

AFRISCOPE

YOUR MONTHLY BRIEF ON AFRICA



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USA & AFRICA

To stop the double-dealing activities of multi-national corporations, an economic weapon which Nigeria's General Obasanjo put to an effective use during his recent visit to the United States of America, African states should first and foremost stop all business transactions with South Africa. There is no other way of asserting at least our moral position on this point.

Many independent African states trade with South Africa. Some, like Mauritius and Malawi, do so openly. Others, definitely more dangerous and deadly to the African cause, do so under the counter. Secret or open, trade with South Africa totally undermines our credibility when we lobby the business world against trade with the apartheid territory.

The fact, is in the absence of other political resources like water-tight continental unity or the capability to collectively impose economic sanctions on recalcitrant sections of the world business community who trade with South Africa, one of our few remaining weapons is moral strength. We have to be above board on this issue. We have to be able, through the example of our own behaviour, to leave the outside world in no doubt that we mean what we threaten.

Also, while we acknowledge the necessity of keeping all lines of communication open and we know that the role of the West is more critical than that of any other bloc to the fate of the apartheid structure, we must guard against the impression that we are historically more at home in this or that bloc. We should feel at home only in Africa.

We reiterate our stand that the only course of action which will guarantee us not only a change but the right quality of change in Southern Africa is armed struggle. Diplomatic and other courses can only be auxiliary.

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*Editor-In-Chief: Uche Chukwumerije
Associate Editors: Lindsay Barret
Carlos Moore*

*Kola Omatajo
Production: Jackie Payne
Sunday Afagwu*

*Reports: Henry Atenaga
Chika Ajaraonye*

*Media Sales: Andrew Cloughsale
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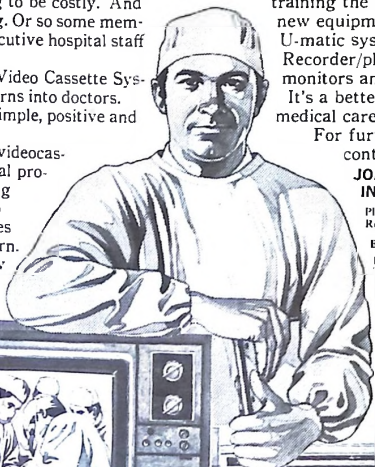
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SONY

OAU DYING?

Your August Editorial titled "The Horn of Africa" made quite an interesting reading. The puzzle really remains the OAU. But this jigsaw is only evident in the Ethiopia/Somalia conflict.

Is the OAU still existing? What was its reply to the murder of Steve Biko? What did it have to say to President Kaunda for taking the rest of the frontline states on a ride to the Rebel enclave? Dining and Chatting with the Rebel himself—Ian Smith? etc. . . . etc. . . . etc.

So you see the questions are far too many yet no one is able to find the answers. Chairmen go Chairmen come year in year out. Chief Clerks (Secretary Generals) come and go but like puzzle remaining the same. There is one answer though. OAU is dying!

Anthony Mbuja,
Accra, Ghana.

ZIMBABWE

It appears we don't see what is about to happen in Zimbabwe. The Organisation of African Unity has taken it upon itself to recognise only the Patriotic Front as the legitimate liberation movement in Zimbabwe; but in the process forgot the recent Angola experience.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa and Rev. Sithole are still very much around. Despite their non-recognition, they continue to command a lot of home support. Although it is generally agreed that both of them can not succeed if they decide on their own to work out a consensus with Rebel Ian Smith, they are still forces to be put into consideration or else we will soon have another Angola in our hands.

The setting is the same. Prior to independence Unita, FNLA and MPLA were all involved in the Liberation struggle although Augustinho

Neto's MPLA had the apparent edge. Nothing but a Civil war was able to resolve who will rule. Even then, today Neto's Control is not without some cracks.

If we do not see the hand writings on the wall, Zimbabwe will follow in the same pattern if not worse!

Victoria Zukor,
Kaduna, Nigeria.

EXPLOITATION

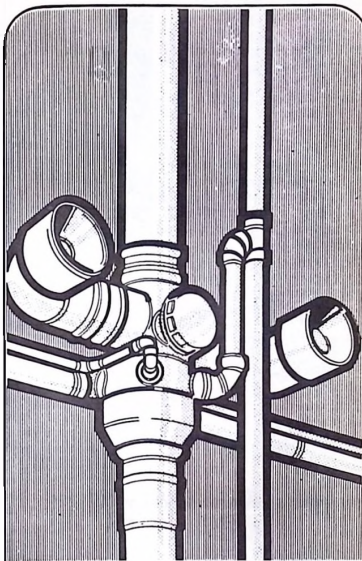
When your columnist HENRY ATENAGA, asked the question: Isn't this exploitation? in May's Question Mark, I don't think he expected to be taken seriously. What is new in a company investing 6 per cent of its assets in Africa and getting 14 per cent of its total income in return from there? I don't see anything new because practically every foreign company doing business in Africa gets that percentage if not more. In view of this I wonder why he decided to single out that particular company.

I agree with the Chairman of the Company when he said "It is absolutely wrong in principle that a company should be made to repatriate dividends from places which need the money for development." But I will like to ask and others in the league: Why do what you know is wrong?

Joseph Olu,
London.

LINDSAY BARRET

I have noticed for some time past, one or two of your Associate Editors have quietly withdrawn from the scene. My view on this subject, based on a candid personal research, show that Lindsay Barret, as I know him today is now with either the Sunday Times or N.B.C. 2, by sheer human migratory pat-



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Letters

ern. In fact he has endeared himself to many Afriscope readers who read his article last (or so to say) in the January issue of 1977. He could be likened to Wole Soyinka, for his frankness the way he talks about the past and present, which are born out of original spirit and naturalty.

Therefore the inclusion of his name in the imprint without any of his articles being published is simply muddling things up for me and "our people" instead of improving them. You would realise that it is the "people" that matter. Let's have more of Lindsay's articles for the enlightenment and emancipation of the Blackman.

Max Uwa,
Lagos.

Editor's Note:

Lindsay Barret is still very much with us as an Associate Editor.

CANADA IN TOGO

Daily our poor Africa is faced with new friends of affluence. In like manner, no day passes without our having a brand new enemy in the name of a friend. Put simply, I will say point for me a friend of Africa and I will show you an enemy.

So where many might be surprised to hear of the recent Canadian involvement in a coup attempt in Togo, I am not. For years I have been watching Canada and at a point I almost concluded that the central core of her foreign policy is her overwhelming determination to prove to the whole world that being near a super power doesn't make one a weakling.

She doles out aid as fast as the United States does (in a way this is not bad) but I think competing with CIA is going a bit too far as far as her show of influence is concerned. It is from this viewpoint I quarrel with her

involvement in the attempt to overthrow Eyadema.

Kofi Agei,
Accra, Ghana.

TRADE FAIR

It's rather unfortunate that Afriscope in my opinion, has become a foreign owned paper. If not, how else do one explain your silence with regards to the Lagos International Trade Fair taking place in November?

I have been watching out for an article or two in Afriscope on this important fair without success. The sum total of which is lack of materials to wet my appetite as far as this fair is concerned.

For example, who and who are taking part? How much has been spent so far on this project? What are the progress reports? What impact will the fair have on the Nigerian economy and Africa as a whole? These and many other issues are confusing questions I have been expecting Afriscope to answer if really it is still an international Magazine owned and published by Nigerians.

Solomon Oyibusu,
Benin City.

Editor's Note:

Solomon, I am afraid, you are wrong. Afriscope is not a foreign owned Magazine. However, as for the trade fair, we are running a special supplement on it this month.

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KENYA - SOMALIA

As everybody knows, after dealing with Ethiopia, irredentist Somalia's will pounce on Kenya.

One therefore believes the recent allegation by President Jomo Kenyatta that Somalia still harbours territorial claims on parts of Kenya and according to the Kenyan President, "It is surprising to learn ten years after the official end of hostilities between Kenyan forces and Somali forces that maps are circulating in Somalia which lay false claims on Kenyan territory."

By the same token, no one should believe the answer by Somali Minister of Mines, Hussein Gasin that "there is a problem between the countries which can be solved peacefully in spirit of brotherhood."

No problem exists between Somalia and her neighbours, if Somalia and her Arab financiers abide by OAU's Charter provisions on territorial integrity.

One must continue to warn: if Somalia succeeds in Ethiopia, she will be lighting a bush fire that will engulf the whole of independent Black Africa.

ADVICE

The apparent impotence of the Carter administration in dealing with apartheid South Africa is evident in a recent incident. There was on October 19, a serious clamp down—to some of us, in fact a routine clamp down—on the critics of the apartheid regime by Vorster. In response, Carter had to recall his Ambassador all the long way from South Africa just to ask for advice on what to do. On the other hand, Vorster's confidence is increasing. Referring to Carter's threat to review USA-South African relations, he arrogantly let it be known that "That is Mr. Carter's business if he so wishes. As far as I am concerned, I am not interested."

Did the American President require his man on the spot to advise him on how to react to the clamp down? No, if he must deal with the South African problem on such piecemeal 'micro' basis, all he should have done was to close down the information centres of the apartheid network in U.S.

One hopes that all these responses—incidentally soon after General Obasanjo's visit and the obvious futility of the exercise are not intended to impress Africa that the Carter Administration is doing its best. We know that the best of the administration should be in more fundamental direction.

A BIZZARE STORY

This time, the source is a person not a dream.

Giving details of yet another plot against his regime, President Amin claims that the plan is master-minded by Britain in return for a reward to rule Uganda for 25 years! Other features of the agreement include the expulsion of Russians, Chinese, Arabs and Palestinians, reopening of Israeli embassy, and administration of the army by Israelis.

General Amin and General Bokassa—when?

THE CLAMP DOWN

Official statement puts at 50 the number of anti-apartheid activists arrested in the wake of the ban on *The World*.

We know that in the last few months an average of one detainee is tortured to death by South African police.

Will the most recent batch of detainees ever see the light of day—alive?

POLITICS

One of the crimes—besides birth control excesses—that cost Indira Gandhi the last elections was her contact with USSR.

Settled in office, the new premier Morarji Desai has quietly resumed dinner with the devil. And the devil is same old enthusiast host.

This politics.

HIDE AND SEEK

When the cable arrived from the

US it got the attention it deserved. It read:

"Nigerian Students here are confused, worried and upset. Positions offered them here by the Federal Overseas recruitment committee are denied them upon return to Nigeria."

To back up their claim the students asked for the investigation of the case of one Dr. Peter Ezeocha.

Of course they got a quick reply. "400 Nigerians offered various appointments have refused to come home" declared the Deputy Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission. "Most disturbing that most of them have already collected return-home tickets from the embassy there."

So the case has been made for a Hide and Seek game. But dare we ask, where is the referee—Mr. Conscience?

ALMIGHTY BILL

That's the bill that turned a President's MUST to MAYBE. Some weeks ago no one doubted the coming of President Carter to Nigeria Nov. 25th was a date but it is no more.

Mr. Human Rights had to postpone the tour till "sometime after Christmas" because his energy bill is having a rough time in the Congress. He wants to be around to pick up the pieces.

Well nobody is crying. Instead this is a most welcome breathing space. No doubt, after the recent US veto of total embargo on South Africa, Afro-American relationship needs a new face lift before Carter steps down on the African Soil.



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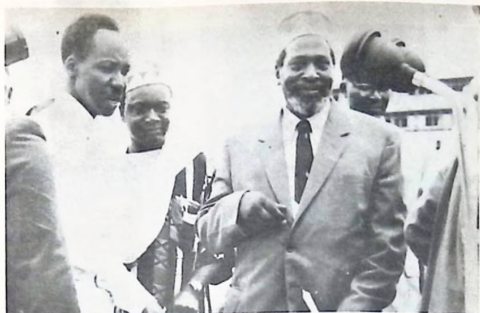
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Left: Uganda's Marshall Amin and Right: Presidents' Nyerere and Kenya's Kenyatta: Gone are the EAC days!

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY:

DEATH OF AN IDEAL

By A Correspondent

Each of the three partner states in the East African Community (EAC)—Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda—is now busy setting up national or private institutions to carry on with the services which used to be provided in common by the now defunct EAC.

Tanzania has, for instance, already created the Tanzania Harbours Authority to administer the country's ports, and the Tanzania Railways Authority is taking over the assets of East African Railways. East African Airways has been replaced by Kenya Airways, the Uganda National Airline, and Air Tanzania.

However, the three countries do not appear to know as yet how to break up the important joint postal services, which continue to function as an East African institution, although nationals serve in their own countries.

A study of the Community's death from the Tanzanian point of view leads one to discern signs of its destiny several years before its inception in December 1967. In the early 1960 both Tanzania and Uganda began to believe that the then East African Common Services Organisation (EACSO), successor to the colonial East African High Commission and the predecessor of the East African Community, was not geared to developing them, but Kenya.

Between 1964 and 1975, imports from Kenya and Uganda to Tanzania

amounted to Shs.3,987 million (about £275 million sterling), while Tanzania exported to those countries goods worth Shs.1,629 million (about £112 million sterling). The gravitation of industry and common services headquarters to Kenya also contributed to massive capital investment in the country. For example, up until 1967, all development work regarding harbours was carried out at Mombasa in Kenya while the other East African ports of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga, and Mtwara in Tanzania were neither developed nor provided with proper and adequate facilities to handle cargo. The positioning of the headquarters of all institutions in Kenya meant that recruitment, too, in the EACSO and its corporations had some bias.

A Remedial Attempt

The awareness of these differentials by Tanzania and Uganda led to the appointment of the Philip Commission, which produced the Treaty for East African Co-operation converting the EACSO into the East African Community on December 1, 1967.

