates. World supply and demand is, in approximate equilibrium in the 1971-72 cocoa year.

"The marked increase in consumption" says the company's report, "has been brought about by the relatively low prices of 1971 and 1972, which have given a great incentive to real

consumption. World chocolate manufacturers are grinding at record levels and the world population generally is consuming more cocoa. This rapid adjustment of the supply and demand situation has been brought about by the natural price mechanism for cocoa and proves conclusively, once again, that the free cocoa market is extremely efficient".

The company notes that the level of world production in the 1972-73 cocoa year is likely to be decisive for the level of cocoa prices "for some time to come". The normal equilibrium price under conditions of balanced supply and demand is considered to be of the order of £300 a ton at the present time. The strong upward trend in consumption is likely to continue, reversals only taking place after a fairly prolonged period of high prices. The world grind has now gone up 15.5 per cent (200,000 tons) over the last seven years and world stocks during the same period have declined by 280,000 tons. If the 1972 rate of increase in usage continues throughout 1973, world grindings next year will approximate 1,640,000 tons. A substantial increase in world production in the 1972-73 cocoa year will be necessary to maintain supply and demand in balance, concludes the report.

## Ghana mid-crop prospects 'less favourable'

Prospects for Ghana's 1972 mid-crop season, which started on June 23, are not as favourable as seemed likely some two or three months ago, says the Gill and Duffus report. Most estimates place the crop at around 20,000 tons. The crop is late, particularly in the Eastern and Central Regions. Last year the adjusted total for the mid-crop was 25,689 tons.

On the 1971-72 main crop, Gill and Duffus point out that there is still considerable uncertainty as to the final out-turn. Most reports continue to indicate a figure in the 415,000 to 435,000 ton range, but other estimates have given totals of over 440,000 and less than 400,000 tons. "It may well be another month or two before the position is finally clarified".

Sales of the 1971-72 main crop have now virtually been completed. Unconfirmed reports suggest that the Cocoa Marketing Company may have sold some mid-crop and it is likely that several thousand tons will be used by the processing factories at Takoradi. "More important, however," adds the report, "the Marketing Company are believed to have made a good start in selling the new main crop and it is estimated that total sales to date might be as high as 100,000 tons. Russia in particular, is reported to have made several purchases. This sales figure excludes the tonnage which will be required by the local processing factories during the course of next season. Last year, at this stage, sales were estimated at about 90,000 tons".

In Nigeria, total gradings up to June 8 are unofficially reported to have totalled about 239,000 long tons, this figure representing both main and light crop cocoa in all growing areas. Prospects for the summer crop are said to be reasonable and the company's overall forecast for the 1971-72 season remains at 250,000 long tons. This figure excludes cocoa smuggled into Dahomey, which is

expected to amount to 10,000 tons. To the end of April exports from Cotonou had apparently totalled rather over 8,300 tons. The new crop is developing well and the prospects - "at this admittedly early stage" - look good. The Harmattan ended early and the subsequent rains in the early spring gave the trees an excellent start. The rainfall in the early part of the year was above average. Conditions in the southern part of the Western State, particularly around Akure, are reported to be very good. The Nigerian Produce Marketing Company has taken advantage of the firm market over the past two months and sold off the balance of 1971-72 main crop cocoa purchased so far. After allowing for the requirements of the Ibeja factory, it is estimated that the NPMC has an unsold balance amounting to only a few thousand tons of light crop cocoa. It will still have to sell the cocoa purchased during the remainder of the season but this is not expected to total more than a further 11,000 tons.

The 1972 intermediate crop season started in Ivory Coast in mid May with the farmer price unchanged at CFA85 francs per kilo (£129 per metric ton). The crop "has got off to a rather slow start, with arrivals at the port of shipment running well behind last year". The bean size is also reported to be rather small at the moment. Purchases up to June 9 are reported to have totalled 4,862 tons compared with 9,473 tons to June 11 last summer. As in Ghana, reports on the prospects for the intermediate crop are not so favourable, with present indications showing a figure of around 200,000 tons. No official figure has yet been released on the final out-turn of the main crop but one Paris bank report gives an unofficial figure of 205,115 metric tons. Overall production for the current season is forecast at 225,000 metric tons.

The Cameroon intermediate crop

started at the beginning of May with the early purchase figures being encouraging, running well ahead of last year. Purchases up to May 18 are reported to have totalled 962 tons compared with 285 tons to June 10 last year. Overall purchases of Eastern Region cocoa up to May 18 total 102,919 metric tons compared with 87,378 tons to May 15 last season. The farmer price is unchanged at the equivalent of £137 per long ton.

World production for the current 1971-72 season is now forecast at 1,554,000 long tons. This figure is some 24,000 tons lower than that suggested in the last Gill and Duffus report and this is mainly accounted for by a further sharp reduction in the estimate for the Brazilian crop. Nevertheless, the world estimate for the current year still shows a substantial increase of 72,000 tons (49 per cent) on the 1970-71 total of 1,482,000 long tons.

