

# WEST AFRICA

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A scene of pathos and tension from "Love Brewed in the African Pot", a new Ghanaian film reviewed inside.

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Road from Calabar to Yaounde

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The Pope in Africa

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Nigerian budget analysed

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Baccus Matthews in Freetown

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Limann rejects call to resign

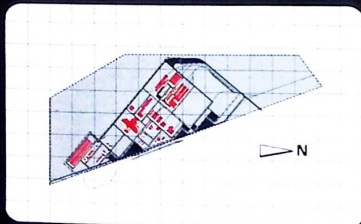
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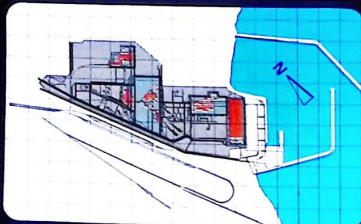
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# Road from Calabar to Yaounde

"WHY IS IT that a Senegalese businessman in Dakar finds it impossible to telephone his counterpart in Nairobi? Why can't the businessman in Lomé telephone his brother in Kampala to find out the latest development in the Ugandan agro-industry? Why is it that the businessman in Lusaka does not know what is going on in the Lagos Stock Exchange? Why is it not possible to drive straight from Calabar in Nigeria to Yaounde in the neighbouring Republic of Cameroon?"

These questions were asked by President Shagari in his opening address to the OAU Economic Summit in Lagos. They underline what was frequently emphasised at the conference: that no ideals of African unity are possible without a basic infrastructure of transport and communications. This is not a new discovery — in 1977 the ECA Conference of Ministers began a process that resulted in the United Nations declaring 1978-88 the "Transport and Communications Decade for Africa" — but it has attained an urgency with the emphasis on African economic integration leading to an African Economic Community by 2000.

There is no shortage of plans. For the first phase up to 1983 there are 450 transport projects and 100 communication projects ready for implementation. These were all screened and approved by the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning held in Addis Ababa in May, 1979, and they have been published in two volumes entitled "Global Strategy and Plan of Action, First Phase, 1980-83". The cost for these 550 projects, plus the cost of studies relating to 221 more projects, amounts to \$8.85 bn.

It is easier to make plans than to implement them, and easier to calculate costs and add up figures in a balance sheet than to ensure miles of road are built. Again the organisation is ready: according to the Plan of Action passed in Lagos, a conference of African ministers responsible for transport and communications will be convened every two years to follow up the implementation programme and to define the means for mobilising the

resources needed. At a sub-regional level the five Multi-National Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) set up by the ECA in 1977 (in West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, North Africa and the Great Lakes Community) will co-ordinate the implementation of the programme, with ministers reviewing it annually.

A first step towards ensuring that the plans result in roads is that funds should be provided. After much preparatory work by the ECA a Pledging Conference was held on November 20, 1979, in New York, attended by industrialised countries and financial institutions. The aim of the preparatory work was to encourage them to increase their assistance to Africa in order to finance this programme. This resulted, according to the Plan of Action, in "firm commitments, exclusively by African countries, totally \$155,588; and pledges for contributions for the development of transport and communications in Africa in the form of bi-lateral assistance by a number of industrialised countries, Nigeria (for its own programme), and various international financial institutions, totalling some \$6.3 bn."

Most of the roads planned are part of the ambitious Trans-Africa Highway (its main trunk and feeder roads). The need for development was dramatically illustrated by one set of figures mentioned in last week's special report on transport in *West Africa*: if each of the independent countries of Africa had just one road link with its immediate neighbours, there would be 84 interstate links altogether; at the moment there are only 25 such links which are practicable all the year round; 33 more are unimproved roads and tracks that are unusable in the rainy season; six are roads that have not been built at all.

On railways the projects selected for the first phase of the Transport and Communications Decade are aimed at making present railway systems more efficient. The prospect later of integrating some 31 independent networks using five different gauges is daunting.

African ports are in urgent need of renovation and marine transport — a new interest for many African countries — requires much effort, capital and training if it is to develop as needed. The development of an adequate air transport infrastructure needs firstly the extension and modernisation of airports, which is going on apace.

The continued implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network (PANAFTEL) is also bringing a noticeable improvement in communicating between African states, and increased use of satellites may speed things up. But there is still a long way to go. At an OAU conference it is commonplace to observe journalists filing news from Lagos to Cairo, Nairobi or Kinshasa — by way of Paris or London.

The Plan of Action sums things up like this: "Transport and communications together constitute an essential tool, which must be created, developed and maintained if African industry, agriculture, forestry and mining are to expand... Transport and communications are thus a prerequisite for development; with their air the immense potential of the continent can be rationally exploited with some chance of complete success."

The questions that President Shagari posed to the OAU will need to be asked again at regular intervals. The state of the road from Calabar to Yaounde might be taken as a measure of the possibility of African unity.

## CONTENTS

Comment: Does Liberian economy face 'collapse'? The Pope's message for Africa .....	820
Nigeria: Budget figures analysed .....	821
Matchet's Diary .....	823
Three articles on films from Africa:	
Ghanaian love story .....	824
Nigerian metaphysical escape .....	826
Director interviewed .....	828
Memoirs of Fourah Bay during the war .....	830
Freetown lawyers confer .....	831
ADB's year of records .....	833
Books and publications: Introduction to Nigerian law .....	835
Letters .....	840
Economic and business news .....	842
Dateline Africa: Limann stands firm .....	849

## Does Liberia's economy face 'collapse'?

FUNDAMENTAL questions of political economy are raised by a Reuters report from Monrovia that businessmen there feared the collapse of the economy. Businessmen were "jittery" after seeing their shops ransacked in April last year — here, the correspondent provides an original estimate of the damage done (\$60m.) and says "most of the looting was done by soldiers" — and although this April the damage was less ("estimated at only several million dollars"), businesses, "many of them Lebanese, now are exceedingly apprehensive". He fails to say that the major businesses are Lebanese or owned by the Tolbert and other formerly leading families.

The nature of the Liberian economy begins to appear only after the report that about 80 per cent of importers have stopped placing orders. For businessmen are worried that they will no longer be able to send their profits out of Liberia, "which has traditionally been used by importers as a springboard for re-exporting goods to other states in West Africa. The previous government had no system of export licences and profits could leave the country freely... Now, under the new government, money cannot be freely transferred abroad and export licences are needed."

Revenue from iron ore (about 70 per cent

of Liberia's exports) has slumped, and public expenditure for pay rises ordered by Master Sergeant Doe, and for subsidising a lower rice price, are suggested as daunting problems for the new government. Two solutions are offered: to move off the US dollar or continue reliance on foreign aid. The former "would almost certainly spell disaster according to economic experts [as usual unnamed] so the only real option is foreign aid".

Earlier in the piece, the correspondent reports that "businessmen concede that, in the long term, tightening up on the outflow of money could benefit the country. Liberia has long been a classic example of a country whose natural resources are being extracted by international big business while too few profits are ploughed back into the economy. But they [businessmen, big and small] fear the economy could collapse before the transition to a more equitable system is made." And even earlier, we read that Liberia's own market is of negligible importance because most of the inhabitants live "outside the cash economy", [but had to pay taxes nevertheless].

The main questions raised by this piece are: "Whose economy?" What are the real problems raised by the change of government in Liberia? Is there a real danger of the ordinary Liberian's standard of living dropping because of the "collapse" of the old inequitable economy? The possibility for the latter occurrence only arises if the big business interests who have been dominant decide now to really squeeze the new government in defence of old privileges.

## Message the Pope brings to Africa

THERE IS a well-known African story about the coming of Christianity to the continent. It goes: "Let us pray," they said. And when we closed our eyes to pray they stole our land."

A small element of truth lies behind it, as the Christian Church undoubtedly identified itself with the spread of colonialism, which in those days was thought of not as a system of oppression and exploitation but as a spreading of civilisation and light. But things have become much more complicated. Christianity played a large part in the struggle against slavery and for independence and freedom. The Catholics in particular can be proud of their Church's role in opposing Ian Smith and the racists of South Africa. One thinks also of brave resistance to the cruelties of Amin.

In modern Africa Christianity appears in many guises and is mostly free from a distinct political colouration. It is remarkable, for instance, that the late President Tolbert was a devout Baptist preacher, and that one of Master Sergeant Doe's first actions on seizing power was call for a week of prayer.

The Pope prayed at the site in Zaïre where priests and nuns were murdered the time that independence came with violence to the Belgian Congo. The Church of those days was identified with the Belgian oppressors, unjustly in some ways. Certainly, however, the crowds that welcomed the Pope in Zaïre, Kenya, and now Ghana, Upper Volta and Ivory Coast are unqualified in their enthusiasm and friendliness. It helps that the present Pope, as he has shown in his many other travels, is a man of transparent goodness who has remarkable ability to spread calm and trust. But it is also an indication that Christianity — and Catholicism, in particular — is now a faith to comfort the souls rather than a radical cause to stir people to revolt.

The Pope may find some problems about the collision between the inflexibilities of his faith and the realities of life in Africa. His plea for monogamy and priestly celibacy will meet resistance, for one thing. The drumming, dancing and local variations produced in the liturgy may shock some Catholic authorities. But only good can come from the warmth of the response amongst such huge crowds that the papal visit has stimulated.

There are also lessons to be drawn from the fact the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury should find themselves holding important talks on Ghanaian soil. West Africa is becoming the centre of the religious world. If the time comes around again for a super-power leader to ask "how many divisions has the Pope?" it would not be untrue to say he could call on legions of Africans.

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# Nigeria's nine-month budget

by Dr. Lawrence A. Rupley, Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of Nairobi

A NOTEWORTHY feature of the 1980 budget is that, for the first time, total Federal expenditure on education exceeds that on defence. As shown in Table 1, total 1980 education expenditure (N2,265m., including education-related non-statutory grants) exceeds total defence expenditure (N1,285m.) by 76 per cent. This change is not due to a precipitous decrease in defence expenditure. Rather, it is due to a significant increase in Federal government involvement in education since the early 1970s, and to the inability of the state governments to deal with the enormous increases in expenditure related to Universal Primary Education without substantial discretionary Federal grants. Recurrent education expenditure and discretionary grants thus amount to 27 per cent of total Federal recurrent expenditure for 1980.

It is notable and commendable that the goal set by the military regime to reduce the size of Nigeria's armed forces has been realised by a decrease from about 250,000 to 150,000 men. This was reflected in last year's estimates as a reduction in defence expenditure of nearly 14 per cent from the 1978-79 estimated level. However, the announced further reduction in defence expenditure for 1980 is not as dramatic as it first appears. Total defence expenditure is budgeted at N966m. However, when that is converted to a 12-month basis, it amounts to N1,285m. (Table 2) which is a reduction of only 1.3 per cent from the 1978-79

estimate and is an increase from last year. It is still a remarkable achievement in any country to keep defence expenditure below its level in any previous year. However, care must be taken that actual defence expenditure does not exceed the budget estimates (as has generally occurred since 1966). It is also noteworthy that the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Education have both complained in appearances before House committees that their budgets are insufficient.

The 1980 budget continues to reveal the dependence of governments in Nigeria on petroleum revenues, which has been referred to by policy-makers and commentators for several years. A large part of the increase in estimated revenue from last year to this is the result of the 80 per cent increase in the selling price of Nigeria's oil from April, 1979 to February, 1980 to which President Shagari refers. Such a welcome event is partly fortuitous, as were the four-fold OPEC price increases of 1973 and 1974. There is a need for caution because Nigeria — acting alone — cannot control that oil price, and government oil revenue can fall dramatically if either the oil price or quantity sold should decrease significantly. The restraint forced upon the 1978-79 budget as a result of the 1977 downturn in oil revenue should not be forgotten.

The nine-month 1980 expenditure on agriculture of N284m. exceeds last year's estimate of N118m. and on an annual basis

is more than three times as large. The President has announced his intention to improve agriculture significantly. If the ten-year deterioration in the agricultural sector is to be overcome, the budgeted amount is certainly not too large, and must not be merely a one-year effort.

A welcome feature of the 1980 draft Federal budget in Nigeria is that relatively complete revenue and expenditure data were available for publication by April 1. This presumably occurred because the draft estimates had to be in written form for presentation to members of the National Assembly when the President addressed them on March 18th. However, some inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the financial details of the budget continue to appear, as they have for the past two decades. Therefore, attention should still be given to the reduction of such inconsistencies in future. Some instances, derived from published information, are given below. The page references are to issues of *West Africa* published during March and April of this year.

## A few inaccuracies

(1) In the budget speech by President Shagari the 1980 deficit in the capital development fund is reported at N283bn. (p. 559); however, use of the other numbers in that same paragraph suggests that both a digit and a decimal point are missing, making the deficit N2,283bn. instead.

(2) The budget speech reports the 1980 anticipated statutory allocations to state governments to be N2,541m. (p. 559) while the budget summary states them to be N2,546.8m. (p. 638).

(3) There is a discrepancy between the

TABLE 1  
NIGERIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (N million)<sup>1</sup>

	Col 1 1973-74	Col 2 1974-75	Col 3 1975-76	Col 4 1976-77	Col 5 1977-78	Col 6 1978-79*	Col 7 1979-80*	Col 8 1980*	Col. 9 1980*
									(9 mos.) (annual basis) <sup>2</sup>
Totally federally-collected recurrent revenue	2,171.4	5,177.1	5,861.5	7,070.6	8,359.0	6,815.2	8,805.0	11,859.8	15,773.5
Less statutory allocations									
to state governments	323.8	833.7	963.1	1,414.9	1,795.9	1,637.1	2,234.0	2,546.8	3,387.2
to local governments	—	—	—	—	—	150.0	300.0	278.0	369.7
Total federally-retained revenue	1,847.6	4,343.4	4,898.4	5,655.7	6,563.1	5,028.1	6,271.0	9,035.0	12,016.6
Total recurrent expenditure (net of transfers to development fund and statutory allocations)	795.7	808.6	2,466.6	2,158.6	2,933.0	2,650.0	2,900.0	3,700.0	4,921.0
Total capital expenditure (net of loans on-lent to state governments)	765.4	1,683.9	3,822.7	4,913.1	5,627.5	5,200.0	6,610.0	7,323.0	9,739.6
Total expenditure	1,562.1	2,492.5	6,289.3	7,071.7	8,560.5	7,850.0	9,510.0	11,023.0	14,660.6
Budget surplus/(deficit)	285.5	1,850.9	(1,390.9)	(1,416.0)	(1,997.4)	(2,821.9)	(3,239.0)	(1,988.0)	(2,644.0)
Direct taxes	1,215.3	3,139.0	3,417.1	4,076.1	4,948.8	3,646.5	5,326.0	7,226.0	9,610.6
Mining	336.9	1,343.5	1,376.3	1,729.3	1,565.1	1,255.7	1,780.4	3,125.9	4,157.5
Customs and Excise	509.2	521.6	833.7	933.1	1,244.8	1,584.4	1,240.6	1,056.0	1,404.5
Of which Import duties	299.8	364.0	704.7	761.8	1,059.0	1,263.3	950.0	n.a.	n.a.
Excise duties	202.1	149.0	122.3	163.0	176.3	306.5	271.7	n.a.	n.a.
Non-statutory grants	12.0	135.3	485.3	574.2	559.6	685.2	593.1	446.5	593.9

Source: Various *Official Gazettes* and Budget Estimates of Federation of Nigeria and 1980 budget data reported in *West Africa*.

<sup>1</sup>Figures are actual amounts except where indicated; 1978-79 and 1979-80 are approved estimates while 1980 is President's budget submission to National Assembly.

<sup>2</sup>Fiscal year April 1 to March 31, except fiscal 1980 April 1—December 31. Annual basis 1980 is Col. 8 multiplied by 1.33.

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₦590m. of non-statutory grants reported in the budget speech (p. 559) and the ₦446.5m. reported in the detailed table of 1980 non-statutory appropriations (p. 638).

(4) The detailed table on page 638 also shows the 1979-80 estimate for non-statutory grants as ₦593m. while the summary of recurrent expenditure heads states the amount as ₦651.5m (p. 637).

(5) There is also a considerable inaccuracy in the addition of two columns in the summary of recurrent expenditure heads table (pp. 637, 638).

(6) Finally, it is difficult to believe that the actual amount of non-statutory grants to state governments in 1978-79 was only ₦101m. (p. 638) inasmuch as the amounts of such grants in each year since 1974 have run at least four times higher than that amount (see Table 1 herein).

It is possible that a few of these discrepancies arise from errors in press reporting. However, this author's considerable experience over the past decade leads to the conclusion that it is much more likely that the errors are in the data released by the government. Such errors are not unique to either civilian or military governments (nor are they confined only to Federal government budgets). However, the published *Estimates* are the most accessible source of government budget information for Nigerian citizens, and every effort ought to be made to see that that information is accurate.

## Lower deficit

The following comments are necessary to reconcile the figures in Table 1 with the President's budget speech. In Column 8 of Table 1 the amount of estimated statutory allocation payments to the states in 1980 is ₦2,546.8m. as reported in the summary of recurrent expenditure; in consequence, the amount of Federally-retained revenue shown in Column 8 is ₦9,035m. rather than

the ₦9,040m. contained in the budget speech. In addition, total capital expenditure as shown in Column 8 is ₦7,323m., and excludes ₦300m. of loan-to state governments. Such loans are not part of Federal government expenditure, but should be recorded instead by the states when used to finance their expenditure. The consequence of the comments above is that the Federal government's deficit (total non-interest revenue less total expenditure) shown in Column 8 is ₦1,988m. rather than ₦2,283m. as derived from the President's budget speech.

## Inflation may get worse

Perhaps the most interesting feature of Table 1 is Column 9, which converts the numbers in Column 8 to a 12-month basis (since fiscal 1980 runs for only 9 months). This conversion makes the numbers for 1980 comparable to previous 12-month fiscal years. In comparison of annual basis 1980 (Column 8) with the 1979-80 estimates (Col. 7) shows that Federally-retained revenue virtually doubled, while total Federal expenditure increased by 54 per cent. Although revenue growth reduces the size of the budget deficit, it does not eliminate it (₦2,644m. on annual basis). In light of the President's announced desire to curb inflation it seems reasonable to ask whether a 70 per cent increase in recurrent and a 70 per cent increase in capital expenditure wise, particularly when it results in a deficit of such magnitude. It is quite true that the desire for more rapid economic development provides a very strong push in the direction of increased expenditure. However, such increased deficit-financed expenditure may well contribute to worsening of inflation rather than to cure.

