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Acheampong's 100 days

After three months in power, how far have Ghana's military rulers gone in putting right the wrongs for which they said they had ousted the civilian government? There has been no shortage of new policies. In some cases they have reflected the "quick decisive action" Colonel Acheampong promised. Most notable of these have been the revaluation of the cedi, repudiation of certain debts to Britain, and the declaration of a new, unilateral, policy on repayment of the rest of the debts to Western creditors inherited from the Nkrumah regime.

It is too soon to assess the consequences of these moves. In effect the new government has halved the 44 per cent devaluation announced by the Busia government, but the cedi is still heavily devalued compared with last December, with a consequent increase in the cedi cost of imports, of the servicing of external loans, and of the maintenance of missions and students abroad.

The main object of the Busia devaluation was to cut down the flood of imports of consumer goods which had damaged the balance of payments. It is believed that the IMF advised the Busia government that the cedi should be devalued, but left the degree of devaluation to the government. The stern measures announced by the military government against smuggling, and its reorganisation of the preventive services, together with the extent of the devaluation now in force, should limit luxury imports. In addition the new government has established an organization to import essential commodities, particularly food, and to control profiteering in these. Another agency is to import in bulk industrial raw materials, the shortage and high prices of which have endangered so many industries. These organisations, however, have not yet, apparently made any impact. Ghanaians will still find that imported goods cost more than they did; but a military government can limit profiteering in ways not open to a democratic civilian government.

Whether, even so, the government can restore the balance of payments without even more rigid control of import of consumer goods remains uncertain. To some degree, however, this control may

be applied automatically by the withdrawal of credit for exports to Ghana by Britain's Export Credit Guarantee Department and similar agencies in the West. Possibly the Soviet Union or, more likely China, will fill the gap. But under Dr. Nkrumah Ghana's consumers showed remarkable reluctance to buy communist goods, even when nothing else was available.

Many items, particularly of food, which Ghanaians are accustomed to importing, are regarded as staples. As Colonel Acheampong has said, many of these imports can be produced inside Ghana and, as previous governments have done, he has undertaken to improve the productivity of Ghana's agriculture. But such improvement must be slow, while the balance of payments crisis is urgent and immediate.

Since Ghana was paying only a very small proportion of the money due on the Nkrumah debts, under the last rescheduling arrangement, repudiation of something like a third of these is unlikely to have an immediate effect on the balance of payments. But the new government has recognised that it must meet in full, and as speedily as possible, the short term commercial debts of some 100m cedis inherited from the Busia regime if foreign exporters are to do any business with Ghana. Payment of these, however, is far more difficult than payment of the rescheduled Nkrumah debts.

British government spokesmen have been careful not to criticise the repudiation of some £35m of Nkrumah debts, and have expressed hope that the Ghana government will change its mind. That seems very unlikely. The Acheampong government is seeking popularity and the repudiation was very popular indeed, if only symbolically. Whether the government will insist on its own "rescheduling" of the other Nkrumah debts is another matter. The method it has announced amounts to virtual repudiation, which affects Ghana's relations with some dozen western governments, all of which were ready to ease the terms of repayment at a conference which was due to be held this month.



- Double or quits in Dahomey
- Defeating disease in Nigeria

The Nigerianisation Decree

By a correspondent

Eight months after the Federal Government announced that foreigners were to be totally excluded from certain types of business enterprise in Nigeria and were to be allowed to participate in others only on special conditions, a decree has been published to give legal effect to the policy. The decree, the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree 1972, establishes a body to be called the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Board, which will include representatives of Federal Ministries of development or investment agencies. Similar boards will be established in each State. The boards are purely advisory and it is left to the Commissioner for Trade to add to, remove from, or alter in any way (with the approval of the Federal Executive Council) the lists of affected enterprises given in schedule two of the decree. Nothing done under the decree can be subject to legal proceedings.

The original date announced for the policy to come into force was June 1974. This has now been changed to March 31, 1974. The Commissioner may, however, grant an exemption, initially for 6 months, for any particular enterprise and he may also exempt any existing enterprise from all or any of the decree's provisions.

From the first category of enterprises, aliens, whether individuals or companies, are totally excluded. They may participate in the second category only if the paid-up share capital exceeds £200,000 or the turnover of the enterprise exceeds £500,000. But where this condition is met there must be equity participation by Nigerian citizens or associations of over 40 per cent.

Changes in categories

The changes in the lists of categories of enterprises, published with the new decree, compared with the two lists published last June, are not great. Nevertheless they show that considerable thought has been given to the categories. Originally foreigners were to be excluded entirely from 26 types of enterprise. The new list names 22 enterprises, the reduction being partly the result of transferring some types to the second list, and partly to amalgamating some. Those transferred are bicycle and motorcycle tyre manufacture, soft drink bottling, poultry farming, and printing (but now only printing of books is listed). In addition the second list includes departmental stores and supermarkets, now excluded from retail trade in the first list. Wholesale distribution, on the other hand, is included in the second list, and while municipal bus services remains in the first list, interstate bus services is transferred to the second list. Operation of taxis and the blending and bottling of alcoholic drinks are now in the first list.

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Major investment

The first list, therefore, now covers retail trade, certain light industry, and services such as laundering and road haulage. The only major foreign investment (though not activity) which appears to be affected is part of that in the *Daily Times* Group, but there is already a substantial local holding in this. Most other enterprises are probably one-man or family affairs, often run by Lebanese.

It is in enterprises in the second list that more problems appear to arise. Here, however, the decree introduces a change more important than those in the lists of enterprises. Originally, the second list excluded aliens from enterprises listed if fixed capital was under £200,000. This may not be big capital for a plywood factory or an insecticide plant. But it would be big for a "distribution agency for machines and technical equipment", or for some construction firms which, although of great experience, hire much of their equipment. The decree permits foreign participation in enterprises in the list if the turnover exceeds £5m., when the Board considers that appropriate, even if the capital is under £200,000. The 40 per cent local equity rule still applies.

The decree raises different problems for different firms. A firm which already has a local share issue or is organising one is better off than one which has not. The Government is convinced that there is enough private capital in Nigeria to buy or "buy into" these enterprises; apart from the absence of provision for such

expenditure in the four-year development plan, public funds meant for development should obviously not go into existing private enterprises, even if Government agencies can assist Nigerian businessmen to take over foreign interests. Small enterprises may be taken over by individual Nigerians or by groups, or may be liquidated by their owners. But the main means of transfer, whether for industries from which foreigners are excluded, or for those where the local holding must be 40 per cent, is a share issue.

Many expatriate firms have issued shares in Lagos, and many are waiting to do so, but these tend to be bigger firms unaffected by the decree, although sections of these firms may be affected. In any case a high proportion of the shares are taken up by pension funds and the like. Of perhaps £N10m. now taken up locally only a quarter is in individual Nigerian hands. Nobody knows exactly the value of the assets now to be transferred; a minimum of £N100m. is mentioned. Some of the shares to be offered will be in well-known firms, and could be offered at a price to give an attractive yield. But there will probably still be a need for government to step in at some point, since rich Nigerians prefer to put their money into property, transport, or cocoa farms rather than shares.

Learning "on the job"

Nobody knows, either, exactly how many share issues there may have to be. But it is likely to be many more than the Lagos institutions have even managed in a period of two years. So many new issues will not only depress their own prices but could affect the prices of existing shares. The result may be a rush to buy what would be bargains, but also some resentment from those affected.

Estimates of the value of enterprises covered by the new policy will depend on estimates of their efficiency under what may be, in many cases, new management. The government, no doubt, feels that Nigerians must learn to run industries and services "on the job", and the decree lays down heavy penalties for "front" management. The new owners, however, are likely to retain key expatriates, while family affairs may simply pack up.

What about the remitting abroad of the proceeds of these sales? Government spokesmen hope that a substantial part of the proceeds will be re-invested in Nigeria. This seems optimistic in the case of firms which have not already diversified their Nigerian operations. But although no commitment can now be made about policy two years ahead, the official view is that the balance of payments will by then be so healthy that Nigeria could afford over a reasonable period free transfer of sums much greater than those officially thought likely.

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The government's own export is a main source of inflation, and the demand for imports. Acheampong has announced cuts of 65m. cedis in the current budget of restoring allowances to civil. The cuts affect office buildings, road works, provision of government and economies in education, which almost a quarter of the entire budget.

One great failure of the Bus was in the cocoa purchasing. Buying agents began to issue farmers instead of cash, sometimes. Farmers have always resented encourages them to smuggle to neighbouring territories to get marketing board now claims. Some cash available to cover that has been bought, but it is whether anything has been done about the unsatisfactory practice of buying agents.

Climb-down over advisory committee

Politically the new government appears to have met no opposition to climb down over the appointment of a civilian advisory committee, which is a sign that the individual members of the committee seemed to many in Ghana to be the past rather than the future. The new government is supposed to seize of the "assets" of politicians, which is popular, as such seizures are. But whether men of worth again enter political life is uncertain. For now the rule is established that if you are in a successor government will imprison you, and certainly seize your "assets", and regard your possessions as unlawfully acquired unless you can prove otherwise. There has been a little criticism inside or outside the country of the continued detention of members of the former government, though they are accused of no more sinister than participating in the return to civilian rule.

General acceptance externally

Externally the new government has been generally accepted. Not Ivory Coast government has criticized its seizure of power and no other has withdrawn its representation in Accra. For its part the new government appears to be seeking closer relations with Eastern governments, and has never clearly defined its position of Dr. Busia in favour of a militant approach to Africa affairs.

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AIR AFRIQUE IN PERSPECTIVE

An Interview with Cheikh Fall

Air Afrique, the multi-national airline of francophone Africa, was founded in 1961 and established a name for itself as an example of successful practical cooperation between African states. In recent months, however, the airline has faced a series of problems linked to the debts of certain countries, and the departure of Cameroon, and more recently Chad. Below our correspondent writes of his interview with the Chairman-Managing Director of Air Afrique, Cheikh Fall.

Cheikh Fall pointed out first of all that since its creation in 1961, Air Afrique has never made a loss, and the current revenue is \$80m. a year. The difficulties come from the delay in payments from states. On December 31, 1971 these amounted to \$14m, and certain states were more than a year behind in their payments to the airline. As this is a company whose original capital was only \$3m, this situation could not continue. This was the state of affairs that led to the calling of the special summit of Air Afrique states in Abidjan at the end of December (see *West Africa* week ending January 14). Measures were taken then which it was hoped would make such indebtedness impossible in the future.

First of all it was agreed that all arrears should be settled by March 31, said M. Fall. Some states have already attended to this, and three countries, Chad, Central African Republic and Congo-Brazzaville, were judged special cases or "countries with not many possibilities" and were given two years to pay their debts, which amount to about \$9m. between them.

The debts consist mainly of payments due from governments for airline tickets for official purposes (embassy officials, delegations, etc.) Many of these affected other airlines with which Air Afrique has arrangements and is therefore obliged to pay for, but the payment from the states has sometimes lagged badly behind. Under the new dispensation all official travel has to be invoiced in advance. Other components of the debts are air mail payments, and the maintenance of military and civil aircraft.

On the question of Cameroon, Cheikh Fall said that on the basis of the fiscal agreement of January 1970 it was possible to calculate that Air Afrique owed Cameroon about \$100,000 for taxes received since the formation of the company in 1961, while, he said, Cameroon owed Air Afrique a total of \$2m. for services which continued in the period between their withdrawal in January 1971 and the definitive setting up of their own airline, Cameroon Airlines, in November 1971. To this should be added the property in Cameroon of Air Afrique, possibly valued at \$2m. A commission had been set up charged with reaching an agreement on the sale of installations and goods, although there were some things the Cameroonians did not want, such as the aircraft Air Afrique was using on internal flights in Cameroon. The talks had not finished by November 1 when Cameroon Airlines was born,



President Bongo decorates M. Fall. On the right is M. Alcide Kouon, chairman of Hotafric.

because it took some time for Cameroon to decide what it wanted (Cheikh Fall is due in Yaounde this month for further discussions with Cameroon authorities on settling the *contentieux* with Cameroon. As, by these calculations, Cameroon could owe \$4m while Air Afrique owes \$100,000, it is clearly in Air Afrique's interest to bring the negotiation to a successful conclusion, in as amicable a spirit as possible.

Cheikh Fall also mentioned the question of Cameroon's own shareholding in Air Afrique, which, under the original Treaty of Yaounde setting up Air Afrique in 1961, is to be repaid jointly by the other member states. Their shareholding was originally \$360,000, but it is now estimated that each state's shareholding is now about \$540,000. This matter is to be discussed after the *contentieux* are.

Asked about Chad's withdrawal from Air Afrique, the Chairman was most anxious to stress that Air Afrique had nothing whatever to do with the Afro-Malagasy Common Organisation, although President Tombalbaye, in resigning as OCAM Chairman at the same time as withdrawing from Air Afrique, had linked the two. It was true that at past OCAM meetings the affairs of the airline had been discussed, but this had been incorrect. There are, after all OCAM members, such as Zaïre, who do not belong to Air Afrique, and Mauritania belongs to Air Afrique but not OCAM. Cheikh Fall hoped sincerely that Air Afrique matters would not be discussed at the forthcoming OCAM summit in Lomé. What had happened about Chad was that during the Abidjan meeting when the question of moving Air

Air Afrique's Central African office from Douala arose, President Bongo had asked for it to be in Gabon. Chad had asked if the office in a letter. The heads of state had approved Libreville although Tombalbaye had not been present.