The Treaty emphasised that in order for the Common Market to be really common, it was imperative to bridge the gap existing between partner states in matters of industrial and trading relations. Article II of the Treaty spells out the aims of the Community as the "strengthening and regulation of industrial, commercial, and other relations of the Partner States to the end that

there shall be accelerated, harmonious, and balanced development and sustained expansion of the economic activities, the profits whereof shall be equitably shared."

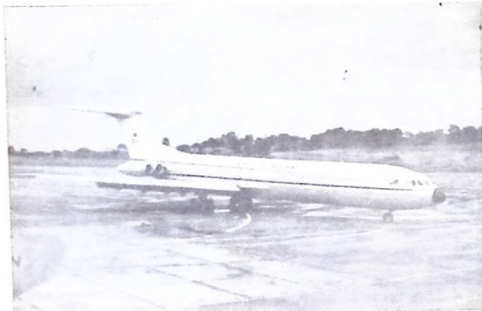
It is, then, the attempts at carrying out this to the letter and spirit that has brought about the death of the EAC. In accordance with the Philip Commission report, the headquarters of the Community and Harbours Corporation were moved to Arusha and Dar-es-Salaam, respectively, in Tanzania. The Posts and Telecommunications, notwithstanding the fact that some 70 per cent of its assets were in Kenya, was moved to Kampala, while Kenya retained only the East African Airways and East African Railways.

In trying to make the Common Market common enough by a process of balanced industrial development, Kenya showed a resistance which, according to Tanzania, led her to regard the Treaty as a mere piece of paper and not as an agreement. Though agreed upon, Kenya argued, the process was inimical to her development.

Breakdown

The situation reached alarming proportions in 1974 when numerous charges, mainly from Tanzania, were levelled at Kenya. Kenya was accused of unlawfully opening two secret bank accounts with a total of Shs.113 million (about £8 million sterling) belonging to the Railways and Harbours corporations, and of closing the rail link with Tanzania thereby cutting off all locomotives and waggons from the central repair workshop in Nairobi.

The major event in 1975 was the unilateral grounding by Kenya, at Kisumu, of six jointly-owned marine vessels



An East African Airways plane: Death of an ideal.

used in the Lake Victoria ports of the three countries. No replacement has been made by the seriously-affected Tanzania, but three new vessels are being built in Belgium on order. The first one is due for commissioning on the lake before the end of the year. Meanwhile, the six vessels at Kisumu are said in Tanzania to be used mainly as night clubs or pleasure boats.

Last year, 1976, Kenya abolished the headquarters of the East African Railways, and expelled dozens of Tanzanians from various community corporations as well as restricting most of the remaining from carrying out certain duties "for security reasons."

This year will be remembered as the final year of the life of the Community. Kenya grounded the EAA in January, and expelled all Tanzanians and Ugandan workers. Tanzania re-

acted by closing the border with Kenya, and also closed the Harbours Headquarters in Dar-es-Salaam.

As Tanzania's President Nyerere said recently during a visit to Canada, if there is going to be a Community here again it will have to be a fresh start, for the present will never be the same again.

Although the 35 million citizens of East Africa have to endure mournfully the demise of their once shining example of regional co-operation in Africa, its fate has at least relieved them from the noisy mud-slinging charges and counter-charges between the partner states, especially after Field Marshal Idi Amin overthrew Dr. Milton Obote from power in 1971.

"Each country can now at last mind her own business quietly," one commoner commented recently as Ugandan workers for the Community were asked to return home immediately.

indefinite period, because the aquifer is constantly replenished by seepage from the River Nile.

Sources say that the water is low in salt content. The findings confirm the suggestion last year by an Egyptian expert, Dr. Monammed Kassas, Professor of Plant Ecology at the University of Cairo, that there was water under Egypt. Speaking at a seminar in London on "Desertification and World Climate" he said he believed that a huge aquifer lay under the whole of the Sahara Desert. Properly exploited, he said, it could be used to turn the Sahara, the world's largest desert green.

Dr. Kassas said that he thought the aquifer was divided into five basins, one of them being the nubian sandstone basin under Egypt, Libya, Chad and Sudan—all countries with severe desert encroachment problems.

Already, in Libya, the underground water is being tapped in one scheme where massive circular fields are being ploughed out of the desert with the help of water pumped up from the aquifer. The water could create a significant transformation in other countries under which the aquifer extends: Chad, one of the Sahel nations hit by drought and famine; Sudan, which has enormous agricultural expansion projects lined up to make it the Arab world's "bread basket," and Egypt.

Of Egypt's total land area, 96 per cent is desert, and agriculture which accounts for half the workforce, has traditionally been concentrated in the narrow strip of fertile soil on either bank of the Nile. Irrigation schemes using the most modern techniques are being stepped up, and one US\$400,000 feasibility study at Wadi El Natrun is currently taking place involving British and American firms.

At Wadi El Natrun, water has been pumped up from the aquifer and it is thought that a large range of crops can be grown in the area using extensive irrigation. Such schemes bring nearer to fruition the blue print which has been put forward by Egypt's President Anwar Sadat to build a dozen cities in the desert, surrounded by farms to make them completely self-sufficient in food. The water for these communities would come from the aquifer, about 5,000 feet below. The estimated cost of the scheme is around US\$12,000 million.

The need for action is pressing. Recent satellite photographs showed that the sands of the Western Desert approach Egyptian farmland at the rate of up to eight miles a year. Dr.

EGYPT:

MAKING THE SAHARA BLOOM

By A Correspondent

Egypt is planning to exploit the vast underground water reservoir that lies beneath the Sahara Desert to boost food production and even create thriving desert cities.

The Egyptian dream of self-sustaining cities in the Western Desert, surrounded by farms and greenery, has taken a giant

step towards reality with the discovery of a huge subterranean reservoir of water under the parched earth.

Hydrologists who conducted an 18-month survey confirmed what had been widely suspected—and hoped—here; that Egypt "floats" on water. Estimates are that at least 686 million cubic metres of water can be tapped annually for an

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The desert (top) and the bloom: Matter of time.

Farouk Baz, the Egyptian-born research director of the Smithsonian Institution's Air and Space Museum in Washington, has warned that a massive moving sea of sand could overwhelm the Nile Delta—Egypt's most fertile area—in 20 years if something is not done.

Today, there is only one-seventh of an acre of cropland for each of Egypt's 36 million people, compared to one acre each 60 years ago. Each year the desert and the sprawling cities which grow unabated with the drift from the land take more. Cairo, the capital, is one of the world's largest cities, with nine million inhabitants, nearly three times as big as 15 years ago. Nearly half the Egyptians live in towns and cities.

Lost farmland, a declining rural population, yet an ever-increasing demand for food from the bursting cities, these are the social and economic problems Egypt's planners hope to solve by using the underground water to turn large areas of the desert green.

A Bright Future

The way ahead is already being shown by the country's farmers, who are increasing food production on shrinking acreages, mainly by the increasing use of high-yield crop varieties. The wheat crop has been increased by use of Mexican varieties—although wheat must still be imported, to meet demand from the cities. Other growth



areas are poultry and oranges—by last year the annual output of oranges and tangerines had reached one million tons, and groves are being established over wide tracts of the Western Desert.

Egyptian agricultural output has increased at an average annual rate of 2.5 per cent between 1968 and 1976. However, over that time it is estimated that the land lost to agriculture has not been regained by the amount of land irrigated or reclaimed from the desert. Schemes include anti-desertification projects along the Nile and plans to create a North African "green belt" of trees and shrubs from Morocco

to Cairo to hold back the shifting sands. However, in a paper at the beginning of the year, Dr. Kassas said: "Egypt used up all possible resources to expand agricultural land during the last 25 years. However, the net result in the cultivated land of Egypt today is, at best, the same area as it was 25 years ago."

The development of the huge reservoir under the desert is the country's best hope of breaking out of the vicious circle of desertification and of making part of the north African desert the "granary of the world" it was in Roman times.



Sudan's President Nimeiry and Egypt's Anwar Sadat: together they float on water reservoir.



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GAMBIA:

FORECAST AND REALITY

In Gambia's first five-year National Development Plan (1975-1980) launched in June 1975, Marketed Export cash Crops is expected to grow at the rate of 45 per cent through the Plan period. By then Groundnut production, which reached new peak of 137,000 tonnes by 1974, was expected to increase further to 140,000 by the end of 1975 to harvest. But this was not to be and the Government found itself hoping for 137,160 tonnes in the 1976/77 season.

Then again by March this year it was apparent that, despite favourable Climatic Conditions, declared purchases were lacking behind this figure at 125,879 tonnes. As a result, the year's estimate, which by last year end was still left intact no doubt with the hope that all markets would work out well, was revised downwards to 127,000 tonnes. More embarrassing was the revelation that the 125,879 tonnes purchased up to March was 8 per cent below the figure recorded at the same time last year.

In the same development plan, the Government committed itself to ensuring "diversification of rural cash crops incomes." As a result, last year, higher producer prices were announced for Groundnut producers in a bid to kill two birds with one stone to increase farmers' incomes and at the same time, offer incentives for increased production. But apart from the non-realisation

of the incentive objective, increased income for farmers brought in its wake other problems which has made many observers wonder it was worthwhile after all.

Because of the higher prices, licensed buyers now required higher working capital to meet their needs and hence turned to the Commercial Banks for loans. Total Bank advances dancing to this tune, reached a record peak of D86.89 million in January this year and even the D62.54 million recorded by March was still 35 per cent higher than the D46.02 million clocked in March last year.

Naturally, domestic Credit Expansion adds fuel to inflation rate and the Central Bank found itself "intensifying its efforts to restrict refinance facilities to economically justified limits." Throughout, the first quarter of this year the Bank's Advances to Commercial Banks was kept below last year's amounts. By March it stood at D22m compared to D28m recorded in March and December last year. Inflation rate still hovered round 13 per cent although considerably lower than year-to-year 20 per cent recorded in the past.

But where logic demanded this pipe down on the part of the Central Bank, it, however, continued to increase credit to Government. From D200,000 in March 1976, Government Credit grew to D7.94m a year later and even at one time (February) it topped D10 million



President Jawara: Some plans; Some realities.

mark. The rationale behind this was the Plan's Commitment to 150 per cent increase in Development Expenditure by 1980. And the one development which checked the full effect of this increased Government credit on Inflation was the National Development Levy's introduced early this year.

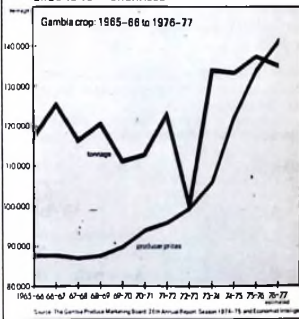
Aimed at increasing domestic contribution towards the plan's realisation, Civil Servants were asked and paid 10 per cent of the basic salary into the Development fund in January. The Private Sector started to contribute its share as from February at the rate of D25 for Shopkeepers and Hotel owners and D10 for taxi drivers, Vendors etc. among other divisional flat rates.

Indigenisation is the one area where modest achievements have been recorded without backfires. Co-operative Share of groundnut trading increased from March 76's 41 per cent to 44 per cent at the end of this year's first quarter. In like manner, 31 per cent of declared purchased handled by Expa-

The effort (bottom left) and the Projected result (bottom right): 45 per cent growth rate?



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triate firms in 1976 will be phased to 21 per cent before this year is out.

More encouraging is the impact of improvement in Groundnut delivery system. By the same March this year, 62 per cent of declared purchases by buying agents had been delivered to the Gambia Produce Marketing Board (GMPB) for onward transmission to mills and for exports. This compares favourably with 55 per cent recorded about the same time in 1976. But due to the short performance in Production, only 18,688 tonnes of Shelled Groundnut, and 5,657 tons of Groundnut Oil were exported between January-March this year. These compare unfavourably with 1976's first quarter 20,411 tonnes for Shelled groundnut, 6,050 tons for Groundnut Oil although favourably with 15,615 and 4,442 tons recorded for the respective products in 1975 first quarter.

Efforts

However, although the short performance in Groundnut production and Export is a microcosm of overall plan

performance (ups and downs in Groundnut dictate the tides of the economy), the Government is still going ahead with efforts to ensure all ends well in 1980. Feelers sent abroad for finance are producing results expected to turn the scale.

In March, a D2.5m (£650,000) grant agreement was signed with the EEC for use in Agric. Credit. This is in addition, to D2.3m granted earlier for Agricultural Supplies and equipment. This was aimed at giving farmers in MacCarthy Island (the seat of rice production) and Upper River divisions the opportunity to obtain seeds and Animal traction equipment in a bid to modernise operations. The Gambian News Bulletin, in a optimistic report, was of the opinion that if this programme alone was successful, an annual surplus of 5,000-90,000 tons of Groundnut and 4,000 tons of rice and cereals will be recorded.

Construction and Maintenance of Feeder roads in isolated rural areas is also being given attention with a D6.75 million grant from UN Sahel Office.

In February, Saudi Arabia, offered a \$6.6 million loan for the Phase II of Gambia's only international Airport — the Yundum Airport project. This loan is about half of the total cost of the project and is repayable within 20 years at 2 per cent interest with 5 years of grace.

Incidentally most observers view this five-year Plan as modest. To them, the D150 million total envisaged capital outlay is reasonable and free from prestige projects hence the availability of credits from abroad. Even the IMF, is presently engaged in discussions with Gambian Fiscal Authorities on the possibility of a stand-by arrangement and a Trust fund loan. But to your Correspondent, there remains a nagging question. Agreed Gambia is a very small Country, but can the five-year plan, as it is, really provide the 45 per cent growth rate in Cash Crops; diversify rural incomes vis-a-vis Urban incomes and increase Development Expenditure by 150 per cent? By 1980, it will be too late for reality to usefully answer this question.

Africa Now

PRETORIA'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS

By Sean McBride,

Former UN Commissioner for Namibia.