TABLE 2  
DEFENCE AND EDUCATION EXPENDITURE, 1978-1980  
NIGERIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
(N million)<sup>1</sup>

	1978-79	1979-80	1980 (9 mos)	(annual basis)
<b>DEFENCE EXPENDITURE</b>				
Recurrent	596	520	466	
Capital	706	602	500	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Total as per cent of 1978-79	100%	86.2%	—	96%
<b>EDUCATION EXPENDITURE</b>				
Recurrent	268	326	566	
Education-related non-statutory recurrent grants	506	588	443	
Total recurrent education expenditure	774	914	1,009	1,000
Capital	211	391	694	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>2,000</b>

Source: Various *Official Gazettes* and Budget *Estimates* of Federation of Nigeria and 1980 budget data reported in *West Africa*.

<sup>1</sup>Figures for 1978-79 and 1979-80 are approved estimates and 1980 is President's budget submission to National Assembly.

# Matchet's Diary

AN INSIGHT on the thinking on Nigerian political problems by the former Head of State, General Olusegun Obasanjo, is given in a lecture that he delivered recently at Ibadan University, where he is Distinguished Fellow at the School of African Studies.

Since civilian rule returned on October 1, Gen. Obasanjo has been living at his house and farm near Abeokuta deliberately keeping out of the limelight. Though a most friendly and hospitable man, he refuses to grant interviews to the press, feeling that this silence makes a positive contribution to Nigerian stability. (A recent "interview" in the London *Daily Telegraph* was in fact a somewhat deplorable transmogrification of an off-the-record chat.)

The Ibadan lecture was on international relations, but it contained several passing comments on home affairs. Gen. Obasanjo said of the Ibadan invitation that after leaving public service he was tempted to become a recluse. "But knowing myself as I do, I won't fit into a life of recluse. All the same I needed the rest and the dim light, and as a good soldier — that is not being immodest — I believed I should be heard less than I should be seen." He was modest about his academic abilities, but nevertheless he felt able to accept the Ibadan fellowship.

He said that there was a consensus now in Nigeria for a federal constitution and a presidential system. "The brief diversion into a unitary form of government even under military rule in 1966 spelt disaster for the proponent of the idea and convulsion for the country." He added: "I believe that the reality of cultural differences and the fact of difference in religious beliefs must be recognised and appreciated but must not in themselves be a source of instability or disunity."

"I also believe that the existence of five political parties in the field should not necessarily lead to political instability. Rather it should lead to the healthy play of politics until there is a coalescence, if there will be. In the context of Nigeria, the objectives of the parties are nearly the same: the political, social and economic well-being of the citizenry. Where differences exist they are in the methods and means of achieving the objectives, and even here no political party has opted for any economic system outside strong public sectors in strategic areas of production, transportation, communication, utilities and the social services, leading and directing a virile, effective and non-monopolistic private sector in the residual areas of the economy. The provisions of the constitution are also clear in this regard."

"In so far as the end is the same, the means to be adopted will depend on the personalities concerned based on their background, orientation and prejudices. I believe that a regular and objective discussion of means and options must be



Gen. Obasanjo: keeping away from the limelight

seen as a *sine qua non* to the evolution of any strong human institution. I also believe that the use of abusive, crude and uncouth language, instead of dispassionate discussion of issues, is an indication of bankruptcy of ideas and in the African context a reflection on the upbringing."

The general did not mention any names in his lecture, but no one in the audience had any doubt that he was referring to Chief Obafemi Awolowo, the UPN leader who the week before had made a most unrestrained attack on the government and on the record of General Obasanjo's regime.

The general added: "Elegance of manners, thoughts and words are not only reflections on a man's upbringing but also an indication of his purity of conscience and standing as a gentleman." He said the quality of leadership at all levels was the factor making for the success of the system. "The military have endeavoured to build bridges of understanding, trust, tolerance and mutual respect between different sections of our society. It would be a great pity if for selfish, sectional or party interests these bridges, which were built with the lives, limbs, blood and sweat of the Nigerian military and the tears of their relatives and friends, are destroyed to leave a gorge of hopelessness, mistrust, bitterness and hatred between any one group of Nigerians and the rest of the country. Our recent history should convince all of us that no one group can lord it over others or make others do its own bidding without dire consequences. The other lesson of our recent history is that the interests of any section of Nigeria cannot be trampled upon or treated with impunity without serious effect on our body politic."

Later in his lecture, General Obasanjo said: "With the excitement of election victories, the depression of election failures, the drama of new appointments and the bitterness of no appointments lifting, our political leaders must face the more challenging task of consolidating our



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national gains and improving on our national achievements so far. Attainment in this respect will be more enduring than puerile and futile attempts at tearing one another apart and pulling down or destroying past endeavours. Our national watchword in political and public statements should be 'Think and talk' rather than 'Talk and think'. Frivolity and irresponsibility should not be part of our system of government or part of our political culture and those in the rough, tough political world of responsibility at all levels must not be deterred from pursuing the right course by the words and deeds of those who live in the cosy world of unconstructive and unobjective criticism and no responsibility."

To quote a final epigram from the general:

"There should be no room for retarding guards in the train of progress; those who cannot be drivers should be passengers."

## Dismissal for Vera Ifudu

THE MUCH-DISCUSSED affair of Miss Vera Ifudu, who was moved from her post as television reporter at the Senate and then suspended because of a complicated row related to the so-called "missing N2.8bn" (see last week's Matchet) has now resulted in her being dismissed. She refused, for reasons I am not clear about, to meet or accept a communication from Chief Olu Adebajo, the Presidential Special Adviser

on Information. The Nigerian Union of Journalists has demanded that she be reinstated.

Chief Olu Adebajo is now exercising direct power over broadcasting affairs in Nigeria — he is the sole authority in the absence of a Board of Governors. Some broadcasters are complaining that there is a marked shift away from freedom and independence; journalists involved in broadcasting have been told that their first loyalty is to the government — not to the viewers or to "truth". Ironically, some broadcasters are recalling the later days of the military regime when, they say, there was more scope.

## Honour for Basil Davidson

I HAVE NEWS of academic honours being conferred on a friend of *West Africa*.

Basil Davidson, much-valued contributor for many years, has had an honorary doctorate conferred upon him by the Open University. The ceremony took place on April 19 in the Great Hall of Exeter University, with Basil magnificently gowned in the Open University's blue and yellow doctoral colours. Professor James Barber pronounced the eulogy, mentioning among other things Basil Davidson's work in African history. A previous Africanist honoured by the Open University three or four years ago is Professor Lalage Bown, of Lagos University.

## Relevant love story out of Ghana

In the first of three articles on film and Africa, a correspondent reviews a major new Ghanaian production

KWAW ANSAH had by no means intended to spend seven months in London for the final editing of his film, *Love Brewed In The African Pot*. But, judging by the reactions of the audience at the film's recent premiere in London, he knew it had been worth it and that he could justly be proud of his achievement. This correspondent writes in these columns last November 12, after having seen half of the unedited film. "I will be a worthwhile film [although] it does not scale the peaks of cinematic art."

It is a pleasure to renounce the lukewarm judgement and call this a good film. Apart from the general beauty of its colour a good music score with its beautiful songs included, and several fine performances from the cast, the film's strongest point is its simplicity and accuracy. Some Africans from other countries who were at the premiere commented on how true the film was to African life, and how much they recognised because their experience had been similar.

Those who pride themselves on the "sophistication" can criticise the debateness of the story in setting the scene and unfolding the plot to its conclusion. However, there is ample "compensation" if you like, in the richness of observation; the story is told. It is this accuracy which puts the film beyond the reach of critics arising from familiarity with the highly developed technique of Western film. No, this is a celebration of "primitivism", a apologia for deficient film-making. *Love Brewed In The African Pot* stands proud on its own merits, its technical competence and the relevance of the storyline will make it a well-deserved hit.

Set in 1951, it is the story of the love between Abu Appiah and Joe Quansah (very well acted by Anima Misa and Reginald Tsiobee), and the social pressure which nearly cause a tragic end. Abu educated (at Wesley Girl's High School) and instead of going to university, is allowed by his retired civil servant father to become a "Cape-Coast-trained" dressmaker. He falls in love with Joe Quansah, semi-literate fitter (or "automobile mechanic" as the better spoken character would have it). His love is less courageous than hers, and even though his fisherman father allows him to "play with fire", his loving and marrying above his station, continues to harbour doubts about it whole thing. Abu's father Kofi Appiah has no doubts at all. He knows that a woman's destiny is to be a "good wife" for a man, not just for any wayside fitter. He is therefore delighted to receive an offer

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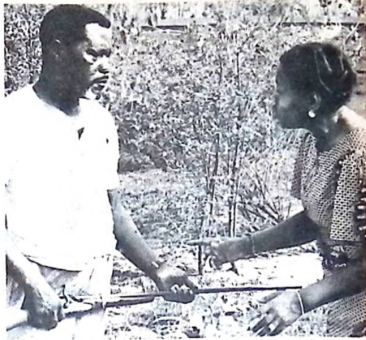
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*Aba and Abu (Reginald Tsiboe and Anima Missa) dancing at their wedding*



*Araha Mansa (Jumoke Debayo) prevents same hasty action by the angry Kofi Appiah (George Wilson)*

Aba's hand from the District Chief Clerk on behalf of his lawyer son; he also gloats over the fact that his prospective sons-in-law are a doctor and an engineer. His colonial values start to crumble as he sees his daughter persist in rejecting this ideal offer in favour of the love of a fitter mechanic.

The veteran director and actor George Wilson puts in a tremendous performance as the "betrayed" father, while his "good wife" is well played by Jumoke Debayo, the experienced Nigerian actress. In the role of Araha Mansa, she is given to wringing her hands and weeping, unable to soften her husband's wrath, unable to change or support her daughter's love, and finally helpless as Aba's sanity breaks down. There are a host of excellent supporting performances which contribute to the film's richness of detail, notably Kofi Yirekyi as Lawyer Bensch (the hapless suitor who goes too far in pursuing Aba and ends up with tomatoes from her shopping splattered all over his dignity), Emmanuel Agbenowu as Atta Quansah (who eventually criticises his son Joe for his lack of courage), Emmanuel Dadson as Kofi Appiah's son, and Kwaku Owusu-Antwi who comes to remind his relative Kofi Appiah that he must not forget his roots.

Kwaw Ansah produced and directed this film and also wrote the screenplay. The accuracy of the film in portraying features of African life has been mentioned above. Someone at the premiere commented that there is so much in that life that can be put on the screen and be immensely popular. Here, one can mention the frequent moments of humour in the film, not from the slapstick comedy of the Western tradition, but from simple observation of ordinary life, which is an international tradition of successful art. Political and social comment can flow from this observation as well, for instance when Kofi Appiah looks askance at the bottle of *akpetshie* (local gin) brought by Joe Quansah's relatives to accompany the asking for Aba's hand in contrast to the "correct" bottle of Schnapps brought by

Councillor Bensch. There is also Kofi Appiah's dream sequence of what his daughter's marriage might have been, well rendered with slightly strident church wedding music, the bride in white, several bridesmaids, richly-attired guests, and at the reception, a guest of honour pompously spouting the Queen's English, again held in contrast to the traditional wedding ceremony to which the father is unable to give his blessing.

Credit is due to Kwaw Ansah for coming

through with this detailed piece of social observation, Tony Palmer and Bernard Oudjija for their editing skills, and to the cast for good performances. Kwaw Ansah said he regards the faults in this film as germs for the creation of the next. At present he is seeking to explore the market for this fine film in Africa and possibly in the US. There are different approaches to ending the cultural invasion of African cinema, and this simple love story is surely an effective one.

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## A grand escape into metaphysics

Niyi Osundare, of the Department of English at the University of Ibadan, reviews Ola Balogun's film "Aiyé"

THE FILM in Nigeria has an interesting history. In the fifties and sixties the Nigerian screen was dominated by films from India, China, Britain and the US. The American film had an important advantage over the others: it was brought to the countryside through a mobile cinema unit, a kind of cinema on wheels, which penetrated the rural nooks, while Indian and Chinese films were largely restricted to urban screens. The mobile film unit was a strategy of the multinational companies to promote the sale of their products. The mobile cinema jeep often arrived in the village in the afternoon, sped through the streets announcing the arrival "sinima ofe" (from cinema) in a selected open space in the evening. The show was preceded by an elaborate oral advertisement of the sponsor's products, and half-way through the show was stopped to allow those whose minds had been made up for them to make their purchase.

Such rural forays were few and far between, being highly constrained by the weather (rainy seasons were unfavourable) and the condition of the roads. In the cities the cinema was more stable. Here there were large cinema houses where workers went to unwind after the day's work. The seating arrangement reflected the chronic socio-economic stratification in the country: there were separate partitions for the poor, the not so poor, and the rich.

But whether poor, average, or rich, the audience was commonly exposed to the often unsalutary impact of foreign films. The cinema at this time (and it is still very much so) was a potent organ of colonialism. The cinema houses, the films and other factors connected with the film industry were controlled by foreigners, the Lebanese especially dominating a substantial part of the business. Most of the profit from the film exhibiting business therefore left the country.

As important as this economic exploitation, was the socio-cultural and psychological impact of the cinema. Needless to say, the Indian, Chinese, British, and American films grew out of socio-cultural environments and reflected ideological and aesthetic orientation markedly different from those of Africa. But the cinema as a powerful audio-visual medium inevitably led to the spread of

diffusion of values carried by these foreign films. Film was, for instance, the populariser of Chinese martial arts in Nigeria; for a long time, the round-checked, long-haired, sweet-singing Indian enamorata and her princely, chivalrous suitor became models for young Nigerians.

The American film had the most pervasive and, one may add, the most negative cultural impact in Nigeria. First, there was the Tarzan series in which Hollywood lent cinematographic credence to the American image of the African as a half-man half-ape jungle dweller, living in irredeemable savagery in the Conradian heart of darkness. Complemented on the literary scene by racist adventure fantasies like *King Solomon's Mines* and *Alou Quartermain* (which were themselves later made into movies) the Tarzan movies reinforced the dominant image of the white man in the African mind and contributed to the African's self-denigration.

Then there were the Westerns, with their macho heroes, tough, gritty, slow-talking, fast-shooting horsemen of rugged amorality. Nigerian audiences watched with a mixture of dismay and excitement as cowboys gunned down American Indians in their thousands, relieving them of their land and buffalo. The gangsterism of these films spilled over into real life as street gangs tried to "live out" some of the violent experiences gained from the movies. Every street had its Django and Palooka, while every "tough guy" around saw himself as the indisputable double of John Wayne.

Such a situation was naturally disturbing to many Nigerians who wanted to see the decolonisation process of the sixties extended to the cinema. The demand grew for the authentic Nigerian film, shot in Nigeria, acted by Nigerians, seen primarily by Nigerians. Such a demand gave birth to *Son of Africa*, the first full-length Nigerian movie to star a Nigerian. *Son of Africa* was plagued by all the woes of apprentice work: it was badly synchronised, implausibly artificial and highly derivative, so unconscionably dominated by Lebanese female dancers that some reviewers nicknamed it "*Daughters of Lebanon*".

The number of "shot in Nigeria" films has increased modestly since 1971, an achievement helped by the rise of a few indigenous film directors like Ola Balogun, an ambitious cinema practitioner who has directed a number of films so far. But this increase in quantity is hardly matched by a corresponding improvement in quality. The Nigerian film is still plagued by the kind of pedestrian amateurishness that reminds one of a third-rate Indian movie in the sixties.

It is in this light that one sees *Aiye*, the most recent Nigerian film, directed by Ola Balogun. *Aiye*, the extended film version of an original stage play by Hubert Ogunde, is an enactment of a certain aspect of Yoruba metaphysics. A polysemic Yoruba word, "aiye" has no clear English translation but could be variously rendered as "the world", "the earth", "life", "existence": it is a mysterious configuration of the physical, spiritual, and psychic forces that rule human existence, and influence, if not dictate,

human action and behaviour.

In the average Yoruba mind "aiye" is a potent, ubiquitous, largely malevolent force out to do man in, thwart him, and, to borrow Chinua Achebe's words, ever ready to kill him "the day his life is sweetest to him". "Aiye" is therefore seen as a negating energy, the collective ill will of inimical forces. But this energy can, through invocation, appeasement, and sacrifice, be re-harnessed, neutralised, and even put to positive use, an operation which requires a counter-force, a benevolent medium whose powers are large enough to tame the wild malevolence of "aiye". Such action and counter-action involve conflict, and it is conflict that dominates the content of Ogunde's *Aiye*.

## Creative essence

On one side of the existential bridge there is Orli Awo (played by Ogunde himself), a healer, diviner, village head, king maker, and model of the creative essence. On the other we have the Witch, killer, negator, ogress, and the repulsive dean of mischief who rules the realms of night.

The two antagonistic powers meet in the forest early in the film while Orli Awo is out looking for herbs. Orli Awo implores the Witch to co-operate with him to ensure a sorrow-free, peaceful world; the Witch partially agrees but tells him that room must be left for some mischief. Therefore a series of human disasters caused by the Witch

bring her into an intense and protracted conflict with Orli Awo.

First, a barren and envious senior wife requests the Witch to "hang" or "suspend" the pregnancy of her junior co-wife. The Witch enthusiastically agrees and for forty months, the junior wife pines under the burden of an unborn baby. Orli Awo pleads in vain for her "release"; second, a young handsome weaver is abducted by another witch, and is made blind, deaf, and dumb for discovering her captor on her way back from the coven. Then a chieftaincy aspirant is turned into an instant lunatic; reports of mischiefs wrought by the Witch and her cohorts daily pour into Orli Awo's house. To prevent Orli Awo from untying the witches' knot, they attempt to harm him, but when they fail, they turn to his young beautiful daughter.

Meanwhile Orli Awo receives greater power from the gods, and evokes thunder and lightning on the witches who are struck and dead one after another. Then begins the grand denouement of the drama: Orli Awo's daughter rises from the dead, the blind, deaf and dumb are healed, the lunatic regains sanity, and above all, the forty-month pregnancy is born.

Technically *Aiye* outstrips most other Nigerian films that I have seen. Camera work here is a little better than what we have in *Ajani Ogun* where the camera contributes to the enormous stasis which plagues that film. Lighting is tolerably handled; the murky atmosphere of the witches' assembly achieves the evocation of

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horror that is intended. There is a much better synchronisation of cinematographic effects.