Central African Republic had left Air Afrique last August because they had rented a DC8 cargo from American Airlines, but Air Afrique had refused to provide the insurance, or to provide routes for CAR, because it would have involved a loss of \$2m. annually, which would, said Cheikh Fall, have been against the spirit of the Yaounde Treaty. However Air Afrique in December, and the airline itself had done nothing to encourage such a development. After they rejoined however, it became possible to talk further about possible lines that Central African Airlines could take on.

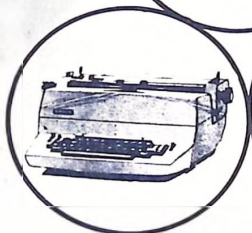
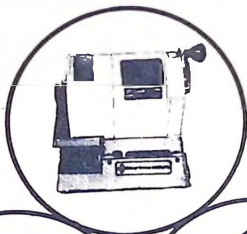
Asked about the possibility of division of Air Afrique into two, with a West African section and a Central African section, as the problem states for the airline were all in Central Africa, Cheikh Fall agreed that a West African airline could work very well, but he was not sure whether the Central African states would be able to agree on an airline in common.

Air Afrique, he stressed is the only airline south of the Sahara to balance its budget, although as a multi-national company there are a number of budgetary problems that a national airline never has to face. This has been in some respects good for Air Afrique as it has been obliged to run itself on much more commercial lines than might otherwise have been the case. Here he mentioned the valuable role the airline could play in tourism, which can benefit from the multi-national nature of Air Afrique. This had been seen in the setting up of the hotel subsidiary Hotafric. "We do more publicity for tourism than the individual states", he said.

Air Afrique has been a punching-bag, says Cheikh Fall for things which had nothing to do with the company as such. The withdrawal of Cameroon had been a question of personalities, for example. "It is a business which must be serious. We have an international position, and we cannot function anyhow. Our office in Abidjan works like Air France or BOAC. We don't have time for fantasies". What he hopes may be demonstrated by the airlines current problems is that it is difficult to leave the airline. He doesn't say so, but for this reason alone it would obviously be a good thing for Chad to return. The reason is partly that there is a lesson in the Air Afrique experience for African unity. This, he accepts, is just a phrase, but something like this airline (and there is no reason why other states should not eventually join in) is a practical demonstration. Some airlines had tried premature Africanisation, others had believed that possession of aircraft made the airline. Africans, he concludes, like "demonstrations by the absurd. They have to burn their fingers in order to prove to themselves that something doesn't work".

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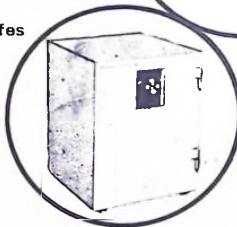


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MATCHET'S DIARY

Somali Foreign Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib has denied that Somalia has dropped its opposition to "dialogue" with South Africa, as had been claimed by Ivory Coast Foreign Minister Arsene Assouan Usher. M. Usher, speaking on his return from the OAU Council of Ministers meeting in Addis Ababa welcomed the decision of the UN Security Council to make contact with South Africa over the question of Namibia (South-West Africa). This decision, M. Usher had said, had vindicated the policy of "dialogue" of President Houphouët-Boigny (the Security Council meeting in Addis Ababa in February instructed the new UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and a three man commission from Somalia, Yugoslavia and Argentina to discuss the future of Namibia with the South Africans). M. Usher said "I shall be happy to ask the Somali Foreign Minister for news of Mr. Vorster whose hand he will shake before I do."

M. Ghalib said that M. Usher had misunderstood the resolutions passed by the Security Council in Addis Ababa. This had authorised the UN Secretary-General to contact all those concerned with the Namibia problem, including investors "maintaining" the South African government. M. Ghalib also said he had been approached by several African leaders to stand for the Secretary-Generalship of the OAU, but he had not yet accepted because of his desire to work for his country, and his reluctance "to compete with my friend, Diallo Telli".

Although such statistics are most unsatisfactory, the figures given in the House of Commons recently of per caput gross national product in, and the flow of aid to, African countries are of very great interest. Per caput product, I hasten to explain, does not mean that every man, woman, and child actually receives anything like this amount. It only means that the economy produces it. Even so it is surprising to learn that of the three Guineas, Equatorial (the former Fernando Po and Rio Muni) has a per caput income of \$290, Portuguese Guinea of \$360, and the Republic of Guinea of under \$100. At \$190 per head Ghana is one of Africa's richer countries, but who would have thought that Senegal, with \$200, or Congo (Brazzaville) with \$220, would be better off? One is not surprised to learn that Gabon with \$320 is almost top of the league among the independent countries, Libya, at the top, although its citizens are probably blissfully unaware of this, has a per caput GNP of \$1,510. But the length of the list of those given as "less than \$100" is surprising. They are: Botswana, Burundi, Chad, Dahomey, Ethiopia, Guinea, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Republic of Zaire, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, Upper Volta.

The aid figures are less interesting; but it is surprising to learn that the unhappy Upper Volta appears in 1970 to have

received only \$500m. in official bi-lateral aid, while Malawi received \$18½m. Nigeria, however, is here clearly in the lead, with \$27.17m. Kenya follows with \$26.63m.

What effect, however, is Britain's membership of the Common Market going to have on British aid to Commonwealth African countries? Foreign Office spokesmen have stalled valiantly on this question and Mr. Richard Wood, the Minister for Overseas Development, has just done it again. In answer to Mr. Maurice Foley in the House of Commons he said that British participation in the European Development Fund, which provides aid for "associated" countries from all the Common Market Countries, "would not decrease the bi-lateral aid available to Commonwealth countries" because the British aid programme was expanding anyway. In any case British participation in the fund would not begin until 1975. But what does this mean? It must mean that if, as seems likely, nearly all Commonwealth African countries either decline any kind of association with the Common Market or, at any rate, reject the full Yaounde type, they will get nothing from the European Development Fund, although Britain will become one of its main supporters. Britain will then be helping the present 18 associates, nearly all ex-French colonies, and although in absolute terms her assistance to Commonwealth countries will not fall, it will surely be much smaller than it might have been if Britain did not have to contribute to the \$1,000m. Fund. Yet some of the present associates already receive more assistance per head than do most of the Commonwealth African countries.

Most of the coins and notes for the switch to decimal currency next January are being made in Nigeria and the impression that the British mint was striking the whole of the kobo denominations was misleading. The Federal Finance Commissioner, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, has stated Dr. Isong, Governor of the Central Bank, said that although many of the coins being struck in Britain had been shipped to Nigeria, the publicity given in the British press was most embarrassing to the Federal Government.

Mr. Joseph Rotimi, an auditor with UAC in Lagos, is currently one of a 20-strong group on a study tour of European Common Market countries organised by the Royal Commonwealth Society. The aim "is to examine the several effects of membership of the EEC on the countries in it, in particular of their people and institutions, on industry and trade, and in foreign relations, and to assess from this the likely effect of British membership on Britain itself and on the other countries of the Commonwealth".



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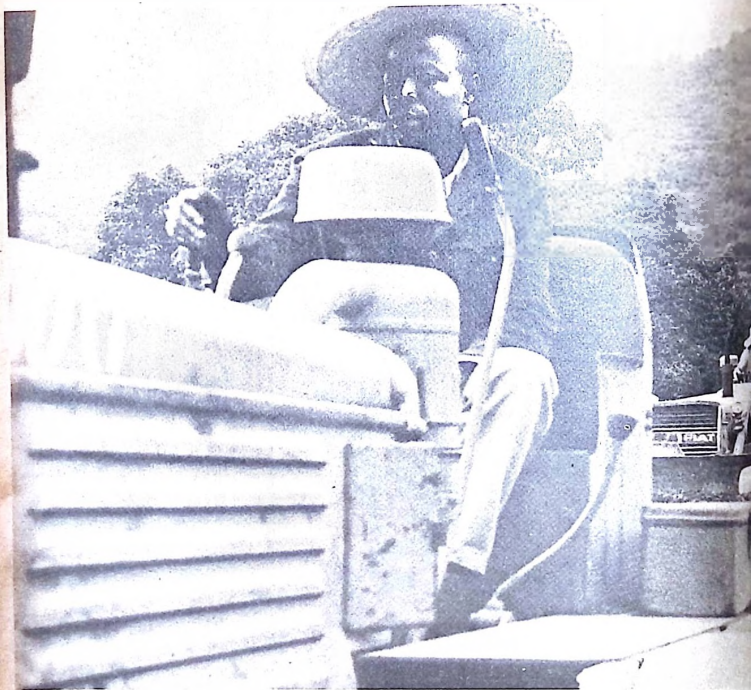


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Can Ghana afford her Education?

In the early 1960s there was a surge of interest amongst economists in the contribution of education to economic growth. Of course it has long been recognised by parents and students that money spent on education often represented a profitable investment from the individual's point of view, but what the new thinking seemed to imply was that public educational expenditure was also profitable, as a social investment. This new emphasis accorded well with the mood of the new African governments, since it appeared to confirm and justify the desires of their peoples for rapid educational development.

One such country where massive educational expansion was launched was Ghana which, in 1961, embarked on a programme of free and compulsory elementary education for all, resulting in a doubling of enrolments by 1964/65. In the next few years the number of teacher training colleges was also doubled to reach 83 by the end of 1968. Simultaneously a second university was started at Kumasi in 1961 to be followed soon after by a third at Cape Coast.

A statistical record of these events is to be found in a recent publication by the Ghana Ministry of Education entitled *Education Statistics 1968/69* (published by the Ministry, Box M45 Accra, at two cedis) This contains both a detailed breakdown of educational data for 1968/69 and a collection of time series tables tracing the growth of institutions and enrolments between 1960 and 1969.

Education's remarkable growth

When one considers the generally poor performance of the Ghana economy during the 1960s—according to Mr. J.H. Mensah's last budget statement GNP rose by cedis 267m over this period to cedis 1248m but per capita income fell by 2 percent—the growth of education in Ghana over the decade is a most remarkable phenomenon. Taking 1960 as 100, by 1970 the index of elementary school enrolments stood at 224, secondary at 415, technical at 300, universities at 431, and teacher training at 430. Over the same period the public budgetary expenditure rose from £G15m (cedis 30m) to cedis 92m at current prices, and they now amount to a fifth or a quarter of public expenditures. Apart from these items there is a considerable amount of private expenditure on boarding fees and textbooks even in the public system, quite apart from the outlays on private schooling.

The first question which arises from these figures is whether there may not be serious danger for African countries in

acceptance of the formula "expenditure = productive investment". The Accelerated Development Education launched in 1951 by Nkrumah did not appear to be in economic growth in Ghana in the 1960s. Will the heavy further expenditure in the 1960s find its way into improved economic performance in the 1970s? It seems possible to argue the opposite—that educational expenditure has seriously drained the resources and prevented the channels to other productive investments (though looking at the gigantic resources in the public sector Nkrumah one is bound to speculate that schools may well have provided one of two evils).

is the money well spent?

Another aspect of this story is whether the educational expenditure itself has been effective. There is some evidence in *Statistics 1968/69* that they have. For example the figures reveal drop-out rates in elementary schools at the pupil teacher ratio is as low as 10:1 at this level, a figure that wealthier countries might be envious of. However, the statistics show a general feeling that the standard of education has fallen sharply. Frequent complaints in the past about the poor quality of teachers, the dearth of books and materials, and the encouragement is to be drawn from the secondary level where the statistics reveal that only 10 percent of the students succeed in reaching the "O" level, and these students are supposed to be the pick of Ghana's young men. Only 10-15 percent have been found places in public secondary schools.

The other question is whether the economy in its present state can afford to pay for these prices on or near the floor. The future burdens of these increases. In the early 1960s part of her education expansion was financed by pegging teachers' salaries by employing many untrained teachers. Recently educational costs are escalating with the Mills-Down adding 15 to 20 percent to a single stroke, and the newly trained teachers employed in inflated teacher training system now confident of being able to demand the untrained elementary school by the mid-1970s, and the present rate of output is unavoidable. But how easily able to pay them?

What happened in Dahomey?

A demonstration of support for President Maga in the streets of Cotonou called for "exemplary punishment" for those responsible for the military mutiny at the end of last month. Several thousand demonstrators carrying banners with the words "punish the criminals", "Dahomey is not for sale" and "down with mercenaries" marched to the Presidential palace to deliver a message of support to the Presidential Council. It was organised by the Cotonou vigilance committee.

In a broadcast to the nation M. Maga said that all the members of the Presidential Council condemned the mutiny, and called on people to stop believing the "evil campaign by dishonest individuals who want to prove by this abominable act that such and such member of the government was involved in it". He said he trusted the beneficial role of the Council and he did not believe that any member of it would try to impose himself on the country, each member having voluntarily undertaken on his honour to work for the success of the system. Addressing himself to the army, M. Maga said that for almost two years no coup had succeeded in Dahomey. This should prove that the soldiers had always been misled by some of their colleagues, and that because of a handful of ill-intentioned soldiers, the Dahomeyan people now tended to blame all the army although the majority of troops remained loyal to their oaths.

A correspondent writes from Paris.