The world public most energetically opposes nuclear proliferation and it was greatly worried by the attempts of South Africa to acquire an a-bomb. Irrefutable facts show that South Africa has nearly completed the production of an atomic bomb and the preparations for testing it are underway. Pretoria's nuclear weapons will pose a threat to the security of African states and will lead to the further escalation of instability and tension in the south of Africa.

Certainly, South Africa would have never been able to develop its nuclear capacities to such an extent without foreign aid. It enjoyed almost all-round assistance from the USA, FRG and France in this field. Pretoria launched its nuclear programme in the late 40s, after the nationalist party came to power. The nuclear programme and its implementation were supervised by the United States at the initial stage. Afterwards, Western Germany joined



John Vorster addressing the Press: His eye is on the Atomic Bomb.

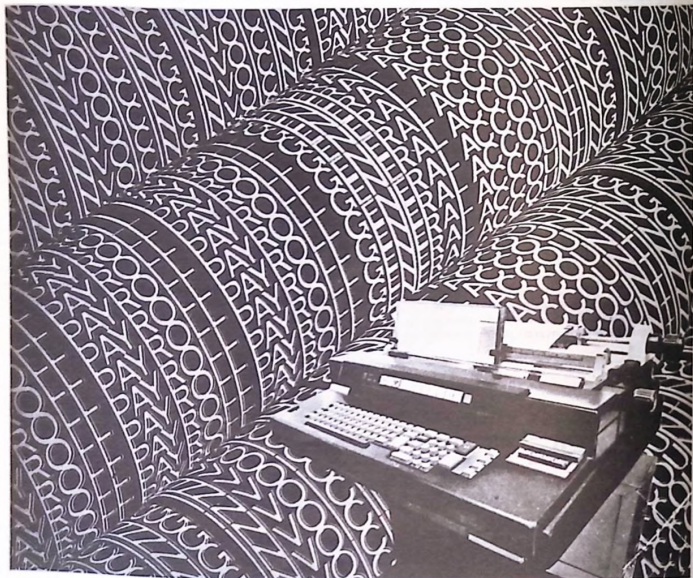
the nuclear experiments of South Africa. For instance, a nuclear reactor at Walindaba utilises a process tested in nuclear research centres of Federal Germany. Pretoria's first experimental nuclear reactor was built with French assistance. Last year Pretoria signed a contract with French companies on the construction of the first two nuclear power plants in South Africa.

Thus, these particular countries render direct assistance to Pretoria in its acquisition of an a-bomb.

Nuclear ambitions of South Africa endanger both the independent African states and peace and stability throughout the world. For many years now South Africa plays a prominent part in all strategic plans of the NATO bloc. NATO strategists claim that the

Continued on Page 20

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FIELDS—In support of this policy overseas scholarships are expected to be available at— (i) Post Graduate Level in all fields

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Students currently enrolled in higher institutions in Nigeria should apply and submit their forms through their institutions for French—Language one-year-Abroad and USAFGRAD awards programmes at such a time as the Bureau will direct for each of the programmes. Except for the above, students already enrolled for degree, technical and vocational courses in Nigerian institutions are NOT expected to apply for scholarships tenable outside the country.

METHOD OF APPLICATION FOR APPLICATION FORMS:

1. Only those candidates who possess the basic qualifications as specified above should apply for application forms.
2. Applicants should state their post-primary or higher qualifications when forwarding letters requesting for application forms. The letter to be accompanied by a (5k) stamped self-addressed large envelope, marked "BEA-OSAF" at the left hand corner should be mailed in another envelope (also marked BEA-OSAF) to The Secretary, State Scholarships Board, Ministry of Education in any of the following:

Enugu; Bauchi; Benin-City; Makurdi; Maiduguri; Calabar; Yola; Owerri; Kaduna; Kano; Ilorin, Broad Street Lagos; Minna; Abeokuta; Akure; Ibadan; Jos, Port-Harcourt and Sokoto, or to the Secretary, Bureau for External Aid, P.M.B. 12013, No. 1, Nathaniel Iyalla Street, S. W. Ikoyi, Lagos. For prospective applicants outside Nigeria, the application letter should be mailed to the nearest Nigerian Embassy or Consulate Office Overseas.

3. All completed application forms should be returned direct to The Secretary, Bureau for External Aid, P. M. B. 12013, Lagos to arrive on or before December 15th, 1977.

SECRETARY
BUREAU FOR EXTERNAL AID,
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support of South Africa's defences in the interests of the North Atlantic alliance. NATO will get a nuclear arsenal on the shores of the Indian and Atlantic oceans if South Africa becomes a nuclear power. Thus, the vital interests of the peoples of Africa, Asia and the Middle East will be in danger.

Western Framework

The A-bomb of South Africa should not be viewed separately from the Carter administration's intentions to equip their armed forces with the neutron bomb and to supply this mass destruction weapon to US NATO allies. It has been proved that Western powers and NATO have made it possible for South Africa to nearly acquire and start the manufacture of nuclear weapons. Nobody can be 100 per cent certain that secrets of neutron bomb manufacture would not be shared with Pretoria. It is absolutely impossible to foretell the consequences of such a development.

The reports on Pretoria's a-bomb coincided with the publication of a secret agreement between the Government of Zaire and a West German firm, OTRAG, which tests and manufactures missiles. The agreement leased a vast part of the territory of Zaire to OTRAG till the year 2000. The firm may use this territory as it sees fit to launch rockets and missiles into atmosphere and outer space. So, Western Germany has got a right to set up a test ground in the heart of Africa. One should bear in mind that an A-bomb of Pretoria was developed with West German assistance. And it is quite possible that this test ground might be used by the Vorster regime for testing its atomic bomb and to step up its cooperation with Federal Germany in the field of rocketry, that is, to provide them with means of nuclear charges delivery.

It is outright madness to provide the racist regime with rockets and A-bombs. The Western assistance in this field is a crime against African nations.

The Vorster regime claims that its nuclear programme pursues peaceful purposes. But such claims can deceive no one. South Africa uses its war machine to suppress the liberation struggle of the peoples of Namibia and Zimbabwe and to attack neighbouring independent African states. So, the nuclear ambitions of the Vorster regime and the Western connivance pose a threat to world peace and stability. Resolute measures should be taken to stop the Pretoria racists now that details of the nuclear conspiracy have become known to the world public.



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Banking and Economic Development in Nigeria

In the usual every day knowledge, commercial banks are taken as institutions where people make deposits, withdraw money previously deposited, and often approach for accommodation in times of some temporary financial difficulties. The importance of commercial banks in the context of the national economy actually transcends this simplistic analysis. Their importance to the economy lies in their ability to create and destroy money and their role in transforming the economy. They create and destroy money through the very process of their operations.

After saying this, one would accept the fact that the main functions of the commercial banks had been and continues to be the collection of money as deposits and making such money available to investors. When deposits are made, such money are temporarily withdrawn from circulation and this is regarded as sterilisation of money. But it is common knowledge that no commercial bank collects money by way of deposits from the public for the mere purpose of accumulating funds. As soon as the deposits are obtained part of them, depending on the prescriptions of law and convention, is usually granted as loans and advances to borrowers and interest charged on such borrowings. In doing this, the commercial banks help to expand the monetary base. Bank deposits are used for transactions and in this regard they became as good as currency.

In common economic parlance, money supply, that is the stock of money available in the economy for purposes of transacting business is composed of cash including currency notes with the public and also bank deposits. In a backward economy, the cash with the public usually constitutes a larger part of the volume of money but as such economies develop, the deposit component takes over as the major part. In Nigeria, the currency component has increased significantly in the recent past. In 1968, the deposit component was 46 per cent. This compared with 34.6 per cent and 34.3 per cent in 1967 and 1960 respectively. By the end of December, 1975 the deposit component was 50 per cent

of the stock of money. In other words, by that year the commercial banks in the economy generated about half of the total money supply. In an economy that is plagued by inflationary tendencies resulting from bottlenecks such institutions become very important in the scheme of things. Hence, although, in recent times, money supply has become a source of concern to the government in its efforts to stem the rate of inflation, no economy can expand without adequate purchasing power as reflected in the level of money supply.

The fact that the commercial banks create money and thereby encourage higher levels of transactions in the economy, makes them important instruments of economic transformation of the country. Until quite recently, the economy has been characterised by a large part of unorganised and non-monetised sector. This meant that in the economy, there was a considerable part in the economy where transactions were still carried out through the exchange of goods and services. This was near a barter system of trade. In the recent past, there has been a rapid rate of monetisation in the economy. This has been most desirable if there was to be the rapid economic transformation necessary for economic development which has been a cherished desire. By helping to encourage the use of money in a large area of the economy, commercial banks have in fact helped to encourage rapid rate of specialisation and therefore the rapid rate of economic development and growth.

The history of banking dates back to early colonial period when branches of large expatriate banks were established primarily to aid the trade between the home industries and the colonial markets. The expatriate banks have continued to portray the same characteristics for which they have been known since they were established. Despite the apparent disadvantages of their type of economic activities, their operations which encouraged the introduction of foreign trade, and commerce can be regarded as the origin of the economic transformation and develop-

ment in Nigeria. By selling the agricultural products from the rural areas in the country in the overseas markets, or at least as aids to such trade, the commercial banks did create incentives for meaningful economic endeavours by the people. The market created incentives for harder work and people were no longer contented with production for only self consumption. The production of a surplus for the market was the beginning of the entrepreneurial talent which the country needed for rapid economic growth.

In keeping with the rapid rate of growth of the economy, different specialised financial institutions have been established within the economy. In the early 1960s, the government nurtured the development of an Industrial Development Bank. This has been followed by the establishment of merchant banks, an agricultural bank and a bank for commerce and industry. These banks perform some specialised functions of banking in the economy. The investment bank undertakes joint investment projects with government, private individuals and other international institutions. Such investments also are of very long time horizon. The merchant banks grant loans which also have a relatively longer time horizon compared with the commercial banks. By the nature of the businesses they undertake, these new financial institutions which can also be described as banks, have contributed directly to medium and long-term investments in the economy. Helping to provide investment funds to prospective entrepreneurs, the banks have contributed immensely to the growth of industrialisation without which economic growth and development in the economy would have been impossible.

Commercial Banks and Agricultural Development

Many observers hold the opinion that commercial banks have not helped the development of the agricultural sector in the economy. If it is considered in terms of loans and advances granted to farmers for actual production in the field, this opinion appears to be quite fair. But since their inception, banks have been known to have acted as agents for the purchase, and financed the actual buying of agricultural produce for the export market. The economic advancement of the Nigeria rural population could be traced to this trade. In 1962 under a bill finance scheme, the produce marketing Boards obtained loans from the consortia of commercial banks and acceptance houses. They drew bills on the Nigerian

Produce Marketing Company which in turn discounted them with the commercial banks and later the Central Bank rediscouted such bills. But this system did not last long and was abandoned in 1968.

The lack of proper direction of direct to the rural farmers in Nigeria has been traced to many factors which are economic, social and political in nature. These include the problems of inappropriate land tenure system, the state of education of the farmers, the degree of development of agricultural research and other advisory services. Although it could now be said that Nigeria has gone far enough on

the question of farmer education, little has been done in respect of other constraints to further the expansion of banking facilities in the agricultural sector. For example, the land tenure system still constitutes a serious bottleneck to the rapid expansion of agriculture. So long as the present state of the art of farming does not necessitate a change in the technology there is a limit to which bank credit can reach agriculture. In the desperate bid to hasten the pace of agricultural development the government has recently introduced the agricultural credit scheme through which commercial bank credit to the farmers would be guaran-

teed by the Central Bank of Nigeria. This removes the high risk inherent in the granting of loans to the rural sector.

Commercial Banks and The Public Sector

Since the attainment of independence the country had been grappling with the problem of raising the standard of living of the people of the country. This entails the provision of services and infrastructures which in actual economic sense are not self liquidating. Such items of expenditure do not really produce physical goods which are readily available for consumption. Such services and items of public expenditure include those on education, roads, health facilities and other similar items of expenditure. In the advanced or developed economies the governments could raise the funds for such expenditure through direct and indirect taxes. The majority of the people of Nigeria are still poor and seventeen years after independence the situation has not improved.

In the desperate effort to get enough funds to carry out the required development projects, the government floats bonds. The main contributors to the scheme had been commercial banks and other financial or non-financial institutions. In this way the commercial banks have assisted in providing funds to the public sector for financing the provision of infrastructures without which development would be impossible.

Initially, the government adopted a casual attitude towards commercial banking in the country and since there were no financial instruments in which these banks were to invest their surplus funds, large transfers were made by these banks to overseas centres. By 1962, this state of affairs was stopped. In order that the government could borrow from the banking system, government treasury bills were issued from time to time. The commercial banks in Nigeria has also been the major holders of such bills.

Commercial Banks and Industrial Development

The pace of industrialisation is closely tied to the expansion of banking activities in Nigeria. As we saw in earlier pages commercial banks were established as branches of overseas banks and were primarily meant to aid the trading by these multinational corporations. These multinational corporations were the progenitors of all the industrial establishments in Nigeria. It is not gainsaying when reference is made to the fact that without the loans and



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advances granted to these businesses and industrial establishments by banks, industrial expansion would have been difficult to attain.

Commercial banks have been particularly essential for the sustenance of small scale business, as in which category are the majority of the indigenous enterprises. The large companies, which are invariably foreign owned have a great deal of plant and equipment. Their expenditure on fixed assets are relatively greater compared to expenditure on working capital. In this group of enterprises, the value of depreciation allowances constitute large proportion of their resources. But the small businesses are usually unable to raise adequate funds at reasonable cost on even new issue markets. They therefore have to rely on the commercial banks for bank and trade credits. Although figures are not available for Nigeria, there is a large proliferation of small businesses in Nigeria and the survival of these depend on the credits they obtain from the commercial banks.