The forecast for world grindings for the calendar year 1972 has been revised upwards to 1,524,000 long tons, an increase of 108,000 tons or 7.6 per cent over 1971. The greater part of this increase - nearly 70 per cent - is concentrated in four countries: Russia (up 20 per cent), USA (7 per cent), Brazil (32 per cent) UK (13 per cent). Grindings in Western Europe as a whole are forecast at 553,000 tons and are expected to show an increase of 4.7 per cent, whereas in Eastern Europe and Russia, where the grind is forecast at a record 236,000 tons, the increase is estimated at 12.4 per cent. Grindings in the producing countries which are forecast at 338,000 tons - another record level - are expected to show an increase of 10.8 per cent. For the first quarter, grinding figures so far received - for 11 consuming countries, including the five main Western consuming countries, and for the five main producing countries - show an increase of just on 10 per cent.

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BRANCHES THROUGHOUT  
NIGERIA AND WEST AFRICA

## SITUATIONS VACANT cont.

# University Of Cape Coast

## POST OF DEPUTY CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Ghanaians for the post of Deputy Chief Accountant in the Accounts Section of the University.

**Qualifications:** Candidates must be in possession of any of the following qualifications or their equivalent and must have had at least 5 years post qualifying experience:

- (a) A.C.C.A
- (b) A.C.A.
- (c) A.C.W.A.

**Duties:** The successful candidate will assist the Chief Accountant in the general administration of the Accounts and Stores Sections and perform such specific functions as will be delegated to him by the Chief Accountant.

**Salary:** (Under review) C4500.00 x 1800 — C5580 per annum. (Point of entry according to experience).

Application forms are obtainable from the Registrar, University of Cape Coast or the Assistant Registrar, Universities of Ghana Office, 15 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0AG, with whom completed forms should be lodged not later than 20th July, 1972.

## NIGERIAN COUNCIL FOR MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING

(ESTABLISHED BY THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR CO-ORDINATING MANAGEMENT EDUCATION IN NIGERIA)

### DIRECTOR CENTRE FOR MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

The Nigerian Council for Management Education and Training invites applications for suitably qualified Nigerians for the post of **DIRECTOR** in its newly established **CENTRE FOR MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT** which will undertake research into and evaluation of the country's management training needs, application of new management techniques to local management problems;

- provide technical assistance to existing management training institutions
- provide consultancy services aimed at furthering organisational development and application of various management techniques to local enterprises.

The Director of the Centre will be stationed in Lagos but the post entails extensive travel throughout the country.

**Duties:** The Director will be required to

- (i) work closely with a team of international experts in the initial stages of the development of the Centre.
- (ii) plan and execute a programme of research aimed at providing detailed information on management training needs and the capacity of existing management training institutions
- (iii) act as Secretary to and advise the Nigerian Council for Management Education and Training on all matters concerning the country's management education and training facilities.
- (iv) coordinate the nation's management education and training policies and programmes, and in particular harmonise existing business techniques with local environment.
- (v) liaise with national and international bodies having interest in management development.
- (vi) perform other duties that may from time to time be determined by the Nigerian Council for Management Education and Training.

**Qualifications:** The candidate must possess a good degree of a recognised University, preferably a higher degree, in business administration or related fields, or equivalent professional qualification. In addition the candidate must have

- (i) extensive experience in planning and conducting management training programmes and a mastery of research techniques in management and business;
- OR
- (ii) demonstrated practical experience in industry in managerial position and/or in a firm of consultants.
- AND
- (iii) ability to initiate, co-ordinate and supervise research activities and
- (iv) ability to lead, motivate and develop effective working relationships with professional people.

**Terms of appointment:** Salary will be

- (i) about EN4,000 per annum
- (ii) Partly furnished accommodation will be provided at 10% of salary
- (iii) Annual leave of 5 weeks a year
- (iv) Superannuation will be arranged
- (v) Generous car loan and basic allowance
- (vi) Other conditions of service will be subject to negotiation.

Application giving details of age, marital status, education, institutions attended, qualifications, research experience, publications and naming three referees competent to attest to candidate's academic/professional abilities should be forwarded to:

Secretary,  
Nigerian Council for Management Educational and Training,  
c/o National Manpower Board,  
5 Oil Mill Street,  
Lagos, Nigeria

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**Method of Application:**

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The Industrial Relations Manager  
Gulf Oil Company (Nigeria) Ltd.  
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Nigeria

to reach him not later than 21st July, 1972

## SITUATIONS VACANT cont.

# SOKOTAN LIMITED

## Staff Vacancies

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2. Accountant/Secretary
3. Plant Engineer
4. Assistant Marketing Manager

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**Assistant Managing Director**

**Qualifications** - A good degree or equivalent in Business Administration, Accountancy, Economics, Engineering, or in other pure or social Sciences is essential. Additional qualifications in business management and international trade would be an advantage. Five years post-qualification experience in a manufacturing enterprise or in a large business concern or in public administration is desirable.

**Duties** - (a) To assist the Managing Director in supervising overall operations of company.  
(b) To develop and be in overall charge of a raw material procurement system.