The mystery deepens about the coup plot in Dahomey on February 23 which involved an assassination attempt on Chief of Staff Colonel Paul-Emile de Souza and an apparent attempt to seize power. Dahomean circles have been predicting for some time that the change-over next May when Hubert Maga hands over as head of state to the No. 2 in the presidential council, Justin Ahomadegbe, would not take place smoothly. Mr Maga thought it necessary to deny these rumours during a recent tour of the North.

But the official version of the plot as released by the presidential council does not square with details supplied by Dahomean sources here. They point out that the man killed by Colonel de Souza during the assassination bid, a private named Daouda Moumouni, was a member of President Maga's bodyguard. Several other members of the bodyguard have been arrested by the gendarmerie which is carrying out the investigations into the incident.

Also detained, the sources say, was Captain Pierre Boni, a northerner who with the present Finance Minister, Pascal Chabi-Kao, was a member of the group which threatened secession of the north when the general elections early in 1970 failed. The bodyguards were certainly not



President Maga will his step-down be smooth?

members of the company at Ouidah, west of Cotonou, which according to the first version circulated, made the attempted coup while being transferred to the north. The company was said to have mutinied demanding the replacement of its commanding officer and to have been ordered north as a punishment by Colonel de Souza. The Presidency in Cotonou, later, however, denied that the Ouidah garrison organised the mutiny. It was elements of the Ouidah garrison, said the Presidency, which overpowered the rebels and arrested the ringleaders.

These contradictions make Dahomeans claim that Mr. Maga is behind the coup. He was due to fly for France for a cure on the same day as the incidents and if the coup had been successful, his absence would have helped to convince people of his innocence.

One man who is extremely worried that the whole affair is Mr. Ahomadegbe's group has been bombarding Cotonou with pamphlets, which Dahomey sources say, accuse an astonishing variety of people of having been involved in the putsch attempt.

Top of the list, the pamphlets say, is Colonel Maurice Kouandété, author of the December, 1969, coup against Emile Derlin-Zinsou and that with ousted Brigadier Christopher Soglo 7 years earlier. Colonel Kouandété, now assistant secretary-general at the Ministry of Defence, was hauled in for questioning by the gendarmerie.

Also accused in the pamphlets are the former Head of State, Colonel Alphonse Alley, now secretary-general at the Ministry of Defence, and a number of prominent French personalities, such as Mr. Francis Plateau, head of France's Aid and Cooperation Mission, who are said to have financed the plot. The pamphlets also say that French officers working as technical assistants in the Dahomey army assisted the plotters.

It is difficult to see how accusations of this kind could help the transfer of power to Mr. Ahomadegbe next May, but the Dahomey political atmosphere is such that everyone is apparently playing double or quits.

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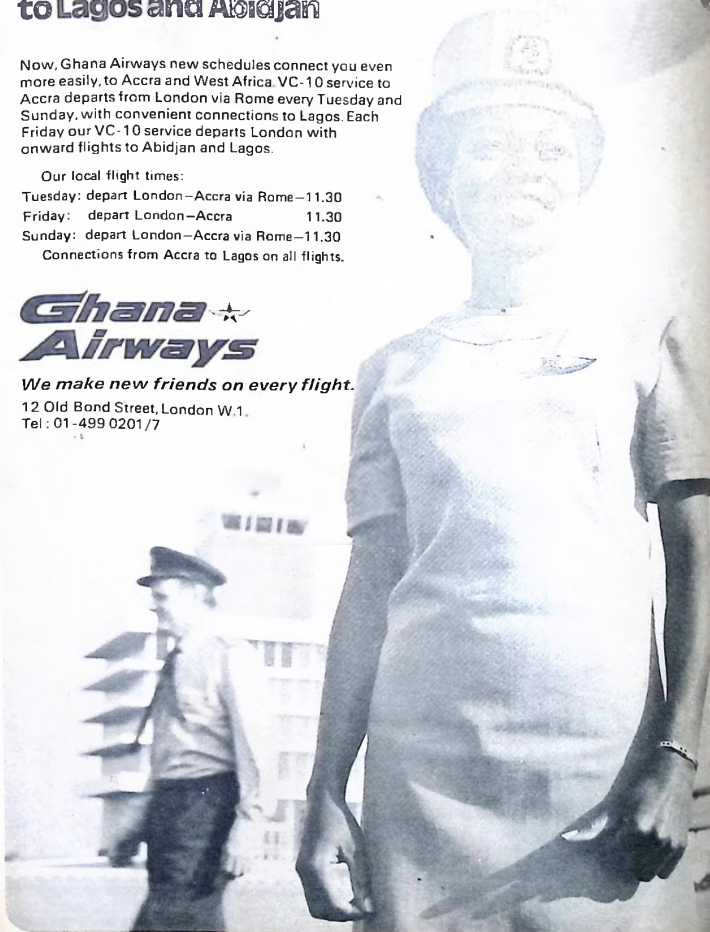
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Books and Publications

Defeating Disease in Nigeria

A History of the Nigerian Health Service,
by *Ralph Schram* (Ibadan University
Press: 61s, 33s, paper)

When the history of 1971 is finally written the most important event in Nigeria may be seen to be the failure of the cholera epidemic to gain a real hold in any part of the country. For this was a triumph of prevention, and as Dr. Schram emphasises towards the end of this very detailed history, in Nigeria's conditions it is prevention which today is all important rather than cure. Yet, as Professor Graham Bull put it: "public opinion is still sufficiently ill-informed to prefer a hospital to a piped water supply, although the latter will probably save ten times as many lives."

Dr. Schram's book is far more interesting for the layman than its title suggests. It could be called a history of doctors and medicine, since it goes far beyond formal government services, and the pages are full of personalities, Nigerian and foreign, men and women, doctors and nurses, who have in a remarkably short time during this century transformed the old "barracks" colonial medical services, providing limited care for a few military and civil government staff, into a system which covers some 300 hospitals and 100 health centres. There is a very long way to go - as recently as 1953 Oyo Division in the then Western Region for example, had a doctor population ratio of 1:120,000 - worse Dr. Schram says, than rural Ethiopia at the time although Oyo is only a few miles north of Nigeria's most important medical school. Yet if cholera can be held at bay there is hope that Nigeria will now at least escape the epidemics which did such devastation.

Although there appears to have been a hospital of some kind in Lagos for the Royal Navy as early as 1873, the first real hospital in Nigeria appears to have been established at Abeokuta in 1886 by Catholic fathers and nuns (one of the fathers, Coquard, although he worked for 36 years as a physician and a successful surgeon at Abeokuta, it later transpired, had taken no medical qualifications). Dr. Schram tells us of the early Niger expeditions and goes as far back as the medical problems of the first British trade mission to Nigeria, that undertaken by Captain Wyndham in 1553, which, like many early expeditions, was devastated by sickness. Dr. Baikie's use of quinine in the 1854 Niger expedition prevented

mortality, although it was not until 1900 that it was generally agreed that malaria was carried by the mosquito.

By 1893 there were still only eight doctors in Nigeria, six of them in Lagos and most of these already Nigerian (Africanus Horton although generally regarded as a Sierra Leonean, was the son of an Ibo and had qualified at Edinburgh in 1859). Establishment of the West African Medical Service which, whatever the intention, was effectively to bar Africans from government service, was a blow to Nigerian advancement, all the more unreasonable since even in East Africa a West African, Dr. Adrian Atiman, had been a medical pioneer.

The first world war completely displaced the embryo health services. In 1914 there six institutions in Southern Nigeria which could be called hospitals. All were understaffed and all lost doctors to the armed forces. In 1916, 15 of the 35 medical officers who had been working in Northern Nigeria were serving in the Cameroons and 11 elsewhere. The 1939-45 war similarly removed a large number of doctors from service in Nigeria. So thorough is Dr. Schram that he even discusses the health of RAF and US Army Air Corps Personnel stationed in Nigeria, he reminds us, too, that during the war a number of Brazilians came to West Africa to check insect control in American aircraft crossing the Atlantic.

One of Nigeria's most serious epidemic diseases, yaws, has been practically wiped out in a campaign which W.H.O. assisted. The Field Units have been active in control of schistosomiasis and small-pox; in yellow fever control the Federation has gained an international reputation for the Yaba laboratory, one of only seven yellow-fever vaccine centres in the world. There has been considerable success in dealing with onchocerciasis, the blinding disease, and a Federal T.B. service has been established.

The Medical Field Units grew out of the Sleeping Sickness Service teams. One of their first problems was a meningitis epidemic in 1949-50 in Northern Nigeria, where there were some 15 per cent mortality in almost 100,000 cases. There have been great advances in leprosy control and Nigeria has an international reputation for leprosy research. Nothing has happened this century to match the influenza epidemic of 1918, during which it was estimated that some 250,000 died, or 3 per cent of the then population. In

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Southern Nigeria it was estimated 1 per cent of the population, send doctors, had become clinically ill.

Dr. Schram, who first came to posts at Ibadan, and who is on a period at Lagos, Reader in Community Medicine at Ahmadu Bello, has an interesting section on the history of Ibadan University Medical School. He regrets that, in view of the importance played by missionaries in the development of medical services, there has been no medical school. He defends the teaching of the highest possible standards at Ibadan while regretting that no advance has been made in public health administration in Nigeria and recording of health statistics. He decries the weakness of the auxiliary services, while paying tribute to Mr. Ordia, the Chief Nursing Officer, incident at the Yaba Asylum. Ordia's work was selected for commendation by an I.L.O. representative.

There are a number of misapprehensions in the book and a number of omissions. There is also some overlapping. One wonders also whether it is necessary for Dr. Schram to go into very great detail about the development of Lagos local government, particularly the development of local transport, which with appendices, graphics, and index extends to 48 pages and has in addition, a valuable contribution by Sir Samuel Manuwa.

Nevertheless, for all students of Nigerian history, and not only those of medical interests, Dr. Schram has produced a book which, even if it is not suitable for a single reading, is an invaluable material and is unlikely to be supplanted for many years.

• *The Industrial Relations Comprehensive Guide* by Crabtree (Charles Knight & Rutley) cover £3.50p, soft cover £1.75.

In most African countries trade unionism follows the pattern of the British system. Those who read *The Industrial Relations Comprehensive Guide* by Ben Crabtree will conclude that industrial relations in most African countries are similar to the British system. *Introduction to the Study of Industrial Relations in Nigeria* by Professor Yesufu, shows that some as labour-management relationships based upon the British concept.

It is for this reason that employers, trade unionists, relations officers, professors, and those connected with management industry should read the newly published *The Industrial Relations Act* which describes the recent UK legislation.

The author gives a brief background of the Act which received Royal Assent on August 5, 1971; therefore the Union Act of 1871 and much subsequent legislation has been repealed.

In the face of strong opposition from the unions, the author con-

former Labour Government abandoned its proposals for legislative reforms of industrial relations. Referring to June 1970, when the Labour party was defeated at the polls, he describes how the Conservatives, the victorious party, started legislative reforms of industrial relations at once.

Cyril Crabtree explains that the cornerstone of the Act is to be found in Part I. This lays down four general principles for establishing and maintaining good relations between workers and workers, employers and workers, and employers and employers. It is very important to note that the general interest of the community is very strongly emphasised. The first principle is that action can be taken by negotiation, conciliation or arbitration. The second principle aims at collective bargaining being freely conducted on behalf of workers and employers. Free association of workers in independent trade unions and of employers' associations is the third principle. The fourth principle concerns freedom and security of workers protected by adequate safeguards against unfair practices, whether on the part of employers or workers.

Much ground is covered as the book discusses the rights of workers in relation to employers, the rights of workers in relation to trade union membership, agency shop agreements, approved closed shop agreements, collective bargaining, administrative positions relating to trade unions and employers' associations, restriction on the right to strike, etc. Remedies for unfair industrial practices and other breaches of the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act appear in Appendix I, while Appendix II deals with interesting case study summaries.

It is not altogether surprising that the author does not give his own opinion about the operation of the act, probably because it has been and is still being subjected to very strong attack and hostility by the entire British trade union movement.

Mr Crabtree is a barrister and Principal Lecturer in Law at Mid-Essex Technical College. His many years in industry and work as a co-author of *Essentials-in-Law* have given him much experience. He has written a comprehensive guide on what some regarded as the most difficult and controversial Act in this century.

From the subjective point of view, such an Industrial Relations Act is unsuitable in African countries where unions are just developing.

Adeyemo Adekeye

The Think Trap by Ivor Crane (Macmillan, £2 25)

The Black Sambo Affair by Val Gielgud (Macmillan, £1 50)

The Frog in the Moonflower by Ivor Drummond (Macmillan, £1 50)

Africa or Africans play an important part in these three novels. Ivor Drummond's last-moving thriller is set in Kenya but it is the wildlife rather than the people which get the attention; not

surprising considering that the plot centres on the activities of a ruthless animal conservationist, whose vengeful activities spatter the book with casually brutal death. To Europeans, Africa, one feels, is used in its traditional role of dark continent of elemental violence.