Despite the fact that the commercial banks have contributed significantly to the economic growth of this country, it was discovered early enough that their previous control from abroad has created some inbuilt disadvantages. The government therefore has compulsorily indigenised some equity ownership of these banks. Some of the short-comings of these expatriate bank were that they discriminated against indigenous customers. There were evidences that they had not adapted their operations to the conditions of the society. They had not, for example, on their own explored ways of increasing the credit to the agricultural sector.

Since the indigenisation of the banks, there has been some dynamism in their various policies of these banks. They are more prepared to extend branches to the rural areas. This will hasten the rate of expansion of monetisation of the economy



Hovercrafts at port: a growing economy in need of a growing Money Market.

Insurance and Nigeria's Economic Growth

It is sometimes difficult to see the contribution of Insurance Companies to the economic development of Nigeria. Some people would even dispute that they have contributed anything to the national economic growth and have even considered the industry as a parasite in the scheme of things. Despite this seemingly popular opinion, insurance companies have in fact positively contributed to the economic development of Nigeria in several ways.

The importance of the Insurance Industry in Nigeria has come to be felt with the high rate of economic growth which the economy has experienced in recent years. The industry is simply a service one and is principally connected with the under-writing of risks which are insurable. The problem of risk becomes quite important when consideration is given to the different environments in which investments have to be made.

Most of the initial investments in Nigeria were carried out by expatriate multinational companies. There are also very many competing and safer countries for such investment funds of those companies. It was therefore desirable that these companies have some way of insuring the risks involved in carrying out the investments. The

insurance industry has since its inception played this risk-absorbing role.

Insurance companies operate profitably through the under-writing of risks, collecting premia and in a system based on the level of the risks involved. The premia must be adequate to pay for commissions to agents, and after meeting other administrative expenses still make some profit. The method of fixing insurance premia differ with different classes of insurance business and the nature of the risk which are to be covered.

The insurance industry has aided foreign trade in Nigeria. For an exporter in another country to allow goods to be sent to say an importer in Nigeria, it has to be convinced that the goods arrive safely and where there is no absolute confidence that such goods would be received at the destination and payments made, some third party has to take the risk. The importer in Nigeria is unlikely to undertake the trading if he is not also sure that the goods will be delivered in the condition he wants them. As our analysis shows the insurance companies have performed this essential service by covering the risks of trade in this direction.

The process of economic transformation in Nigeria could not have been

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possible but for this important role the insurance companies have played. The commerce between the overseas countries and Nigeria have created the incentives in the economy and consequently the growth of entrepreneurial skill. By insuring the risks and therefore encouraging the trade which has generated economic growth in Nigeria, the insurance industry has helped the economy considerably.

Natural Disasters

Apart from covering risks, inherent in international commerce, there are other areas of economic activities within the economy which requires insurance businesses for their effective operations. Generally, insurance companies can be broadly categorised by the nature of risks which they cover. There are those insurance companies which undertake risks against fire, accident, loss of profit, credit and finally marine risks. Fire insurance for example is usually taken to cover risks over assets. It has been known that investments in fixed assets are rather expensive and the returns are gradual. This means that it takes many years to recover the capital invested not to talk of the profit. Before such investments can be undertaken, there should normally be some assurance that during the long period of repayment of the capital, there should be a fair chance that the asset will not be destroyed by fire or by other natural disaster. By undertaking to compensate the investor in the event of any such mishap, the insurance companies help investors to take quick decisions to invest. Investment in fixed assets in any economy is a sine qua non to economic development and growth. The amount of investment in fixed assets in a given period determines the rate of economic growth of any economy. Almost all fixed investments undertaken in Nigeria have been covered by an insurance policy.

Accident insurance policy also covers a series of risks which include personal accident, burglary, employers liabilities, motor cars, and fidelity guarantees. Personal accident policies unusually provide for the payment of a lump sum of money in the event of death, loss of limbs or eyesight occurring through accidents etc. Disability by sickness can also be insured against. As an economy becomes more sophisticated people tend to abandon their usual way of making a living adopting to more alien and new ways of doing things. These include industrial employment with all the attendant risks. But for the coverage in the event of

loss of life, the attraction for the new employment would have been very slow to come by. The insurance companies by covering risks of accident in places of work have helped to enhance the rate of acceptance or the new industrial order in Nigeria and thereby hasten the pace of economic development and growth.

Life insurance business is first and foremost considered as a way of spreading saving habit. One of the greatest bottlenecks to the rapid growth in developing economies like Nigeria, is that of inadequacy of saving. When a society consumes all that it earns, there would be no growth. In other words such a society would become stagnant. In order that any economy could grow, it has to generate some saving so that with increased investment, future growth could be assured. Life insurance business had been quite small in the past compared to other forms of insurance businesses but they have been quite useful as avenues for saving.

This relatively small size, has been due to a number of factors which include the fact that only people who

are in wage employment could be accepted by the insurance companies. Also, the life expectancy is rather short in Nigeria and the expatriate insurance companies are reluctant to expand their business in this direction; however, there has been a definite upward surge in the life insurance business in recent years.

Insurance business has now permeated various sectors of the economy. They have in the past aided economic development of this country through offering cover to agricultural marketing and through this, as has been observed earlier, aided the rapid modernisation of the agricultural sector. Without the transformation of the agricultural sector no meaningful economic development would have been possible. The import/export trade which is the life wire of the economy would have been impossible in its present level but for the role insurance companies has played.

More Investment Potential

While accepting the pioneering role which the insurance companies have played in the economy, for example by making funds they collect available to



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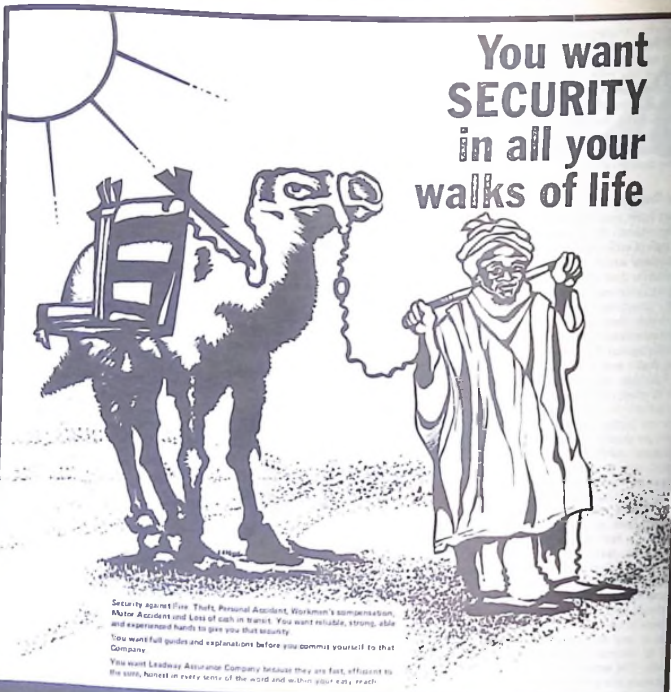
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Leadway Assurance Company Limited is an offspring of Gaskiya Insurance Brokers Company, Kaduna, which was formed in 1964. It was incorporated in 1970. It is a fully indigenous concern with Alhaji Hassan Hadejia as its Chairman and Alhaji Hassan O. Odukale as its Managing Director.

It is the only Insurance Company with its Head Office in Kaduna. It has on its payroll about 300 employees and operates from 33 branches spread all over the country. For the convenience of its numerous policy-holders, the functions of the Underwriting Department were decentralized by the issuing of certificates in many of its strategic branches.

The Company is noted for prompt settlement of genuine claims. In 1972 for instance 138 claims were settled with 150,507.00 Naira; In 1973 285 claims were settled with 244,701.27 Naira; In 1974, 477 claims were settled with 359,658.92 Naira; and in 1975, 576 claims were settled with 632,665.82 Naira. This has classed Leadway among the most reputable Insurance Companies in the state.

It underwrites all classes of Insurance policies except Life. It offers policies for Motor and Personal Accident, Risks, Fire (building and property), Burglary and Housebreaking. Others are workmen's compensation, Employer's Liabilities, Goods and Cash in Transit.

The Company maintains overseas reinsurance with other insurance companies through its overseas agent—the Rowbotham (Reinsurance) Limited London.

Speaking to the Managing Director Alhaji Hassan Odukale, he said the company's progress is due to the quality of the services rendered to its clients which is based on ABSOLUTE HONESTY and EFFICIENCY.

investors, they have provided an added investment potential to the economy. Insurance Companies, be they life, or non-life, seek avenues for investing the large reserves which they accumulate. They are required by law to provide for considerably huge reserves in order to meet customers liabilities in the event of failure. The profitable operations of their investments actually depend on the receipts of income as long as it is consistent with the safety of the principal. Insurance premia are normally paid in advance and since the policy lasts for a relatively long period of time, at least a year, they have had more elbow chance to invest and make some profit out of these funds.

This is particularly pertinent in the case of life insurance companies which have to invest the reserves in fairly long-term loans. Such long-term loans could be in the form of government stocks, mortgages and equity shares in industrial companies. In Nigeria, the proportion of such investments in government securities is statutorily fixed at twenty-five per cent of their reserves. In 1967, before the Civil War and the subsequent economic boom, the total investment within Nigeria by the Insurance companies was put at ₦12.3 million and most of this amount was held in the form of stock exchange securities.

In Nigeria, there has been a dearth of financial instruments as well as customers and this has stunted the growth of financial and capital markets in the country. The boost which these insurance companies have given to the capital market is a great help to the orderly growth of the economy. The proceeds from the sale of government stocks in the stock exchange have helped in no small way to boost the investable funds of the government. Although the revenue from petroleum has in the recent past helped to provide funds to the government, it has since realised that these petro-naira appear to be inflationary in character.

The stock exchange was deliberately established by the government to encourage the growth of money and capital market for the economy. As has been noted earlier, the lack of money and capital markets had compelled important financial institutions like insurance companies and commercial banks to transfer their reserves to other overseas financial markets. The insurance (miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1964 requires that all insurance companies operating in Nigeria should invest at least 40 per cent of their receipts from premium not of reinsurance cessions within Nigeria. As a

result of the rapid expansion of the accumulated premia by insurance companies, the share of the holdings of industrial securities by these companies have tremendously increased. In this regard, insurance companies, in addition to becoming important sources of investment funds to the government, are also rapidly becoming a definitely large source of capital to the industrial sector. It is still known that the economic growth of Nigeria largely depends on industrialisation. In Nigeria, the majority of the small scale businesses do not float shares for public offers and most of them therefore depend largely on commercial banks for the working capital. To the extent that the insurance companies provide investable funds through the acquisition of equity shares in large companies, they are invariably only useful to the larger companies which are expatriate owned. But to the extent that they aid the major companies, the commercial banks would be more comfortable at helping the smaller ones.

In a developing economy like Nigeria it is almost taken for granted that capital is scarce. This fact has not been modified in any way by the discovery of oil in the country. Despite the petroleum boom, the majority of the people in the country are still poor, since savings are small or scarce, any institution which helps to generate savings would be highly helpful. Insurance companies are seen as agents for accumulating funds which helps the development efforts of the government through their subscriptions to development stocks and treasury bills and certificates.

Conclusion

Insurance companies which transact business in Nigeria have been in a favourable position to collect funds as savings and ideally suited to extend loans for both medium and long-term investment outlets. In the country there are certain constraints to the rapid expansion of the life insurance business which consequently has been at its infancy. The reasons for this are that there are many people who are not qualified for acceptance and the short life expectancy. The pattern of investment among life and non-life insurance companies seem to be quite similar in Nigeria. However, evidence still points to the fact that non-life companies have higher preference for high liquidity because of the frequency of their claims. In the final analysis Insurance companies have been assets to Nigeria and the indications are that their contribution will increase in the future.



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Focus on THE FIRST LAGOS INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR



The view of the fair structure from the only way in and out.

NIGERIA IN TRADE FAIRS

A Correspondent

The title of this year's Trade Fair in Nigeria—"The First Lagos International Trade Fair", does not suggest that it is the first time Nigeria is hosting a Trade Fair, neither does it suggest it is the first time a Trade Fair is being staged in Lagos.

The organisers of the Fair, the Federal Ministry of Trade, had to explain that the title was in order to conform with international practice of naming such major Fairs after the cities in which they were held. It was also to facilitate the entry of this and subsequent Fairs in Nigeria into the Calendar of the Union of International Fairs—an organisation which has consultative status with the United Nations.

In actual fact, this is the second International Trade Fair to be held in Nigeria. The first was held at a site now known as Bonny Camp, Victoria Island, between October 27 to November 18, 1962. The Fair was generally regarded as the best attended and the most successful at the time in Africa south of Sahara. It

was believed to have yielded valuable foreign trade contracts, besides a substantial amount of profit and foreign exchange.

Two National Exhibitions had been staged before then. One was before independence in 1958 when Nigeria began to recognize the need for expanding the scope of her trade fair activities. According to sources, the success of the 1958 Made-in-Nigeria Exhibition spurred the Federal Government in co-operation with the then Regional Governments to organise a more elaborate exhibition in October, 1960, as part of the independence celebration.

Before and after the international Trade Fair of 1962, there had been a number of other exhibitions organised in Nigeria, all of which are national in scope. There had always been Made-in-Nigeria goods exhibitions designed to encourage Nigerians to buy goods made in their own country. It is also in pursuance of the Government's policy of expanding the base of Nigeria's trade and industry.

The success of these earlier Made-in-

Nigeria goods exhibitions and other fairs helped to underline the importance of fairs as indispensable instruments of commercial publicity and trade expansion.

Dr. G. B. Leton had remarked recently in Lagos at the inaugural ceremony of the current Trade Fair Advisory Board that Trade Fairs serve to promote international trade and the provision of up-to-date information on technical and scientific discovery. This is expected to lead to quicker transfer of technology. "For countries that have realised the effectiveness of this technique of export promotion the gains from organising trade fairs and technical exhibitions have been tremendous", he said.