However, the film has numerous flaws in terms of technical accomplishment and subject-matter. One of the flaws arises from the problem of presenting the supernatural cinematographically, since the representational media (the stage, the cinema, etc.) seem to thrive best on the real and the concrete. In *Tutu*, the two birds (one black, the other red) which stand as the animal mediums for the witches peck a hole in the film. As animated pictures imposed upon real ones, their all-too-obvious artificiality undermines the film's integrity and drew cat-calls from the audience some of whom suggested (albeit without weighing the implications) that natural birds should have been used.

Some of the actions are snappy, as if the director was pressed for time. It is surprising, for instance, that extremely little time is spent on the celebration of the birth of the baby and the general return of sanity after the witches have been routed.

But this does not mean that the film lacks celebration and grandeur — in fact there is too much and it seems to come in in the wrong places. For example, a substantial part of the beginning of the film is wasted on dancing and singing by gaudily dressed men and women and bare-breasted damsels — a gratuitous troping out that recalls the marriage scene in the final scenes of *Amo Ogun*.

Such a meretricious display of the externals of culture precipitates an intolerable vulgarity that reminds one of early Negritudism. Like many other purveyors of culture, the film is pandering to the clamorous but misguided call for the exotic in our culture, a facile glamorisation of our disappearing past. By responding to this call, *Aye* sometimes embraces the frills at the expense of the core, and creates a yawning discrepancy between the simple, almost primordial village in which the film is set, and its overdressed inhabitants.

The final and most crucial flaw concerns

the subject-matter of the film. *Aye* — reinforcement of the destructiveness, illogicalities, and collective paranoia that rule Nigerian life. The film takes us back several years, lures us into metaphysical chaos, and injects us with a dose of anaesthesia at a time when we should stand alert and ready to fight the myriad problems that besiege our existence.

It is time for the Nigerian film practitioner to turn his back on dead-end obscurantist myths and focus his lenses on the beggars who live and die on our streets, corporate corruption and "white collar robbers" (as this article is being written some 3,400m. naira of Nigerian money is alleged to have strayed into private accounts), abuse of power in all its ramifications, poverty, disease, ignorance, neo-colonial exploitation, and other filthy prey on and dehumanise our people. It has happened elsewhere.

The films of Ousmane Sembene do not titillate us with the superstitions of the Wolf, but forcefully confront us with the harsh realities of socio-economic injustice and the plight of the powerless individual in a morbidly acquisitive society.

Establishment-prone as Hollywood tends to be, it is still responding in audibly safe ways to the pressures and demands of American life: racism, sexism, aggression, crime and violence, urban decay, and the Vietnam postmortem.

Film has become a potent factor in the life and culture of the modern world. Oson Welles once looked at Hollywood and shook his head at the awesome power of the screen. Anyone who saw the mammoth crowds that thronged in to see *Aye* (inspite of the exploitatively high gate fees) would realise what impact this audio-visual medium could have if well utilised. At the moment that opportunity is being frittered away as the Nigerian film busies itself with cheap folklorism and the reinforcement of an unjust status quo. The Nigerian film has yet to catch up with the dynamics of Nigerian life and establish its relevance to the Nigerian condition.

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## Film art and monetary profit

A correspondent talks with the Nigerian director, Ola Balogun, about his next film and his views on his art.

THE NIGERIAN film director Ola Balogun recently passed through London and announced that he begins shooting his next film in Nigeria and a neighbouring country this September. Provisionally called *Hauka*, it is adapted from Meja Mwangi's novel *Carouse For Humans*. He said that since reading that novel four years ago, he knew he had to make a film of it, and now had the requisite means to make it the way he wants.

Ola Balogun took the opportunity to voice a personal tribute to the Kenyan novelist (whom he has never met) for his "deep perception of modern day reality in Africa". He felt Meja Mwangi's very graphic portrayal of the disruption of

colonialism visible in urban Africa should be much better known. He found him a very consistent writer — here he mentioned the urban realities of post-colonial Africa in *Kill Me Quick* — and perhaps the most perceptive in contemporary African writing of the immediate situation. Ayi Kwei Armah, he said, was the best of all. But his power of imagery and poetry was tremendous, his scope so great — Balogun felt *Why Are We So Blest* was the most penetrating political comment on Africa today — that the time was not quite right for cinematic treatment of the Ghanaian novelist. (Balogun said in passing that while he was not looking down on the overblown, pedestrian "bigshots" of African literature

they must be seen to have been passed by time.)

He said his film is the story of an uprising in an African country under colonial rule, leading to guerrilla warfare. It would investigate the rights and wrongs of the situation for the white settler population and for the native Africans. It would not, however, be a propaganda piece full of preconceived ideas, a simplistic tract with one side seen as the good guys, and the other the bad. He said he was concerned with the human side, the different motivations, and had built on Meja Mwangi's perception and skill to make a feasible film. As to why he felt it necessary to say it was not a propaganda piece, Ola Balogun spoke of the dangers of preaching, of falling victim to the stereotypes of the European liberal "left". He said he was not concerned with making a "revolutionary" film and neither did he feel the need to be seen as "progressive". Despite the wrongs of the white settlers in southern Africa, he said they had their own interests and justification, that they should get credit for being humans too, even if wrong, and not be treated as mere cyphers. He said he was dealing with the complexities of life and was not merely going to serve the needs of propaganda. It was not his duty to preach Marxism, and that in art, the political position will be implicit in the material. He was for giving an opportunity for other views to be aired and judged on their merit. He said this quality was present in Mwangi's novel, but laughed when he said he had nevertheless changed the novel's conclusion in his film for his own artistic and political reasons.

Balogun said it was a wide world in which dialogue was necessary. He recognised the difficulties of the position he was holding — namely, sounding like an African liberal — because "we are primarily talking to our people but we must not exclude the rest of the world". He said this did not mean compromising to be acceptable to "them", but neither did it mean failing to recognise their humanity, and to make them realise ours, and then dialogue... He stressed it was easier to be either radically hostile or to be acceptable to them on their own terms.

This ties with earlier discussion of his overall strategy and the tactical zigzags he had to make. Ola Balogun said the point was not to make money but to achieve an artistic vision. The key to his present success in Nigeria was *Ajani Ogun*, another film *Iju Omumu*, had been very successful, as had *Aise* (made for Chief Herbert Ogunde: see *West Africa*, 3 December) which had grossed ₦300,000 in one week in Lagos. But there was a delicate line to tread: on one side connecting with the mass market to have the economic basis for cinematic progress, and on the other, making completely satisfying films.

He had been hurt by criticism from a Nigerian journalist for his supposedly "partonising" and "craven" attitude to his own film *Iju Omumu*. He said he had to be sensitive to a certain shallowness in stylised Yoruba theatre, but his tactical aim must also be understood, that is, connecting with the mass market at home. Again with *Aise*,



*Albert Hall (seen here in a moment from Apocalypse Now) is to play the leading role in Ola Balogun's next film, provisionally called Haraka. Balogun believes this American actor, who has major credits in films, television and theatre, will be a great international star not as a result of Hall's good type promotion but because of Albert Hall's own qualities and commitment to fulfilling this potential for black film.*

he found himself in the paradoxical position of making a film about witchcraft thereby giving visual representation, and to a sometimes naive audience, confirmation of beliefs he does not share. Ola Balogun felt he had been unfairly criticised from the angle of a static "traditional Africa" with which Europeans were familiar and which alone represented the "authentic" Africa.

on the lines of Alex Haley's *Roots*, which was now an unfortunate standard. He was concerned not with confirming static stereotypes but to use tradition as a means to progress. In passing, he commented sadly on the dominance in Nigeria of money as the sole criterion of value, of profitability as the major motivation.

This led to the subject of his film *Black Goddess*, recently shown in the noted New York festival of "New Films New Directors". This was a co-production shot in Brazil — he said for the first time he had been able to work with sufficient means — telling the story of a Nigerian "returning" to Brazil with a Yoruba mask in order to find out what had happened to his family. Ola Balogun called it a love story of two centuries, which was also so simple that it became esoteric. He described how making that film had opened himself to certain mysteries, the strange process of inspiration, and how encouraged he had been by the response of American audiences to the film. There was some connection between this response and what he hoped for from a Nigerian and African audience. He spoke of the lonely position of the artist for whom it is sometimes necessary to be slightly ahead of his audience, yet who also wants immediate approval. The artist is sustained by belief in the justness of his vision, and his determination to realise his art must withstand the criticism of the philistines whose concerns are geared to immediate profit-and-loss in the market place.

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# Wartime memories of an aircraftsman at Fourah Bay

Shabtai Rosenne, now deputy head of the Israeli delegation at the United Nations, recalls his time in Sierra Leone during the early 1940s.

I WAS RECENTLY presented with a booklet written by Cyril P. Foray\*, formerly Minister of External Affairs of Sierra Leone and now head of the Fourah Bay College's Department of History. On reading this I was surprised at the clear memories it brought back to me of my own sojourn at Fourah Bay during World War II. At that time I was a British subject and serving in the Royal Air Force. After the war I chose Israeli citizenship and have served my country as a diplomatist for some years. While serving at the United Nations I met the Honourable Cyril Foray, and I am pleased that his booklet offered me the inspiration I needed to put my reminiscences on paper.

In his article Mr Foray described how at the outbreak of the war the old college buildings were requisitioned for military purposes and accommodation had to be looked for elsewhere. The two subsequent moves were, first, from the old premises to neighbouring Cline Town and then to Mahang in the interior. The student body consisted of Sierra Leoneans, Nigerians, Ghanians and Gambians, while the staff was mostly British with a few African lecturers.

Very early in 1941 the College was taken over for the Royal Air Force. 95 Squadron of Coastal Command was stationed there. This was a detached Sunderland flying-boat squadron formed in Oban, Scotland, in January to strengthen the South Atlantic fleet and the anti-submarine measures at that stage of the Battle of the Atlantic. Its main base was at Calshot, near Southampton. The Squadron itself was very small, about 400 men including air crew, and as far as I can remember its logistical support came from Army or Royal Navy units in Freetown. Its perimeter defence and attack (we were regularly attacked by the Vichy French from the Dakar region) were in the hands of the police and the army. I do not recollect now where our Sunderlands were moored, but I have a feeling that it was in some sort of bay or inlet on one of the coasts on which the College stands — I suppose Fourah Bay itself. The officers and men of the Squadron were all accommodated reasonably comfortably in College buildings.

I need not tell you that conditions were very difficult, both on account of the climate and on account of the acute shortage of food owing to the success of the U-boats in that area of the Atlantic; and more than once we had to requisition basic supplies from the big convoys which passed through Freetown harbour on their way to the Mid-

dle East. Because of these difficult conditions, and also because these aircraft were then could easily stay in the air for 14-15 hours at a stretch (and went to Calshot for their major overhauls), our Commanding Officer introduced relatively short working hours as a matter of routine, from 6 am to 12 noon. This very soon gave rise to serious problems of boredom which were partly overcome in quite an unusual way.

I think in those days it was not expected of Europeans to spend more than two or three seasons in Sierra Leone without home leave. This applied to military and civilian personnel, including the British teachers at Fourah Bay College. However, after the outbreak of the war and with the intensification of the Battle of the Atlantic, it became impossible for the British authorities to adhere to this rhythm. In its turn, that gave rise to various problems including, I suppose, a certain staleness with the British teachers at the College. This double problem was neatly overcome when our CO, who was the Principal of the College, Captain Roberts, allowed those members of the Squadron who were capable of doing so to take classes in the College while finding some other jobs for the teachers who were thus relieved of some of their work.

At the time was at the bottom of the ranks of aircraftsman, but I had the pleasure of teaching two subjects at Fourah Bay College for several months. One was the Hebrew language for those who were intending to make a career in the Church of England ministry, and the other was the history of England in the Stuart period, which I knew quite well. Incidentally, all this teaching was done without text books, but some copies of the Hebrew Bible were available and I took my class through the Book of Genesis.

My teaching of Hebrew led to a rather curious incident which I am happy to place on record. One day a couple of African students approached me and inquired whether I would be willing to meet a Chief somewhere in the provinces as he wanted to talk with me about how to obtain independence for Sierra Leone. Strictly speaking, the provinces were out of bounds to British service personnel, so arrangements were made to smuggle me to this chief. I think some fifty miles from Freetown.

He and his colleagues had heard about my teaching Hebrew at Fourah Bay College and had assumed that I was a Zionist and would therefore be able to help them "get rid of the British" (this, in 1941!). Needless to say, being in uniform, and at a time

when Great Britain was still fighting alone, I found the confidence placed in me somewhat embarrassing. However, the one piece of advice which I felt justified in giving at that time was that there should be developed in Sierra Leone one single common language in place of the 15 or 16 which were then being spoken, and a closer degree of political cohesion. I do not know whether this advice had any practical result or not.

My work in Freetown was not limited to 95 Squadron and I will mention briefly other aspects. I knew Arabic fluently at that time and this enabled me to assist the colonial authorities in their relations with the Arab community of Freetown (mostly Lebanese and Syrians and in general I did some work, in my spare time, in the colonial administration, which I was able to study first-hand.

In the law, I had a close interest in Prize law and I spent some time examining the relevant files in the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone. The Register was an African I forget his name now, but he was a kindly man, and I think he was a judge of some sort. On the outbreak of the war in 1939, a law was passed in London empowering the Prize Courts of the Commonwealth, or at any rate its non-self-governing parts, to transfer their cases to the Prize Court in London. As a consequence, although quite a large number of Prizes were brought into Freetown and writs in Prize were issued against them, most of the cases were transferred to London and the files in Freetown were rather meagre. However, one case, for some inexplicable reason, had not been transferred to London and it gave rise to a major decision by the Sierra Leone Supreme Court.

This concerned a ship named *Indochinois*, which was flying the (Vichy) French colours and laden with hostile, mostly German, cargo. On the approach of the Royal Navy's boarding party, the crew had opened the sea-cocks in an attempt to scuttle her. However, she was brought into

port and arrested in Prize. I at that time was a qualified Solicitor of the Supreme Court in London but owing to the curiosity of English law reporting, solicitors are not entitled to authenticate judgments for inclusion in the law reports. The Registrar therefore solemnly sealed and authenticated this judgment, which ultimately found its way into the Second World War set of Lloyd's Prize Cases, my wife receiving the munificent sum of three guineas for my efforts.

Incidentally, I was often in the Court in Freetown, especially the Magistrate's Court, mostly defending Squadron drivers on charges of dangerous driving and other minor offences. Indeed, I was on the point of becoming a member of the Sierra Leone Bar when I was posted away. I learned to speak Krio fluently (now forgotten) and often did not need an interpreter.

I was in Sierra Leone for about a year until I was commissioned. How long 95 Squadron remained in Freetown after that I do not recollect, but, of course, after the United States came into the war all the dispositions of the Battle of the Atlantic changed. There was a saying amongst the British soldiers that the soul of anyone who has been in Africa will not rest until he returns to Africa. True, I have been back to Africa since I left it on that occasion, but that was north of the Sahara, which I think is not the same. I hope that one day I will be able to visit Freetown again, because I do claim a very little niche in Sierra Leone's independence.

To be very frank, most of my life, before I went to Palestine in 1947, is now a scaled book, but one or two incidents remain vividly impressed on my memory. These include the time I spent in Sierra Leone and the time I spent later in the war in Egypt. All those memories are pleasant ones.

*\*An Outline of Fourah Bay College History 1827-1977 by C. P. Foray (Fourah Bay College Bookshop, Le2.75).*

## Freetown lawyers confer

from a correspondent

'TOWARDS an Improved Legal Order' was the theme of the first annual conference of the Sierra Leone Bar Association held in Freetown last month. The papers read and issues confronted by the participants suggest that the oldest Bar Association in Africa is still ready to grapple seriously and courageously with a wide number of legal problems.

In his keynote address the Chief Justice, Mr. J. E. Liversy Luke, reminded the lawyers that the social context in which the law operated was marked by rapid social change and lawyers must contribute to ensuring that the law meets the social needs of the community. He pinpointed a number of areas of the law which desperately needed overhaul, including matrimonial causes, real property, land tenure, succession, legitimacy, parent and child, master and servant, state proceedings, hire

purchase, legal aid, and criminal procedure.

He noted the importance of the work of the Law Reform Commission but pointed out that an equally pressing task was law revision. Since statute law was revised in 1959, many hundreds of pieces of subsidiary legislation and 295 Ordinances have "been rendered obsolete". Moreover, the annual volume of laws has not been published for 14 years. Practising lawyers have to wade through "a maze of repeals, replacements, additions, substitutions, and deletions". He called for a simultaneous attack on both fronts: law reform and law revision and recommended a separate body be established for the latter.

But the Chief Justice reminded the conference that in the meantime each member was responsible for improving the legal order. He pointed out the "alarming situation" of the delays at the hearing stage

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and the delivery of judgements. "Reasonable time" for the latter, in his view, was a maximum of three months. He reprimanded lawyers for widespread indiscipline in matters such as punctuality and careless preparation of cases. He also noted the urgent need for a law school, a need which was emphasised by the outgoing President, Mr. M. R. O. Garber, who noted the radical increase in tuition fees in Britain.

## Principle of Human Rights

Mr. Garber reminded the Association of the accomplishments of the past year. The most significant being the setting up of the Legislation committee with Mr. Albert Metzger, described as the "best legal draftsman the country has produced", as head. This committee is not solely concerned with law reform but also with monitoring all proposed legislation to see if it is likely to infringe human rights provisions as contained in the UN and OAU charters as well as in the Sierra Leone Constitution.

Mr. Garber who is also chairman of the African Bar Association, reminded members of the "Famous Freetown Declaration on Human Rights passed by this organisation in Freetown in 1978." The most significant feature of which is "Its insistence on the principle that any legislation which attempts to oust the jurisdiction of the courts should be

regarded as contrary to human rights".

It was for this reason that a delegation of the Sierra Leone Bar Association called on the Attorney General and Minister of Justice with regard to the Press Bill, and "we are very pleased indeed that the law now provides for recourse to the court in the event of the Minister being arbitrary or unreasonable in exercising his discretion regarding registration or other wise of a newspaper".

Three papers were read at the conference which considered citizenship and civil rights, legal aspects of economic integration with reference to the Mano River Union, and the anomalies of the Sierra Leone land tenure system.

Discussions over the three days resulted in a number of resolutions, which confirmed the determination of the Bar to take their leadership responsibilities with seriousness. It was resolved that immediate steps be taken to insure that arrested persons be brought to court not later than 48 hours after arrest and be given the right to have legal representatives present when voluntary statements are being obtained by police, that detainees be given automatic review of detention orders and all matters pertaining to civil rights and fundamental freedoms and liberties be given priority before the courts.