Racial prejudice fuels Gielgud's novel, and the importance of the theme saves the narrative from triviality. The description of the way in which prejudice causes the hounding of an African officer in the British Army is plausible but the escapades of the freelance investigators who prove his innocence are not. Gielgud's handling of racial attitudes is superficial though generally honest, but he finally comes down on the side of pessimism. At the end of the book, Mbese, now cleared, tells the man who proved his innocence why he will reject the offer of compensation and the restoration of his commission and return to Africa. "I have read somewhere, written by one of your English novelists, that 'the white cannot mate with the black'. It is a lie - Samantha here and I have proved it. The lion can be down with the lamb - but the civilisations of Europe and Africa cannot live side by side. Their respective traditions, not to speak of their manners of life, are too different, and in the gulf between those traditions too much blood has been spilled. People like yourself, Mr Pellew - Mr Harvey and the other Englishmen who believed in my innocence - are kind and honourable men according to your

lights. You must forgive me if I cannot see those lights penetrating far into the darkness of Africa. Kindness is not enough. Honour is not enough. What is needed is that perfect understanding which is surpassed only by the Mercy of God. And my gods are not your God. They still demand blood sacrifices. It is not the colour of our skins that keeps us apart. It is the blood that has been shed in America as in what was once your British Empire. There are some stains that cannot be washed away by the water of goodwill in the world".

The Think Trap aims higher, being less concerned with a twisting turning plot than with character development, that of a British High Commissioner in Abiti, a newly independent island off the coast of Africa. His failing marriage is excellently drawn as is, to a lesser extent, his curiously touching relationship with President Rabbani. Unfortunately, the author lacks the confidence (in his readers or himself?) to keep the book at this level and resorts to dramatic incidents, such as the High Commissioner's cliff-edge rescue, which do not fall naturally. Nevertheless, an honourable failure.

Agricultural Change in Mazabuka District. Zambia by Kenneth R. M. Anthony and Victor C. Uchendu (Food Research Institute, Stanford University, California, \$2 50).

Part of a broader study of factors affecting agricultural change in tropical Africa.

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Prominent among the personalities in the Gabonese capital for the opening of the Intercontinental Hotel was the President-Directeur-General (the Chairman-Managing Director) of the multi-national airline Air Afrique, Cheikh Fall. Air Afrique has a strong interest in the hotel through its subsidiary Hotafrie, whose Chairman, Aleide Kacou was also very much in evidence, and gave one of the speeches at the inaugural luncheon. Both men, interestingly, are engineers by training. Fall, an imposing Senegalese of 48, studied in Paris and became an Ingénieur de l'Electricité de France, while Kacou trained at Aix-en-Provence prior to working for French railways. Kacou returned to Africa in 1947 as an engineer for the Abidjan-Niger railway, while Fall returned in 1954 to become Assistant Director for Energy in Ivory Coast. In 1957 Kacou went into politics, but Fall has never been politically oriented, indeed he gives a strong impression of being aloof from the hurly-burly of politics, a genuine technocrat. Kacou, brisk and grey-haired, has been a deputy and member of the Political Bureau of the PDCI since 1959, and has held several ministerial posts in the Ivorian government, including most recently Minister of Works and Transport from 1964 to 1970. Early in 1971 he became the first President of the Air Afrique's hotel organisation Hotafrie. Fall, in 1959, became Federal Director of Posts and Telecommunications in the Mali Federation, and when this broke up he moved to Dakar as Secretary-General for Transport and Telecommunications. He was also the President of the Council for the port of Dakar, charged with civil aviation. It was in the latter capacity that he took part in the negotiations which led to the setting up of Air Afrique in March 1961, and at the first inaugural board meeting in June 1961 he became chairman. A year later he was made Managing Director as well.

Kacou is enthusiastic about his new vocation in the international hotel business, particularly vis a vis African tourism. In his speech at the hotel inauguration he noted that tourism in Africa had expanded of late at a faster rate than the world one. From 1970 to 1971 there had been an increase of 15 per cent in both numbers and revenue, whereas in the world as a whole there had been an increase of 7 per cent numbers and 10 per cent in revenue. There had been 2,275,000 tourists in Africa in 1970, and 2,620,000 in 1971, while the revenue from tourism in Africa had increased from \$410m. to \$470m. over the same period. In 1969 this revenue had only been \$285m. The African totals, however, only form a very small proportion of the world totals (in 1971 total number of world tourists were 181m. bringing \$19,900m.)

The hotel opening was also graced by a number of big wheels from Intercontinental Hotels, and several members of the Air Afrique and Hotafrie establishment, such as Maître Leon Boissier-Palun, legal adviser to Air Afrique, who will be remembered in London as Senegal's first Ambassador there after independence. Since he retired as President of Senegal's Economic and Social Council, he has been pursuing a flourishing legal practice in Paris, but takes a keen interest in African affairs. There were also, of course, President Albert-Bernard Bongo (he made no speech, other than a few words when decorating Fall, Kacou and others), and the entire Gabon government as well as select members of the diplomatic corps; notably the *doyen*, the French Ambassador, M. Delauney, who must be doing his job well as he has been kept there for seven years (students of

the Nigerian war will note that he there during the entire Biafra experiment in which the French Embassy in Ibadan played an important role). There were also sundry travel agents, writers, as well as journalists (many French).



French Ambassador Maurice Delauney, seven years run.



Members of the Gabon government wait for the arrival of the President at the Intercontinental Hotel inauguration.

One name in Libreville likely to recur in coming months is that of the actor Philippe Mory. He made a name for himself in France in the late fifties and early sixties which culminated in a starring role in *La Cage with Marina Vlady* and *Jean Servais*. Born in Lambarene the son of a French businessman in timber who took a Gabonese wife, Mory was educated in France at the Lycée in Briançon in the Alps, and then at the Centre d'Art Dramatique in Paris. He appeared in a number of plays and his other films include *On N'Entend Pas le Dimanche* and *Les Filles S'ament le Vent*. Even in the early sixties he was moving towards the idea of African cinema, but then it hardly existed. Then in 1964 he was caught up in the affair of the abortive coup against President Mba, and he was jailed for six years, although he was released after four, under a political amnesty. It has taken a little while for him to reorient himself in the kind of work he wanted to do, but now, finally he has made his first film, which was shown at the African film festival in Ouagadougou (March 3 to 12). Called *Les Tam-Tam-So Sont Tu*, the film is a love story that encapsulates the drama of town and village, of traditional and modern in Africa. It is about deracination and "the African who doesn't know where he is", says Mory. This film had some support from the government, but

he won't get support for the second film he now hopes to make, *La Nuit de la Meringue*, a more controversial tale of inter-racial love affairs and a revolutionary in the *maquis* in post-independence Africa. However, Mory aims at a *cinéma de spectacle* rather than one with "message". There are a number of other cineastes in Gabon, although it has come relatively late into the film-making game. Mory commended the work of Pierre Marie Ndong, who has made two short films, one of which *Sur le Sentier du Requiem* was shown at last year's francophone film festival in Dinard. Ndong, big and bushy-haired, with a reputation as one of Libreville's *contestataires*, also went to lycée in France (at Rennes), and studied cinematography. His first short, *Carrefour Humain*, was a "denunciation of the absurd in racism". He is now working on a full length feature, *Identité*, which deals with an artist living in Europe who goes back to his village to recover his roots. One sequence involved the Bwiti cult, of which Ndong had to become an initiate in order to film. He speaks enthusiastically of the possibility of *cinéma-vérité* in Africa, and dreams of "making a documentary tracing the origins of the *mvet*, the versatile musical instrument of the Fang people, to its roots in the Sudan." The story of the *mvet* is the story of the Fang" he says.

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Commercial News

Nigerian crop estimates reduced

Estimates of a Nigerian groundnut crop of at least 500,000 tons are now seen to have been over-optimistic says Gill and Duffus' latest Edible Nut Market reports. Even now, the picture is far from clear with some estimates suggesting a crop of rather under 400,000 tons and others a crop in the range of 400/450,000 tons. Once again, it appears that there has not been sufficient incentive for farmers to plant out a higher acreage and, while the present high prices are obtainable for their food crops, a pattern of rather smaller groundnut crops in Nigeria seems likely to continue. Available supplies to the Marketing Board have in any case been reduced because of the continuance of smuggling over the border into Niger, which has been encouraged by the high prices obtainable for groundnuts in that country. At the same time in Nigeria, in the bush itself, it is believed that larger quantities are being pressed for oil for domestic consumption.

"The situation this year has been very confused because the Marketing Board and the crushers have been unable to agree on a common contract basis and this seems unlikely to be resolved in the near future. Some supplies have been purchased but generally the mills have only been working at a much reduced capacity, if at all. With production affected, early shipments came forward slowly and the shipping congestion at Apapa has aggravated the situation. This has affected the prices of both spot and near at hand parcels." The report notes that the future development of this market "is still very much in the balance". In Europe it is apparent that there is no real interest in Nigerian kernels, while U.K. buyers, although they still have to cover for the latter part of the year, are holding out in the hope of obtaining lower prices.

• A record volume of groundnut oil will be produced in 1972, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. At the present estimate of 3.9m. metric tons, world oil production would exceed last year's output by eight per cent or 290,000 tons. All the estimated net increase is attributed to larger 1971 crops in Nigeria and Senegal, which together account for 50 to 60 per cent of the world's exports of groundnuts and groundnut oil. This represents a complete reversal of the situation in 1971, when

over one-half of the increase from a year earlier was due to India—not a significant exporter—and production in West Africa was down sharply.

Nigeria's total production from the 1971 crop, including estimated domestic consumption and estimated quantities that moved illegally to Niger, is believed to be about 1.38m. tons, in shell basis. This compares with 775,000 tons in 1970. Purchases by the Nigerian Marketing Boards for crushing and export are tentatively estimated at about 710,000 metric tons, shelled basis, compared with purchases from the 1970 crop of only about 186,000 tons. But added to these figures are rough allowances for the illegal movement of crushing nuts at about the same level as a year earlier, so that total oil production from the 1971 crop is estimated at 360,000 tons, or about 195,000 tons more than estimated oil output last year. "With probably little, if any, change in acreage and no official increase in prices to producers, (which, however, had been raised 13 per cent the previous year), it appears that improved weather was the major factor in the increase", notes the Report.

Senegal's total production in 1971 is estimated at 875,000 tons compared with the very small crop of 554,000 tons a year earlier. Commercial production, including some allowances for quantities that moved illegally to the Gambia, were about 750,000 tons, in-shell basis, compared with only 447,000 tons from the 1970 crop. Oil production from the 1971 commercial crop is equivalent to 240,000 tons against 143,000 tons from the 1970 commercial crop—an increase of 97,000 tons.

The increase in Senegalese groundnut production in 1971 is attributed to a possible slight increase in acreage; better weather; and sharply increased use of fertilizer. The increase in acreage and fertilizer use came in response to a sharp increase in prices paid to producers, as well as to payment in cash rather than in the "chits" previously offered in lieu of cash. This sharp increase may also have reduced the "border" trade to the Gambia, so the crop itself may not have increased as much as the purchases would indicate. Farmers have also been encouraged by debt write-offs and the possibility of additional price increases in 1972-73.

COCOA TALKS 'MUST SUCCEED'

Opening the UN-sponsored conference aimed at preparing the new world cocoa agreement, Sr. Perez-Guerrero, UNCTAD General, warned that it could fail to fail. "Behind the zig-zagging lines on the charts are the lives of people who depend on cocoa for their livelihood" he said, noting that the agreement would benefit both producers and consumers. A negotiating committee is likely to be established by which is attended by all the consumers and producers. UNCTAD Secretariat is hoping for a workable agreement" will have by the time the third session of the Conference on Trade and Development ends in Chile. It is the first full conference since 1967.

A background document prepared by the Secretariat gives some of the standing differences as disagreements over price levels (although it is generally agreed that there should be a minimum and maximum level within a certain range); the advocacy of delegation for an export rationing system; and the interest rates to be charged in deferred payments by the buffer stocks.

The Secretariat points out that negotiating governments are concerned with the past than present and with details rather than essentials. Market stabilisation had been "long and arduous" and to simplify and clarify the text had tended to raise new issues and progress even further.

• A £10.5m rubber project financed by the World Bank, the European Development Fund, the Centrale des Cooperations Economiques and the Ivory Coast Government. Abdoulaye Kone, secretary of the budget, announced in Abidjan return from Brussels where he met with the three international agencies. The project covers 32,000 acres in the Dodo valley, in the south-west.

Trade Fair successful

About 150,000 visitors attended the OAU Trade Fair in Nairobi, Kenya. Diallo Tello, secretary general of the OAU, has described as "an unqualified success". He expressed confidence in the heads of state meeting in June would decide to put the fair on a regular basis and noted that the difficulties over exchange between African shilling and the franc had been overcome by goodwill. Foreign Minister, Dr. Mungai, said: "There will no doubt stimulate trade exchanges, infra-structural development and solidarity amongst the people of Africa".

Monguno's oil warning

Unless new oil deposits are discovered Nigeria's known reserves will be exhausted by 1990, the Federal Commissioner for Mines and Power, Shettima Ali Monguno, has warned. To avert this situation, the Government was pursuing a mineral diversification policy through extensive exploration. He urged Nigerians to stop being overwhelmed by the present favourable earnings from crude oil, because unless earnings were spent judiciously Nigeria might be faced with the problem "of what is fast becoming an oil illusion".

Before leaving for an OPEC meeting in Beirut, the Commissioner said the Government planned to take up an interest in oil companies in which it had not yet acquired shares. Negotiations were due to begin soon.