A two-way affair

Dr. Leton disagreed with the view that Nigeria, like other developing countries, had nothing to exhibit and that staging Trade Fairs would only serve to promote the products of the advanced industrial countries.

He said trade fairs were a two-day



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Applications which should be in triplicate must be accompanied by a list of academic qualifications, a full record of experience, age, marital status, present appointment and the names and addresses of two referees one of which must be applicant's present or last employer. All applications should be addressed to the Secretary, Nigerian Book Development Council, P.M.B. 12573 to be received not later than the 20th December, 1977.

affair and that it was in the interest of the developing countries to attract advanced countries to exhibit their latest technological development. "The advantage of such a display is that the country will be in a position to make the right choice of equipment that will suit her industrial development".

The advanced countries are usually careful in their choice of exhibition materials since these will compete with others at fairs and exhibitions.

According to Dr. Letor, Nigeria, therefore, stands to gain by joining the group of nations that have realised the effectiveness of trade fairs to promote international trade and understanding. She provides the largest product market in Africa and with the potentialities both human and natural, the attention of the world will continue to focus on us.

Nigeria has participated in most of the important international trade fairs held both in and outside Africa. These include the Swedish International Trade Fair, the Canadian Expo '67, Japan World Expo '70, Leipzig Trade Fair, London International Building Exhibition, Poznan International Trade Fair, Somali International Trade Fair, Ghana International Trade Fair, Tripoli International Trade Fair, Kinshasa International Trade Fair, Frankfurt International Trade Fair, U.S. World Trade Fair, Nairobi International Trade Fair, Danang and Niamey International Trade Fair, to mention a few.

Most of these important trade fairs are held annually. There are, for instance, those held at Leipzig, (East Germany), Milan (Italy), Hanover (France), Tokyo (Japan), New York (USA), Poznan (Poland), Bupest (Hungary) and Copenhagen (Denmark).

The 1977 Leipzig Spring Fair held recently in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) was attended by 9,000 exhibitors from 60 countries including Nigeria.

Up to 23 developing countries demonstrated the potentials of their "blow-up economies". Commercial quarters in Leipzig unanimously agreed that never before at a Leipzig Fair have these countries showed that they have so much export potentials.

Besides participating in these international trade fairs, a number of foreign countries have been in Nigeria recently to exhibit their various modern technologies. Since this year, countries like Brazil, Britain, Australia and Sweden have been in Lagos for the exhibition. Hungary's exhibition was the largest ever held in Nigeria by a foreign organisation.

In pursuance of the policy of promoting intra-African trade, there has also in recent years, been an intensification of Nigeria's official participation in trade fairs organised in Africa. The first All-Africa Trade Fair held in Nairobi from February 2 to March 5, 1972 was the largest effort so far. The Fair was aimed at promoting intra-African trade. It was jointly sponsored by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. The Second All-Africa Trade Fair scheduled to hold in Algeria five years after did not come up. No reason



Trade fair Complex festival Square: a mini stadium.

had been given for not holding the important fair and no new date has been fixed, neither has any other country been tipped to host it.

In 1966, Nigeria, by virtue of her leading role was selected a "Star Country" at the first All Negro Arts Festival. At that festival, she was accorded the privilege of being the only African country to mount an impressive exhibition of her cultural, agricultural and industrial products at the Dakar Hall of Nations.

The prospects of the First Lagos International Trade Fair cannot be over-emphasised. Officially, it is aimed at promoting export trade by establishing new markets and widening the existing ones. It will attract other parts of the world to the explorable areas of further development in the Nigerian economy especially in the fields of industrial and technological development.

The Federal Ministry of Trade also hopes it would provide forum where businessmen, industrialists and other experts will discuss and exchange ideas on the latest technological and scientific discovery.

Again, it could promote intra-African trade and more importantly the economic co-operation and integration among members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). ECOWAS is a West African regional economic group established in 1975, by 15 West African countries of which Nigeria is a member. The Headquarters is Lagos.

One of the 12 pavilions at the Trade Fair Complex is devoted to the member

states of the community. The Federal stand will be at the ground floor. From the ground, one could see the stands of the rest 14 countries right round at the first floor.

It would be important also to mention that this trade fair could create an awareness of tourism potentials in Nigeria and could foster friendly economic and political relations between Nigeria and other countries of the world.

To sum it up, the trade fair will boost our foreign exchange earnings through sales of merchandise and through tourist expenditure. Because tourism is not yet fully developed in Nigeria, it will be difficult to maximise the potentialities of this important trade fair. However, since the country now has a permanent structure — The Trade Fair Complex — whatever is lost in this fair could be gained in the future fairs.

The total investment on this fair is estimated at about N101.44 million. Of this amount, the cost of the complex is N98 million provisionally. It covers an area of 305 hectares and has twelve covered pavilions with net exhibition area of 74,200 square metres. It has open exhibition areas of about 605,500 square metres.

Besides the pavilions, the complex has seven restaurants and thirteen cocktail bars. It has full conference facilities. There is an auditorium with sitting capacity for about 550 people and equipped with simultaneous interpretation in five languages, a Business Centre with sitting capacity for about 70 people and five committee rooms.

The complex also has a clinic, customs Post, Fire Service, Bank, Tourist Centre, Post Office, External Telecommunication Office and a Press Centre. There is also recreational zone comprising an artificial lake, an amusement park and a motel.

The original cost of the complex was N86 at the time the contract was awarded to a Yugoslav construction firm, Energo-projekt of Belgrade four years ago.

Added to the construction costs is the N3,144,600 approved few months ago by the Federal Executive Council towards hosting the Fair.

The design of the symbol for the fair has been approved by the council. The design which is an abstracted manilla in the form of a three-sided towering arch to be executed in stainless steel will cost N96,250.

It is hoped, however, that part of the investment could be recovered before the end of the fair on December 11, 1977. The Director of the Fair Mr. Olufermi Akande, had said that the Trade Fair is no festival like the FESTAC but a commercial venture.

The participants and visitors are expected to pay the commercial rate for transport while in Nigeria and for accommodation. There are also fees due to the Fair Authority, either in respect of space rentals, settlement of charges for utilities and sundry services, like electricity consumption, water, telephone etc.

The exhibitors paid N31.33 (N50.00) per square metre floor space in covered hall and N15.66 (\$25.00) per square metre for open air space. The total monies collected for the 74,200 square metres of floor space is covered hall and 605,000 square metres of open exhibition areas could amount to N11,720,090 or \$18,835,000. All the spaces have been allocated and some satellite pavilions built to supplement available spaces provided.

It means there could be an additional revenue to be earned on spaces alone. It will be difficult to determine the total revenue Nigeria would earn from the Fair. All the same, the long-term advantage would worth more than the immediate benefits.

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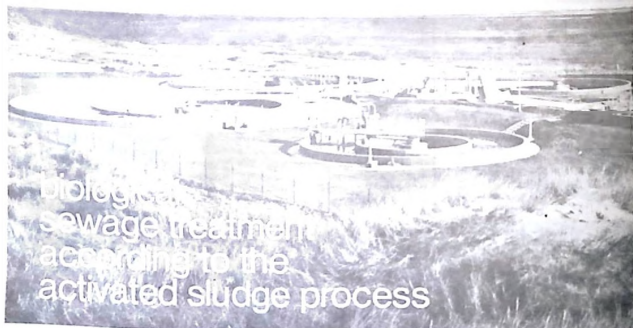
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SCOPE OF THE TRADE FAIR

The composition of the participant in the First Lagos International Trade Fair being held in Lagos this month and until December, shows an interesting development in Nigeria's economic scene. It shows that the country has a lot of economic potentialities which attracts nearly every country of the world. It is not a show that can easily be dismissed as good attendance. There are more to it. This Fair will be a major medium of export promotion and publicity for the social, economic and political advancement of any participating country.

For the host country, the next few year after this fair will show a dramatic change in the direction of trade.

Change of Trade Patterns

The pattern of the directional flow of Nigeria's total external trade was largely unchanged by end of last year, with countries in Western Europe still remaining Nigeria's largest trading partners. That year also, the proportion of trade with all other trading groups declined, except that with the Americas.

At N3,733.0 million in 1976, Nigeria's non-oil trade with the Western Europe was higher than the preceding year's level by 41.1 per cent. Imports from and exports to the area increased by 42.7 per cent and 20.9 per cent respectively.

On the whole, the area accounted for 68.3 per cent of the non-oil trade during the year compared with 66.8 per cent in 1975. Trade with individual countries within the group rose. West Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom and Belgium which are participating fully at the Fair, increased their respective shares. Up to 77 British firms are taking part in the Fair and 40 Netherlands firms. Another Western European country taking part in the fair is Austria. A total of 50 Austrian companies are participating. Austria planned to show a great variety of both capital and consumer goods which would be the most comprehensive display of Austrian goods ever shown in Nigeria. Other W. European countries taking part include France, Italy, Denmark, Portugal, Sweden, Ireland, Switzerland, Greece and Spain. Until the time of going to press, Norway whose imports to Nigeria in the non-oil sector amounted to N40.7 million in 1976, had not shown her intention to participate. Her imports had increased from N11.3 million in 1974 to N35.5 in 1976.

Export to that country has been negligible.

The non-oil trade with African countries by 40.1 per cent in 1976. The region's share in the total was higher by 0.1 percentage point mainly as a result of an increase in the proportion of the trade with



Halls in Complex: "... One of the best in the world"

the West African sub-region. This means perhaps, that Nigeria's trade relationship has not improved considerably with other African countries. At this First International Trade Fair, only 18 African countries are taking part. Majority of them are from the West African sub-region. The countries taking part are Ghana, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Togo, the Republic of Benin, Ivory Coast and Niger. Others are Sudan, Cameroun, Swaziland, Algeria, Central African Empire, Libyan Arab Republic, Botswana, Morocco and Tanzania.

The members states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will exhibit in a separate pavilion with Nigeria, the host member country.

It appears Nigeria's trade relationship with the North African countries improves each year. By 1976, the areas total non-oil trade with Nigeria stood at N8.7m. It was

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. Of late, most of these countries have been featuring prominently in the economic development of Nigeria. Even the Trade Fair complex was built by a Yugoslav firm. The same firm built the multi-million Nairo Federal Secretariat at Ikoyi in Lagos. The National Theatre and the Ultra-modern Eko Hotel were also built by a construction firm from one of the Eastern countries.

Unfortunately, the USSR was not on the list of participating countries published by the Fair organisers as at the closing date, by mid October. Among the Eastern countries the USSR and Poland by 1976 had the highest deal in Nigeria's import and export trade in the non-oil sector.

In Asia also, nearly all the countries are participating. They include China, India, Japan, Korea, Republic of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Singapore. Hong Kong did not register to participate.

Among the American countries coming are the United States, Canada, Brazil, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Chile.

There will be a total of 52 countries at the show. Some of the others are Greece, Uruguay, Yemen. There could be more countries taking part because the Fair organisers had expressed their willingness to accept late entries. It is only usual that some countries will always turn-out late.

Nigeria's Participation

On the part of Nigerian participation, a total of 310 countries were registered up to October, this year. UAC of Nigeria Limited made of many companies is counted as one company and so are the others. In actual fact, there could be over 800 Nigerian companies taking part. Their space requirements have far exceeded their original allocation. There were some satellite pavilions built at the site to supplement the available spaces.

All these go to show how big the Fair will be and consequently, how much it will benefit Nigeria's local economy especially as trade with each trading group was in deficit last year. Deficit with the Western Europe increased to N3,257.8 million and trade with Western Europe also resulted in a deficit of N80.5 million.

During 1976, Nigeria's balance of payment showed an overall deficit of N241.6 million. This according to the latest

TOTAL NON-OIL TRADE (IMPORTS AND EXPORTS) VALUE (N\$ MILLION)

YEAR	1974	1975	1976
AFRICA	41.0	50.1	70.2
ASIA	286.5	578.6	738.0
AMERICAS	291.3	518.9	714.0
EUROPE (EAST)	135.5	154.6	201.7
EUROPE (WEST)	344.8	2,645.9	3,733.0

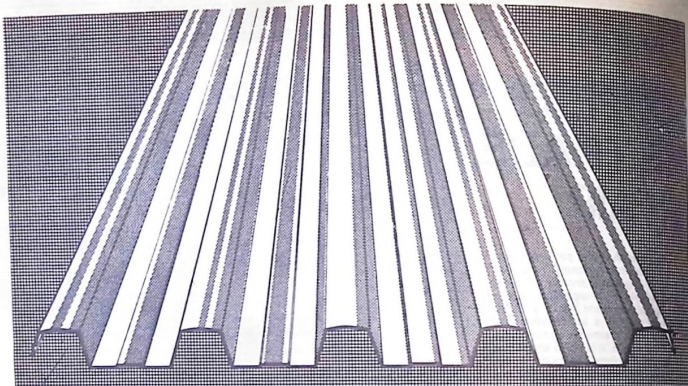
Sources: Central Bank Report and FOS

N39.7m for the West African Countries. The total non-oil trade (imports and exports) with all African countries was N70.2 million that year. This is less than the value of the country's total non-oil trade for any other continent of the world. See table.

Participating Countries

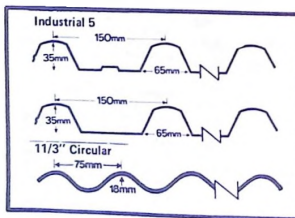
The most interesting aspect of this Trade Fair is that nearly all the Eastern countries are coming. It is only Czechoslovakia and Poland that are not coming in full-swing among these Eastern European countries.

Some of these countries participating are the German Democratic Republic (GDR), Republic of Hungary, Finland, Socialist Republic of Rumania, Republic of



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0.55mm	24kg	N3.15	N4.68	N5.00	1.502 kg
0.70mm	22kg	N3.95	N6.00	N6.50	1.811 kg
0.90mm	20kg	N5.45	N6.00	N6.50	2.350 kg



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Focus on THE FIRST LAGOS INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR

Central Bank's Annual Report was due to an increased deficit in the non-oil sector which more than offset the increase in the surplus of oil sector.