The citizenship law of Sierra Leone came under examination and it was resolved that recommendations be made to the appropriate authorities for its liberalisation. It was also resolved that these authorities receive representations from the Bar

Association to secure the repeal of sections 115 (1) (A) and (B) of the Constitution which relates to the compulsory retirement of judges. The Association strenuously objected to the provision which allowed for the removal of judges at 55 years which has "the effect of reducing their status to that of a civil servant".

## Mano Union clarifications

It was also resolved that in cases of allegations of grave violations of fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals, test cases be instituted for declaratory judgements as to such alleged contraventions.

With regard to the Mano River Union the lawyers recommended that a procedure for withdrawal of member states be established and that effective co-ordination be obtained with the legal work programme of the MRU Secretariat to promote the harmonisation of the national laws of member states in areas of customs and excise, trade and industry, company law, and third party insurance. This last issue is particularly vexing since Liberia has no such compulsory insurance law.

Although the Association resolved to explore possible areas of co-operation between themselves and the Liberian Bar Association with consideration of the possibility of associate representations on a reciprocal basis for lawyers in the courts of the others' member states, the discussion

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were sobered by the announcement that Liberia's new government had disbanded the judiciary in favour of a revolutionary court system.

## Fundamental anomaly

Land Tenure was also a topic of major concern for the lawyers and resolutions called for registration of every transfer of land in the country, for the zoning of all lands in the country, e.g. building, agriculture, mining, forestry, traditional and sacred lands with restrictions applicable to use, not user of land, and except in the case of sacred lands the lawyers recommended some degree of alienation of provincial land, a practice, it was noted, which was proceeding now despite the legal provisions.

The Association asked its executive to formulate proposals to submit to the Ministry of Lands for "greater certainty in the demarcation of boundaries", particularly in the provinces and for the drawing of a master plan for each area. It was also recommended that (yet another) committee be established to study the existing land tenure system and make recommendations for the elimination of anomalies to the next session of the conference.

One of the most fundamental anomalies in Sierra Leonean law was closely examined in the discussions of citizenship, human

rights and land law. This is the discriminatory and class ridden division of the population of Sierra Leone into "native" and "non-native", a residue of colonialism. The Association took the position that the distinction should be eliminated — a step which would have profound implications in the administration of justice in Sierra Leone.

Mr Raymond Awooner-Renner was elected President of the Bar Association and Mr Bankole Thompson as vice president.

The outgoing officers drew members' attention to the fact that unlike Ghana and elsewhere, the Association has no disciplinary powers over members but reminded them of the newly drawn up code of conduct which addressed the problem of the deteriorating conduct of some members of the bar.

The Sierra Leone Bar Association set a proud example in affirming the independence of the administration of justice from all vested interests and members were challenged to take up their responsibilities as leaders of the community. In a world where co-option of the profession by political interests is an increasing and serious problem the Bar Association in Sierra Leone aims to be a credit to its professional traditions and to its country where the bar was one of the first professions in which Sierra Leoneans distinguished themselves in the early years of colonial rule.

## ADB's year of records

Douglas Ngwube looks at the 1979 annual report of the African Development Bank group.

THE YEAR 1979, marks a historical turning point in the achievements of the African Development Bank (ADB) group and in its general management direction. Measured in financial and operational terms, the achievements during the year beat all previous records since the regional development bank was founded 15 years ago. Impressive as these records are, the achievements of the bank group in other areas including management could also be described in similarly superlative terms.

The most remarkable achievement appears to be the restoration of internal cohesion and good faith to the various arms of the institution torn asunder by a deep crisis of confidence in July and August last year (which culminated in the President, Dr Fordwar, being sent on compulsory leave). Under its acting President Mr G. E. Gondwe, a new management climate and capacity was created for coping more effectively with the greatly increased responsibilities of the bank group, particularly when more capital is injected into the bank with admission of non-regional members. The bank is owned by about 50 members of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The 1979 annual report of the bank group, which was due to be placed before the Board of Governors this month during

their annual meeting in Monrovia, shows that the institution has set new records in its operational activities and as well as surpassing the bank group's development targets formulated and carried out new development programmes in member states. For example, the various departments of the bank group operated with greater speed and efficiency, during the year, and so were able to handle effectively the very heavy work load connected with granting a total record sum of more than \$516m. as loans for 68 projects in most of the member states of the institution. This was the first time that annual lendings passed the \$500m. mark, maintaining a rather "galloping trend" in loan increases for every sector of projects development. The group's loans of \$516.1m represent an increase of 22 per cent over the figures for the year 1978.

Loans granted, per project, show also substantial increases — rising from \$6.05m. in 1978 to \$7.60m. last year. This represents an increase of about 26 per cent. The important role played by the ADB in the development of OAU member states, for the past decade, is underlined by the fact that the cumulative loans and credits of the ADB group total nearly \$2,000m. for about 400 projects spread throughout the African continent and many islands in the Indian

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and Atlantic Oceans. They helped to ease foreign exchange problems of member states. Indeed, the various development projects financed by the bank group have helped to create better standards of living, employment opportunities, new techniques and expertise, particularly in the fields of rural development.

The illustrated report, a formidable record of statistics presented with great clarity, points out that "the African Development Bank lending accounted for \$272m., or 53 per cent of the total, while the African Development Fund (ADF) contributed \$226.61m. and the Nigerian Trust Fund (NTF) lent \$17.52m."

During the year under review, the policy of giving more loans for agricultural projects was more vigorously pursued. More than one-third (34 per cent) or \$176.4m. out of the bank group's total loans of \$516.1m. went into agricultural projects. The increase in agricultural loans during the year was very significant because it more than doubled the agricultural loans element over the ten years: 1967 to 1976. The cumulative loans figures for agriculture increased from nearly 22 per cent in 1978 to a little over 25 per cent in 1979.

Next to agriculture, came public utilities, which (at \$131m.) got 25 per cent of the group's total loans, transport a little over 22 per cent (\$114m.); industry and development banks nearly 13 per cent (\$67m.) and social services 5.4 per cent (\$28m.).

In accordance with the ADB policy of giving more funds to the poorer states, particularly in the distribution of ADF and NTF soft loans, countries with *per capita* incomes below \$280 received about 63 per cent of the group's total lending in 1979 as against 56 per cent in 1978. The amount of development funds received, per country, within this group, rose from about \$11m. in 1977 and 1978 to \$17m. last year. States with *per capita* income of less than \$550m. received on the average, per state, \$13m. in 1979 as against \$9m. in 1977 and \$10m. in 1978.

## Faster payment

Disbursements, which have sometimes been sluggish in the past, were handled with greater speed during 1979. Disbursements by the group, during the year, were nearly \$172m as against \$142m. in 1978, representing an increase of more than 20 per cent. According to the report "this improved performance is attributable to a large extent to measures undertaken by the bank to expedite procedural matters including acceleration of signing loan agreements."

With the decision by the ADB Governors to admit non-regional members, subject to ratification, the authorised capital of the ADB was increased from UA 1,220m. (nearly \$1,600m.) to UA 5,250m. (about \$6,900m.) (One ADB Unit of Account (UA) equals 1.3 United States dollars).

ADB resources, made up of paid-up capital, reserves, unallocated net income and borrowings amounted to UA 944.3m. (over \$1,200m.) as against UA 702.6m. (a little over \$913m.) at the end of 1978.

The introduction to the report reviews the economic situation within and outside the region. The picture it paints is very grim and will offer little cheer to many member states. It outlines various adverse factors which have crippled economic growth in many states. It points out that "wide areas of the continent still suffers from severe shortages of food crops. Other agricultural commodities, especially those destined for export, are not produced at levels sufficient to generate adequate foreign exchange to support development."

"On industries it says: "... industrial output remains sluggish, but in many instances there have been absolute declines in output. Apart from a few instances the mining industry suffers from a combination of problems (production, prices, transport) which have tended to transform it into aailing industry, thus aggravating the overall economic situation."

There were few exceptions, to the bleakness, though oil-producing Nigeria "expanded" its GDP by about nine per cent. The ADB review says "... under-employment and, increasingly, unemployment have grown in intensity. Only a few member states have recorded "real growth in their economies and the great majority of these rely on the performance of a limited range of commodities."

Apart from discussions relating to the admission of non-members of the OAU as members of the ADB, election of a new executive President for the bank will be the most important agenda item before the Board of Governors' annual meeting. There are candidates from seven states: Burundi, Zambia, Mali, Senegal, Guinea, Uganda and Mauritania.

The Governor for Kenya, on behalf of the government has also recommended to other Governors of the ADB (mostly Finance Ministers) that the present acting President of the bank be allowed to continue in office so as to further consolidate the good work done by ADB particularly with regard to establishment of a good climate and working relationship between the Board of Directors, the management and staff so that the institution would be able to execute more effectively ADB 1982-86 development programme.

It is difficult to predict a winner. The indications are, however, that the Governors will appoint a new President for the bank, and in making the appointment are bound to put the interests of the bank above narrow political considerations so as to avoid a repeat of the ugly crises of the past which almost wrecked the institution. The Governors, in selecting a new President might, apart from other considerations, attach importance to continuing the consolidation process, as the institution gets ready to admit non-regional members, with a consequent considerable increase in the capital stock, and also to maintaining the ADB credibility in the international money markets. One thing is certain — the survival of the ADB as a creditable and effective institution will depend greatly on who becomes the new chief executive of the bank.

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# BOOKS and Publications

## Legal stimulation

*Introduction to Nigerian Law* edited by C. O. Okonkwo (Sweet and Maxwell: hard back £21, paperback £14)

PROFESSOR OKONKWO, of the University of Nigeria, has been joined by eight other Nigerian legal scholars in the production of this unusually valuable and comprehensive handbook. It is intended first as a textbook for the beginner in Nigerian law, and is directed at specific examination requirements. But its intellectual quality and its range make it far more than a textbook; and the subjects it deals with are so important for anybody in public life or in business in Nigeria, or indeed for anyone who wants to understand the country, that, expensive though it is, it should find a place on many other than legal bookshelves.

As well as editing thirteen other contributions Professor Okonkwo himself contributes essays on the Legal Profession, Criminal Law and the Law of Torts. And, although it is not attributed to him, one

supposes that the very useful appendix which explains the effect on the judicial system of the changes introduced by the new civilian constitution is also his work.

Professor G. Ezejiakor, of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, writes on the Sources of Nigerian Law and the Law of Property, Dr. D. I. O. Ewelukwa, of the same university, writes on the Administration of Justice and Constitutional Law. Professor E. I. Nwogugu writes on the Law of Contract and Family Law, Dr. C. N. Okeke on International Law; Mr. Justice Obi-Okoye on Civil and Particular Trial Procedures, Mr. F. Nwadiolo, of the Federal Ministry of Justice, on Criminal Procedure and Kinds of Proceedings; Dr. B. O. Okere on the Concept of Legal Personality, and Dr. A. O. Cukwurah on Law and Society.

From such a wealth of information one can select only a few items. It is interesting

to learn, for example, from Professor Ezejiakor that although Nigeria has long abandoned appeals to the Privy Council Nigerian legal decisions are still in theory bound by House of Lords decisions: the Professor suggests a solution. He also explains the serious consequences of the poor system of law reporting in Nigeria.

The contributions deal fully with the application of customary law under which, as is legally correct, is included Sharia law. Dr. Ewelukwa makes the point that appeals to the Federal level from state Sharia Courts of Appeal, which so exercised the Constituent Assembly, affect only a minority of cases.

The particularly interesting contribution by Dr. C. N. Okeke on international law deals, for example, with the consequences of scientific innovations for law: the harnessing of tides or the use of atomic energy, and the "law of the sea" (much more might have been said on this). A bald statement by Professor Ezejiakor on the Land Use Decree of the military regime, that it abolishes "individual ownership", is not developed because the Decree came too late for full treatment. But Dr. Cukwurah, writing in the main body of the book, emphasises the importance of the prohibition of retrospective legislation agreed by the Constituent Assembly.

The main discussion of the constitution, however, is in what we have assumed to be Professor Okonkwo's own Appendix. Dr. Ewelukwa, in his contribution on Constitutional Law, emphasises that under military rule the constitution was unitary,

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not federal, that it was not "rigid", and that it was not "supreme". Now, Dr. Okonkwo emphasises, the constitution is supreme, rigid and federal, although — unlike the pre-1966 position — there are no separate constitutions for the individual states, and the constitution "cannot be easily amended so as to apply differently to different states". He also notes that the federal and state chief executives do not have to act in accordance with the "advice" of anybody. In passing he notes a curious anomaly in the constitution: some judicial appointments are made "on the advice", others "on the recommendation", of the Judicial Service Commission, without the distinction being defined.

Altogether this is a most satisfying intellectual exercise.

D.W.

## A tale of integrity

*The Disappearance* by Rosa Guy (Victor Gollancz, £4.50)

IT CAME as a surprise to discover after finishing this novel that the *Evening Standard* described it as "aimed mainly at teenagers" but, the newspaper added, it had something to say to parents, and was relevant everywhere. This was merely another encounter with accepted labels often empty of content: "teenager", like "children", normally signifies age, seldom experience and attitude.

Rosa Guy, a Trinidadian who was raised in Harlem and is a founder-member of the Harlem Writers Guild, has brought out a very neat fable that skilfully combines a murder mystery (with a twist) and some sound moral lessons. Imamu Jones, the central figure, is 17 and streetwise. The story opens with him in between what are apparently two worlds: his Harlem background of poverty, a drunken mother who yet loves him — "though she don't know it", he adds at one stage — while he grows on the fringe of juvenile delinquency that goes terribly wrong when his friend Iggy shoots dead the owner of the shop they normally pilfer from.

The other world comes with the gracious Ann Aimsley, respectable wife of a self-made working man, mother of two girls, who lives in Brooklyn. She takes him from a detention centre in which he spent a month and offers him a faster home against the wishes of her husband who smells too much "street" on Imamu. The loose and glamorous family friend Dora Belle also thinks Ann is crazy, but on seeing the handsome youth decides there are possibilities for him in her boudoir. The two daughters are Gail, also 17 and at high school, who at first challenges Imamu's street cool but soon believes utterly in his integrity. Perk is eight, golden and gorgeous, the little darling who says everything that comes into her little head crowned by a glorious head of hair.

The plot is fairly simple: Imamu does not fit in easily in the tight little household, and carries with him the knowledge of his

broken mother drinking her life away in Harlem. Perk disappears one day and Ann Aimsley's insecurity and apprehension over her act of charity immediately comes out to join the feeling of the other main character in making Imamu the prime suspect in the shattering of a cosy little household. Gail, meanwhile, notices that while Imamu is being defiant to the rough policemen who come to arrest him for questioning, his silence is based on deep hurt at the spite with which Ann's apparent sincere vanishes.

Rosa Guy writes powerfully of Imamu at the police station under interrogation, and of Imamu's perception of his mother's deep love for him — even though drunk she drags herself across town to wait for him to get out of the police station; Gail is there too, making solid the bond she feels with Imamu. Imamu takes his mother home but promises to come back and help find Perk, and it is this quest that brings home what the main characters are all about.

It turns out that vanity, the delicate middle-class black sort, is the key to Ann Aimsley's spoiled house — in which polythene covers the slightly worn furniture — which is her compensation for not being as stunningly beautiful as Dora Belle (who was Peter Aimsley's girlfriend before he married Ann); a certain vanity also leads Gail to suspect the ugly Mr. Elder, the family friend who lives upstairs, of the kidnapping. It is also a terrible varnish pushed to an immoral extreme which makes the fatal link between Dora Belle, who loses all her hair from some kind of tropical fever, and the golden-haired little Perk.

In the middle throughout is Imamu, who understands best the pain of those left to hold on while loved ones are over-dosed on drugs, on wine, and on delusions. He is there to show what integrity does exist in the usual hardness of the street, and just what can carry black people through the particular situation. This is a nice, skilfully written and easy-to-read fable from Rosa Guy.

## Making the most of minerals

*Obstacles to Mineral Development* by John S. Carman, edited by Berson Varnon (Pergamon Press, £ 2.50)

IT IS UNUSUAL for the work of a single author to require an editor. But the sub-title of the book, "A Pragmatic View", explains why Mr. Carman, a Canadian mining engineer of wide experience, was ready to accept the editorship of Dr. Varnon, Turkish World Bank economist.

The book consists of 12 essays written by Mr. Carman between 1965 and 1978 and delivered in many places, including Ka State's Bagauda Hotel. As Dr. Varnon rightly says, Mr. Carman is not against government intervention in mining, he is against "stupid government intervention" — he was a UN expert for almost 20 years. His concern is for the suppressing expertise, and so for the maximising

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mineral-producing countries of the benefits from mining.

Mr. Carman is not a modest man, but he acknowledges his debt to his Turkish editor for instruction on how to use properly the tongue of Shakespeare and Dickens. But his views are definite. His subjects include: "Obstacles to Mining Investment in the Developing Countries"; "Dilution of the Value of Foreign Aid with Particular Reference to Mineral Exploration"; "UN Mineral Exploration Activities, 1960-1976"; and "Small-Scale Mining in the Developing World".

If these lively and valuable essays can be summed up, they offer advice on how governments of poor countries can draft mining legislation which, while not repelling the international capital and expertise which, in very short supply, must be attracted, will also "protect the national interest". Mr. Carman, in contrast to many mining company heads, emphasises that "original" mining agreements should be frequently examined in the light of the success, or failure, of the enterprise. He also emphasises that a government should regard a mining enterprise not primarily as a source of taxation but as a promoter of employment and technical training, an agent of "downstream" and "upstream" development, a creator of infrastructure and a promoter of technology.

But he does not ignore the problem of the departure of a mining company — as we have seen in the case of Sierra Leone Development Company — when the reserves are exhausted, although his chapter on this subject is said to relate only to arid or desert zones. His programme for developing alternative economic activities and otherwise offsetting mine closures is probably unrealistic in most of West Africa; it shows, however, the range of his concern.

This is a book for anybody concerned with mining in West Africa.

D.W.

## Not so dismal scientist

*Annals of an Abiding Liberal by Joan Kenner, Galbraith - (Andre De Asca, £6.95)*  
 Professor Galbraith has been throughout his career — a fact to which this book bears testimony — he has of late been eclipsed by Professor Milton Friedman, the monetarist guru.