Last year's oil crises had shown that oil-importing nations should not assume that their interests were automatically identical with those of the oil companies which negotiated the new price agreements. Dr P. H. Franke told a meeting of the Royal Society of Political Economists in Brussels. The consuming countries' national oil companies should be encouraged to enter the international oil industry in the interests of future stability and expansion, he said, noting that in spite of shifts in economic and political power, control of the main oil reserves was still based on the power structure of 30, or even 60, years ago. The most relevant contribution of these companies would be the provision of a substantial share of the funds required for the fuller development of oil resources in the Middle East. The companies already involved in the region might lack the incentive for massive investment in the face of the lack of security of tenure in OPEC countries.

• Falls in agricultural exports were due to reduced production by farmers and increases in local processing, the chairman of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company, Mr H.A. Ejeuyitche, said. Denying accusations that the NPMC was responsible for the low producer prices of cash crops, he stressed that the task of stabilising prices paid to farmers was the responsibility of the state governments and their marketing boards. He dismissed as "ridiculous" suggestions that the organisation should be merged with the Ministry of Trade, and commented: "The general inefficiency and the failure of the public services in the country have arisen especially since the last decade, mainly from inordinate political ambition, nepotism, greed and corruption".

• Nigeria will not have to export cocoa beans in the near future if current experiments on manufacturing products such as bread and wine from beans are successful, the Federal Commissioner for Industries, Dr. Adetoro, told the Swiss ambassador.

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 London: PALABA due Tema Mar 19; ORI slg. Mar 16.

From N. Continent: DARU slg. Hamburg Mar. 2.
 BIAMO sld. Rotterdam Mar 14.
WESTBOUND - To Liverpool: FOURAH Y due Mar 19. DUNKWA due Luanda Mar. 19.
 PI RANG due Sapele Mar 12.
 London: ULANI sld. Apapa Mar 12. BOF sld. Douala Mar 13.

Pool: CLEARWAY due Mar 17.
 N. Continent: DUMURRA due Amsterdam Mar 22; PATANI due Rotterdam Mar 20.
 Avonmouth: EBANI due Mar 21.
 Le Havre: FRETOWN due Mar 15.
 Leixoes: KABALA due Mar 17.
 El Ferrol: KADUNA due Mar 17.

EASTBOUND - From USA/Canada: EGLIMA due Lagos Mar 12; ONITSHA due Abidjan Mar 12.

EASTBOUND - To USA/Canada: ALCIAS due Lobito Mar 17; DONGA due Akar Mar 12.

EASTERN SERVICE - SIHRABANK due Freetown Mar 12.

OUTWARDS - FERNLAND due Montrovia Mar 21, thence Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala. VESSEL slg. New York Mar 28 for Montrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala.

INWARDS - FERGATE Idg. Ghana, Abidjan/Montrovia 3rd week Mar for US North Atlantic; FERNLAND Idg. Lagos S Bound about Mar 27. Ghana Apr 4, Abidjan/Montrovia 2nd week Apr for US North Atlantic.

"K" LINE
WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong to Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown etc.: JAMAICA MARU sld. Japan Feb 6 due Lagos Mar 19.

EASTBOUND - From Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. to Japan via Hong Kong: JAMAICA MARU slg. Lagos Mar 36, Tema Mar 30, Freetown Apr 4 due Japan May 15.

WOERMANN LINE
 MARIE DELMAS slg. Rouen Mar 22, Bordeaux Mar 27 due Dakar Apr 1, Abidjan Apr 5, NESTOR due Libreville Mar 31 Port Gentil Apr 3, Matadi Apr 5.

DAFRA LINE
EASTBOUND - AFRIKA slg. Douala Apr. 16 due Warri Apr 19.

WESTBOUND - FRANKRIG slg. Takoradi Mar 31 due Abidjan Apr. 3, Houston Apr. 23.

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NORTHBOUND - BIA RIVER Bremen Feb 21, KLORTE LAGOON London Mar 1, Avonmouth Mar 9.

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OUTWARDS - From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi: MAREN MAERSK slg. Lagos/Apapa Mar 18 due Tema Mar 19.

FARRELL LINES
HOMEWARDS - AFRICA CRESCENT slg. Matadi Mar 24 for Lobito, Luanda Apr 2, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports; AFRICAN STAR slg. Lagos/Apapa Apr 16 for Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports.

OUTWARDS - AFRICA STAR due Dakar Mar 24 for Freetown, Monrovia, Mar 28, Buchanan, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Apr 6, Lagos/Apapa Apr 8, Douala, AFRICAN LIGHTNING due Monrovia Apr 9 for Abidjan, Tema Apr 15, Matadi, Lobito, Luanda.

KONINKLIJKE NEDDLOY NV EUROPE/ WEST AFRICAN SERVICES
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SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE
SOUTHBOUND - 'XXX' slg. Scan first half Apr for discharge WA end Apr/early May.

BANDA slg. Scan. Mid Apr. for discharge early May.

NORTHBOUND - CUMULUS slg. WA mid Apr for discharge Scan. May, HELMAREN slg. WA end Apr for discharge Scan May.

HOEGH LINES
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OUTWARDS - STRAAT FREETOWN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong and Japan early April. STRAAT TOWA from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong, Japan and Shanghai Mar/Apr.

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LONRHO MU RAISE £10m.

• Among other possible moves is considering relinquishing its white-ruled Africa and concentrating on black African countries. The managing director, Mr. Tony was reported as saying in an interview with the London Daily Mail.

His comments followed publication of a report by Peat Marwick Chartered accountants, ordered after a loss of confidence in the company. Peat Marwick reported that because of a heavy loss on borrowing Lorrho had to raise £10m. in order to reduce its losses to £2m. by September. The money was raised by permanent finance, a term loan or the sale of a subsidiary. Although such a sale would result in a serious contraction in the activities of the group, if additional finance is forthcoming the Board has no alternative.

Peat Marwick also pointed out that Lorrho's management organisation was outdated (pre-tax profits fell from £0.4m. in 1962 to £15m. Mr. Rowland is to become executive, and Mr Alan Ball, who has been with the company since 1961, is to relinquish the chairmanship and become executive deputy chairman. A new chairman is to be brought in from outside.

Conclude the accountants that the Board have accepted our recommendations to maximise the return to the United Kingdom, to dispose of assets which show an inadequate return on capital employed, and to finance projects from sources outside the United Kingdom; it is only by taking these steps that the recurrence of liquidity problems can be avoided.

"The rapid expansion of the company in recent years has resulted in a heavy management organisation and associated problems. The Group has expanded its earning power and expanded its profit attributable to shareholders. The year ended September 1971 returned eight per cent on shareholders' funds, which is adequate for a stressed however, that in comparison with other groups of this nature, the company is to be viewed in the light of the risks which they arise and the size of the profits and capital can be re-used.

Extraordinary income of £800,000 from the sale of a subsidiary company's overvalued former Eastern Region of Africa spokesman said that the subsidiary John Holt and the bonus accrued from post civil war currency revaluation. The group's profits in Nigeria and Ivory Coast contributed £15m. in 1970 net assets there amounted to £91.7m. The report also mentions that the group is planning in West Africa (Africa fields) is the group's biggest investment - £2.8m. in 1971 - followed by distribution in East, Central A.

Advantages of trade with China

Commenting on the resumption of diplomatic relations with China, a commentator on Accra Radio said that the decline in cocoa prices could represent a loss of \$5m. cedis this year, which "calls for the need to explore all possible avenues for the sale of our cocoa and in this regard China, as well as the other unexplored markets in the expanding Asian and East European economies, offer the answer. This case is even more strengthened if we do not allow ourselves to be dragged into the European Economic Community as associate members, and one really hopes we do not." After several decades of tying Ghana's economic products mainly to the British market "all we have gained is a persistent decline in our export prices, resulting in a drastic fall in our terms of trade."

"Attempts by Britain and her local agents to shield Ghana from potential markets elsewhere are merely aimed at keeping the prices of our export products down for the benefit of Western consumers. Within the last decade a very serious limit has been put on our development drive by our debt service and amortization charges. The loans we get from private and even official sources in the West, except perhaps from international organisations, carry fantastic rates of commercial interest. A careful look at the structure of our debts between 1960 and 1970 indicates that the loans we got from the centrally planned economies carried the lowest interest rates and repayment periods were spread over several years. Our relationship with China opens new avenues for such loans and assistance."

Politically, China had an unparalleled record of consistent opposition to exploitation, racial bigotry and human degradation. "These are the evils we have suffered in our long association with Britain and the West in general and we continue as black people to suffer these indignities. Here again, China offers an indomitable ally in our just struggle."

- The proportion of British aid which was "tied" to British products in 1970 was 64 per cent, the Minister of Overseas Development, Mr Richard Wood, told Parliament. He added, "I have no immediate proposals for changing our tying rules, but we are considering with other members of the (Development Assistance) committee what action might be possible now that negotiations for general untying have been suspended."

- Britain is working on a scheme for coupling official aid to private investment. Mr Joseph Godber, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said in Argentina. The Government was also seeking to provide local development institutions with capital aid to be used in joint ventures with British private capital.

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NOTICES—cont.

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SITUATIONS VACANT cont.

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN INSTITUTE OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VACANCIES

COUNTERPARTS IN TRAINING

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment as Counterpart Trainees within the Institute of Applied Science and Technology, University of Ibadan. Under Agreement with the Canadian International Development Agency, the training will be provided in Canada. The training period will commence in September, 1972. The nature and duration of the training will vary with the qualifications of the successful candidate.

Applications are invited in the following fields:

- Mechanical Engineering (2 positions)
- Electrical Engineering
- Industrial Co-ordinator
(To assist in placement of students in Industrial Training) Part of the training may be taken at the University of Ibadan.
- Petroleum Technology (Reservoir Engineering)
- Petroleum Technology (Production)
- Food Technologist
- Engineering Technician (Machinist) - Workshop Superintendent.

Minimum Qualifications

Applicants (except for (g)) should be holders of good degrees in the appropriate field as follows:

- B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering or equivalent;
- B.Sc. Electrical Engineering or equivalent;
- B.Sc. in some branch of Engineering;
- B.Sc. degree in any of the following fields: Physics, Mathematics, Geology, Petroleum Engineering or equivalent;
- B.Sc. degree in any of the following fields: Chemistry, Geology, Petroleum Engineering or equivalent;
- B.Sc. degree in any of the following fields: Chemistry; Biochemistry, Food Science, Food Technology or equivalent;
- Graduate of Technical College or Institute and/or City and Guilds or equivalent with not less than 3 years experience.

Higher degrees in the relevant subjects will be an advantage. Applications or enquiries should be received by the Registrar, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria not later than March 25th 1972.

NOTICES—cont.

LAGOS STATE UNION OF
GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

At the Annual General Meeting held on the 17th of October, 1971, at the Nigerian Centre, Inverness Terrace, London, W.2, the following officers were duly elected for the year 1971/72:

President	M A Balogun (Epe)
1st Vice-President	A A Ajose (Badagry)
2nd Vice-President	G Oyetunji (Ikorodu)
General Sec.	J O Oriola (Badagry)
Deputy Sec.	J A Peters (Ikeja)
Asst. Sec.	S Olatunji (Epe)
Treasurer	A Oluonyia (Ikorodu)
Financial Sec.	S O Amure (Epe)
Social Sec.	Bode Samusi (Ikeja)
Publicity Sec.	F A Harrison (Lagos League)
Welfare Officers	M K Idris (Ikeja)
	S N Asokere (Badagry)
Ex-Officio Members	G Isikulu (Ikorodu)
	M A S. Arayo (Lagos League)
Returning Officers:	S A. Noah
	F A. Lalwal

F A. Harrison
Publicity Secretary

N.B. Please note that the address of the Secretariat is as follows —

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SITUATIONS VACANT—cont.

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ASSISTANT ARCHITECT**

QUALIFICATIONS

- (a) License to practise land surveying issued by the Survey Licensing Board of Nigeria. R.I.C.S. qualification will be an advantage, but not compulsory.
(b) & (c) A.R.I.C.S. (Quantities) or A.I.Q.S. or equivalent qualifications.
(d) A.R.I.B.A. or A.M.N.I.A. or equivalent qualification acceptable by the Architects Registration Council of Nigeria.

EXPERIENCE:

- (a) Considerable experience as a Licensed Surveyor.
(b) 10 years' post-qualification experience on all classes of work.
(c) & (d) Two years' post-qualification experience.

SALARIES:

- (a) Scale SAP 5 — £N2,860 per annum (Consolidated)
(b) Scale SAP 2 — £N2,125/£N2,250 x 65 — £N2,380 per annum.
(c) & (d) Scale SAP 1 — £N1,020 x 42 — £N1,104/£N1,290 x 55 — £N1,565/£N1,640 x 60 — £N2,060 per annum.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:

- (a) The appointment is on contract.
(b) (c) & (d) The appointment is pensionable.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Applications should be written on Corporation's Application Forms obtainable from —

- (i) The Secretary & Chief Administrative Officer,
Statutory Corporations Service Commission,
30 Marina,
Lagos.
(ii) The Nigeria High Commission,
9 Northumberland Avenue,
London W.C.2.

OR (iii) State Public Service Commissions,
and should be returned to the Secretary & Chief Administrative Officer at the address above not later than 8th April, 1972.