Provisional external trade data showed that total trade, at N11,849.5 million, increased by 37 per cent in 1976 above the level in the preceding year. While the rate of expansion of imports slowed down considerably that year, the increase recorded in exports contrasted with a decrease in 1975.

There was a trade surplus of N1,570.1 million. That is K366.1 million more than in 1975. The oil sector surplus of N6,183.5 million was higher by N1,738.4 million compared with 1975. The non-oil sector trade balance continued to deteriorate. The trade deficit increased by N1,372.3 million to N4,613.4 million.

Also in 1976, the producer goods components which include capital goods and raw materials increased by 38.1 per cent to N3,556.7 million but its share in total imports remained unchanged. Capital goods continue to account for the largest proportion of total imports.

The break-down of imports into Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) reveals that all sections recorded increases. In most cases, however, the increases were remarkably lower than those recorded in the preceding year. For instance, manufactured goods increased by 12.3 per cent and transport equipment by 56.3 per cent, as opposed to the increases of 92.6 and 156.3 per cent in the preceding year.

The imports of other electrical goods, commercial road vehicles and machines for special industries increased by 97.3, 86.2 and 56.3 per cent over their respective levels in 1975. Similarly, imports of motor vehicles, spare parts, motor cycles, bicycles and parts and passenger cars were higher by 128.2, 82.3 and 18.5 per cent respectively than in 1975.

While total food imports increased by 38.0 per cent, items like rice, meat and milk increased above their levels in 1975 by 575, 193 and 13.1 per cent respectively. An increase of 140.7 per cent was also recorded in commodities identified as Government exports.

For the first time, the Americas emerged as the largest consumer of Nigeria's crude oil in 1976 accounting for 53.7 per cent of her total exports. Exports to these countries rose by 61.5 per cent to N3,372.9 million. Exports to the United States alone at N2,206.0 million represented 35.1 per cent of the total.

Although exports to the Western Europe also increased by 23.4 per cent to N2,752 million in 1976, the group's share in the total actually declined by five per cent points to 43.8 per cent.

Japan's take of Nigeria's crude oil exports declined by 25.3 per cent to N45.5 million and accounted for only 0.7 per cent of the total.

Crude oil exports to the African region increased last year also. At N110.7 million, the exports increased by 26.4 per cent from the 1975 level but the region's share in the total was reduced by 0.1 percentage point to 1.8 per cent.

Although there may not be significant changes in the trend this year, as from 1978, the table is bound to turn in favour of the agricultural products.

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4.	SHQ 9	230.6		
5.	SHQ 87	280S		
6.	SHQ 104	280S		
7.	SHQ 112	230.4		
8.	SHQ 30A	280S		
9.	SHQ 24	280S		
10.	SHQ 33	280S		
11.	SHQ 38	160S		
12.	SHQ 114	230.4		
13.	SHQ 29	280S		
14.	SHQ 25	280S		
15.	SHQ 32	280S		
16.	SHQ 31	280S		
17.	SHQ 83	280S		
18.	SHQ 23	280S		
19.	SHQ 28	280S		
20.	SHQ 35	280S		
21.	SHQ 115	230.4		
22.	SHQ 36	280S		
23.	SHQ 185A	200		
24.	NA/186	200	115048801	20-011317
25.	370 W3	200	1210163981	10-128937
26.	358	250	10-007543	10-108213
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28.	208H	200	121-0163701	10-169306
29.	39C	230A	115-951-10-038243	10-059898
30.	116A	250	1800163101	10-076609
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32.	182A	200	115-01610801	10-144868
33.	322B	200	155926-10-01426	10-264207
34.	3188	200	1210163701	10-263784
35.	202B	200	10-007654	10-172197
36.	30B	200	115926-10-006291	10-148387
37.	41B	200	10-008293	11501510
38.	16A	200	115977-10-054921	10-064382
39.	59A	200	1210163107	10-063059
40.	343B	250	115926-10014077	10-263783

2. The Supreme Headquarters' cars are available for inspection at the Ministry of Defence Car Park, Marina and Ministry of Defence Branch Office at 19 Beardell, Ikoyi, Lagos. The Nigerian Army's cars are available at AHO ST Battalion, Apapa. The hours of inspection are between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. each working day. Interested members of the public should forward their tenders in a sealed envelope marked either "TENDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF SUPREME HEADQUARTERS' SALOON CARS" or "TENDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF NIGERIAN ARMY SALOON CARS". Such tenders should be addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Republic House, Marina, Lagos, to reach him not later than Friday the 25th of November, 1977.

3. Successful tenderers will be required to make full settlement of the accepted tenders before the cars are removed and such settlement and removal must be completed within seven days of the notification of acceptance.

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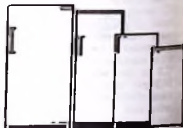
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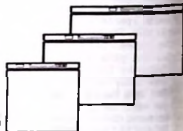
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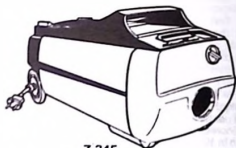


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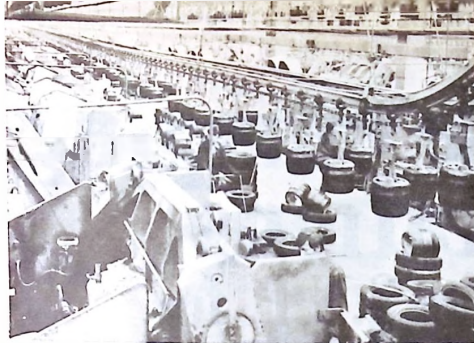
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USSR-AFRICA TRADE: MUTUAL BENEFIT

By Correspondent

Contacts established through trade help to build understanding and friendship between countries, thus promoting peace. Steadfastly applying the principles of peaceful coexistence in practice, the Soviet Union develops mutually advantageous trade relations with all countries ready to do so. These relations are developing on the basis of complete equality of sides and non-interference in their internal affairs.

The USSR rejects discrimination in international trade not only because discrimination is harmful to its economic interests, but also because trade discrimination serves to build up international tensions and runs counter to the principles of the United Nations Organization.

The USSR is doing a great deal to promote its economic cooperation with African countries, which is based on equality and mutual benefit. Rejecting in principle any interference in internal affairs of other states, the USSR considers its duty to help these countries in their development along the path of progress, in creating modern industry and in strengthening all branches of the economy.

The prospect for the furtherance of this cooperation are closely connected with the steady growth of the Soviet Union's industrial potential. For 60 years since the great October Revolution the USSR became an advanced industrial state with outstanding technological achievements to its credit. At present it accounts for one-fifth of the world industrial output.

During the Ninth Five-Year Plan period (1971-1975) the Soviet Union put into operation nearly 2,000 newly-built factories and introduced into production over 15,000 new models of equipment.

In the current Tenth Five-Year Plan period (1976-1980) Soviet industry will make further progress. During this period the USSR's industrial output will increase by 36 per cent.

Intensive growth of the USSR's industrial potential paves the way for the Soviet Union's economic and trade cooperation with African countries.

Soviet-African trade, as a rule, is conducted under the terms of inter-governmental agreements. At present the USSR has long term trade agreements and agreements on payments with more than 30 African countries. These agreements help dovetail commodity exchange with economic and technical assistance, they stabilize economic ties between the countries and promote industrial growth in the African countries.

The mutual granting of most favoured nation treatment in trade and shipping forms a vital basis for trade relations

between the USSR and the African countries. Trade with the Soviet Union enables the African countries to purchase on advantageous conditions the equipment and raw materials they need. Such purchases are made without discrimination in exchange for items of national export. This helps them surmount the difficulties connected with the sale of these goods.

The African countries have been displaying a mounting interest in procuring Soviet-made industrial products, machines and other equipment above all, on terms laid down in the trade agreements. Engineering products are one of the main items of Soviet export to African countries. Machines and other equipment account for approximately one half of the total Soviet export revenue from the countries of the African continent. Soviet machines and other equipment have earned a solid reputation in the African countries. The number of buyers of Soviet equipment in Africa is constantly increasing.

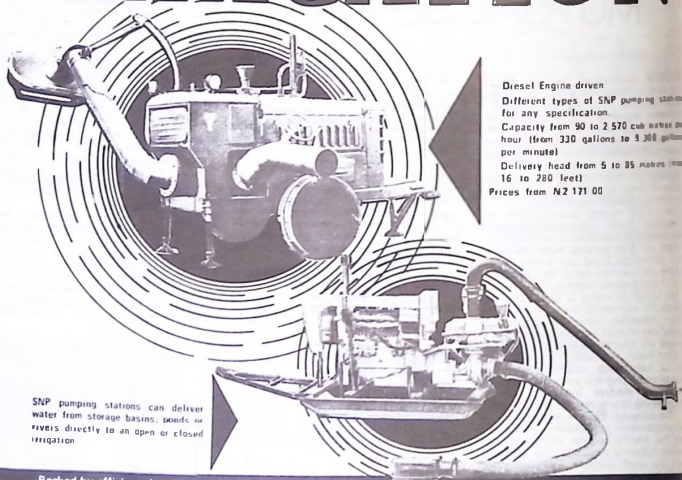
The Soviet Union exports to the African countries on terms acceptable to them a wide range of industrial equipment, including metal-cutting lathes, forge press equipment, power generating equipment, electrotechnical equipment, mining, oil well drilling and material handling equipment, equipment for the chemical, textile, food and other industries. Among the Soviet exports of engineering products are motor vehicles, road-building machines (such as scrapers, graders and bulldozers), excavators, tractors, farm machines, aircraft and helicopters. Part of the Soviet-made motor vehicles, tractors, machine tools and other equipment is realised in Africa through joint companies set up with the participation of Soviet foreign trade associations and African national firms, including Ethso Trading of Ethiopia, WAATECO in Nigeria and Cateco in Cameroon.

Soviet foreign trade organisations render their customers in Africa the necessary aid in the organisation of trouble-free operation and maintenance of the equipment they sell. They set up in the corresponding African countries modern repair shops, technical service stations, consultation and training centres and spare parts depots. Soviet foreign trade



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The Orenburg gas processing plant. Russian Federation.

associations have set up technical maintenance and repair services in Egypt, Nigeria, Algeria, Ethiopia, Guinea, Somalia and several other countries.

The USSR also exports to Africa rolled steel, coal, pipes, timber, oil and oil products, cement, glass, chemical products and other goods industry needs.

The funds obtained through the sale of the goods to the African countries are used for purchasing from them a wide range of goods needed by Soviet national economy, including oil, bauxite, high

grade timber, raw cork, cocoa beans, coffee, cotton, oranges, wine, peanuts, palmetto.

In the last few years the Soviet Union has been importing from Africa a wider range of finished manufactured goods, such as engineering products, iron and steel, fabrics, cotton yarns, footwear, knitted goods and garments, furniture, cigarettes and foodstuffs. These purchases have helped the industrial development of African countries and improved their balance of trade.

The prospects for the further development of Soviet-African economic trade cooperation in various spheres, including industry, are highly favourable.

The Soviet Union upholds the establishment of just and equal international economic relations and takes steps to further expand economic and trade cooperation with the African countries. The cooperation is contributing to the solution of their cardinal economic problems, it is helping them build up and strengthen their industrial potential and drawing them into international division of labour on terms of equal partnership.

The economic development plans of the USSR provide for steady expansion of economic and trade cooperation with the developing countries, including the African countries.

The State Five-Year Economic Development Plan of the USSR for 1976-1980 worked out fully in keeping with the Guidelines adopted by the Twenty-Fifth Congress of the Soviet Communist Party provides for the further expansion of the USSR's technical assistance to the African countries in various spheres of their national economies, above all in the creation and development of their national industries and of other vital economic sectors. Progress in the fulfilment of the plan will, beyond doubt, further the development and deepening of multifaceted economic ties between the USSR and Africa.

SOVIET CIVIL AVIATION

By Boris Bugayev,
Marshal of Aviation, Minister of Civil
Aviation of the USSR

Reviewing the path traversed by civil aviation in Soviet times, one cannot help noticing the steadily growing role of air transportation in the country's economy and in gigantic social transformations carried out in this period. It took Aeroflot, founded in February 1923, less than twenty years to become a leading airline in the world. By the early 40's Soviet aircraft industry turned out vehicles which were not inferior to the best foreign liners and in many respects surpassed them.

By 1941 the Soviet Union led the world in the length of air routes. Aviation was widely used in agriculture, mineral prospecting, the health service and the pilotage of ships along the Northern Sea Route.

When peaceful labour of the Soviet people engaged in the upbuilding of socialism, was interrupted by the Nazi invasion many units of civil aviation joined the front-line units. Aeroflot pilots supplied partisan detachments and units of the Soviet Army with ammunition and foodstuffs, and airlifted wounded

soldiers and officers to hospitals situated in the rear. At the same time, civil aviation continued to service the country's major air routes.

During the early post-war years the air carriage greatly increased and the spheres of the use of aviation in the national economy expanded. This was contributed to by the advent of more advanced, as compared with the pre-war period, vehicles, such as the IL-12, the IL-14, the AN-2 and the YAK-12. 1956 of the first jetliner—the TU-104—was major milestone in the development of Soviet and world civil aviation. The Soviet Union became the first country to start mass transportation of air travellers in jetliners.

Along with other pilots, I flew the first TU-104 liners on domestic and international routes. This was somewhat more than twenty years ago, but since then Aeroflot has made large strides and has become the world's largest airline.

The TU-104 was followed by the IL 18, the TU-124 and then by the giant TU-114, the largest airliner of that period, which enabled airmen

to make non-stop flights from Moscow to North America, Cuba and Japan.