**Salary** - Negotiable, depending on experience, usual fringe benefits. Those on a basic salary of less than £N1,800 need not apply.

**Accountant/Secretary**

**Qualifications** - a good degree or equivalent in Business Administration or Accountancy (Chartered, Certified or Cost and Works) is required. Additional Qualifications in Law or Secretaryship will be an advantage. Four years post-qualification experience in a manufacturing concern, in a public corporation or in a large business enterprise is desirable.

**Duties** - Company Accountant and Secretary.  
**Salary** - Negotiable, depending on experience, usual fringe benefits. Those on a basic salary of less than £N1,500 need not apply.

**Plant Engineer**

**Qualifications** - A good degree or equivalent in Mechanical or Industrial Engineering is essential. Post-graduate qualifications in any engineering sciences an advantage. Five years post-qualification experience in industry engaged in machinery installation, plant maintenance or in production is required.

**Duties** - Engineer in charge of plant maintenance and Assistant to Chief Engineer.  
**Salary** - Negotiable, depending on experience and qualifications; usual fringe benefits. Those on a basic salary of less than £N1,500 need not apply.

**Assistant Marketing Manager**

**Qualifications** - A good degree or equivalent in pure or social Science, Economics, Marketing or Business Administration is essential. Post-graduate specialisation in international trade would be an advantage. Four years post qualification experience in a manufacturing company, public corporation or in a large business concern is desirable.

**Duties** - National and international sales of company products, and related activities.  
**Salary** - Negotiable, depending on experience, usual fringe benefits. Those on a basic salary of less than £N1,400 need not apply.

**Method of Application**

Applications must state or be accompanied with curriculum vitae of applicant including age, present employment post and salary, institutions attended and photostat or certified copy of certificates possessed and should be addressed to:-

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# Dateline Africa

## GHANA

### Acheampong and the students

In a speech to student representatives in Parliament House Col. Acheampong appealed for "student power" to be directed towards solving Ghana's problems and creating a sense of national unity. "Student power" was "one of the greatest phenomena of our time". The NRC Chairman told the students "Use your student power to create the unity of all our people, to bring about the new man of the revolution, the January 13 man. We need your power working with the farmers, the industrial and office workers, to promote a new national consciousness which will inspire us to the victorious tomorrow." He recalled that the NRC was greatly encouraged by the students response to the "January 13 Revolution", especially their support following repudiation of some debts and their voluntary sugar cane harvesting.

Col. Acheampong said that he was opposed to the students loan scheme, and would, as soon as practicable, take steps to abolish it. "I believe that every citizen has an inalienable right to free education and to the free and unfettered development of his social and cultural well-being." However, if this was to be done "some genuine effort must be made to cut down the cost of university education in areas where you stand on the borderline of luxury... What adjustments can you make which will produce enough savings to justify abolition of the scheme without complete dislocation of the national economy?" He welcomed discussion on the issue and asked students to send proposals to the government for study.

The place of the Ghanaian student, continued Col. Acheampong, was more formidable than that of his European counterpart for he was, in many ways, the eyes and ears of the rural communities. "Your ideas and actions influence the actions and thinking of our less fortunate brothers and sisters, especially in the rural communities". They should therefore use this role to influence people in the positive direction in which the nation should move. He regretted the adherence of students to "Afro-culture" and observed that many African governments had taken steps to suppress it. The NRC was convinced that students had the energy and intelligence to contribute greatly to rebuilding the nation. Sometimes, however, this will be tempered by unnecessary habits which were often foreign, wasteful and retro-

gressive. "We agree you should have your afternoon jumps, but for goodness sake let us get our priorities right".

Col. Acheampong concluded by asking students to make more sacrifices such as "tolerating products of our infant agricultural industries like our rice which more often than not contains a chip of stone here and there and the locally produced sugar which is not as white as the one we are used to".



During his visit to Britain the Asantehene, Otumfuo Opoku Ware II, visited the Tower of London, where he inspected Britain's crown jewels and royal regalia. He is seen here with one of the Beefeaters, the traditional guards of the Tower.

• Forty Progress Party officials, including three MPs - Mr. M. Kpama, Mr. J. B. Kaba and Mr. A. Ayamga - have been released from protective custody. Fourteen were released in the Upper Region, four in the Eastern Region, sixteen in the Western Region and six in Greater Accra. So far over 1,000 people detained since the coup in January have been released.

• The NRC would always recognise the right of workers to combine freely for peaceful industrial action, the Commissioner of Labour, Maj. Kwame Asante, told the International Labour Organisation Conference in Switzerland. Thus, he said, it had accorded the TUC and its affiliates all the freedom necessary for their orderly development. The NRC did not believe in a multiplicity of central labour unions because experience had taught Ghana that "it is a retrogressive

act which makes it difficult for employers to determine who to deal with in times of crisis".