Professor Galbraith will never fail to interest the reader, even though some of his contribution hovers very close to verbose self-congratulation. His most significant contributions deal with economics. Yet again he attacks the subject of multinationals, but one must be grateful for this thorough and entertaining resurrection of Thorstein Veblen. A figure who has for too long gathered dust on the bookshelves of the historical researcher, Galbraith gives him welcome credit for being the man who tried to come to terms with the concept of affluence and with the effect of wealth on behaviour — a subject close to his heart.

Other essays — or in some cases articles deal with subjects ranging from the

Professor's FBI dossier to his views on Richard Nixon, Algeo Hiss and other subjects which have grabbed his mind. This is a book for the Galbraith aficionados.

L.G.

## A bigger and better Guide

*Africa Guide 1980 edited by Graham Hancock (World of Information, £11.50)*

THIS YEAR'S AFRICA GUIDE appears in expanded form, and is much improved for that. It now boasts a series of 27 introductory articles which cover most of the main themes in Africa which will prove of great assistance to the uninitiated, and of some interest to the specialist. Two articles by Basil Davidson, one on Africa in general and another on the "misunderstood republics" (the ex-Portuguese colonies) deserve to be read thoroughly. One also welcomes an excellent warning article on "Nuclear Africa" by Frank Barnaby, Director of the Stockholm Peace Research Institute. There are articles on the OMVS and the Mano River Union and others covering commodities, banking, trade, the Commonwealth, transport — all by people well established in these fields.

The large portion of the Guide is on the individual countries of Africa. The articles are lively and the authors, by and large, display their authority on their subject matter. There is always a problem with such publications especially when they aim to be

fairly topical. Different writers' interpretations of relatively similar circumstances in their respective countries can lead to discrepancies. After the Rawlings interregnum in Ghana many would have said that the conditions which created those events simmer below the surface in a number of other countries close by. The contribution on Liberia therefore finds itself somewhat out of place, while the recent unrest in Mali suggests that President Traore is by no means the apple of his people's eyes, a massive electoral victory notwithstanding. These are comments easily made in hindsight. Many readers will use such a publication for reference to only certain countries, and the slight incoherence that has been mentioned emerges only after someone like a reviewer sits down to read the book as a whole.

The Africa Guide could perhaps take a leaf out of one or two of its competitors by dealing in greater length with some of the regional organisation. Indeed, they have dealt with the Mano River Union and the OMVS, but what of ECOWAS, CEAO, CILSS?

Every country article has a boxed section containing some of the statistics and other details which a visitor will find useful.

Whatever the relatively minor quibbles that one might have about such annual guides in general, there is little doubt that great trouble has been taken to see that this year's Guide is entertaining and informative and valuable for all who want a quick orientation in Africa.

R.A.G.

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## LETTERS to the Editor

### Factual and logical errors

SIR: Dilibbe Onyema's article "Root of Inter-racial dialogue" (*West Africa*, 18 February) makes interesting reading, but it contains a number of stylistic, factual and logical errors which need correction. In speaking of the indignities of slavery experienced by blacks in the West Indian islands as a possible source of the "Roots craze", Onyema does not seem to recognise that slavery was a widespread practice in West Africa during the time of the Atlantic slave trade. In fact the ancestors of many living West Africans were probably slaves. The "Roots craze" is most likely due to the extreme alienation and cultural anomie that marked slavery in the Americas as experienced by the transplanted African. The sudden loss of family and ethnic ties along with the indignity of having to hear the slaveholder's name as evidence of being possessed was enough to create a sense of cultural emptiness over several generations. *Roots* addressed itself to just that problem.

On another plane I take exception to Onyema's unabashed use of the epithet "Negro" in his article when he ought to know that such a term — coined by Spanish slavers for their African captives — is frowned upon by progressive-minded individuals. Onyema also writes that Alex Haley's *Roots* romanticised the slave era. It would seem that "romanticised" is the wrong word to use for what the book

attempted to accomplish. Haley's novel attempts to *personalise*, not *romanticise* the slave era in the Americas by showing that there are real familial links between the descendants of the African captive in the Americas, and those who were born on the continent of Africa.

I was somewhat surprised to read that Onyema should refer to an African wearing "national gear" as demonstrating a "more primitive aspect of African culture". And pushing his logic further, if "near naked dancers" is a mark of primitiveness, then Europeans are more civilised in winter than in the summer since they wear less clothing during that time. And what about near-naked Europeans at the beaches, are they most primitive then? And is the African who wears voluminous clothing more civilised than the expatriate who moves around in khaki shorts?

Another curious point made by Onyema is that differences between West Indians and Africans led to "open hostility between the two on purely racial grounds". It is implied here that West Indians and Africans are of different racial groups! This is hardly true, since on my visits to the West Indian islands I have concluded that approximately 85 to 90 percent of the population (excluding the East Indians) bear the African phenotype (i.e. the phenotypical range of sub-Saharan Africa). Perhaps a more suitable appellation would fit those people better since they are not Indians from the western part of India. I think Onyema would support my reasoning here since later on in his piece he speaks of ending a "distasteful relationship between two divided groups of black people", which obviously contradicts his essay caption which speaks of "inter-racial" rather than "intra-racial" dialogue. Mr. Onyema's article discusses an interesting topic, but unfortunately he seems to share the same level of consciousness of those whom he discusses.

Washington, DC

H. ABIOLA

### Redemption or not?

SIR: Two Ghanaian contributors to your letter column, try to side with the leaders of Liberian coup (*West Africa*, April 28). In the eyes of Ghanaians all coups d'état in Africa have always been justified and overdue: starting from the death of Olympio to that of Balewa. The only one that was not justified, from the Ghanaian point of view was the one in Ghana in 1966 when a redeemer was overthrown. The Ghanaian since independence has always presented himself as a type of African "Ombudsman" ready to find the causes of instabilities in all African countries, except his own.

In my opinion the coup d'état in Liberia was not necessary. It should have taken place during the time of Tubman. But once Tolbert started his liberalisation it was the duty of the opposition to behave responsibly to make the attempt a success. Tolbert had good intentions but he was "pussy-footing" and the opposition should have helped to precipitate the reforms instead of wrecking them. Let's see whether it will be able for them to get the army off their backs when their turn comes.

Washington

K. MARFO

SIR: After reading Nii K. Bentsi-Enchill's series on Liberia it was evident that a social revolution engineered by grassroots progressive forces was in the wings of history. When, on April 12 and 23, respectively, news reports carried the overthrow-cum-death of President Tolbert as well as 13 former officials executed by firing squad in Liberia, all dedicated to African liberation saw the truth of Dr. Nkrumah's prophecy. All neo-colonialist and puppet regimes must be smashed by force of arms. It is the historical task of African and Black revolutionaries.

With the conviction of Liberia's exploitative oligarchy on charges of high treason, shameful

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corruption, and gross violation of human rights, African dictatorships and die-hard "Uncle Tom's" must be shivering in their fortified castles and palaces and bunkers. But rather interesting too when the historical chips are down, the international capitalist class cannot save their pawns and puppets especially in Africa.

Ghana had it field day with the advent of AFRC on June 4. Zimbabwe was liberated on two fronts—the bullet and the ballot. Liberia has just appended its signature to the African revolutionary victory list with the smashing of the Americo-Liberian kleptocracy. Earlier, Idi Amin has taken to his heels for refuge in Libya. Very soon Mobutu's dictatorship and racist South Africa will fall to African liberation movements to fulfill Africa's emancipation from all forms of reactionary oppression.

Last year's "rice riots" were manifestations of class struggle in Liberia, and the peoples' victory on April 12 should find equal expression in production of more food. Good luck Liberia!

*Rabegbe N. Cavahina*

AKUBI KWAO

### Ghana witch-hunt

SIR: A few days ago a friend, a white man, I met in a beer bar made a remark to me and the same evening I heard a radio report of some statements purported to have been made by my President, Dr. Hilla Limann. The two incidents set me thinking for days.

The remark my beer bar friend made is that "A black man is a black man." The subject of conversation was Zimbabwe and her independence. What prompted the remark was my assertion that we (Africans) had confidence in Prime Minister Mugabe to succeed. I asked the man what he meant. He looked into my face, and with a grim face, said, "He is always a baby. He may grow big, but he is a baby."

I drained my glass and went home where I heard the voice of President Limann on the Federal Radio Network of Nigeria saying

something to this effect: "Rawlings is no problem to my Government. What can Rawlings do that I cannot do?" President Limann also claimed that Ghanaians were running away to Nigeria not because of the Ghanaian economy could not contain them, but because they wanted "a change of environment."

Somehow, these two incidents occurring minutes after each other, became connected. I asked myself whether I was in Nigeria because I wanted a change of environment or because I was an economic exile. I asked myself why President Limann, and several of his Ministers and party big shots, should bother to make Rawlings the subject of their communiqués during their international tours if he was of no concern to them. I asked myself why the President should bring his Cabinet and party officials and their wives on what looked like an Easter shopping spree in Nigeria at a time he was hammering into our ears that Ghana had no foreign exchange. Is he, too, a grey-haired baby?

I started analysing things much more critically than before. I recalled the Usher Fort gaol break and the broadcast by the Minister of the Interior.

I recalled the G.B.C. announcement earlier about Rawlings demanding the release of Capt. Koda and Co. I recalled the episode of the Nigerian Christmas gifts to Ghana and the Minister of Trade's claim that he had bought and paid for the goods "in cash". I also recalled the sudden retirement of Rawlings, the reasons assigned, and the verbal and legal battles the Nigerian Government had been waging on Rawlings. All these flashed through my mind time and time again knocking against my awareness of the stark realities of privation, unemployment, disease, hunger and suffering that have become permanent features of the Ghanaian economy—things crying for Limann's attention. I was baffled why he should spend so much energy and time witch-hunting Rawlings who he said was no threat to his government

while such monopoly capitalist organs as VALCO, Agri-Petco, Firestone etc. are strangling the Ghanaian economy.

I think it is necessary someone tells Limann that the times have changed, and that the tune too has changed. This is no time for the type of child's play he has engaged himself in. There was a time when a President could divert the attention of the nation by gimmicks. But that time has passed. What Ghanaians need now is solutions to their problems, and not calculated lies.

If he does not know, he should please know it now that it is dangerous trying to destroy a people's symbol without making any effort to give them another. This is a fact even madmen know. He should know that whether Rawlings has done evil or not, he has become the people's symbol. If he, Limann, can do what Rawlings has done, it is better he sets to work to find how to save Ghana from the chains of the economic slavery that has made nonsense of our independence. By so doing, he will be giving Ghanaians another symbol, and this is the only way he can destroy Rawlings without resurrecting the Revolution the June 4 Revolt messed up!

I remember when Limann was here in Nigeria he told the world that he did not believe in the Presidential system and that he had written against it. It therefore beats one's understanding why he presented himself for the office. Is it to prove how disastrous it can be to us? If this is what he wants to do, he should kindly take note that the desperate manner in which he is going about it, is not only dangerous and expensive, but also, paradoxically, comical. And that it is such hypocritical behaviour that gives such drunkards as I met in the beer bar the audacity to insult Africa the way he did. For his own sake it is important President Limann notes that witch-hunting cannot do for politics in Ghana in the '80s. Our eyes are too open!

*Oghomasha, Nigeria*

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# ECONOMIC and Business NEWS

## Cocoa hits 4-year low

from a correspondent

COCOA has been down to its lowest price for four years. At the middle of last week spot was slightly better at about £1,190 a tonne, with July cocoa just over £1,200, December was about £1,280 and July next year was approaching £1,380.

Apart from the recent Gill & Dufus forecast of a 134,000 tonne surplus (making the third surplus season in a row) the fall was due to a combination of factors in which beanish chart movements were probably as significant as any but the climate of the market was such that almost any rumour, let alone firmish report, had an effect. Among those circulating were favourable rains in cocoa growing areas of Brazil which were expected to help the main crop, persistent reports that Nigeria had made some modest sales and a continuing rumour that the Ivory Coast has sold beans or products recently at market prices.

In addition there was a bearish forecast of prices from the New York firm of Ach International, and a general weakness in most commodities and cocoa was particularly affected by the health of the pound sterling. The long holiday weekend in Europe also probably distracted buyers even though the low prices which have been posted lately have been attracting some bargain hunters, especially from Russia and Eastern Europe.

It is worth noting this paragraph from the chairman's statement in the annual report from Rountree Mackintosh: "There was an improvement in the world stock position of cocoa beans during the year and this has continued into the 1979-80 crop year. Cocoa bean prices have shown some decline but the price of cocoa butter, an equally important ingredient, has risen significantly and the total cost of cocoa materials has been relatively constant and is expected to remain so in 1980."

management committee had been taken out of context, and that the speaker had been underlining the Board's handling problem in recent years at a seminar with the board staff.

The statement had been that the stock of undelivered cocoa on November 12 last year was 30,000 tonnes but the word "undelivered" in CMB jargon meant cocoa that had been purchased and paid for but not delivered to the port or to the local processing factories. The chairman noted that as from April 8 undelivered cocoa of the 1978-79 crop — i.e. cocoa yet to be evacuated to ports and factories — amounted to 8,420 tonnes. He explained that because of logistical problems, it was not possible to deliver all cocoa within a given crop year to the ports and factories before the end of the season.

He said the country's economic situation was causing a lot of problems, and that the Board was at present using 85 vehicles to move cocoa from the buying centres.

## Ivory Coast — Brazil plans

A communique issued at the end of the visit to the Ivory Coast by the Brazilian Minister of State for Agriculture, Mr. Angelo Amaury Stabile said that Brazil and the Ivory Coast have agreed to provide financial resources equivalent to those blocked up on the international cocoa market. During the next few weeks, they will try to persuade other producing countries to join this fund by placing at the disposal of the group the necessary funds to support prices. There were also talks on processing Ivory Coast cocoa in Brazil.

## Coffee is strong

Coffee is one of the few commodities showing any strength in the markets at present — along with sugar. At the middle of last week spot coffee was above £1,675, July about £1,730 and September at £1,765. It is generally considered that the potential supply and demand position is more or less in balance but there is little left in reserve if anything goes wrong; last year there were early frosts in Brazil, so it will not be surprising to hear of

them again this year — whether or they actually occur. There are also other potential worries about, with rather fewer chances of any unexpected surge in supplies from any particular source. With reasonable good fortune there should be enough coffee this year but the price is not going to weaken in general, though of course there may be the odd readjustments.

## Diamonds still selling

In the course of his annual report for De Beers the chairman, Mr. Harry Oppenheimer, said: 1979 was in some respects a difficult one for the diamond trade and the Company's results were, in the circumstances, very satisfactory. The Group's net attributable profit at £41.2m was virtually the same as in 1978. The composition of the profit was, however, markedly different in that the diamond account, at £46.2m, showed a reduction of £69m as compared with 1978, whereas interest and dividend revenue at £17.3m, as compared with £13.0m, showed an increase of £4.3m, and tax and lease payments to the State at £19.7m, were £27.7m lower partly as a result of higher capital expenditure. The reduction in the diamond account is due partly to higher working costs and partly to the fact that there were less sales by The Diamond Corporation from old stocks held at low prices."

Mr. Oppenheimer went on: "Throughout 1979 the demand for diamonds of one carat in weight and upwards remained strong and this has continued in 1980. Two price increases for large diamonds were readily absorbed by the market (13 per cent last September and another 12 per cent in February this year). The demand for the small sizes of diamonds however has been and remains weak. At the beginning of this year some improvement in market demand overall made itself felt but the rise in interest rates to unprecedented levels is likely to create increasing financing problems in the cutting centres where the holding of stocks has become extremely expensive and, as a result, the position has become more uncertain. Market conditions for the rest of the year will obviously depend to a large extent on developments in the American economy and we expect the weakness in demand for small sizes to continue. In spite of these difficulties sales by CSO have so far been higher than last year and it looks as though the current level of sales is likely to be maintained for the rest of the year.

The market for industrial diamonds remained firm throughout the year. However, a reduction in the supply of natural industrial diamonds has forced a substantial swing away from natural to synthetic diamond in this field. Our industrial division was able to adapt itself successfully to these

conditions and major expansion programmes are underway at the Group's synthetic diamond factories. The industrial diamond market continues to expand and is well placed, both technically and commercially, to take advantage of this situation."

● A huge diamond — 198 carats — was found last month in the Diamang Company's mines in Angola, according to the *Journal de Angola* newspaper. The paper said that this was a record, the largest stone previously discovered having been of 174 carats.

## Increase in US stockpile

The US government has announced that it is increasing its \$200m stockpile of strategic goods for military and civilian industrial use during a war.

The stockpile of metals, minerals and key commodities like rubber allows the government to meet military and civilian needs if foreign supplies were cut off. The increase would bring the value of the stockpile to \$13,700m.

## Brighter outlook at Smurfit's

The Irish paper and packaging group Jefferson Smurfit has pushed full-year pre-tax profits up from £16m to a record £18m, including £19,000 (£180,000) from associates, in spite of a 22m reduction in contributions from its Nigerian business.

Figures this time, however, also includes five months' contribution from Alton Box, the American company in which Smurfit increased its holding to 51 per cent in August.

Following 10 months' losses operations in Nigeria returned to profit in the last months of the year and the group is optimistic about prospects outside the British Isles.

## New shipping service

Antwerp Maritime NV, the Belgian line which had been operating from Continental ports to Nigeria, has announced that it will in future call into the UK and has appointed Anglo European Container Line (AEL) as UK agents for this service which starts on May 25 from Felixstowe directly to Lagos where the line has its own private port facilities.

Initially UK calls will be monthly but it is hoped that UK calls can be increased to fortnightly sailings. The service is geared exclusively for general cargo and all vessels have their own lifting gear to ensure speedy turnaround.

● The OPEC Fund, has made balance of payments loans — which carry maturities of 10 years after a three-year grace period — of \$4m to Niger, \$2m to Guinea-Bissau, \$1.5m to Cape Verde, \$5.5m to Mauritania and \$1.5m to The Gambia.

## Meetings move from Monrovia

A conference of West African and European officials and industrialists planned for Monrovia at the end of May is to be held elsewhere following the April 12 coup, according to reports from Brussels.

Organised by the Brussels-based Centre for Industrial Development (CID) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the conference will discuss development possibilities in the region.

The CID is run jointly by the European Common Market and the 53-nation African, Caribbean and Pacific group linked by the Lomé Trade and Aid Convention.

The Common Market's delegate in Liberia, Mr. Keith Shaw, has been recalled for consultations following the execution of the country's former leaders.