Over the past few years the fleet of Civil aviation was complemented by the comfortable IL-62 jetliners for long-range routes, by the TU-134 and the TU-154 for medium-range routes and by the YAK-40 for feeder lines, and also by helicopters the MI-6, the MI-8 and the KA-26.

In 1976 Aeroflot carried more than 100 million passengers, and this year it plans to carry 105 million. Incidentally, Aeroflot was the first among large airlines in the world to reach such figures. Over the 1976-1980 period more than 500 million people will avail themselves of the USSR air service.

Aeroflot makes scheduled flights to some 3,600 Soviet cities, towns and townships. Air traffic between the cities and areas in the Far North, Siberia and the Far East with the Centre of the country and with health resorts has become much more convenient.

However, Aeroflot is not just an airline. It takes part in the solution of many major economic problems. Planes and helicopters perform

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extra fertilization of farm crops over tens of millions of hectares and combat weeds and pests. Aeroflot protects more than 700 million hectares of forests against fires, performs aerial photography necessary for the construction of industrial enterprises and roads. In particular, Aeroflot's special detachment carries out various operations at the construction site of the baikal-Amur railway. Aviation made a great contribution to mineral prospecting, in particular to the discovery of oil and gas deposits in Western Siberia, to the organization of gas and oil fields, and to the laying of oil and gas pipelines to the central areas of the Soviet Union.

Civil aviation of the USSR has a more than half-a-century experience of international flights. From its first international route inaugurated in the early 20s Aeroflot has come to regular flights to the capitals and large cities of 78 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America.

The headway made in Aeroflot's international carriage is undoubtedly promoted by the Peace Programme adopted by the 24th CPSU Congress and creatively developed by the 25th Congress of the Party, by the vigorous and purposeful activity for the benefit of peace and social progress of the Party's Central Committee and personally Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Especially fruitful are the ties between our country and the fraternal socialist countries in the field of civil aviation and in other fields within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. Cooperation between the USSR and France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, and the Scandinavian countries is being conducted on a good business basis. Relations are developing also between the USSR and latin American and African states.

Being a member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Soviet Union uses its prestige, great achievements in aircraft engineering and vast experience in flying in the interests of the progress of entire world civil aviation.

Vast prospects open up before Aeroflot in the development of international air routes. By 1980, when Moscow plays host to the

22nd Olympic Games, flights to more than 90 countries will be ade.

Specialists have calculated that in the period of the Olympic Games Aeroflot will carry more than a million athletes and tourists from various countries. For this purpose the top-notch IL-62, TU-154 and TU-134 jetliners will be run and also the IL-86 airbus which takes 350 people aboard. The airbus will be put into service in 1980.

As far as prospects are concerned, I would like to mention that during the current five-year plan period the 120-seater YAK-42 plane will appear on short-range trunklines and the 15-seater AN-28 on feeder airlines. The AN-28 will replace the AN-¼; THE VETERAN OF Soviet civil aviation. In the next few years the giant IL-76, which will be able to carry more than 30 tons of cargo, will start its flights.

Work of improving navigation and control of air traffic is in progress. It is planned to use artificial earth satellites for these purposes. Automated system for controlling and planning Aeroflot's work will be used much more extensively.

Books in the USSR

A country of readers. That is what they say about the Soviet Union. And this is indeed so. 180 million Soviet citizens use libraries of which there are 360,000 with a total collection of more than 4.5 thousand million volumes. Also, it should be noted that 95 per cent of all Soviet families have home libraries.

In 60 years of the Soviet power, books in the USSR were published in 145 languages altogether: in 89 languages of the peoples of the USSR including 43 languages of the ethnic groups which had no written languages of their own prior to the October revolution of 1917, and 56 foreign languages. "Progress" Publishers is publishing books in African languages as well, e.g. Hausa, Swahili Amhara. Since 1962 it was translated and published in Hausa 33 titles of the books.

The output of literature in the languages of the peoples of the USSR has increased ten-fold and their total printing—53 times. In

tsarist Russia there were 62 books per 100 of the population shortly before the Revolution/books largely published in Russia/today, by contrast, there are 645 books per 100 persons. The country now has over 230 large publishing houses which produce annually 85,000 titles of books and booklets.

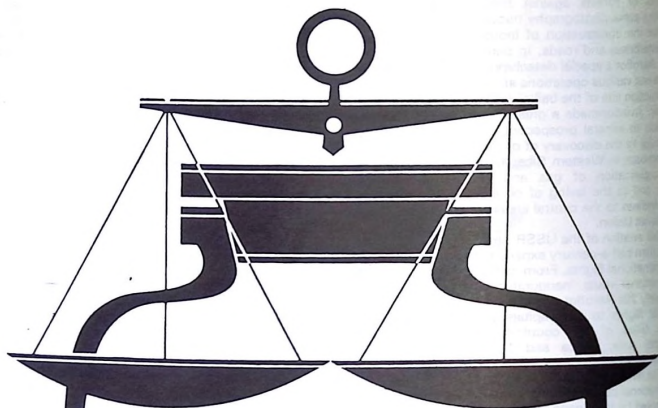
The Soviet foreign trade organization Mezhdunarodnaja Kniga is expanding the scope of its activities with every passing year. The process of detente which has been gathering momentum after the all-European conference has done much to promote the exchanges of artistic and literary values. The peace policy pursued by the Soviet Union meets with support and appreciation from all peaceable forces of the planet. Not only the peace policy but also our achievements in the fields of science and technology, culture and education, our constructive efforts to build a communist society evoke a lively interest in the affairs of the Soviet country and, quite naturally, in books telling about the life of the soviet people, about the achievements of the land of Soviets.

Each year V/O Mezhdunarodnaja Kniga exports millions of books, of complete sets of periodicals /newspapers and magazines/, gramophone records, film strips, slides and postage stamps for collectors of more than 130 countries. Currently, V/O "Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga maintains business relations with more than 1000 foreign firms and publishers. Scientific and technical literature is issued in the USSR by 26 specialized and 2 non-specialized publishing houses. Each year over 30,000 titles of scientific and technical books and booklets are put out in a total printing of 190 million copies.

Fiction has been issued in a total printing of over 9 thousand million copies; one book is issued in more than 60,000 copies on an average.

According to UNESCO statistics most widely read are the works of Fyodor Dostoyevsky which are published in 4 languages and of Leo Tolstoy—published in 2 languages. Maxim Gorky's works appear in languages.

The first international book exhibition in Moscow was held in 1975; between September 6 and 14, 1977 the Soviet Union held the First Moscow International Book Fair.



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WHERE ARE THE INDIANS?

By Peter Nazareth, Iowa, US.

Having agreed to present a paper at the 1975 annual meeting of the African Studies Association, I decided to travel to San Francisco from Iowa City by bus. Travelling the people's way, one discovers that the United States of America has not only some of the largest cities but also some of the smallest towns, not only some of the most crowded areas but also some of the most open spaces in the world.

We had stopped at about 7 p.m. of the second day at a little town called Evanston in Wyoming. In my mythical imagination, Wyoming was the Wild West, where Cowboys and Indians had fought their interminable battles of good versus evil, with good always winning. Naturally, it had been my childhood ambition to come to the United States and become a cowboy.

"Coors!" was the sign just across the street from the bus. There seemed to be only one street. Having come of age on East African beer, I had found no suitable substitute in any of the dozens of American metal cans, but I had not given up hope. There was Coors. Manufactured in the far West and not available in the East or Midwest. People whispered that the President flew in some Coors by Air Force jet. I had to cross the street.

I opened what looked like a door painted with tin-foil. A vacant stool against the counter. I walked in and sat down. The barmaid cleared away some of the cans in front of me and asked me what I wanted. "Coors!"

The man sitting on the next barstool said something. I did not understand. The accent of Wyoming was as different from that of Iowa as the Yorkshire accent is different from that of Oxford. Hazarding a guess, I said, "The barmaid took away the beer cans." The man growled. I became alarmed and turned to look at him.

He was the man who started the fight in all the bars in every cowboy film. He was grizzled. He wore a Stetson hat, which they had recently stopped producing. He had on cowboy

working jeans and cowboy boots. The growl became an eruption. I gathered that he was telling me to get off the stool or else. Despite my childhood ambitions, the idea of getting killed in a small bar in Wyoming did not appeal. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a woman coming out of what looked like the Rest Room. Convinced myself that this was the stool she vacated temporarily for some pressing business, I prepared to slide off.

"Don't shout at my customer!" shrieked the barmaid to the cowboy. There followed a vociferous exchange between the barmaid and the man while I tried to sneak off with my Coors. The man was getting the worst of it. "Lady," I said, "I'll be happy to sit at that table over there." Like greased lightning, I moved off the barstool. I had the Coors and was out so fast that I had to wait to get to San Francisco before I could get the taste. (Once there, I found out that some people had organized a boycott of this beer because of what they alleged to be exploitation of non-white peoples by the owner).

I received an explanation only when I got back to Iowa City and recounted the Wyoming incident to a friend, a corn and dairy farmer. "The man thought you were an Indian," said my friend. "But the barmaid saw you were a visitor. She wanted to defend the honour of her city."

An Indian? The cowboy thought I was an Indian??

I had lived in the United States and had met people from minorities I had expected to meet: African-Americans, Chinese-Americans, Japanese-Americans and Jewish-Americans. I had met people of minorities I had vaguely heard about such as Puerto Ricans and Mexican-Americans (or Chicanos). I had even seen minorities whose existence had never crossed my mind; the inhabitants of the Amana colonies in the state of Iowa, sort-of religious socialists who came from Germany about a century ago and maintain a co-operative way of life and ownership, although they produce fine modern appliances for general sale; and the inhabitants

of Kalona, also in the state of Iowa, also originally from Germany, also socialistic, but less willing to compromise with modernity, even shunning cars and using the old-time horse and carriage. But where were the Indians?

A month later, on a hot August day, I found the Indians.

They had been living practically on my doorstep, or rather I had been living on theirs. Of course, there are Indians and Indians. Columbus had set out to look for India and, thanks to lousy navigation, arrived in America instead. But he didn't know it so he called the people he saw "Indians." In reality, there were various peoples on this continent: the Navajo, the Apache, the Sioux, the Blackhawk, the Iroquois, the Mohawk, the Cherokee, the Creek, the Choctaw, the Delaware, the Pawnee, the Paiute, the Comanche, the Mohave. . . An English friend told me that the Mesquaike were holding their annual Pow Wow and we could go as visitors were invited. The name "Mesquaike" means "Red Earth People"; they are a people rooted in the rich loess soil. "Iowa" is an Indian word meaning "Beautiful Land."

The Mesquaike live at Tama, seventy miles from Iowa City. There was no problem finding our way: part of the journey was along a concrete highway and the rest along country roads with signs, "To the Pow Wow." It was slightly above 80°F, better than usual; summer temperatures in Iowa sometimes get above 100°. (Iowans cannot understand that it was cooler where I came from. Cooler in Africa?).

We had reached the area of the Pow Wow at noon, a little early for the performance. We stopped at a ticket-seller's cabin to pay our admission fee, \$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 per child. The ticket-seller was an attractive teenager, a little red, perhaps from the heat. My first real red Indian.

The Pow Wow was to be held in a clearing, on a lawn in the centre of which was a tree. There was a dais with a microphone at one end of the arena, with benches by either side. As people who sat on them found out later, these benches were for the participants in the Pow Wow. There were raised stands along the other three sides of the arena. Across the road, about 100 yards behind one of the stands, was a railroad track. There were various stalls outside the arena selling trinkets, Indian dolls, moccasins, and Pepsi Cola. I picked up a plaque with an Indian Prayer. Turning it over, I saw a label. The label said, "Made in Taiwan." There was a still for Popcorn. The place looked like an Ameri-

can fair. But then, it was the "Indians" who made popcorn and gave it to the new settlers from Europe, As Deloria reminds us, they were the first Americans. Naturally, the place should look as American as popcorn.

The announcer kept welcoming us and pleading from time to time for the performers to get ready. Still, the show started late. Just as well because many buses began to arrive with tourists for the show. We were sitting on the wooden benches, as though to watch a football match. Eventually, some young Indians began to turn up in all their feathered finery. As soon as the performers' benches had been vacated by the spectators, the Indians sat on them.

"Please feel free to take photographs!" said the announcer, a very white-haired man in a very American manner. Whole groups of Americans, including a black American or two, got up to stand in front of the Indians and photograph them. Americans behaving like tourists in their own country... I did not get up but contented myself with photographing Americans photographing native Americans.

After repeated pleas by the announcer, a group of men, dressed in shirts and trousers, hauled a big kettle drum unceremoniously into the ring, placed it under the shade of the tree, placed some metal fold-away chairs around the drum. They began a simultaneous beating of the drum and singing into a microphone in high-pitched voices, hypnotically. Two long lines of Indians got into the arena and shuffled along in a kind of dance-past, first women and girls and, way behind them, men and boys. The colours were magnificent and quite represented. Most of the men wore two sets of feathers at the back arranged in almost a circular pattern, one at the shoulders and the other just below the waist. Some of the men wore the caps of Legionnaires, that is, American ex-soldiers who had seen active service. All the patterns looked different.

I had no way of knowing what the singing was all about, whether the singers were good or bad, whether they were serious or just putting us on. The dances that followed seemed to be improvised individuality and yet, underneath, there was an organizing principle. There were dances of simulated battle, the dance of the buffalo hunt, the rabbit dance, and so on. But I still did not know whether the performances were serious. I noticed a very earnest young Indian dancing as though deep in thought, questioning

what he was doing. Minus the feathers, he would have looked just like an Indian Indian. I thought of a joke I had heard: "Doctor," the patient in the asylum said, "while you have been keeping me under observation, I have been observing you!" A few days later, when the new university year had just begun, I was to walk past him between classes in one of the main buildings of the University of Iowa. He was not wearing feathers then but carrying books.