• Mr. J. R. Baiden, General Secretary of the Maritime and Dock-workers Union, told members of the Railway and Ports Workers Union at Takoradi that there would be no elections for new leaders within the trade unions until 1974. Officers elected at the 1970 Winneba conference must serve their four-year terms; "even Mr. Bentum could come here and walk right into his office without anyone barring him". He warned the workers to beware of "enemies of the country going around spoiling the minds of the workers on trade union matters".

• Mr. Kojo Botsio, a former Cabinet Minister under Dr. Nkrumah, said in Freetown that he would accompany his ex-President's body back to Ghana. He travelled from London to Guinea after Dr. Nkrumah's death. Mr. Botsio said that he would remain in Guinea until the body was returned. During his visit to Freetown he called on President Stevens.

• Two witnesses before the Taylor Assets Committee have been jailed for two years each for contempt. They had claimed to be agents of Chief S. Dombo, former Minister of the Interior, in tracking down illegal currency smugglers.

• The Bank of Ghana has agreed to guarantee the payment for raw materials imported by the Ghana Cement Works following demands by agents who have stopped supplies. The joint state-private company, the sole producer of cement in Ghana, is understood to owe its Norwegian suppliers 11m. cedis.

• The Agricultural Development Bank is to spend 5.2m. cedis in 1972-73 to expand its operations in the production of food crops. 34,522 acres is to be cultivated this year by the Bank under the "package deal maize scheme", being increased to 50,000 in 1973. Loans are to be granted to small-scale fishermen outside the IDA project to build larger boats.

• Col. S. Asante said on his arrival in Lagos to take up his post as Ghana's High Commissioner that he hoped for co-operation from Nigerians in the "major task" of fostering closer Nigerian-Ghanaian relations. The two countries could "not afford to part".

• The Milan Savings Bank of Italy is to help to re-organise Ghana's Post Office Savings Bank under a draft agreement of co-operation.

Under the two year agreement the Milan Bank is to offer training facilities for Ghanaian personnel in Italy and make available a team of experts to assist in the re-organisation.

• 250 wells with hand pumps are to be drilled in Ashanti in the next financial year by the Ghana Water and Sewage Corporation.

• The reconstituted Lands Commission has been asked to make recommendations appropriate to the evolution of a new land tenure system.

## SIERRA LEONE Stevens opens Parliament

Opening the fifth session of the first parliament of the Republic, President Stevens presented a review of the past year and mentioned some plans for the future. Both agriculture and education had priority in his presidential address: "Government continues to accord the highest importance to the development of agriculture and its policy in this regard continues to be directed towards increasing the production of foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials". Cultivation of rice continued to receive the highest priority in an effort to eliminate imports. Farmers would continue to be encouraged to grow more vegetables, and in its effort to bridge the protein gap the government intended to devote greater attention to the exploitation of fisheries and marine resources. Emphasis would be laid on the production of cash crops to increase the income of the rural population. Wild life and their habits, the President said were assets which should be preserved and used in the nation's interest. Increased support would be given to institutions and agencies engaged in agricultural research. Thus more and intensive training would be provided for research workers, extension workers and farmers.

The President said that he recognised the technical assistance provided by various foreign governments and hoped that it would continue on a larger scale, to accelerate Sierra Leone's agricultural progress.

On the foreign policy of neutrality and non-alignment, he said that steps had been taken to diversify representation abroad. During the past year, missions were established in the Peoples Republic of China, Italy, and The Gambia and diplomatic recognition extended to North Korea, Bangla Desh, Saudi Arabia and Cuba. Relations had greatly improved with Guinea, Liberia and Nigeria.

President Stevens said the resumption of rutile mining in the Moyamba District, the activities of Diminco and the exploration for oil were encouraging. The government was pursuing its policy to improve tourism; the opening of Cape Sierra Hotel had provided "a new vista of hope".

Dr. Stevens noted that during the past two years, government has been pre-occupied with problems connected with local government reform. The performance of District Councils had deteriorated so badly that government was forced to suspend them with effect from January last. The Rural Area Council had been dissolved for the same reason.

The Rural Development Grant had been reviewed to meet specific needs in the rural area; a programme of feeder road development had begun.

Government was anxious to ensure that the educational system was relevant to society's needs. The school curriculum was being revised and educational

planning developed. More teachers had entered training colleges; the target intake per college per year would be 250 against the present 140. At Milton Margai Teachers College the intake would be 283 and the output 153 a year for the next five years. Plans were in hand for the standardisation of primary school fees at a maximum of Le2 per annum. The Government wanted to establish a system of fee-paying in secondary schools to reduce financial burden on parents and curb the high drop-out rate.

A national technical and vocational education programme was being developed with the help of international organisations, and the government was considering the provision of other school buildings to satisfy the growing demand. Steps to improve and extend facilities for school broadcasting and visual aids had been taken. President Siaka Stevens revealed that the number of Sierra Leoneans enjoying scholarships at institutions of higher education at home and abroad had increased by 400.