N.B: Employed Applicants should forward their applications through proper channel.

NIGERIAN LAW SOCIETY, U.K.

At the annual general meeting of the above-named society held on the 21st of November 1971, the following officers were elected for 1971/72 SESSION:

President	A A Olafare
1st Vice-President	A A Omorodion
2nd Vice-President	I O. Osoke
General Secretary	W A O Mafo
1st Asst Secretary	Miss E. Kofon
2nd Asst Secretary	A. Ighintade
Treasurer	Miss G O. Omitowoju
Financial Secretary	A A. John
Social Secretary	O. Makinde
Publicity Secretary	I I O. Kusamotu

Ex-Officio Members —

J. Aghayegbe
A.O. Imoma-Russell
M.K. Abudu

All communications should be directed to the General Secretary, 216, Charlotte Despard Avenue, S.W 11 5HF.

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NOTICES—contd.

URHOBO CARETAKER COMMITTEE London

There will be a general meeting of the above named Committee on Saturday 25th of March, 1972 at 2 p.m., at Toynbee Hall, 28 Commercial Street, London E.1.

All members of **Urhobo Committee** in London are invited to attend.

Agenda:

1. Registration of members
2. Report on the two send-off parties held by the Committee.
3. General

D.O. Anrah Esq *F.M. Ovwon Esq*
Publicity Secretary General Secretary

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IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY of our Father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather Dr Sesi Kappo (M.B. Ch. B. Edinburgh) (Port-Novo Wehgbokomey) who departed this life on 23rd February, 1971. Rest in peace Father until we meet to part no more. C. Lokost Dawodu. Daughter. London.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, FORMERLY CALLED Philip Chukwura Onyebibia wish to be called Philip Chuma Enebeli. Former documents valid.

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SITUATIONS VACANT cont.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (ARCN)

VACANCIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for consideration for the following posts in the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria, Moor Plantation

- (a) Chief Scientific Officers
- (b) Principal Scientific Officers and
- (c) Senior Scientific Officers

Qualifications.

Chief Scientific Officers A good honours degree in Agriculture or Natural Sciences graduate qualification in agriculture or allied sciences for two posts one in Agriculture other in Man-power Training, and a registrable Veterinary degree or a degree in Law for a post in Veterinary and Livestock Sciences. Candidates must have had at least graduate working experience with at least five years in a good research institution should be familiar with or possess demonstrable interest in the development of agricultural policy, co-ordination of research and training, and the application of scientific training to agricultural development and promotion of the natural economy.

Principal Scientific Officers/Senior Scientific Officers A good honours degree in Agriculture or Agricultural Botany with post graduate qualification in Forestry or Law for a position in Forestry; in Natural Sciences (Biology or Zoology) or Agriculture graduate qualification in Fisheries for a position in Fisheries; in Agriculture or Natural Sciences with post graduate qualification in agriculture or allied subjects for a position in Man Power Training; and in Veterinary Science or Livestock Sciences for a position in Agricultural Sciences; and in Agricultural Economics with post graduate qualification in Agricultural Economics. Candidates for **Principal Scientific Officers** must have had post graduate experience with 3 years in good research institution. Those for **Senior Officers** should have had five years post graduate experience with 3 years in a post graduate institution.

Duties

Chief Scientific Officers will be required

(a) to assist the Secretary in the work of co-ordination of research and training and implementation of Council policies and decisions, in initiating policies and programmes, development of existing institutions and establishment of new institutes;

(b) to be responsible for collection, collation, documentation and publication of information on scientific and technical facilities and personnel and activities;

(c) to acquaint themselves with agricultural scientific organisations and lines of various sources of detailed information;

(d) to act as Committee Secretary, organise meetings, prepare agenda and working papers.

Principal Scientific Officers/Senior Scientific Officers in the present smaller fields of Forestry will cover similar duties as above in their respective fields and assist in development and expansion of activities.

Others in Agriculture including Agricultural Economics, Man Power Training and Livestock Sciences will in addition to certain duties related to specific aspects of assist the relevant Chief Scientific Officer in his assignments.

Salary:

Chief Scientific Officers: £N3,000 consolidated
Principal Scientific Officers: £N2,532 consolidated
Senior Scientific Officers: £N2,070 consolidated

Conditions of Service: The posts are permanent and pensionable. Other conditions are similar to those in the Federal Public Service.

Method of Application: Applications should show a detailed Curriculum Vitae with names and Postal Address, (b) Date and Place of Birth, (c) Marital Status and number of children, (d) Present Employer, (e) Present Rank and Salary, (f) Education, (Schools and Colleges), (g) Qualifications with dates, (h) Career since leaving School or College, (i) and activities in public or international affairs, (j) Languages spoken apart from mother-tongue, (k) three references of persons acquainted with work of applicant, (k) one passport photograph.

Applications should be addressed to the Secretary, Agricultural Research Council, Moor Plantation, Private Mail Bag 5042, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Applicants in Government Service or in the Service of any other employer will submit applications in duplicate through their Heads of Government Departments or Organisations and be accompanied by a confidential report from the applicant's Department or Organisation as the case may be.

Closing Date: All applications should reach the Secretary, Agricultural Research Council, Moor Plantation, Private Mail Bag 5042, Ibadan NOT LATER than 30th April, 1972.

SITUATIONS VACANT cont.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PORT HARCOURT VACANCY SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Senior Accountant in the College.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must possess the final Certificate of at least one of the following bodies: (a) Institute of Chartered Accountants; (b) Association of Certified and Corporate Accounts; (c) Institute of Costs and Works Accountants; (d) Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors; (e) Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants OR a good honours degree in Accountancy. In addition, candidates are required to have had at least 7 years post-qualification experience and must have held a Senior Management position in Industry, Government or an Institution of Higher Learning.

DUTIES: The selected candidate will head the Accounts Department of the College and will be the Principal Financial Adviser to the College Council.

SALARY: EN2,515 x 75 - EN2,665, EN2,800 x 75 - EN2,875

METHOD OF APPLICATION: Ten copies of typewritten applications should be forwarded, each containing a curriculum vitae which should include the following: (i) Full names (ii) place and date of birth (iii) nationality (iv) marital status (v) number, names, sex and ages of children if any (vi) permanent home address (vii) educational background - degrees/certificates including institutions attended and dates (viii) working experience - stating details of former and present posts including dates and salaries (ix) names and addresses of THREE REFEREES (x) Probable date of assumption of duty if selected (xi) any other relevant information. One photostat copy of each qualification stated, educational or professional should be enclosed.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE: The appointee will be on probation for three years before confirmation. Other conditions of service are the same as those obtaining in the other Institutions of Higher Learning in the country, for instance, superannuation scheme, medical attention, children's and car allowances, part-furnished accommodation.

CLOSING DATE: The ten copies of application and supporting documents should be forwarded in an envelope marked "SENIOR ACCOUNTANT" to reach the Registrar, College of Science and Technology, Private Mail Bag 5080, Port Harcourt not later than 20th March, 1972.

C. J. Pekene for Registrar.

NIGERIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK LIMITED

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NIGERIAN, 35, RETURNING HOME in May, seeks position in Industrial Marketing/Sales Rep. Experience: 8 years' in Telecom. Engineering. Has been travelling Salesman handling Hardware and Patent Medicine Wholesale trade in Nigeria. Qualifications: Dip. MTCE, Engineering (ONC Equ.); UCTA Dip. Salesmanship and sales organisation; Assoc. Dip. and Assoc. Member Inst. of Technical Reps; Inst. of Marketing Diploma; Grd. M. Inst. M; Final I Inst. of Export, taking last Exam May 1972. Box No. X1410, West Africa, Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, London WC1V 6LZ.

SITUATIONS VACANT (cont.)

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Vacancy

TRAINEE DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE
with an engineering background

Job Description

Development Finance Company Limited, which operates in the field of providing finance for commercially viable industrial projects within the three Eastern States of Nigeria, has a vacancy for a TRAINEE DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE with an engineering background. The successful applicant will be employed as a member of a Projects Investigation Team with other members of varying backgrounds, including accounting and legal. Eventually he will be expected to take full responsibility for initial investigations of certain projects, not confined only to the engineering aspects, but in this task he will have the assistance of other members of the team with different backgrounds.

Qualifications and Experience

Applicants should be Nigerian graduate mechanical engineers with some experience of construction and process industries. As indicated by the job description above, they should also have an enquiring mind, some accounting knowledge and an interest in industry and business finance in general.

Terms and Conditions of Service

The post will initially be based at Enugu, which is the present Head Office of the Company. Commencing salary will be negotiable according to the qualifications and experience of the successful applicant but will take into account that the appointment is a trainee one with prospects of a substantial increase in salary upon successful completion of training. The Company has a Staff Provident Fund in operation and other terms and conditions of service are comparable with those of other similar organisations.

Applications

Applications should be in writing and addressed to the

General Manager
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P O Box 367,
Enugu, Nigeria

to arrive before 31st March 1972. Applicants at present residing overseas should state the approximate date of their expected return to Nigeria.

NOTICES (cont.)

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NOTICES (cont.)

A DIARY NOTATION
GHANA ASSOCIATION
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

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14TH - 16TH APRIL, 1972

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University of Cape Coast, Ghana
J.A. Brothbery, Economic Secretary
Ghana High Commission, London
W.J. Hall, Assistant Director,
Product Institute, London
Dr. D.S. Thornton, Reader in
International Economics, University of
O.P. White, Reader in Geography,
University of Salford
S.T. Quansah, Former Director
American Cocoa Research Institute
Dr. Bankole Timothy, Author,
Journalist
will be leading the discussions
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University from the 14th to 16th
1972.

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Dateline Africa

GHANA

Commodities Committee inaugurated

An eight-member Essential Commodities Committee under the chairmanship of Col Harry Appiah has been inaugurated by the Commissioner for Trade and Industries, Brig. Ashley-Larsen. Its function is to establish a central depot for national and regional stocks of rice, corned beef, sugar, evaporated milk, flour, matchets, baby foods, mackerel, pilchards, codfish and bars of soap. It will also be in charge of the import, delivery and payment of these commodities, will arrange their warehousing and equitable distribution throughout the country. The Committee will maintain a 90 day reserve in each region, will establish administrative machinery and keep accounts, reporting regularly to the government. The committee is to be the exclusive importer of the scheduled articles and will use powers under the NRC Price Control Decree to check smuggling, black-marketeering, profiteering and hoarding.

Inaugurating the Committee, Brig. Ashley Larsen said that the government would subsidise seven out of the eleven commodities. It would also reduce taxes, duties and other charges levied on the commodities and ensure their procurement on sight payment terms. This would result in a substantial loss of revenue, but the government was sensitive to the people's suffering, and wanted each person to have a fair share of essential commodities.

The Cocoa Marketing Board has introduced measures to regulate the number of vans and lorries arriving at the ports each day so that they can be discharged on the day of arrival. It hopes that regular and rapid turnarounds will prevent vans and lorries remaining undischarged for days. Until the present port congestion eases the CMB would communicate the number of lorries and vans to be dispatched daily to produce officers in the regions. Previously these details were sent only to licensed buying agents and those concerned with cocoa evacuation.

Four Indian businessmen have been arrested for alleged tax evasion on imports involving 753,684 cedis. Mr. A. K. Michandandi, Mr. Pichu Michandandi, Mr. B. K. Michandandi and Mr. B. B. Lal are also alleged to have offered a bribe of 10,000 cedis to an army officer.

A fifth businessman alleged to be involved in the case, Mr. H. T. Lalwal, is reported to be in Nigeria. An official statement said that the four men would

be deported and their companies - the Loyalty Garment factory and Garmenco Knitting Industries - would be taken over by the state. Ghana Commercial Bank would supervise the financial aspects of the two companies because they owed the bank 4,300,000 cedis.

All impounded smuggled goods will be traced to their source and the routes mapped out, the NLC has announced. When this is done law enforcement agencies on the routes will be severely and summarily dealt with. Action includes dismissal. The announcement warned that smuggling routes in and out of Ghana were now under strict surveillance.

Col. Acheampong has warned that the government expects all foreign and local firms to declare the taxes they had paid by March 15. Ghanaians, he said, were the enemies of their own economy because they had been helping foreigners evade taxes and assisting them in various malpractices to undermine the economy.

The rule that nobody could enjoy the benefits of his Social Security contributions until he was too old or

completely maimed was unjust. Acheampong told members of the S.M. Insurance Corporation. He requested that social security benefits be reviewed. To a contributor should die for a beneficiary to enjoy the fruits of his sacrifice was unfair. Col. Acheampong said that he had examined some recent recommendations by UNCTAD and the Federation of Afro-Asian Insurers and Re-insurers and was convinced that steps would soon be initiated to bring Ghana's insurance law in line with their recommendations.

Col. Acheampong has appealed landlords to show sympathy to workers by reducing their rents. Such a gesture, he said, would prove the support of the landlords for the economic war being waged by the NRC. Col. Acheampong said that during his visit to some departments under him he learnt that some workers earned about 35 cedis per month and paid as much as 15 cedis a month in rent.

The NRC has denied local and overseas rumours that the January 13 coup was planned on behalf of the former Convention Peoples Party for the return of Dr. Nkrumah. Statements and actions of the NRC had been misinterpreted to mean that the government favoured the ex-President's restoration but this had no foundation. The statement warned the public that anyone caught spreading such rumours would be dealt with severely.