## ADB goes to Abidjan

The annual meetings of the Boards of Governors of the African Development Bank (the 16th) and the African Development Fund (7th), which were to have been held in Monrovia this week, will now be held in Abidjan from June 23-27.

The annual Assembly of the Association of African Development Finance Institutions will also be held in Abidjan, from June 18-20.

## Pledges to WFP from US . . .

The United States has announced a pledge of \$220m to the World Food Programme (WFP) for the 1981-82 period — subject to the availability of commodities and extension of the US food aid legislation and appropriation by the Congress. It includes \$165m in food commodities, \$50m in transport and \$5m in cash.

## . . . and EEC

The European Economic Community (EEC) has pledged 30,000 tons of milk powder and 5,000 tons of butter oil (together worth \$40.5m) to the World Food Programme for the year 1980.

In addition the EEC will channel through WFP 45,000 tons of cereals, under the Food Aid Convention and 20,000 tons of cereals under the International Emergency Food Reserve.

## WFP approves 15 schemes

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has approved food aid projects for 15 developing countries totalling 1136.

The Rome-based agency promotes "Food-for-Work" projects



● One of three Westland Whirlwind helicopters from Nigeria being unloaded from TAC Heavy Lift's Belfast 1ML — in association with its Nigerian subsidiary IMNL — had chartered the Belfast to bring the Whirlwinds for British Helicopters from Lagos to Stouess in England. This was the first commercial flight by a Belfast from Lagos.

mainly aimed at increasing farm production and also operates food programmes to help mothers, children and old people in some poor countries.

The new projects include: Guinea — \$3.2m, to start a project building dams and tunnels. Angola — \$6.7m, to rehabilitate milk production; Ghana — \$5.6m, to help oil palm plantations. Mauritania — \$4.2m, to feed students in primary and secondary schools and technical institutes.

## World Bank — IDA assistance

The World Bank and its affiliate for concessionary lending, the International Development Association (IDA), have approved the following loans.

To Burundi, a \$15m IDA credit for a second education project designed to increase the availability of skilled manpower and improve the quality of technical education.

To Nigeria, a \$28m World Bank loan for a project in Oyo State to increase food crop production and improve rural incomes through an agricultural development project.

To Upper Volta, a \$6.5m IDA credit to help a rice development project involving the future development of swamp areas.

● The International Development Association (IDA) is to lend \$10m to Benin to help its Industrial Development Bank provide financing to industries.

## Japanese aid up 19 per cent

Japan gave developing countries \$2.638m last year, 19.1 per cent more than in 1978, the foreign ministry has announced.

The figure comprised \$1,925m, paid directly and \$713m given through international organisations including the World Bank. Foreign aid was 0.26 per cent of the Gross National Product, compared with 0.23 per cent the previous year.

## Top town

Kinshasa, capital of Zaïre, is the world's most expensive city for the

foreign visitor, according to a list issued by the United Nations. Colombo, Sri Lanka, is the cheapest.

New York, where the UN has its headquarters, was given a rating of 100 on a scale rising according to expense. Sixty-five cities, including Paris and London, "scored" more than New York.

Kinshasa had a rating of 177, Geneva 173, Bonn 154, Tokyo and Kampala 153, Brussels 150, The Hague, Copenhagen and Abidjan 143, Paris 144, London 119, Accra 116 and Lagos 114.

The UN explained that the table, published in its monthly statistical bulletin, applied to expenses incurred by foreign visitors and did not necessarily reflect the cost of living for locals.

## "Stretched" Range Rover

A modified Range Rover incorporating six-wheel-drive will be promoted by Scottam Trailers during the trade mission to Nigeria by the society of motor manufacturers and traders later this month.

The payload of the modified Range Rover has been increased by about three-quarters of a tonne to 2,000kg and a 1.19 metre extension to the chassis gives an overall length of 5.59m. To meet the extra load of passengers or bulky equipment which can be carried as a result of the extra space, a third drive axle has been incorporated to increase traction.

Scottam's standard range of two- and four-wheel trailers can be used in a variety of applications including water-carrying tankers, fuel and cargo carriers, mobile workshops and kitchens, mobile generator units, refuse disposal units and a sick animal transporter.

## US urges bigger tin buffer stock

The United States, the world's largest user of tin, agreed, at the tin pact negotiations in Geneva, that consumer states might share with producers the cost of financing a buffer stock of the metal to keep world market prices stable.

But export controls by which producers at present may restrict supplies to the market to prevent prices falling below a minimum level should be abolished, US Deputy Special Trade Representative, Michael B. Smith said.

The US believes a pure buffer stock, of about 70,000 tonnes capacity, would be big enough to stabilise prices within a realistic range without export controls, which he described as prejudicial to the interests of both consumers and producers.

The present tin agreement combines export controls with a buffer stock of tin metal and cash with a capacity of 20,000 tonnes made up of compulsory contributions from producer states. The fact also provides for voluntary contributions by consumer countries up to an equivalent total.

Mr Smith advocated that export controls be eliminated from the present agreement, as well as being banished from the new pact. "Export controls stifle new investment, frustrate the development of more efficient production, ultimately inflate prices, and place an enormous financial burden on producers," he said.

Mr. Smith said the success of a pure buffer stock depended on its size and other factors, including the price level and the width of the price band within which market forces were permitted to operate freely.

Since the present agreement provided for up to 40,000 tonnes in buffer stock contributions, the 70,000 tonnes capacity envisaged by the US for the new pact should be attainable. "The US anticipates that any new buffer stock provisions should be fully financed by government commitments from the outset," he said.

## Human Rights Commission

The UN's economic and social council has elected 14 countries to three-year terms on the 43-member UN Commission on Human Rights, beginning next January 1. They include Ghana and Zaïre. Ghana and Senegal were already members whose current terms expire at the end of this year.

Other members of the commission, who will continue to serve next year include Benin, Burundi and Nigeria.

● Education experts in six African countries — Kenya, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Nigeria and Senegal — are on the mailing list of a new quarterly English language education magazine which is to be distributed free. Called *Educational Explorer*, it is designed to make buying officials aware of British equipment, expertise and services and hopes to act as a forum for worldwide views on education.

The mailing list covers sixty countries, and the first issue went out in March.

# SHIPPING News

## BARBER LINES

**EASTBOUND** — TEXAS due sail Apapa Apr 27, Douala, Tema, Abidjan and Monrovia **TAMPA** due Abidjan Apr 27, then Tema, Apapa and Douala

**WESTBOUND** — TEXAS due load West African ports Apr 23-30, for Norfolk, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York **TAMPA** loading West African ports as above May 11-18, for Norfolk, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York

## E.A.C. LINES

**SOUTHBOUND** — BORINGIA Oslo/Moss May 7, Copenhagen May 20, Aarhus May 21, Hamburg May 24, Bremhaven May 24, Rotterdam May 26, Antwerp/Zeebrugge May 26, Rouen/Le Havre May 27, Tenerife May 31, Dakar June 2, Freetown June 3, Monrovia June 4, Abidjan June 13, Tema June 21 (with transhipment), Lome June 28 (with transhipment), Lagos/Apapa June 7, Douala June 11

**NORTHBOUND** — FIONIA Douala May 20, Port Harcourt May 20, Lagos/Apapa May 23, Cotonou May 21, Lome May 24, Tema May 25, Abidjan May 26, Monrovia May 29, Freetown May 16, Dakar May 30, Tenerife June 2, Amsterdam June 24, Antwerp June 24, Rotterdam June 24, Bremen June 29, Hamburg June 29, Aarhus June 26, Copenhagen July 1, Oslo/Moss July 3, Le Havre July 2

## ELDER DEMPSTER LINES

**SOUTHBOUND** — DUMBAIA due Monrovia May 14 PEGU slg Calabar May 14 SOKOTO slg London May 19

**NORTHBOUND** — SEKONDI due Dublin May 14

**EASTBOUND** — SEKI ROKAKO due Port Harcourt May 18

## FARRELL LINES

**EASTBOUND** — EXPORT BANNER New York May 2 arrives Matadi May 25, Douala June 4 (if sufficient inducement)

**WESTBOUND** — EXPORT BANNER arrives Lagos/Apapa May 2, Matadi May 7, Douala May 12 (if sufficient inducement)

## K LINE

**WESTBOUND** — CHAI VAREE from Japan via Hong Kong and Singapore, to Abidjan, Lome, Apapa/Lagos, Port Harcourt, Douala, Matadi, sailed Japan May 3 due Apapa/Lagos June 10

## MEDAFRICA GOLDEN EAGLE/ NIGERIA LINE

**MEDITERRANEAN** — WA **SOUTHBOUND** — JESAMINE Marseilles Apr 19-21, Barcelona Apr 22-23, Valencia Apr 26, Agde May 2-3, Lagos May 8-12

**NORTH EUROPE** — WA **CAP BRETON** Dunkerque Apr 22-23, Rotterdam, Apr 24-26, Lagos May 8, Port Harcourt May 12

**USA/WA** — HEKTORFF Lagos May 9, Port Harcourt May 13

**FAR EAST/WA** — ZIRIA Kobe Apr.

18-19, Keelung Apr. 23-24, Hong Kong Apr 25-26, Singapore May 1-2, Lagos May 22-31, Port Harcourt June 1-4

## MITSUI O.S.K. LINE

**WESTBOUND** — BRAVE PIONEER Kobe Apr. 10, Hong Kong Apr. 21, Singapore Apr. 21, for Monrovia June 2, Apapa May 22, Port Harcourt June 8, Douala June 15 **AFRICA MARU** last Japanese Port Apr. 5, Singapore Apr 16, for Abidjan May 9, Apapa/Lagos May 14 **HEROINAE** slg Japan mid April, calling Hong Kong, Keelung, Singapore for West African ports mid May

## NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE

**SOUTHBOUND** — RIVER RIMA Port Harcourt May 2, Warri May 11, Douala May 17 **RIVER HADEJIA** — Monrovia Apr. 27, Apapa May 1 **RIVER OGUN** Dakar May 5, Banjul May 3, Monrovia May 8, Abidjan May 11, Takouadi May 14, Cotonou May 16, Warri May 21, Matadi May 26

## OT AFRICA LINE AB

**KAPRIPOK** Dakar May 9, Lagos May 13, Tema May 15, Abidjan May 16, Monrovia May 18, **VALLMO** Grangemouth May 2, Le Havre May 8, Zeebrugge May 9, Wallhamn May 9, Rotterdam May 10, Felixstowe May 11, Dakar May 20, Lagos May 24-25, Tema May 26, Abidjan May 27, Monrovia May 29

## PALM LINE

**SOUTHBOUND** — APAPA PALM Hamburg Apr 9, Rotterdam Apr. 16, Dakar Apr. 24, Freetown Apr. 27, Monrovia Apr. 29, Abidjan May 1, Tema May 3, Cotonou May 6, Port Harcourt May 9, Douala May 20

## S.C.A.B.O.A.

**SOUTHBOUND** — IKAROS Dunkirk May 9, Apapa May 28, VILLE DE BORDEAUX Dunkirk May 12, Rouen May 14, Le Havre May 8, Bordeaux May 17, Dakar May 24, Abidjan May 28, Lome May 31, Apapa June 3, Port Harcourt June 13, Douala June 6

**NORTHBOUND** — SAINT-JACQUES Libreville May 18, Douala May 21, Abidjan May 24, San Pedro May 26, Bordeaux June 4, Nantes June 4, Le Havre June 11, Dunkirk June 7

## SCANDINAVIA WEST AFRICA LINE

**SOUTHBOUND** — LYCAON Aarhus June 2, Copenhagen June 3, Norkkoping June 5-6, Banjul Dakar May 23-24, Freetown May 26-28, Monrovia May 29-June 1, Abidjan June 3-7, Tema June 8-11, Cotonou June 12-16, Port Harcourt June 18-28, Douala June 26-29

## WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

**DESERT WIND** ETA Houston May 2, ETS Houston May 7, ETA Abidjan May 22, ETA Lagos May 26, **BUNNA FORTUNA** ETA Houston May 10, ETS Houston May 15, ETA Abidjan May 30, ETA Lagos June 4.

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## SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

**WEST AFRICA RICE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION  
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**
**POST TITLE:** Finance Officer. **DATE ISSUED:** April 25 1980.

**DUTY STATION:** Monrovia, Liberia. **CLOSING DATE:** May 30 1980.

**GRADE:** P1/P2. (U.N. Scale). **DURATION:** 2 years.

**DUTIES:** Under the direct supervision of the Financial Controller, the responsibilities of the incumbent will include:

- Supervision of the Finance Section to ensure that Internal Accounting functions are carried out in accordance with the Association's Rules and Regulations;
- Supervision of accurate and timely payments to Staff Members, Field offices, Commercial and other Suppliers;
- Preparation of Journal Entries for posting to the General Ledger;
- Preparation of Fund-Flow Forecasts for eventual submission to the Executive Secretary;
- Reconciliation of commitments recorded in the books of the Association;
- Preparation of Daily Cash Statements;
- Carrying out other duties as may be assigned.

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**REQUIREMENTS:** Fluency in English or French and preferably working knowledge of the other; ability to work with people of different nationalities; possession of managerial skill.

**MODE OF APPLICATION:** Application with three copies of biodata should be received by the Personnel Officer, West Africa Rice Development Association, P.O. Box 1019, Monrovia, Liberia not later than May 30, 1980.

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# Dateline AFRICA

## GHANA

### Limann will not "play politics"

The Government has expressed regret at a call by Dr John Bilson, leader of the Third Force Party, for the President to resign. The President said it had become fashionable for some self-appointed spokesmen for the people who believed that they had solutions for all the country's problems to demand the resignation of President Limann. Since assuming office, an official statement declared, the government had spared no efforts to bring relief to the broad mass of the people. Referring to the President's promise to flood the market with goods, the statement pointed out that President Limann had emphasised that this promise could not be isolated from the need to solve more urgent problems in Ghana. "Contrary to what Dr Bilson believes, the current national mess is neither the fault of the President nor of his Government, but rather the reckless dissipation of public funds, abuse of power and absolute disregard for the welfare of the ordinary Ghanaian in the past."

The statement stressed that the government would not allow itself to be stampeded into taking hasty decisions to satisfy the whims of a few people, and that it would resist the temptation of playing politics with the destiny of the country. "As much as the government welcomes suggestions and constructive criticism from all, it has no intention of abdication its responsibility to the people and will continue to rebuff all attempts by some people to use the suffering of others for cheap political gains."

The government statement said that at the end of March, goods worth £145m were imported, that a further £235m worth of goods were expected shortly, and that more revenues were being explored to bring in more goods and services. It added that "the government assures all Ghanaians that it is fully alive to its responsibility and is working to alleviate their suffering", reported CBC radio.

● The Third Force Party headed on President Hilla Limann to resign honourably because he has failed in his administration of the country. At an Accra news conference, the party leader, Dr Bilson, said after more than six months in office the Limann administration had not been able to work out any meaningful programme for almost all aspects

of national life. He said there were dark clouds over the country and to forestall any undesirable situation, the President must resign honourably to save Ghana from total collapse. Dr Bilson said his party's call for the President's resignation was the first step before he is removed by Parliament under Article 56 of the Constitution. This, he said, provides that the President shall be removed from office if he is found to have conducted himself in a manner which brings, or is likely to bring his high office into disrepute.



President Hilla Limann

### Ghana Airways strike ends

The executive of the Ghana Airline Pilots Association has explained that its strike was necessitated by the fact that its members could no longer guarantee the safety of their passengers. It said they had been operating for many years under safety standards that were inadequate both psychologically and mechanically. In addition, both ground and navigational equipment were so obsolete that they endangered flights. The executive denied rumours that pilots were striking to support a demand to be paid in foreign exchange.

The pilots contended that under the deficient safety conditions, they had had no alternative but to withdraw their services until the peace of mind necessary for a pilot to fly was assured to them through the provision of certain basic amenities. They complained of being saddled with worries about where the next meal was coming from, and the problem of hostile management, accommodation and transport, so that they were unable to concentrate effectively on the use of obsolete equipment. They said the 26 pilots, six engineers and navigators formed the hub of the airline, and it was only proper that "the hub should be serviced properly". It was only fair, they

said, that people who were put in charge of a heavy national investment like an aircraft should be given enough remuneration to enable them to take good care of that investment and of the lives involved.

The pilots said they were anxious to negotiate with management but management would not listen to them. They said that a scheduled meeting with the Board of Directors had not taken place because on arriving at the agreed venue, nobody was there and the pilots learned that the Board had been dissolved. The Pilots' Association said it would take 10 years and over £100,000 to train one airline captain. It said if Ghana Airways Corporation was not making a profit it could be that it was overstaffed, or that collected revenue was not being properly accounted for since the flights were always fully booked and that pilots were convinced they put in their maximum effort. They therefore welcomed President Limann's call for turning the airline into a viable venture, and hoped that the source of the problem would be discovered.

## £1.9m. lost after five days

Ghana Airways had lost about £1.9m. after five days of the strike, according to a statement issued by Mr. Mike Anamzoya, the airline's public relations officer. He said it would continue to lose £281,000 for each subsequent day. It was said in his statement that the pilots had struck for professional allowances and free housing, and that all international and domestic flights were grounded.

Mr. Anamzoya said a series of meetings had been held between the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the airline's management, and the pilots to resolve the impasse, but all had failed. At one meeting, the statement said, the Minister of Transport and Communications, Mr. Harry Sawyer, explained that he could not deliberate on the issue since it was "strictly within the purview of the Cabinet to decide".

reported the *Daily Graphic*. He said the airline management had meanwhile set up a committee to make recommendations on conditions of service for all sections of Ghana Airways Corporation. The committee would gather relevant data from other African and European airlines, and that most prominent world airlines had been contacted.

Mr. Anamzoya said in his statement that the Minister had directed the airline management to pay all outstanding rents for the pilots and also to pay rents on a monthly basis. (He also said the government had set up sub-committees to look into rent subsidies in all government and quasi-government bodies.) The statement regretted that in spite of

all these bids to resolve the impasse the pilots had refused to resume work.

## "Mysteries" of Ghana Airways

The *Daily Graphic* editorial commented that "... there had been no doubts for some time that ... Ghana Airways will be shown to be the whitened sepulchre that it is ... Nobody has been able to explain for example why it needs a work force of over two thousand people to service an airline whose entire fleet makes a grand total of five planes. Nor has anybody unravelled the mysteries surrounding an airline that flies all its planes at 100 per cent capacity and yet makes losses every time.

"Arguments about low fares can hardly hold much water when the fares to, from and within Ghana now rank as one of the highest in the world, when other airlines who fly the same routes (minus the internal ones) do manage to make profits on these same routes.