A sizeable quantity of SLST assets bought by Diminco, in which the government has a 51 per cent interest, was found to be obsolete under six months after the takeover. President Stevens told Mr. A. Chester Beatty, the Chairman of Consolidated African Selection Trust (CAST), the parent company of SLST. Mr. Beatty was in Sierra Leone to see Diminco under the new set-up. President Stevens also expressed disquiet that Diminco's management board seemed to be concentrated more in London than in Sierra Leone "a situation not to the economic advantage of this country". However, he was "delighted" with the first Diminco report, despite problems of illicit digging and smuggling. Mr. Beatty said that he appreciated the security measures at the mines.



The President with Mr. Beatty

The Director of Barclays Bank International, Mr. A. E. Ambrose, on his first visit to Freetown since the bank was locally incorporated, expressed satisfaction over the enthusiastic response to the recent share issue. He was interested in the plans for agriculture as outlined in the President's address to parliament and thought that his bank could assist as it had an agricultural expert who could be available to Sierra Leone on request.

Algerian President Houari Boumediene has invited President Stevens to participate in his country's 10th independence anniversary celebrations on July 2. President Stevens said arrangements would be made for Sierra Leone to be represented at the highest level as far as practicable at the celebrations.

Mr. Messaoudi, Guinea-based Algerian ambassador, invited Trade and Industry Minister, Mr. S. A. Fofana, to attend the ninth international trade fair in Algeria in September. He said the Algerian Government was anxious to enter into a friendly relationship with the Sierra Leone Government and to promote economic and social co-operation between the two states.

Anyone wishing to remit funds out of Sierra Leone must in future seek permission from the Bank of Sierra Leone, the Finance Minister, Mr. A. Kamara-Taylor, has announced. The decision came after Britain's announcement that the pound sterling would be allowed to float. The Minister said the Bank of Sierra Leone was fully equipped to handle speedily all applications for remittance of funds out of the country, and that the government's policy on foreign investment remained unchanged. The action taken was necessary to ensure the stability of the Leone.

The International Development Association, a World Bank affiliate, has approved credit equivalent to £1.6m. to help finance an integrated rural development project. Rice, cocoa and palm oil production by smallholders is to be developed in the southern and eastern regions under the plan. The loan is for a 50-year period with a 10-year grace period, it is interest free except for a small service charge. A similar study is planned for the Northern Region.

Unless the government encouraged more harvesting, export of palm kernels would soon decrease, said the Chairman of the Produce Marketing Board, Paramount Chief R. Coker. He would recommend that for future commercial advantage Sierra Leone should grow soya beans, groundnuts and benniseed as their prices on the world market had increased. Chief Coker had just returned from a conference on seed crushing in Japan.

The Sierra Leone Petroleum Refinery Company (SLPRIC) has supplied fuel oil to a giant ore carrier, Jacob Malmros, the first operation of the kind. Two oil barges and the Texaco tug Jasmin were used.

Giant carriers now use the Sierra Leone Development Company port at Pepel, dredged to accommodate them, but have bunkered at non-Sierra Leone ports.

Mr. N. Buck, MP for Bonthe Urban North constituency, has been sworn in as Minister of Housing and Country Planning in succession to Mr. Manfred Cole, who died recently in America.

The public are reminded that the old-type Sierra Leone Passports will become invalid after June 30.

## CHAD

### The June Plot

Six suspected subversives are being put on display in Fort Lamy, to answer questions from journalists. The men were arrested on June 5. The head of President Tombalbaye's military staff, Colonel Djogo Gatugo said they had confessed to planning an attack on Fort Lamy's power and broadcast station. Leaders of the plot, said Col. Gatugo, were Mahamat Abba, a former political prisoner recently released by president Tombalbaye, and Jean-Claude Gentil, a former French army sergeant-major, now known as Major-General Emile of the Frolinat, owner of a restaurant at Fort Archambault. Reports that the men had infiltrated from Cameroon were later denied in Fort Lamy.

A presidential communiqué said that the men had a welcoming committee in Chad "among us, under our eyes and at our sides" which was now being dismantled. It compared the recent plot with the events of 1963 "when imperialist stooges invaded the streets of Fort Lamy to assassinate our peaceful fellow citizens". The same persons who planned 1963 were now planning another heinous crime, and were guided by the same masters, said the President. He also mentioned that at a meeting at Fort Lamy race course on June 10 some individuals "drunk with freedom, ventured to publicly insult the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Minister of the Interior. Everybody knows what followed these insults".

The meeting at the racecourse had seen the setting up of a Humanitarian Vigilance Committee to "help save the nation by informing on anyone suspected of acting against the state". Similar vigilance committees have been set up through the country.

On June 14 a further arms cache including sten guns, revolvers, grenades, cartridges and detonators was discovered, and on June 18 security measures whereby all cars in the capital were searched in the fight against the "fifth column and its débauchées" were introduced, but were stopped six days later. The searches were described as "psychological action" and extended to all including foreigners and members of the Bureau Politique.

- In a press statement put out in Algiers on June 21, to mark the first anniversary of Frolinat, the Front claimed that it had won "many striking military victories on the battlefield and political victories no less shining" in its fight against the Tombalbaye government. In the first quarter of this year, claimed the statement, Frolinat forces had killed 186 Chadian soldiers, destroyed or hit four helicopters and two transport planes, as well as five military trucks. A growing number of Chad army soldiers were deserting for the "peoples' liberation forces", and the guerrilla troops had spread almost throughout the country.