Ghana and the Peoples Republic of China have decided to resume with immediate effect diplomatic relations, which were broken off soon after the 1966 coup, and the two countries will exchange ambassadors as soon as possible (see last week's issue). Chinese premier Chou En-Lai sent a goodwill message to mark Independence Day.



The High Commission in London held a reception to mark Independence Day. Here the Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Prah, and his wife greet the Minister of Overseas Development, Mr. Richard Wood.

Ghana marked her 15th Independence Anniversary with parades by school-children and a message from the new regime to youth to rededicate themselves to the service of the nation. Col. Acheampong urged them to prepare themselves for the future and lay the

necessary foundation for their lives. "Independence Day is an opportunity to rededicate yourselves for service to your homes, communities and nations." The Commissioner for Education, Lt. Col. Ntegebe, took the salute at a parade at Independence (formerly Black Star) Square.

Police recruits who fail to make the required grade after three months training be dismissed, Inspector-General J. H. Bina has announced. Such recruits, he might be found suitable alternative employment. The training period has been extended from six months to one year, the first half consisting of training at depot and the remaining six months practical exercises.

Mr. John K. Tettegah, former Secretary-General of the All-African Peoples Union Federation, has returned from a five-year voluntary exile in Cairo. On arrival he was searched by soldiers, his papers were taken by the Special Branch, and he was driven under army guard to Burma Camp, GNA reports.

It is thought that as soon as formalities are completed it will be announced that Mr. Henry Sekyi, formerly High Commissioner in Canberra and Ambassador in Rome, will be the new High Commissioner to London.

Mr. Nathaniel Azarco Welbeck, Minister of Information in Dr. Nkrumah's Government, has died after a long illness aged 57. Mr. Welbeck was once resident minister in Guinea, where Dr. Nkrumah has been living since his overthrow in 1966.

The NRC has given Progress Party functionaries still in hiding one week to declare themselves, after which it would not be responsible for the consequences.

Lt. Col. C. D. Benni has been appointed Commissioner for NRC affairs.

• The Department of Social Welfare and Community Development is conducting a survey into rural industrialisation to enable the government to offer the best assistance to indigenous enterprises in rural areas.

• Prospective farmers are to be given financial assistance and other incentives under the Operation Feed Yourself programme, said the executive secretary of the Growers Development Board.

• Licences of private security organisations have been revoked. The Busia government granted licences to private security firms under a regulation in the 1970 Police Service Act.

• The Peoples Education Association has announced a domestic rabbit population census, "a survey in aid of 'Rabbits for foods for the millions of Ghana'."

SIERRA LEONE McKinsey for Diminco

The American consultants, McKinsey, are to study the management of Diminco, the company in which the Government holds 51 per cent, and which has taken over the former diamond leases of Sierra Leone Selection Trust. The British consulting geologists, Mackay and Schnellman, who have considerable West African experience, are to study the company's mining problems, including those of illicit mining, and another British firm, De La Rue, are to examine security.

• In a new list of Ministerial responsibilities published in the Gazette, Sierra Leone - Guinea relations are assigned to

the President's Office. The President is also in charge of the Public Defence, the Police, as well as being Prime Minister, is in charge of the Ministry of the Interior and Provincial Administration and matters. He has general superintendence of all Ministries, is in charge of all matters, rural development matters.

• The President was in Gambia. General Gowon paid a five-day visit. He accompanied the President of State on a visit to the Inter-



The Mayor of Freetown, Cecil Akibo-Betts, presents a letter of welcome to the Vice President of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Mr. Kang Ryang Wuk, during his visit to Sierra Leone.

• During a visit by the President of the Bank of Sierra Leone, the Governor, S. L. Bangura, said that the exchange assets had jumped to 30.1m at the end of October 1976 at the end of January 1977. Our minerals had shown substantial increase since the end of October, while a quarter of last year all exports and imports had fallen. Last year the Governor said that during the whole of the country had suffered "stagflation", by which economic stagnation co-exists with inflation. There had been a 30 per cent fall in exports during the first nine months of the year but a smaller drop in imports leaving a visible trading deficit of 14.9m compared with the 1975 corresponding period of 10.1m. The provisional final figure for 1976 shows a deficit of Le 10m.

During the nine months there has been a real fall in the net value of the banking system. At the end of the year the Governor expressed grave concern about the Government's estimates which, over the past year, had amounted to some Le 1.5m. Supplementary estimates for the month were some Le 3.5m. Primary education and secondary education, together with 451,000 for the military, had to some Le 2,781,000 originally authorised came 47m.

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• Now that the two University Colleges are "pumping out" graduates at the rate of 200 a year, while large numbers of students are also returning from abroad, it is difficult for the public services to absorb them all. Emphasizing this to the first convention of the U.K and Northern Ireland Branch of the All Peoples Congress, held in Liverpool, Mr. Solomon Pratt, External Affairs Minister, said that there was a time-lag between a student's graduation and his employment, and the gap was growing. But this made it the more necessary for graduates to return home as soon as they could. In particular it was easier to obtain employment in the private sector if one was in the country itself.

• Mr. Berthan Macaulay, Q.C., former Attorney General of Sierra Leone recently released from detention in connection with the treason trial, has now registered as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Jamaica. Mr. Macaulay will be returning shortly to Jamaica to set up practice.

• An expert on local government finance has been assigned to Sierra Leone under the U.N. Development Programme, to advise on re-organisation in local government and on the role of local government in planning. He is Mr. C. Viswasam, of Ceylonese nationality, who previously worked in Sierra Leone as a senior development and planning officer. He was also visiting lecturer at Fourah Bay.

• Mr. Gershon Collier, Sierra Leone's first Ambassador to the United Nations and Chief Justice for a brief period, has obtained his Doctorate in Jurisprudence. Dr. Collier's dissertation was "Problems of Constitution-Making in Post Colonial Africa". He is now Professor of African Law at New York University.

• Mr. Bankole Timothy has been appointed Chairman of the Africa Centre in London in succession to Dr. J. Richard Gray, of the University of London. He is the first African to hold this post. Other members of the Centre's Council include The Earl of Perth, Sir Philip de Zulueta, Mr. William R. Stuttaford and Professor A. N. Allot.

Mr. Timothy is a Director of Diamond Corporation West Africa.

• Mr. Strasser-King has been promoted Financial Secretary at the age of 47. He took his degree at Fourah Bay. Mr. Strasser-King has acted as Financial Secretary during the absence of Sheikh Daramy, who was involved in the treason trial and has now retired.

• Passing prison sentences on three men convicted of armed robbery, the Chief Justice said that introduction of death sentences for these offences, expected soon to be ratified by Parliament, would be a deterrent.

• Welcoming the commander of a Soviet warship at State House, the President suggested that the Soviet Union could provide maritime training for Sierra Leoneans.

LIBERIA IMF loan

The International Monetary Fund has approved a stand-by arrangement for Liberia, authorizing purchases of foreign exchange up to the equivalent of 4m. units of special drawing rights (SDR) until the end of February 1973. "The upsurge in Liberia's economic activity experienced in 1969 and 1970 was not maintained in 1971", says an IMF communique. The recession was due mainly to developments in world markets for Liberia's two main export commodities, iron ore and rubber, which account for some 70 per cent and 15 per cent of total exports, respectively.

"Revenues deriving from those commodities fell sharply in 1971, and these losses were barely offset by increased collections from other revenue sources. Government finances therefore came under a strain especially as expenditures showed a marked increase". The stand-by arrangement would strengthen the Liberian Government's finances and create the basis for sustained economic growth, by helping to maintain imports at a level "consistent with a reasonable growth rate", says the communique.

NIGER Schools reopen

Five secondary schools which closed down early in February after a student strike have reopened. Parents were asked to accompany their children to school and to sign a promise to supervise them. The students also signed a letter promising to return to classes peacefully, without conditions. A resolution in the National Assembly supported the government's handling of the strike. Describing the education system as a "resounding failure", the resolution blamed the students who struck and praised those who did not, and asked the government to study the profound causes of the situation in the schools. Deputies said they wanted a system "which does not take the student out of his home circle".

• M. Gerin-Lajoie, Head of the Canadian International Development Agency, said in Niamey that Niger was one of the countries on which Canada had decided to concentrate its development aid. This was because the Niger government had decided to use its limited resources in an efficient way. During his visit an agreement was reached for the supply of a tug and barges to provide Niger with a new trading link to the Niger Delta. Agreement was also reached on the construction of power lines from Kajinji Dam to supply Niger with cheap electricity.

• Libya and Niger are considering setting up a joint contracting company in the public sector. The project was discussed in Tripoli by a Niger delegation visiting for the opening of the International Trade Fair in Tripoli in which Niger participated for the first time.

Libya has granted financial assistance of 2,600 Libyan dinars (£3,200) as contribution towards building mosque at Maradi in Niger. Me supplies and 15 land rovers have also donated to the Niger Government by Libyans.

TOGO

About 160 French paratroopers several hundred other troops from France took part with the Togo army in a Franco-Togolese military manoeuvre in northern Togo. Three French fighter craft and the escort vessel *Champer* (serving as a radio base) also took part. General Eyadema headed the unit command for the manoeuvres (called "Friendship '72") jointly with Gen. Quilichini, Inspector of French Forces for Central Africa.

The Government has set up a national investment company (Societe Nationale D'Investissement Du Togo) to finance the economic and social development of the country. It will have an initial capital of 300 million francs CFA (about £445,000) to be increased to 500 million francs CFA (about £758,000) in six months time. It is to encourage investment by both Togolese and foreign concerns.

• Chinese Premier Chou En Lai has sent a message of congratulations to President Eyadema, following the successful referendum approving him in power.

GABON

President Bongo, after the annual meeting of officers of the Army, announced the creation of a Military School in Libreville. Addressing the officers, in his capacity as Supreme head of the armed forces, the President said that certain of them had distinguished themselves in an uncouth manner by not following the established hierarchy. He hoped to see this malaise cured in 1972.

• Gabonese oil production reached a record 5,580,000 tons in 1971, 1,080,000 tons more than in 1970. The African branch of the French state oil company, ELF, produced 4,670,000 of the total.

• No one under the age of 18 is to be allowed out alone after 9 p.m. The ban also applies to cinemas and dance halls.

SENEGAL

A Senegalese army delegation led by Chief of Staff General Jean-Alfred Diallo has been on a five day visit to Ivory Coast, and Ivory Coast Culture Minister Jules Hiena has been in Senegal. The visits fall within the framework of frequent contacts called for during the visit of President Senghor to Ivory Coast last December.

• Senegal now has a population of 3,900,000, according to the Board of Statistics in Dakar.

HAD Franc zone meeting

President Tombalbaye, opening the presidential conference of ministers of the franc zone in Fort Lamy underlined the importance of holding the conference in a country where the per capita income was less than 10 dollars. He said the world monetary crisis had slowed down international trade, and that the poorest countries had suffered most from this. The "group of ten" agreement in Washington was only one stage in the form of the international monetary system, said the President. He stressed the need for all countries to be involved in future decisions, especially in view of the coming integration of Europe. Apart from the risks of retarded world trade, developing countries suffered "tragic uncertainty" about selling prices for their basic commodities. "One cannot over-emphasise the importance of export earnings for the development of the poor countries, and also the certainty of seeing increased the cost of capital goods of which we have such urgent need". The anxiety of developing countries was increased by the protectionist attitude of many industrialised countries. "This protectionism hits heavily a large number of products that our countries produce, such as cotton, coffee, cocoa, meat, fish ... etc. This is why we feel that the stress laid on developing trade between countries with low incomes should receive in international circles all the attention that the importance of this problem, in our opinion, justifies". The President praised France's attitude towards the rest of the franc zone, but said that in less than ten years Europe would have completed its integration and the other European countries might not take such a favourable attitude towards the poor associated states. "The privileged bonds which link us to France might then lose, by the force of things, their significance and efficacy".

In their final communique, the ministers noted that the zone's balance of payments remained in surplus, and the reserves had increased by 9,500m. francs to nearly 40,000m. francs by December 31, 1971. The communique also said that during negotiations for a reorganisation of the international monetary system, the "new order" should take into account the interests of the developing countries. Such negotiations could only take place within the framework of the International Monetary Fund. The ministers agreed to meet again as soon as an important step towards monetary reform was taken. On the next UNCTAD meeting, the ministers expressed unanimously the desire to see concrete results, especially in the field of agreements product by product, and on the volume of aid. They stressed the need to reach these two goals, especially an agreement on cocoa, which would constitute a test of the determination of the international community to improve the export earnings of developing countries.

French Finance Minister Valéry Giscard d'Estaing said after the meeting that developing countries were "overwhelmingly preoccupied" with the international monetary situation. Asked whether France should take the initiative in getting developing countries a share in the decision-making involved in reforming the monetary system, the minister said the industrialised countries should not under-estimate the concern in the developing countries on this matter. France and her partners had evolved common positions on some of the issues to be raised at the Unctad conference. Agreement had been reached on the question of trade in primary products, and how trading terms should be settled so that the developing countries would not lose any revenue because of changes in parities. A resolution had also been adopted for Unctad, with regard to a system of economic and financial aid for the so-called "least-advanced" countries.