"These are the reasons why the management of Ghana Airways had often been held as the culprits and that is what led to the now infamous Aer Lingus agreement which we were told would transform the national airline into a viable entity. Whatever happened to the work the Aer Lingus personnel did here for a whole year and their prescriptions for a remedy?"

"... It is not in anybody's interest to adopt an intransigent attitude to the pilots nor to paint them in the role of hijackers holding the nation to ransom. It is worth listening to their grievances and seizing this opportunity to cure Ghana Airways of its chronic illness once and for all. That is why it is very difficult to understand the action taken by the Ministry of Transport and Communications in dissolving the Board of Directors of Ghana Airways in the middle of the crisis."

## Previous recommendations

The Committee on Energy Resources had recommended the replacement of the national VC10 aircraft with a more fuel-efficient aircraft. The VC10, the only aircraft operated by Ghana Airways on its Accra-Rome-London route, has been in service for over 15 years. The committee noted that the demand for aviation fuel in Ghana is "about equal to production from the GHAIP refinery". It recommended the review of Government policy to construct airports in regional capitals in view of the uneconomical nature of aircraft use on short routes. The committee also asked the Government to review internal air fares in order to relate them to actual operational costs, citing the Accra-Kumasi route as not being viable. It said longer internal routes should be planned, reported GNA.

## "The economy will get better ..."

Dr. Amon Nikoi, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, has told Parliament that the economic situation was being contained and there was expectation that it would get better. Addressing the House in a "State of the Nation" session in which four Ministers of State were to speak, Dr. Amon Nikoi said at the time the government took over, the economy had been virtually blockaded by foreign creditors. The government had taken prudent measures to win back the confidence of these creditors. This, he said, had resulted in loan agreements with foreign governments amounting to over £812m. Dr. Nikoi said an essential ingredient of government policy was rural development with agriculture as the basis. Farmers would be supplied with inputs and would easily obtain credit facilities from the rural banks that will be established.

In answer to a question, the Minister made it clear that the government had no intention of devaluing the cedi. He said a task force of the Foreign Exchange and Import Licence Allocation Committee was expected to report shortly on the reintroduction of the Special Unnumbered Letters (SUL). He said many Ghanaians who claimed to have foreign exchange obtained their money through foul means. The Minister said of the total imports for 1977 of £1,136m., about £336m. had come under SUL.

Dr. Nikoi announced that over £1m. had been voted to the Gold Mining Corporation and to the Geological Survey Department for work which could lead to reopening some mines. He said a joint World Bank-FAO team was in Ghana to look at the timber industry with a view to reactivating machinery and injecting competent managerial personnel.

On the AFRC monies inherited by the Limann administration, Dr. Nikoi said records indicated the amount stood at over £31m. This was made up of a little over £28m. in confiscated assets, a Special Survey Account of £2m., recoveries from CMB committee reports of £374m. and £9,000 in proceeds from confiscated properties. He said a statement is yet to be taken on £2m. in frozen and confiscated assets.

## Postal strike off

Workers of the Posts and Telecommunications went on strike to back their demand for the collective agreement to be signed. The management of the P & T had explained that it could not sign the agreement because it lacked the necessary funds. A statement released by the corporation's director-general, Mr. Peter Debrah, said the "new regulations and the fundamental law of the new Constitution ... make it undisable or impossible for management to sign because the corporation has no funds of its own to meet the financial obligations". Only through governmental subsidy could the financial obligations be met, he added. The statement said renegotiation of the collective agreement which expired last October was two months behind schedule because management had been waiting for government guidelines.

The secretary-general of the TUC, Alhaji A. M. Issifu, later urged the management of the P & T to reconvene the standing joint negotiating committee to resolve the impasse with the Posts and Telecommunications Workers Union. Alhaji Issifu said his intervention was at the instance of the Minister of Transport and Communications, Mr. Harry Sawyer. It was learned at the time of going to press that the strike has ended.

## Hearts go through

Accra Hearts of Oak are through to the second round of the African Champion Clubs' competition after drawing 2-2 at home with Angers of Gabon. Hearts won the first leg in Libreville 3-2.

● Nigeria retained for the second time the West African cricket quadrangular championship by beating Ghana by an innings at 104 runs at the Achimota Oval. Nigeria made 194 all out (100 openers, Henshaw and Erukandu made 49 and 45, and Olopade batting at number 7 made 39) and then dismissed Ghana for 37 in their first innings. The visitors' all-rounder, Gopal Valecha (10) normally bats without gloves but Ghana's second innings together with his 20 runs that he struggled with the last ball of the first over after lunch on the second day with Ghana all out for 53. The Ghanaians had little answer to Nigeria's opening bowlers Fadhumi and Ayarwa, the latter taking six wickets in Ghana's first innings. Nigeria also beat The Gambia and Sierra Leone with a day to spare.

● The £78m iron and steel foundry in Takoradi which has been lying idle since 1976 should go on stream by the end of the year, according to Mr. E. E. Aggrey, mechanical engineer of the foundry, during a visit to the site. Mr. Lee Tando Ocran, Deputy Western Regional Minister, Aggrey said the foundry had been lying idle for four years because of the inability of the private financiers, National Investment Bank, to import two major pieces of equipment. The equipment had now arrived, and what was now left was mounting overhead cranes, low tension domestic electrical connections and electricity supply. Mr. Aggrey said, "If all contractors speed up work, nothing can stop the foundry from starting production this year", reported the *Ghanaian Times*.

## Special Court warns police

The Special Court of Accra has warned that it would grant bail to the remaining five Nsawam prison officers (accused of having helped Mr. G. E. Amuah to escape) if the police were unable to complete their investigations within five days. The court, presided over by Mr. Justice S. A. Hmbray, gave the warning after the prosecution had for the second time objected to bail. Thirteen other accused have already been granted bail of £100,000 each with two sureties (one justified). They have all pleaded not guilty to charges of aiding a prisoner's escape and corruption by a public officer. Earlier, Mr. P. N. Cobbinah, the prosecutor, had told the court that since some of the witnesses yet to be contacted were prison officers subordinate to the five accused, their presence would hamper police investigations.

## CMB man exonerated

The Special Tribunal has set aside previous findings made against Mr. Osei Asibey Mensah, former Kumasi area manager of the Cocoa Marketing Board, by the Archer Committee which investigated the CMB. The Tribunal ordered an immediate refund of money, if already paid, to Mr. Mensah in respect of drinks

allegedly supplied him. It further directed that the assets and bank accounts of Mr. Mensah, his wife and children should be defrozen immediately, if already frozen, because there was no need to probe their assets.

## Writ against Krobo Edusei

A section of the Ashanti Regional branch of the People's National Party has filed a writ at the Kumasi High Court seeking to restrain Mr. Krobo Edusei and others from operating as regional executives of the party. Some months ago, a writ of certiorari was filed before Mr. Justice Roger Korah seeking to declare null and void the election of Mr. Edusei and other regional executives. The writ was temporarily withdrawn, and later, a high-powered delegation of PNP officials including the national chairman, Nana Okutwre Bekoe III, went to Kumasi to assure the installment of Mr. Krobo Edusei's executive. Mr. Justice Korah adjourned to a later date to hear both applications.

● An Accra High Court has struck out a writ filed by Mr. Dan Larley, a leading member of the PNP, against the national party chairman, Nana Okutwre Bekoe III, and the party itself. Mr. Larley had sought an injunction to declare null and void his suspension from the party last year by the defendants. The writ was struck off after Mr. J. K. Offeh, counsel for the PNP, told

the court that the case had been settled out of court and that all entitlements of Mr. Larley in the party had been restored to him.

● Mr. Osei Akyeampong, a defeated candidate for the PNP in last year's elections, has suggested that Ghana should sign a military pact with a superpower to offset any military uprising in the country. In a news release issued in Kumasi, Mr. Akyeampong said such an alliance should extend over a period of at least 50 years. He said he was aware that Ghana's foreign policy was based on positive neutralism and non-alignment, but he felt the country's present needs were also important.

● A 25-year-old trader who pleaded guilty to making a £2,800 profit on the sale of two sachets of Tulapak Brandy has been fined £1,000 by a Dusuay-Nkwanta Magistrate's Court, or will go to prison for 13 months in default. Mr. Kingsley Nyarko had sold the sachets at £2 each instead of 60 pence each.

## German experts on refuse

Two West German experts are to help the Accra City Council to find ways and means of solving sanitation problems in Accra, according to the West German Ambassador, Mr. Herbert Weil. He told the Accra Regional Minister, Mr. I. T. Tarto, that the technical aid team would help solve the City Council's transport

problem by providing trucks for refuse collection.

## Saltpond oil production falls

Production at the Saltpond oil wells has fallen from the original level of 3,000 barrels to 2,000 barrels a day. Mr. G. O. Kesse, Director of the Geological Survey Department, said this was due to technical difficulties facing the drilling company, Agri-Petco International, Inc. of the US. Mr. Kesse said drilling work on four additional wells to add to the present six had not yet begun. He said oil produced at Saltpond had to be taken to the US for refinement because of the nature of the agreement.

● The Ministry of Agriculture has taken delivery of 10,000 tonnes of fertiliser for the current farming season. Another consignment of 15,000 tonnes was expected shortly. An official of the Department of Agriculture told the *Daily Graphic* that he was not happy with the poor response from private transport owners to help cart the fertiliser to the regions. He said while the State Transport Corporation had placed 20 trucks at the Department's disposal, less than 10 vehicles had so far come from private owners.

Investigations revealed that the poor response was due to the fact that the private trucks were currently engaged in carting goods belonging to other West African countries. This was more profitable

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because of the foreign exchange payments which the transport owners needed to purchase spare parts and tyres for their vehicles. The official said if enough trucks tailed to go to Tema there was a likelihood that the fertiliser would not reach the farmers in time.

## Highlife rumpus

The executive secretary of the Arts Council, Mr. Charles Phillips, has refused to release for public scrutiny the agreement between the Arts Council and Faisal Helwani Productions for the recording and filming of the National Highlife Competition which ended in March, according to the *Daily Graphic*. The newspaper said its investigation of the affair was motivated by "misgivings expressed in certain quarters about the document". Mr. Faisal Helwani, proprietor of Napoleon nightclub and music entrepreneur, is suing the Director of the Ghana National Cultural Centre, Kumasi, Dr. E. Osei-Kofi, for libel following Dr. Osei-Kofi's insistence on the publication of the terms of the agreement. The *Graphic* went to Mr. Phillips, Dr. Kwamena Ocran, Minister of Education, Culture and Sports, the Solicitor-General, back to Mr. Phillips, and finally to the Education Minister again without being able to see the document. It reported the Minister as saying it was neither his business nor that of his ministry to interfere in the affairs of institutions under his ministry by issuing instructions for the release of agreements to the press.

● Dr. W. C. Ekow Daniels, Minister of the Interior, has announced that the Ministry of Trade was working on a new executive instrument on prices. Addressing the first general meeting of the Ghana Vigilante Groups, Dr. Daniels asked the members to resist all forms of temptation and not to use their position to settle personal squabbles, referring to reports on harassment by the groups. He said the vigilantes should accept criticisms and suggestions and to favour their work fearlessly if they were doing the right thing. Mr. K. Antwi-Nimoh, Deputy Minister of the Interior, asked the groups to concentrate their activities on the big sources of distribution, while Miss Lucy Blas, Deputy Minister of Trade, asked the vigilantes not to disclose their identities, reported the *Daily Graphic*.

● Herr Herbert Weil, the West German Ambassador in Ghana, has expressed optimism that by the time his government hands over the joint agricultural project in the Northern Region to the Ghana Government, much would have been achieved. During a courtesy visit to the Northern Regional Minister, Alhaji Ibrahim Harruna, in Tamale on the 10th anniversary of the project's foundation, Herr Weil assured Alhaji Ibrahim that the project would be continued in earnest so that the originators of the project in Germany would not be disappointed. Alhaji Ibrahim said he was grateful to the Germans for the sacrifices they were making towards agricultural development in the region.

## NIGERIA Presidential prerogative

Presidential Advisers in the present Administration were appointed at the absolute discretion of the President. This was revealed at a news conference in Calabar by President Shehu Shagari at the end of his official tour of the Cross River State. Alhaji Shehu pointed out that his Advisers did not represent the 19-State structure nor were they selected on a State basis, he asserted that none of his Advisers came from Sokoto State, his own State, adding that the President had the prerogative to choose whom he wished as an adviser.

On boundary disputes Alhaji Shehu said that boundary disputes with our neighbours would be handled effectively through diplomatic channels. He did not think that there were very serious boundary disputes within States in the Federation, adding that what dispute there was in the Cross River State had been almost solved.

On the provision of low-cost houses, President Shehu Shagari reiterated that it was the responsibility of the Federal and State Governments to provide accommodation for Nigerians. He said that studies on the construction of an oil refinery in the Cross River State were being carried out by the Federal Government. Any decision on the refinery, he added, would be based on the reports produced at the end of the studies.

## A Bill for official thieves

A private member's bill seeking to make life as difficult as possible for those who steal government money and property is on its way to the National Assembly, the *Daily Times* reports.

If passed, any person who steals, converts, misappropriates, diverts or embezzles government funds with or without violence would be guilty of a felony.

On conviction, the punishment would be imprisonment without the option of a fine. The convict would also be stripped publicly of all national honours and titles he held.

In addition, the convict would receive 24 strokes of the cane on the bare buttocks in a public place before the journey to prison.

At the completion of the jail term, the ex-convict would take another 24 strokes of the cane before leaving for home.

Sponsored by Mr. E. O. Echelebu, of the Njikoka South Constituency in Anambra State, the bill also wants severe punishments for any person, persons, companies and associations found guilty of stealing government property.

That a group of persons committed the offence under

fictitious names or as a syndicate would not matter.

All should serve a minimum of 21 years without an option of a fine while the stolen property would be sold and the proceeds paid into the relevant government treasury.

Like those who steal public funds, persons convicted of making away with government property should receive 24 strokes of the cane on conviction and another 24 strokes on discharge.

The bill proposes the same punishment for anyone who steals even one kobo from the government.

According to the bill, anyone convicted under the legislation would take the 24 strokes of the cane in a stadium, open field or other spacious public places.

Moreover, there is a clause to make the mistresses of those found guilty of stealing government property, their relations, accomplices and agents liable to punishment as well. It proposes that such people should have their property seized.

## Some changes in the *Daily Times*

The Board of Directors of the *Daily Times* Nigeria Limited, has announced some changes in the company.

The changes include the appointment of Mr. M. Iroabuchi, Deputy Editor of *Time*, as Editor of the newspaper. He succeeds Mr. Tony Momo, who now becomes Deputy Manpower Planning Adviser - new post in the group.

The other changes are: O. Theo Ola, District Manager, Kaduna, becomes Deputy General Manager (Editorial) in Publications Division. He succeeds Mr. Tony Momo, who also held the post of Editor of the *Daily Times*.

Mr. Tunji Oseni, Editor, *Sunday Times*, moves to Enugu as Deputy Manager in charge of the company's expanding operations in the eastern part of the country.

Mr. Andy Akporuwa, Editor, recently, the *Daily Times* for a correspondent in East and Southern Africa, is promoted substantive Political Editor of the newspaper but, will take an temporary responsibility as acting Editor of the *Sunday Times*.

Mr. Achike Okafor, Deputy Editor, *Sunday Times* is promoted to the *Daily Times* as its Features Editor.

Mr. Angus Okoli, National News Editor, is promoted to a new post as Editorial Co-ordinator to take charge and control of the weekly offset editorial services programme and production initiated at the new Agidingbi site, near Ikeja.

Mr. Kunle Elegbede, currently acting Production Editor, is promoted Night Editor. He succeeds Mr. Mac Alabi who transfers to the Periodicals section of Times Publications Division. Book Editor.



President Lamann inspected a guard of honour at the Sewa Grounds during his visit to Sierra Leone.

Mr. G. A. Din: is deployed as Production Editor to strengthen editorial production on the *Daily Times*.

Mr. Bola Adedaja: Deputy News Editor, transfers to Niger-pak, the light packaging subsidiary of the *Daily Times*, as Assistant Sales Manager.

Mr. Supo Ibikunle, Deputy Editor, *Lagos Weekend*, is promoted to the substantive post of Editor of the newspaper.

Mr. Remi Akano: Deputy Editor, *Spears*, the company's general interest magazine, is promoted to the substantive post of Editor of the magazine. He will be assisted by Mr. Lade Bunuola, formerly acting Features Editor of the *Daily Times* as Deputy Editor, *Spears*.

Mr. Terry Agelemonag, has been appointed Editorial Training Manager at the Times Newspaper Training Centre.

## Abuja calling

The Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), will start broadcasting from the country's new capital, Abuja, in April 1982. All arrangements connected with this have been completed by the Corporation with the Federal Capital Development Authority.

The Director General of the Corporation, Mr. George Bako, announced that a new transmitter costing over N14,400,000 would be commissioned in August this year.

Chief Odebanjo, the Presidential Adviser on Information, stated that although the FRCN would move to Abuja in 1982 "the transmitting station of the Voice of Nigeria would still be functioning from Ikorodu".

## New NBN chairman

Chief Micheal Omisade has been appointed the new Chairman of the National Bank of Nigeria Ltd.

Chief Omisade, 49-year-old lawyer, was a member of parliament from 1959 to 1962 and was later a civil commissioner in the Western State from 1967 to 1972.

The Board of Directors of the Bank has just been reconstituted with the appointment of five new directors. They are Mr. M. A. Adeniran, Mr. G. L. Oyawola, Chief Femi Oyebanjo, Mr. Tunde Oyedotunna and Mr. J. O. Tuki.

Other members of the Board are Mr. S. O. Banjo, the Managing Director, and Mr. J. A. Ogunbiyi, who continues as representative of minority shareholders.

● Thirty-six more prisons are to be built in various parts of Nigeria under a programme to reduce congestion. The Minister of Internal Affairs, Alhaji Bello Maitama Yusuf, explained that his Ministry also planned to provide training facilities in the existing prisons.

## Steel minister in Moscow

Nigeria's Minister of Steel Industry, Paul Unongo, has visited Moscow. He had talks on co-operation in building a metallurgical plant in the town of Ajaokuta. The plant, designed by Soviet specialists, will have a capacity of 1,000,000 tons of steel a year. In the future its capacity will be increased to 5,000,000 tons and the plant will become one of the biggest in equatorial Africa. It will use local coal and ore, discovered with Soviet help.