Stating as one of its basic objectives that "Chad will not be the agrarian appendage of any imperialist country", Frolinat described President Tombalbaye's government as "a régime that is politically anti-people and juridically anti-constitutional".

Frolinat has also claimed that its representative in Khartoum had been jailed.

- Two French junior officers have been killed in action in North-west Chad. Named as Adjutant Delavaud and Sergeant-Major Pont-Dumond, they were killed in a clash with rebels in a palm-grove, 150 km. north-west of Faya-Largeau, capital of the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti Department. The officers were serving as military technical assistants in the Chad army.

• President Tombalbaye, in an interview, called for a Central African Economic Grouping which would include Zaire, Chad and Sudan, and other Francophone countries extending from "the Red Sea to the Atlantic".

- Chad has reaffirmed its support for the Arab cause in the Middle East conflict. The statement was issued at the end of a four-day visit to Lebanon by foreign Minister Baba Hassane, and also stressed the need for enforcement of UN resolutions on the Middle East crisis, and respect of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the principles on which a permanent peace should be based.

### Chad Basin summit planned

The Executive Secretary of the Chad Basin Commission, Mr. Benson Tonwe, has been visiting the four member countries (Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroon) to discuss regional development of the basin and the preparations for a summit of heads of state of the four countries scheduled to be held in Fort Lamy. The meeting will be held on July 5, and will be the first summit of Lake Chad leaders since November 1964 when they met in Maiduguri.

Mr. Tonwe told a news conference in Fort Lamy that certain agencies were reducing their material contributions to Commission programmes for budgetary reasons "which means the projects are more or less suspended at the moment". He mentioned such projects as the transformation of three experimental agricultural stations into centres (at Fort Foureaux in Cameroon, Diffa in Niger and Ngala in Nigeria). A fourth centre was also planned at Koudoul in Chad, and development projects in fishing and cattle breeding. "Unfortunately everything has been put back into the melting pot. We shall need the help of external agencies as well as international experts, but this help must not become the determining factor for our organisation's future projects". The organisation must be given its own base, he said. "Next month's session is particularly important in that we shall discuss the ways of giving the commission

the new structures necessary for it pursue more efficiently the objectives defined by our heads of state eight years ago - the harmonious development of the region". He said the commission would propose a re-organisation of financing of the secretariat. If these were adopted would made lengthy studies into concrete methods of strengthening co-operation. The summit follows a meeting of experts and will discuss 16 items, including proposal for the creation of an economic community in cattle and meat.

## TOGO

### War on corruption

The government has announced that it has declared war on corruption and on those who "trade in influence". A joint meeting of the government and the Political Bureau of ruling RPT gave as an example four Togolese who extorted 2m CFA from a Lebanese trader, and another, at present in jail, who tricked a trader into handing over 3m. francs (£4,500). They said they were acting for President Eyadema or were close friends of his. Another Togolese took 290,000 CFA (£450) for finding a place in an overseas school, and another a similar sum to intervene for a civil servant accused of embezzlement. Party members were called on to report all instances of corruption.

## DAHOMEY

Dahomey Head of State Justice Ahomadegbe told newsmen in Paris that President Pompidou had confirmed to him his desire to increase French aid to Dahomey to help that country's development. M. Ahomadegbe, speaking after an hour's talk with Mr. Pompidou, said the President had also confirmed his desire to visit Dahomey next November. The exact date of this visit has not yet been fixed.

M. Ahomadegbe said that his talks with the French President had dealt mainly with relations between their two countries and African and international problems. He admitted that the economic situation in Dahomey was not as good as it could be. It was "never very excellent" in developing countries, he said. The new Head of State was on his first visit to France since he took over on May 7, as Chairman of the Presidential Council.

## MAURITANIA

### Madame Binh visit

Madame Binh, foreign Minister of the South Vietnamese Provisional Revolutionary Government, has been on a visit to Mauritania. She said her visit had enabled her to measure the understanding and support of the Mauritanian people for the Vietnamese cause. She congratulated the government of President Ould Daddah on its achievements in the economic, social and cultural fields in order to consolidate their national independence.

## MALI State firm scandal

About 15 people have now been arrested in Bamako over a corruption scandal which has cost Mali's State vegetable oil production company "SEPOM" more than 42 million Malian francs (over £32,000). Another ten people have been asked to be ready to answer questions. The men implicated are charged with pocketing some 17 million Malian francs (over £13,000) with the remainder disappearing as a result of fraudulent transport dockets.

- The FAO's World Food Programme is to divert 2,850 tons of sorghum from Mali to Niger to counter famine caused by recent droughts. The United States, which supplied the sorghum under a bilateral aid agreement with Mali, has ordered the ship carrying it to change course and put in to Cotonou, Dahomey, instead, from where the cargo will be taken overland to Niger. It is expected to feed some 150,000 people. Enough food for another 5,000 people will be sent through Lagos, Nigeria. Total cost of the two operations is estimated at \$657,000.