CONGO B

The search is continuing for the instigators of the abortive coup of February 22, notably the former Agriculture Minister and Political commissar of the Peoples Army, Lt Ange Diawara, who, as we go to press is still on the run. The government has denied rumours that he was heading an armed column. It has also broadcast a series of attacks on him, accusing him of being an admirer of Hitler who confused fascism and marxism.

Following an extraordinary meeting of party leaders President Nguabi said that the political option of the Peoples Congo had not changed. "We have only put under lock and key the ultra-revolutionaries who were really only opportunists". There would be no pity for the putschists when they came before the Court Martial which would be convened shortly.

Among further arrests made were Lt. Godfrey Matingou, former member of the party's Central Committee and Gaston Morlende, Assistant Political Commissar of the Peoples Army, and Lt. Jean Bayetela. Thirty-three people were arrested in Pointe Noire including the mayor Nombo-Mavoungou.

THE GAMBIA

The house of Representatives was dissolved on February 24 and the general election date was announced for March 28. Results should be declared on March 29. Nominations for presidential candidates were due on March 8, and for members of parliament on March 14.

GUINEA

Conakry radio has claimed Guinean forces shot down two Portuguese planes in two successive days. One of them crashed near Koundara in Guinea, the other in Guinea-Bissau.

Agreement on Diplomas

Following the 25th francophone education ministers conference in Tananarive it has been decided that an inter-African convention on the diploma of higher education should be signed. This would give the same university diplomas to French-speaking Africa (save Congo) in France, Canada and Belgium granted by any educational institution in any of these states. The convention is to be formally signed at the OCAM summit in Lome in June.

Delegates from France (Quebec) and Belgium attended the conference along with the African states. The meeting also considered reforms of African education including a reform of French teaching, introduction of mathematics, and the introduction of technical and practical employment syllabuses. The next conference will be held in Lome in 1974.

Speaking in Lome, Secretaries of the Afro-Malagasy Organisation (OCAM) following the postponement of the OCAM summit from February would mean that almost all of the states would be able to attend. It would be difficult to hold a second meeting (originally intended for May) because heads of foreign ministers had a full workload, including the OAU summit in Rabat in June.

OCAM Culture ministers, meeting in Cotonou, have elaborated a programme for the OCAM Institute, to be opened soon.

The Agency for Air Transport (ASECNA) has announced that a new school is to be built in Freetown. Method of financing is to be decided at the next meeting in Paris of the transport ministers. Two new flying schools, one in CAR and Madagascar, have flying schools.

Representatives of 30 countries attended a special conference in Bamako on cholera. They discussed ways of implementing new African health ministers are fighting the disease.

The annual summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) will be held in Rabat, Morocco on June 12. The meeting of the Council of Ministers will begin on June 5.

Mr. Robert McNamara, President of the World Bank, has visited Niger, Upper Volta and Mali to discuss development prospects and aid.

President Ceausescu of Rumania is on a visit this month to several African countries (Egypt, Nigeria, Congo, Brazzaville, Zaire, Tanzania).

NIGERIA

Gen. Gowon in Guinea

General Gowon has returned from a five-day official visit to Guinea. Before leaving Conakry he announced a grant of £25,000 to the youth movement, Jeunesse de la Revolution Democratique Africaine. On the way back he stopped over in Bamako for several hours and had talks with the Mali leader, Col. Moussa Traore. At a news conference in Lagos Gen. Gowon described his tour as very successful, adding that what he saw belied propaganda about Guinea in the foreign press. Guinea, he said, has so far succeeded in its political experiment. The General spoke of his talks with President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, who was in Conakry at the same time. Their discussions had helped to remove areas of disagreement. Asked whether Nigeria would recognise Bangladesh he replied "Let us not interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan. During our own trouble we did not want anyone to call Biafra. Let me make it clear Nigeria will not interfere until the Pakistanis can solve their own problems."

During his tour Gen. Gowon visited Nzerekore, Faranah, Kankan, Labe and Kindia where cultural and artistic exhibitions were put on in honour of the Nigerian delegation. Conakry Radio said that the two Heads of State decided to establish "militant co-operation" to safeguard the authenticity of the African personality. "They recognised the need for co-operation in the fields of defence and security among African countries."

They decided, therefore, to determine various ways of co-operation in these fields between their two countries." Radio-television Kaduna later reported that General Gowon had denied a "foreign press report" that Nigeria had reached a defence agreement with Guinea. "He told reporters on his return from Guinea that he had never discussed the issues with either President Sekou Toure of Guinea or President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone." The leaders were said to have discussed mainly the need to conclude economic and cultural agreements and broaden bilateral relations.

The *New Nigerian*, owned by the six northern states, has hit out at harassment of its reporters by the armed forces. It lists arrests, detentions, and questionings of its correspondents in various parts of the Federation, one of the cases being that of the news editor who was arrested and asked to disclose the source of a recent story on police reactions to their pay rise. "The result", said the editorial, "if these actions continue, would be that the vital service of collecting and disseminating information to much of this country - where the *New Nigerian* is the only daily newspaper distributed - will be paralysed. And the public should now who is responsible."

- To help finance the 26m. dollar sale to Nigeria Airways of two Boeing 737s and one Boeing 707, spares and related equipment and services the US Export-Import Bank has authorised a direct loan of 10.4m. dollars. It also authorised the issue of a financial guarantee of a 10.4m. dollar loan from the Chase Manhattan Bank to cover 40 per cent of the costs. Nigeria Airways will make a cash payment of 20 per cent of the US costs, or 5.2m. dollars. Delivery of the aircraft is expected in December 1972.

- A demand by Ibadan University students for a rebate of £6 each - money which they claimed would have been spent on them had the University not been closed after rioting in February 1971 - has been turned down by the administration. The students union said that as a result of this decision they would no longer be bound by the decisions of the University's authorities.

- The secretary to the Federal Government has been empowered to warn or reprimand any public service officer. He is required to notify the Public Service Commission of his action.

- The U.M. soap factory at Abu owned by Lever Bros has been temporarily closed owing to an "acute palm oil shortage". Over 300 workers have already been given a compulsory two-weeks leave.

- The Chief of Banking Operations, Mr. F. Ijewere, told the Ibadan Chamber of Commerce, that the 10 kobo and 5 pieces (which have the exact value of the present 1sh. and 6d coins) would go into circulation on July 1.

- A training programme aimed at producing 700 teachers every five years has been launched by the Kano State Government.

- Vice Admiral Akinwale Wey has announced that the Navy planned to establish a large dock to handle ship-building and repairs.

- Yugoslavia's Soda-So salt and chemical works has delivered its first shipment of table-salt to Nigeria.

- A statutory corporation responsible for the planning, construction, maintenance and management of the Federal road network is to be established soon.

- A ban has been placed on all kind meetings in Offa, Kwara State, protected, say the police, by a recent meeting in the town held by "certain highly persons" at which plans to form a political party were allegedly discussed. The people were alleged to have used name of the Offa Descendants Union to achieve their objective. The police said also that an organisation known as Egbe Edo had been formed in the town contrary to the decree banning tribal unions. Some leaders in the town were reported to have been questioned by the police.

- The Offa Descendants Union has dissociated itself from the meetings said to have been held. The national public secretary, Mr. S. A. Raji, said that the Union was a non-political organisation working for peace, progress and the unity of Offa and Kwara State as a whole. It had never engaged in any activities which were contrary to that aim. He warned certain former members of the Union to stop using it as a camouflage for their own selfish ends.

- The Niger will be made navigable between Warri and the Niger Republic for seven months of the year, the Niger Ambassador, Mr. Ibrahim Loutou, said in Lagos. Studies for the project had been completed, he added, and barges ordered from Canada.

- Chief of Air Staff, Brig. Ikwe, has announced that the air force has resumed normal test flights to all parts of the East Central State which were suspended after the civil war. He added that the air force hoped to purchase helicopters to introduce rescue operations to all states.

- Brig. Ikwe has also announced that the Air Force had established a panel to work out conditions for commissioning reabsorbed officers of East Central State origin who have completed their reorientation course.

- Twenty Nigerian Air Force officers and NCOs have completed a training course in Moscow. Addressing the officers the Nigerian Ambassador to Moscow, Brig. Kurobo, said that he hoped personnel sent abroad for military training would take home the new knowledge they gained to improve the standard of Nigeria's armed forces.



Rivers State Transport Corporation officials visit the Witt and Busch boatyard in Port Harcourt to see progress on the construction of the 10 "river buses" ordered by the Corporation. Mr. Jan Zook, manager of the yard, is first from left, and behind him is Mr. Nechoke Nkomadu, the Corporation's marine services manager.

GERIA—Contd

Mr. Justice Adesiyun, who sentenced Ibadan lawyer, Mr. Niyi Akintola, to six months jail for contempt of court during a hearing of the Kwara State robbery and firearms tribunal last November, said that he would commend the Governor to review the sentence, on condition that Mr. Akintola withdrew appeals which he had filed with the Supreme Court and the Ilorin High Court. The judge said that his panel believed that Akintola had been made "a scapegoat by your cleverer colleagues", but that since he had apologised "we think it proper to recommend to the Governor of this state to review our sentence as an act of grace". He also criticised an interview given to the BBC in London by Mr. Richard Akinjide, the President of the Bar Association who filed the appeal for Mr. Akintola, in which Akinjide allegedly said that the appointment of judges was now on the basis of patronage and state of origin. "This statement is untrue", the judge commented, "and it is a wicked thing to say about the authorities who appoint judges."

Ibadan University students called off a boycott of lectures after three days when the University Senate announced the establishment of a committee to investigate the circumstances of the action, which began in support of a student who went on a hunger strike over alleged academic victimisation.

Alhaji Nuhu Bamalli, chairman of the North Central State committee on right hand driving said in Kaduna that his committee had made no progress because of the uncooperative attitude of government departments.

Guests at the opening of the ophthalmic unit of the Ahmadu Bello University's Institute of Health were told that there were between 400,000 and 500,000 blind Nigerians.

The Professional Bodies (Special Powers) Decree has been published, enabling the Federal Government to permit non-Nigerians to practice a number of professions previously regulated by certain professional bodies and to lay down conditions under which they may set up practice. Professions listed in the schedule to the Decree are law, medicine, dentistry, midwifery and nursing, engineering, surveys, architecture, accountancy and any other scientific or technological discipline. The Government can extend or shorten this list.

Trading in Nigeria was successful in 1971 and both sales and profits were at record levels, the chairman of Tate & Lyle, Mr. John Lyle, says in the company's annual report. "The current expansion programme has been completed and our eight cube-making machines were in full production during the latter months of the year".

An editorial in the *Nigeria Post* said that the Western State "in a very low state", was being retrenched "in the expenditure virtually at a trade and traders badly hit by the fault of the present newspaper". "Much of the blame is to its predecessor who governments in the Federal Government most financially unwise", it welcomed the revival of the Advisory Council, which was "ignored" by the present government in the State.

On his return from the Central State Administration, Ukpabi Asika, said that the Government intended to establish a manufacturing industry in partnership with an American firm. Work on the project was completed in April.

Work on a survey by the Federal Government and the World Bank for International Development of accelerating food production was completed and the report published a few weeks ago. The Federal Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Okoroafor, said that the research institutions are to be supported by the Federal Government.

Dr. Tunji Otegbey, a medical practitioner, has been almost a year's detention in the Federal Government, although he was treated as a "terrorist" nevertheless.

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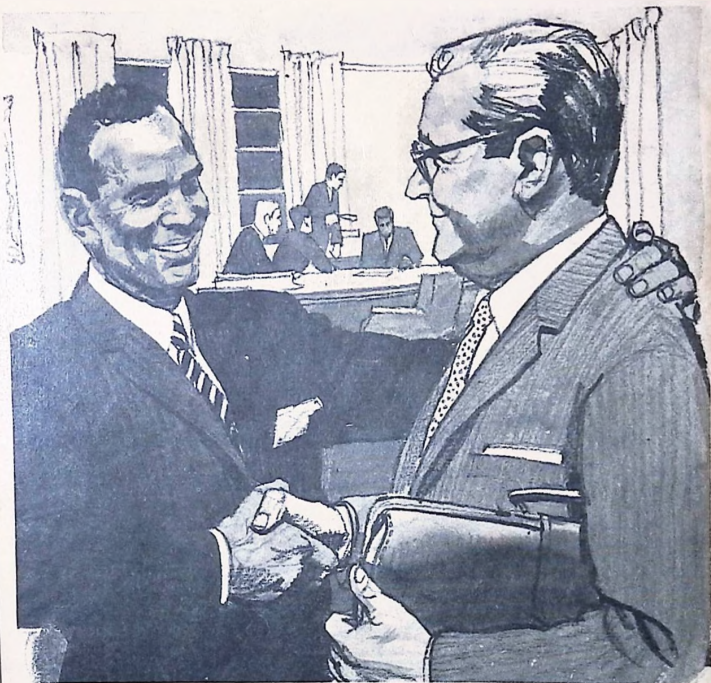
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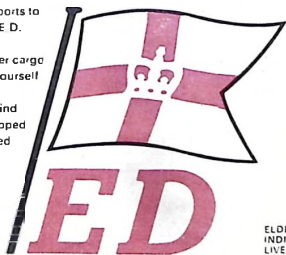
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