## Oil for South Korea?

South Korean Energy and Resources Minister, Yang Yoon-Sae, has visited Nigeria to discuss possible crude oil imports from that country.

The Korean Energy and Resources Ministry said the visit was part of South Korea's efforts to diversify its oil import market.

Officials have said South Korea will need about 230m. barrels, of which 38 per cent came from the Middle East states, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

South Korea last February set up diplomatic relations with Nigeria, which also has such ties with Communist North Korea.

● Work on the second satellite station of the Nigerian External Telecommunications Limited, NET, is to begin soon. It will be sited at Kaduna. The Chief

Engineer of the Corporation said that contracts had been awarded for the project and added that it was necessary to have a second station to reinforce the one at Lanlate.

## Ogunsanya to chair the NPP

Chief Adeniran Ogunsanya has been elected chairman of the Nigerian People's Party (NPP), beating the only candidate Chief Olu Akintofe, who has been chairman since the formation of the party in 1978.

The post of secretary went to Dr. Alex Fom who takes over from Paul Unongo, now a Federal minister.

Other officers elected were: Dr. Peier Oghang — director of planning and organisation, Chief Ignatius Kobani — publicity secretary, Mr. Guy Ikoku — legal adviser, Chief S. A. J. Nwachukwu — treasurer, Mr. M. A. Lawsonson — financial secretary.

Report from the party's convention recently held at Abuja said that two senators, Chief N. N. Annah and Chief Tony Anyanwu have been suspended from the party for six months with effect from April 26. The senators were asked to appear before the party's disciplinary committee on charges of "indiscipline and anti-party activities".

● A visitation committee has been set up by the National Universities Commission (NUC) to assess the

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infrastructure, logistics and academic standing of colleges of education in the country. The committee is to recommend whether some colleges of education should become degree awarding institutions.

## 14 farmers killed at Bakalori riot

Fourteen rioting farmers were killed and several others injured in a clash with an anti-riot police squad at the Bakalori Irrigation Project near Mafara, New Nigerian reports.

The farmers, who had originally allowed work to resume following an accelerated compensation payment, were reported to have forcibly taken control of the offices of the contractors handling the ₦200m. project. The State Commissioner of Police then drafted in mobile policemen.

The latest clash occurred when a team of policemen wanted to remove the road blocks mounted by the angry farmers.

Meanwhile the project area, especially Birnin Tudu and Rimi, has been deserted, and the people in the area left most of their belongings behind. It is reported that at least 200 rioting villagers had been arrested.

## Pre-shipment check ended for raw materials

The Federal Ministry of Finance has issued a statement that industrial raw materials, spare parts and books are now to be excluded from the list of goods to be inspected before shipment to Nigeria.

Pre-shipment inspections are done by the Société Generale de Surveillance of Geneva (SGS).

The statement from the Ministry of Finance said all applications for pre-shipment inspection in respect of industrial raw materials alone should now be sent to the Federal Ministry of Industries.

● The Nigerian Pilgrims Board has approved the reductions of fares for pilgrims travelling to Mecca and Medina this year.

Pilgrims boarding planes from Lagos and Ibbin are to pay ₦765 as against last year's fare of ₦808; those taking off from Kano and Maiduguri will pay ₦739 instead of ₦777.

In a statement, the Pilgrims Board warned that it would not tolerate fare increases by any state pilgrims agency. "There is no moral justification for such increase," the statement added.

Pilgrims were however reminded that in view of the increase of the basic travelling allowance from ₦500 to ₦1000 they should pay their own accommodation expenses.

Collection of fares begins on May 15 and ends June 30. Flights begin on September 24, the last one will be on October 24.

● The Un's economic and social council has elected 14 countries to three-year terms on the 43-member UN Commission on Human Rights, beginning next January 1. They include Ghana and Zaïre. Ghana and Senegal were already members whose current terms expire at the end of this year.

Other members of the commission, who will continue to serve next year include Benin, Burundi and Nigeria.

## FROM THE STATES Kaduna

Governor Alhaji Balarebe Musa has taken the State House of Assembly to court over an amendment to the Local Government Edict of 1979.

In an affidavit filed in support of the action at the Kaduna High Court Governor Musa said that the State House of Assembly presented a bill titled "A law to amend the Local Government Edict of 1979" to him to assent as provided by section 94(1) of the Nigerian Constitution. The Governor was however advised by the Solicitor-General of the Kaduna State that certain sections of the bill transferred the functions vested by the Edict in the Governor and of the executive council to the legislature.

The Governor complained that the said amendment has virtually severed the link between the government and local councils.

## Rivers

Governor Chief Melford Okilo has been sued in court for ₦500,000 for breach of contract.

The Attorney General of the State and Hassan Transport Nigeria Limited were also joined as co-defendants in the suit.

In the action filed at a Lagos High Court, the plaintiff, Mr D. S. Bell-Gam, General Manager of Hassan Nigeria Ltd, said he was seeking for a declaration that the act of the governor in suspending him from his office as general manager of Hassan Transport Nigeria Ltd be declared unlawful.

## GUINEA Sangare is sacked again

The Minister for Posts and Telecommunications, Toumani Sangare, has been dismissed "for having tolerated a demonstration of a tribal character" in his department, Radio Conakry has reported.

M. Sangare, who since November 1978 had been one of 15 members of the ruling Democratic Party's political bureau, has been relieved of "all his leadership functions" until the next meeting of the National Council of the Revolution, the highest ruling body outside Party Congress, the radio added, quoting

the political bureau.

In 1976 he was sacked as Youth and Sports Minister following the defeat of the Guinean Hafia Club football team during the African Club Champions Cup competition.

## MALI A difficult May Day

Malí celebrated May Day under particularly difficult conditions, according to President Moussa Traoré.

Speaking on Radio Mali, Gen. Traoré praised what he called "the particularly positive role" of the National Union of Malian Workers in "solving" recent student and pupil protest against his regime which rocked the country.

He also declared himself in favour of continuing a "largely constructive" dialogue with Malí's trade union representatives. These are calling for a 40 per cent wage

## ZAIRE

### The Pope draws massive crowds in Kinshasa and Brazzaville

Pope John Paul has completed the first leg of his African trip with visits to Zaïre and Congo.

Shortly after his arrival in Kinshasa the Pope held an open-air mass which was attended by a crowd estimated at about one million. It is reported that President Mobutu returned shortly before the Pope arrived in Kinshasa. The President had sworn not to reappear after the death of his wife two years ago. He suggested in a broadcast that the church had advised him to reappear.

The visit to Kinshasa marks another significant turn in the relations between the Catholic church and the State in Zaïre. It is estimated that at least 45 per cent of the 27 million population of Zaïre is Catholic and the Pope will be celebrating the centenary of the

increase, while the Government has offered 10 per cent.

The President added that the Government had made it its policy to define a national employment policy and to improve working conditions and job security, and he announced the opening "soon" of negotiations for new collective agreements.

It was decided that May Day in Bamako this year should be marked only by a mass meeting, rather than the traditional workers procession.

## NIGER

### Oumarou chairs Security Council

Niger takes over chairmanship of the UN Security Council for the month.

In keeping with the system of alphabetical rotation, Niger representative Idriss Oumarou succeeded Mexico's envoy Porfirio Muñoz Ledo.

arrival of the first missionaries began the evangelisation of Zaïre. During the 1970s, relations between the church and the State have been at times very strained. At the height of the anti-State campaign six years ago schools were taken over and the Catholic church came under heavy attack. Over the last three years, however, there has been a gradual rapprochement between the two.

The Pope also visited Brazzaville where he was greeted by well over 100,000 Congolese. On his arrival he asked the Congo government for a speech, to allow the church the right to operate in full freedom. He promised that it would not endanger the state. "The State relies on the total collaboration of the Church while it acts to benefit mankind," the Pope told President



Pope John Paul II during his visit to Zaïre.

Sassou Nguesso. Church schools have been nationalised in Congo and in 1977 Cardinal Biayenda was assassinated. The Pope has since

left for Nairobi to continue his African tour, which will also be taking him to Ghana, Upper Volta and Ivory Coast.

## CHAD

### Fighting renews as French troops prepare to leave

After a brief lull at the beginning of last week, fighting has erupted again in N'Djamena. Meanwhile, across the River Chari, the Cameroon government is becoming very anxious at the growth in the refugee population and the problems this is creating. The French troops are already preparing to leave N'Djamena after agreement was reached with President Goukhoum who had requested their departure.

The French have sent off their supplies and by May 15 it is expected that most civilians will have left. Shortly after, the French troops will be airlifted from the base in N'Djamena. The base will then be handed over formally to President Goukhoum's Forces Armées Populaires. However, it is expected that there will be fierce fighting for the airstrip with Hissen Habré's men of the Forces Armées du Nord. Their advance positions are only a few hundred metres from the strip.

The consequence of the French withdrawal will be to leave N'Djamena entirely in the hands of the two main factions which have been fighting since March 21. It is not thought that the decisions taken at the OAU economic summit in Lagos to form an African peacekeeping force will achieve much. The next few weeks will leave a void in international attempts, emanating from African diplomatic circles, to put a halt to the confrontation. It had been suggested at Lagos that one would have to wait until the OAU summit in FreeTown for the final arrangements concerning the financing of an OAU force to be finalised.

The French meanwhile are taking measures to withdraw their civilian installations, especially the hospital at the air base, which has been tending the FAP wounded, across the Chari to Cameroon. A French consulate will be established in Moundou in the south of Chad where there has been no fighting. This region is controlled by the Vice President of the Transitional Government of National Unity, Col. Kamougue.

France has also let it be known that it will be happy to resume co-operation with Chad in any form once peace has been re-established in the country, if the government requests it.

In Cameroon, the authorities have to face an influx of over 100,000 Chadians who have installed themselves in the Kousseri Prefecture. In addition, they fear that there could be some instability in that region if feelings between the local inhabitants and the refugees become strained. Already, it is reported that prices in the area have shot up, water is insufficient and disease is becoming a problem. In order to ensure that order is maintained in the region, the Cameroon army has sent up reinforcements and a Committee for the management of aid to the Chadian refugees has been set up under the authority of the Cameroonian Presidency. Some observers in the area have already noted that the Cameroon officials fear that the antagonism being shown in Chad could soon spread into northern Cameroon, where some reports suggest that groups representing the main Chadian opponents have already been infiltrated.

## LIBERIA

### Methodist Church retires Bennie Warner

The United Methodist Church of Liberia has said it was necessary to retire former Vice-President Bennie Warner as Bishop of the Church. In a news release, the Methodist Church said this was because of his "political intricacies" with the Liberian Government. ELWA Radio reported that Bennie Warner had indicated that he would be sending a Bishop to Monrovia shortly to investigate reports that Reverend D.C.A. Doe (according to BBC monitoring) of the United Methodist Church had staged an ecclesiastical coup in his absence.

The Head of State, Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe, had earlier told Liberian Methodists that Bennie Warner's statements were personal pronouncements by a defeated politician and had no relationship to the activities of the Methodist Church and the decent

men and women who worked with it in the building of a decent society. He therefore assured the United Methodist Church of the government's full protection. This followed the former Vice-President's statements to the BBC in which he laid claim to leadership in Liberia and called on the People's Redemption Council to step down.

Students at the Gharanga school of theology have expressed dismay at the recent statement by former Vice-President Bennie Warner that he would organise a government-in-exile to take power by force. In a statement of support and loyalty to the People's Redemption Council, the students frowned on Mr. Warner's attitude and said that as a theologian, Mr. Warner should have found better solutions to the problems rather than creating chaos and confusion among the Liberian people.



Master Sgt. Samuel Kayson Doe, the Head of State of Liberia

## Students call for PRC action

The Liberian National Students Union (LNSU) has called on the People's Redemption Council to stop riding about in the former government's luxury limousines and to set a date for handing over power to civilians. At a meeting in support of the PRC, the students proposed the setting up of a "People's Advisory Commission" made up of respected men and women to help the Council. The students also asked for free education, redistribution of land to the people, and the use of Masonic lodge offices for "more serious activities", reported Agence France Presse.

The national student organisation questioned the behaviour of some Council members, and the balance of ethnic groups in it — some see it as favouring Master Sergeant Doe's Kranh people. Also recommended was a code of conduct for the government, including the publication within two weeks of the assets of members.

## Police given Roye building

The Head of State, Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, has also announced that the E. J. Roye building on Ashmun Street, Monrovia, formerly the headquarters of the True Whig Party as well as the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA), had been turned over to the National Police force for occupancy. He said plans had been made to relocate international organisations already housed in the building to a more convenient area. Master Sgt. Doe later told newsmen that a special committee would be set up to review the high rents imposed on tenants. The Government also intended to

subsidise rents for its employees and those occupying government housing estates would not be required to pay rent.

## Convicted officials moved

Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe, the Head of State, has instructed the Commanding General of the Armed Forces, Brigadier General Thomas Quaiwonga, to transfer all convicted former government officials now detained at the Barclay Training Centre in Monrovia to the central prison in Grand Gedeh County, and to Gbalayala in Lofa County. The Head of State also instructed Gen. Quaiwonga to ask the Public Works Minister, Gabriel Tucker, to find accommodation immediately for about 60 soldiers at the Montadi housing estate as part of the People's Redemption Council's efforts to improve the living conditions of men and women of the Armed Forces.

## Free education by July

Dr. H. Boima Fahnbulleh, Minister of Education, has said in Monrovia, that plans were underway to provide free education in all Liberian schools by July this year.

## Doe concerned over arrests

Master Sergeant Doe has voiced concern over the continued arrest of innocent citizens by certain security officers. He told officials of the Ministry of Justice during a visit there that he had received reports of arbitrary arrests of innocent citizens. He instructed officials of the Ministry to check on all illegal arrests immediately.

## THE GAMBIA Imports rise in March

The Gambia's imports in March cost D27.34, a rise of D4.0m compared with the previous month and D7.19m compared with the corresponding month of last year. Manufactured goods classified by materials, food and live animals, and machinery and transport equipment formed the bulk of the value of the imports.

March exports at D6.54m show a sharp decrease of D4.02m compared with the February figure. In comparison with March of last year, the exports in the month under review dropped by D3.58m.

The deficit in The Gambia's recorded visible trade in March, 1980, was D20.80m compared with D10.03m in March last year.

Groundnut shelled, groundnut oil and re-exports, accounted for the bulk of the value of the exports.

## Power station loan

A D1.2m loan has been secured by The Gambia Government from the Bank of America to provide the Gambia Utilities Corporation (GUC) with two baseload engines for Half Day Power Station, the Minister of Works and Communications, Alhaji B. A. Kelephah,

Samba, has announced.

Orders have been placed with F. G. Wilson of Belfast, he said, for 1 Megawatt Mirreles Blackstone Engines, which are due to arrive this month.

## FAO honours Sir Dawda

In 1977 the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations issued its first *Agricola* medal, using the Latin word for farmer, to honour men who have made a major contribution to rural development. It has now issued an *Agricola* medal featuring Sir Dawda Karaba Jawara, the President of The Gambia, for his contribution in drawing attention to the food problems of some of the poorest countries of the world and in particular for his dynamic actions to ameliorate the plight and living conditions of the Sahelian people in his capacity as Chairman of the Interstate Committee for the Control of Drought in the Sahel (CILSS).

Last month Dr. Edouard Saouma, Director General of the FAO, went to Banjul to present a gold *Agricola* medal to Sir Dawda. "I came from Rome," Dr. Saouma said, "to honour a great man of the Sahel, and through him, all the countries of the Sahel."

"Mr. President, the countries of the Sahel have touched the imagination and the conscience of

the world. Unfavoured by nature, endowed with few natural resources, with large deserts and erratic rainfall, land-locked and among the least developed countries of the world, they have faced natural calamities as a way of life. Want has become a custom. Survival has been possible only because of the noble spirit of determination and the rugged strength of their greatest assets, their people. And above all, thanks to the enlightened leadership of their statesman, You, Mr. President, occupy pride of place as statesman of the Sahel.

"In our term as Chairman of the Interstate Committee for the Control of Drought in the Sahel, the CILSS, you have been the Sahel's spokesman to the world. You have espoused and pleaded the cause of all the Sahelian countries. Your inspired and dedicated mission has drawn the world's attention to the chronic problems of the region. It has mobilised international support for your fight against hunger and malnutrition.

"All the Sahelian countries are indebted to you, for your tireless pilgrimage in this noble cause. In June 1978, you addressed the Member Nations of FAO. You have addressed the United Nations General Assembly, the heads of African States, and the European Economic Community. You have visited many countries, in particular those of OPEC. All this and

more, so that the message of the Sahel may be understood by the world.

"FAO has recognised the need for Sahelian countries from the early stage. In order to mobilise international assistance and to render it more effective, the Office for Sahelian Relief Operations was specially established in 1973. Since I assumed my functions, I feel immediately the gravity of our task, and have persistently accorded the highest importance. It is my duty to continue to give the Sahelian countries the priority attention they deserve.

"Allow me now, Mr. President, on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and in my own name, to pay tribute to your outstanding contribution to the Sahelian countries and people by presenting to you this special *Agricola* gold medal. It bears the caption "Solidarity towards the sufficiency for humankind." A gold, especially during these times, has a special and precious value in the minds of people. We have your efforts in humanism, fight against hunger and malnutrition. The medal has also been produced by FAO in silver and bronze. Their sale will generate additional funds. We propose to use these aside for specific food production projects in the Sahel—a continuing tribute to you assisting in the realisation of some of your lasting aspirations."

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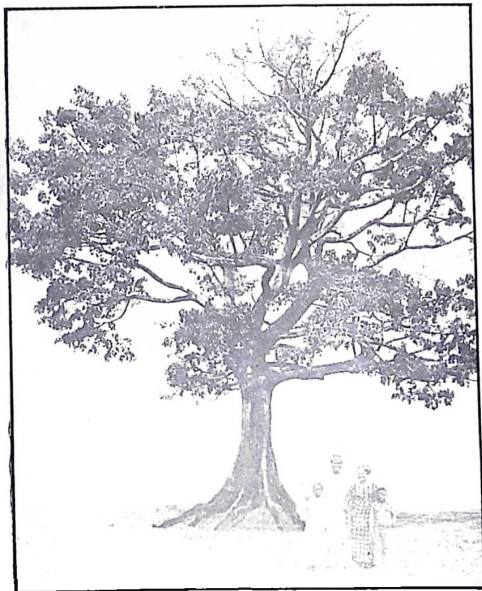
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