## IVORY COAST

The National Committee for Tourism has recommended that the government invest 6,000m. CFA francs (about £9m.) in the next three years for the development of tourism. This would enable the country to handle about 100,000 tourists by 1975 and 300,000 by 1980, says the committee's study, which was published by its sites and facilities commission. In 1971 about 60,000 tourists visited Ivory Coast.

- A three-man Canadian development mission, including the Director-General of the Quebec Hotel and Tourism Institute, and aid officials, has been in Abidjan to discuss the possible creation of a hotel and tourism centre on the "African Riviera".

- A \$9m. credit has been approved by the International Development Association for an education project in Cameroon that is aimed at reforming and improving the educational system and providing trained technicians and skilled workers.

- A \$17.5m. loan is being given by the World Bank for a highway maintenance and improvement project in Ivory Coast.

## IN BRIEF

President Diouf has had discussions with Canadian Ambassador Georges Charpentier on plans for a hydro-electric scheme to bring power to Niger from the Kainji Dam in Nigeria. A joint study group would investigate the building of a power line from Niamey to the Nigerian border.

- North Korea and Cameroon have established diplomatic relations at ambassador level.

## NIGERIA Ejor attacks "plotters"

Certain foreign countries which did not like the progress currently being made by Nigeria were behind a plot to divide the army and cause fresh confusion in the country, the Chief of Staff, Major-General David Ejor, said at Kaduna Airport. The plot had been foiled by the Federal Government. The unnamed countries, he told reporters, were using "some people and organisations in Nigeria and doing everything possible to "divide, exploit and knock our heads together". Some of the people and organisations concerned, within and outside the country, had been identified by the Government, which had taken steps to foil their efforts. Calling for vigilance against "these forces of evil" he urged all Nigerians of goodwill to come together and fight them.



Gen. Ejor with Lt. Comm. Dietspiff, Rivers State Governor, during a recent visit to Port Harcourt.

- All schools in Lagos have re-opened following a week's closure during a pay strike by teachers. State education authorities reached an agreement with the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT), which had declared a trade dispute on wages and conditions of service. The NUT announced that the government had gone a long way to improve service conditions. In other parts of Nigeria most teachers returned to work on union orders pending the outcome of investigations into their demands promised by General Gowon.

Earlier the publicity secretary of the teacher's union, Mr. S. K. Babaola, was reported arrested in Ibadan and transferred to detention in Lagos.

Announcing that all government-maintained primary schools and all grant-aided post-primary institutions in Lagos State would re-open as soon as the NUT gave a written assurance that its members would resume teaching the State Commissioner for Education, Chief Adeniran Ogunsanya, said "We are not going to eat our words and no government will allow any of its functionaries to take her to ransom". The schools had been closed a week earlier after ministry officials in the state had found pupils roaming unsupervised through the classrooms. The government said that it had approved - among

other demands - annual paid vacation for said that it had approved - among other demands - annual paid vacation for

- Out of a gross income of £766,899 which represents a return of approximately 17 per cent on the investment portfolio, the 1971 pre-tax profit made by Northern Nigeria Investments Ltd amounted to £666,054, compared with £870,079 in 1970. "This fall in pre-tax profitability is due primarily to the fall in dividend income during a year in which many of the Company's portfolio companies themselves experienced falling turnover," notes the chairman, Ahmed Talib, in his annual report. "I must also point out that a decreasing proportion of dividend income is derived from tax free pioneer profits, and as a result, the tax payable by the Company has increased accordingly." Total investment during 1971 was N£658,390 (1970 £N264,249), of which N£573,390 was invested in eight existing projects and N£85,000 in two new projects.

Noting that the company's authorised share capital has been increased to £4.4m. he said that formalities are in hand for a further bonus issue to shareholders from capitalised reserves in the proportion of one new share for every 10 presently held. "This will help to restore the balance between paid up capital, and the book value of our investments which now stands at £4,679,638. ... because of bonus issues which NNIL has had from its portfolio companies over the past few years, the nominal value of its investments stands well in excess of £5m. This hidden margin over book value adds further strength to the Company's general reserves and undistributed profits which, in total amount to £569,000".

The end of the year, and the early months of 1972, saw a number of NNIL's portfolio companies under liquidity pressures, as sales declined and as stocks and work in progress mounted. Cuts in production ensued, with consequential laying off of labour. "None of us, either in the public or private sector, benefit from these seasonal and economic troughs. Manufacturing companies must sell, and sell profitably, to exist, and the fortunes of shareholders, management and labour alike are best served by steadily rising sales graphs. This in turn depends largely on stable economic conditions, underpinned by enlightened and thrusting management creating a competitive and flexible production base always amenable to diversification and expansion. Confidence in our institutions, Government and ourselves are essential ingredients in the evolution of our industrial development and I am confident that with the fullest co-operation, the present uncertainty which hangs over some industrial sectors will be resolved. In a modest way, NNIL reflects this confidence, for the Company is actively joining with State Governments and other interested sponsors in the planning and financing of additional textile mills and the diversification of existing productive capacity."

• Mr. Ateoye Oyebola has been appointed editor of the independent *Daily Times*. He succeeds Mr. Henry Odukomaia, who becomes the deputy Chief Executive in the newspaper division from July 1.

• State governments had no power to undertake projects in the Four Year Development Plan without the approval of the Federal Government, the Federal Commissioner for Economic Development and Reconstruction, Dr. Adebayo Adedeji, has stated. The Plan, he said, was the product of Federal Government officials working closely with state government officials.

• The situation of about 100 Nigerian Moslems imprisoned in Saudi Arabia for drug trafficking during last year's pilgrimage to Mecca was among the subjects discussed when Sheikh Mohammed Al-Sawaf, special envoy of King Feisal, met Nigerian leaders during a one-week goodwill visit.

• Two-hundred railway wagons, purchased by means of a loan provided by the World Bank, have been delivered to the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

• The Nigerian Industrial Development Bank is to finance Zaria Textile Mills, one of the projects affected by the deportation last year of Mr. Suliman Nagaty of Davis of America.

• An Italian trade mission has begun a two-week sales drive in Nigeria.

## FROM THE STATES

The North-Central State has released £50,000 for the rehabilitation of beggars this financial year. Col. Abba Kyari said on his return from Lagos that the financial assistance follows a report submitted by a committee appointed to explore ways of rehabilitating beggars. There are an estimated 500,000 handicapped persons of various categories in the state.

• At the beginning of his second "meet the people" tour of the Western State, the Governor, Brig Oluwole Rotimi, said that a code of conduct for civil servants and local government officials in the State would be introduced to supplement the proposed Federal Government decree against corruption. He also urged the people of the State to resist the activities "of the few among us who believe in anarchy. The military régime will not brook chaos".

• Cholera deaths in Ibadan are increasing, according to a report by the French news agency, *Agence France Presse*.

• The Midwest Government will consider selling some of its industries to private businessmen, provided they pay an initial instalment of 20 per cent of the price and the balance by monthly instalments. This was announced by the Governor, Colonel Ogbemudia, at a meeting with businessmen in Benin.

• During a visit to Jos the Chairman of the Federal Public Services Commission, Alhaji Sule Katagum, suggested that state governments appoint career officers to liaise between their State Public Service Commissions and the Federal one on the appointment of personnel to the Federal Public service. He explained that his Commission had been experiencing difficulties over the appointment of personnel from some states.

• Twelve medical officers have been recruited from overseas by Benue Plateau State.

• Police reinforcements were sent to Ishinkwe, 40 miles from Enugu, when a land feud sparked off rioting and arson in the village. Five people were reportedly killed and many injured and "hundreds" of homes burned down.

• The £0.75m. Bagauda Lake Hotel, owned by the Kano State Government, is due to be opened in September, the Governor, Police Commissioner Audu Bako, has announced.

• One hundred and fifteen buses are to be added to the Lagos City transport Service by the end of the year and river transport is to be introduced in all areas of the state.

• The Emirs of Ilorin, Bauchi and Borgu, have been on a two-week tour of the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Moslem Religious Board of Central Asia.

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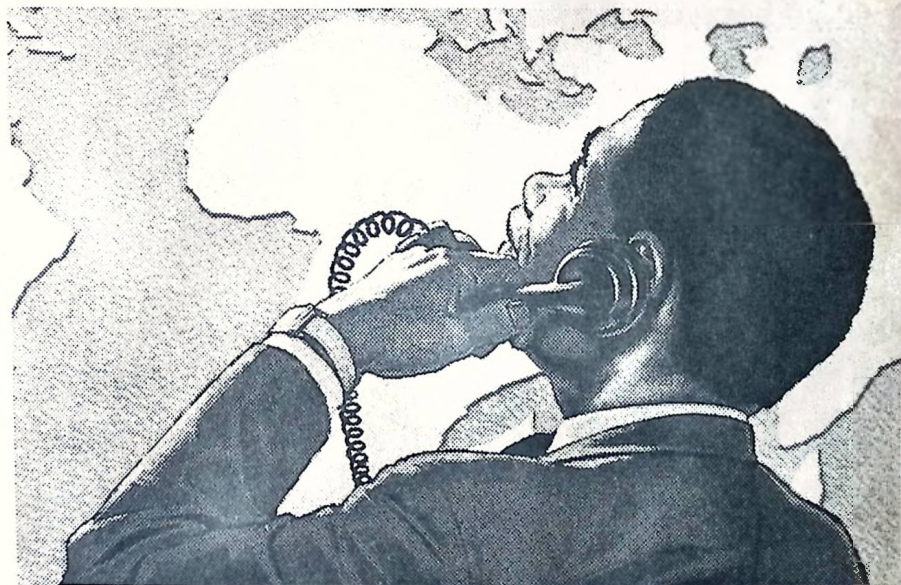
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