The announcer told us that the girl who had been chosen as Indian princess of the year would do her dance with her attendants, and so they did, shy, teenage girls. The dancing was interrupted so that the Congressman of the area—or the aspiring Congressman, I forget—could tell us how pleased he was to be there. Then the princess continued her shuffling with her attendants. There was a loud hoot and a Rock Island Line train clattered by, blocking out the singing. American goods trains—passenger service seems to be breaking down—are very long: at a railroad crossing, you could wait for half an hour for the thing to end.

A little girl in a long, purple dress and a feather on her head ran towards us. She veered off towards Mother, sitting two yards away, two benches below. The girl wanted her mother to adjust the dress. The mother, tending to obesity, was wearing black tights and a blue-checked blouse over it, just like hundreds of other American women. She adjusted the girl's costume and slapped her to make sure it was not messed up again. The girl ran back to rejoin the dancers.

Getting up from the bench, I found a stall that made fried Indian bread. I bought some: it was delicious, much more full-bodied than the hygienically-wrapped stuff one bought at the supermarkets. I had the taste of the first settlers. Then I noticed the headdress of an Indian Chief hanging on a pole. There was a sign on the pole that we could take out own photographs for any contribution. A cardboard at the base of the pole had a few coins in it. My wife photographed me, after a short delay because a group of Indian teenagers in jeans walked by and flapped their hands in front of the camera.

Walking beyond the stalls and head-dress, I noticed a building. It contained statements and documents about the Mesquakie struggle to survive and control their own way of life and education. In 1841, the Mesquakie were forced to give up their land and to move to a reservation in Kansas. They returned fifteen years later and bought

80 acres of land at Tama County. Fortunately for them, the sellers do know that Indians were not legally American citizens and therefore could not conclude a contract or that under the terms of the 1842 treaty, Indians were forbidden to return to Iowa. Equally fortunately, the deeds were kept in trust for them by a good white man, Governor Lucas, until they were finally permitted by law to own their land. (The Seminole of Florida apparently could never be found in the swamps to sign the treaties so they are now legally claiming their land back.)

On my return to Iowa City, I found a short essay on the Mesquakie by Mary Zielinski which confirmed my suspicions that they had been put up with us on. Of course, the Pow Wow has a serious significance to the Mesquakie, not apparent to the tourist. Many ceremonies are barred to the casual visitor as contacts with the "white world" have not been entirely pleasant. Young militants resent the casual appropriation of Indian styles such as wearing beads and leather and, more seriously, the mass-production of Indian beadwork and handicrafts in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan which are cheaper than the handwork of the Indians. While no one can claim African ancestry in America without being considered black, one can claim Indian ancestry without becoming an Indian. Hence one comes across the phenomenon of Americans, especially entertainers, making vague claims to Indian ancestry.

What Michael Harrington says of the American poor in *The Other America* is just as true of the Indian. Talking of the invisibility of the poor in America, he says, "I could prove that the other America existed, but I had never been there." The Indians have been invisible. But they have kept on sending up signals to let us know that in spite of everything, they are still around. In the midst of names appropriated by the United States from the world—Cairo, Lebanon, Monrovia, Canton, Cambridge, Nairobi, Delhi, Leeds, Mozambique, Vietnam, Waterloo and even Nazareth—one comes across Connecticut, Iowa, Ohio, Delaware, Kansas, Sioux: Indian names.

Indians get into the news occasionally. Dennis Banks, a Chippewa Indian and co-founder of the American Indian Movement against oppression of native Americans on reservations and in cities, was convicted recently for rioting while armed; he got into the courtroom in Custer, South Dakota to protest the

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murder of an Indian by a white man. Interviewed in the Black Scholar of June, 1976, Banks reaches out to a Third World relationship with other exploited peoples. Perhaps not all Indians would agree with Banks. Vine Deloria Jr. claims in his book, *Custer Died For Your Sins*, that there were basic differences between the goals of the black Americans and the Indians in the sixties: the former wanted to get into the system, he says, while the Indians wanted to stay out. John Salter, a professor at the University of Iowa, agreed with Deloria in a panel on "Race, Colonialism and World Order." He said that when Indians looked at the socialist world, they found no fundamental difference from what the white (capitalist) world aspired to; Indians preferred to look inward to what is valuable in their own tribal way of life. Banks, Deloria and Salter would agree, though, that Indians value a sacred relation to Mother Earth.

A trial of two Indians for the murder of F.B.I. agents was held recently at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It was attended by two celebrities who have spoken out against oppression, Dick Gregory and Marlon Brando. The colourful defence attorney, William Kunstler, argued that there had been constant F.B.I. harassment of Indians and brought the Director of the F.B.I. to the witness stand. The verdict was "Not Guilty." of the charges: a historic victory. Kunstler wept.

Mary Zielinski tells us that "Long after the daily visitors are gone, the dancing goes on, often well into the night when many of the young Indians, who refuse to 'go out and perform for the white-tourists,' do their own dances, minus the colourful costumes and trappings of the regular shows. It is then that the meaning of what it is to be an Indian, to retain a unique identity, is underscored and given form."

Herman Melville may have been trying to tell us something in his classic American novel, *Moby Dick*. Captain Ahab hunts the White Whale in a ship powered by what we would now call Third World peoples; and the ship is the Pequod, the name of a native American people that was wiped out 350 years ago. We have much to learn about the Indians and, in doing so, we could learn something about ourselves. The Preamble to the Constitution of the United Nations (Iroquois) said, over five hundred years ago:

I am Beganawidah and with the Five Nations' confederate lords I plant the Tree of the Great Peace. . .

If any man or nation. . . shall show a desire to obey the laws of the great Peace. . . they may trace the roots to their source. . . and they shall be welcomed to take shelter beneath the Tree.

Book Review

TEN YEARS OF ARUSHA

By A Correspondent

This new book by Tanzania's President Julius Nyerere draws the attention of readers by its realism. It points out the errors and miscalculations in the government's activity, maps out ways to overcome them and clearly defines the prospects for the country's further development towards socialism. In this work the country's social life, as well as economic and political problems are thoroughly analysed. The book has theoretical as well as practical importance, appeals to the people and had a great mobilising impact. The President as if invites the nation to a dialogue to share together with the party, the responsibility for the future of the country.

Ten years is not a big period of time, nevertheless it enables the President of Tanzania to sum up some results, and it was done splendidly by the author in his new book. In the opinion of Nyerere the main results of the post-Arusha period in the life of the country are the following:

Firstly, the tendency towards the development of antagonistic society, which is characterised by a growing inequality and exploitation of the majority by a few people, has been checked in Tanzania. National resources are now being used more thoughtfully in the interests of the country and its people.

Secondly, new moral standards, necessary for development along the road of building socialism, have appeared. "The argument now," says Nyerere, "is not on the principle, but on how, and how fast, we can move from our inheritance of great inequalities to a position where differences of income are slight and depend entirely upon service to society."

Thirdly, financial and production organisations, needed to meet the requirements of the working people have mostly been set up.

Fourthly, successes have been achieved in providing the country's population with medical services, transport and education.

Fifthly, Tanzania continues contri-

buting to the liberation struggle in Africa, thereby strengthening its own freedom.

Nyerere quotes facts testifying to the growth of allocations, to the construction of a great number of small and medium-size agricultural and industrial enterprises, a part of which is already operating on Tanzanian raw materials. Over the ten-year period the cost of industrial production has increased three-fold. Compared with 1967 the number of people engaged in industry has increased by 150 per cent. As for foreign capital, its activity is being successfully controlled by the state.

Penetration of Socialism

The creation of a network of ujamaa (socialist villages) has practically been completed in the countryside. Today more than 13 million Tanzanian peasants live in 7,684 villages. Their members work according to the principles of production cooperatives; but they have also their individual plots of land. The government greatly helps the movement for the social and economic reorganisation of the countryside, which is of great importance for Tanzania. In 1967 the republic spent 45 million shillings for agricultural production, whereas allocations for these purposes ran to 400 million shillings over the past two years.

The country has achieved big success in education and the public health system. In 1967 there were about 825,000 pupils in primary schools, whereas in 1975 their number grew to 1,532,000. The campaign against illiteracy among adults, going on for the past five years, has embraced about 5 million people, of whom 1.9 million learned to read, write and count.

In his book Nyerere develops the ideas expressed in the Arusha Declaration, on the basis of the ten-year experience of socialist orientation accumulated by the country. Like always he draws attention to the need of relying on one's own strength and proceeding from the internal resources and potentials.

The formation of a new party—Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) has been timed to the 10th anniversary of the Arusha Declaration. The party is called upon to continue and deepen the policy of socialist orientation proclaimed in Arusha. The party's guiding role, confirmed in the CCM rules will tell favourably on the building of socialist society in the United Republic of Tanzania. It is planned to step up the utilisation of national resources, particularly coal and iron ore, the produc-

Continued on Page 32

UNITED STATES/AFRICA:

THE GARDEN PATH

*Atken Collins, London.

The unprecedented event of the exchange of visits between a U.S. President and an African leader within a period of two months indicates, along with a host of other contemporary evidence, that Africa and the issue of decolonization of Southern Africa may well be moving up at last on an early number in the agenda of world politics. One is not yet too sure that the number will be the first or second

or priority item, but it is certain that Western world led by the United States, is beginning to take a serious view of African stand.

Nigerian leader, General Obasanjo, observed during his visit to U.S.A. that the change of American policy towards Africa indicates that the West now accepts the problem of Southern Africa as a "major focal point" in the search for international peace and stability. The acceptance by the West of the Southern African problem as a more or less important point is certainly true, but whether the degree of acceptance promotes the issue of "major" or "focal" in American perception is a hope which events in the next few months will define.

A Major Preoccupation

There is no doubt that the liberation of Southern Africa remains the major focal point of Africa politics, indeed to an extent that it may almost be seen as the *raison d'être* of OAU's existence. For the Obasanjo military regime, the commitment to liberation is definitely total. Besides the high level of diplomatic transactions, including material aid, in this field between the Nigerian

authorities and the liberation movements, Obasanjo-Carter discussions in USA were obviously dominated by this issue.

At every opportunity, General Obasanjo stated in unequivocal terms the Nigerian point of view. As he arrived in Washington to begin the visit, his notice on his mission was direct to the point. "Mr. President, I am sure that we shall pay appropriate attention to the specific issues of the highly volatile and potentially dangerous situation in Southern Africa, a situation which threatens international peace and security."

Two days later, he again publicly elaborated and amplified the Nigerian stand (much has already been done in two private long sessions with President Carter):

"Here again, Nigeria for her part, is prepared to support all efforts in finding just and peaceful solutions to the problems of Southern Africa.

Those of us who are skeptical about the current well-intentioned international efforts directed at bringing about desirable change in Southern Africa through peaceful means are led

Nigeria's Gen. Obasanjo with Jimmy Carter (below) and inset: with Andrew Young: Will it last?





They are affected. Jashua Nkomo (above)

to that conclusion by our understanding of racism and colonialism. Peaceful negotiations can only be carried out in an atmosphere of mutual respect and confidence. Neither Vorster nor Smith inspire any confidence, trust or respect. Indeed, given the very system they are committed to maintain, it is idle and unrealistic to expect them to miraculously abandon their chosen course of their own.

Apartheid and the belief in the superiority of one race over another is the fundamental belief among the white groups in South Africa and Rhodesia. Their belief has been systematized and sustained by a whole range of state apparatus of violence. We therefore believe, that only the eventual bankruptcy of the system will bring about acceptable change in southern Africa. But this will be a long process which we cannot expect the principal victims to patiently endure. This is why we believe that an armed liberation struggle by the oppressed is justifiable and bound to succeed. This is a commitment which we in Africa have a duty to support.

While we acknowledge that some countries outside Africa may not feel able to subscribe to this position, we think that they can assist in this effort by discontinuing their current involvement with the racists system in terms of their massive investment and their deliveries of arms and in particular, the technology of armament.

If, as almost the whole world seems to be agreed, apartheid is the uniquely evil system, then no one should hesitate to feel we have a moral duty to humanity to take these measures and steps."

In his address to the United Nations,



Swapo's Nujoma

where he cautiously endorsed the Anglo-American peace proposals on Zimbabwe, General Obasanjo gave another vigorous and single-minded push: "This issue occupies a central and unique position in the Nigerian government's policies. Nigeria will never be a party to any solution in Zimbabwe that could be remotely interpreted as a sell-out of the six million people of the land. . . . All double-dealers (the countries and multi-national companies doing business with both Nigeria and South Africa) . . . will have to choose between our hospitality and their adventurism by which they prop up the oppressive regime in South Africa."

The style more than the contents of activities most vividly illustrates Nigeria's mood on the issue of liberation of Southern Africa. The visit conspicuously short on ceremonies, was a breath-taking work schedule. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance characterised the attitude of the Nigerian visitors as "businesslike, practical and realistic a tendency to put everything on the table." Charles Diggs, chairman of the House Sub-Committee on Africa, observed that General Obasanjo has been "very frank in his assessment of our past policies. . . . very forthright in assessing the half-way efforts on the part of other countries." Chairman of the 16-member Black Caucus, Parren Mitchell, said: "The General is not equivocating or vacillating on that issue at all. He is saying that it must be dealt with or the consequences must be paid. Western nations will have to grapple with the economics of the Southern Africa situation. They will have to decide whether or not they



. . . . and late Steve Biko's children and Sister: Yes the tide affects them all.

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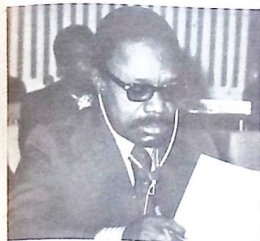
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The frontling leaders: From left, Angola's Augustinho Neto, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia; Samora Machel of Mozambique; Tanzania's Nyerere and President Khama of Botswana.



OAU Chairman: Gabon's Albert Bongo.

will trade with minority ruled nations of the region."

Most Africans will cheer the mood and position of General Obasanjo in the United States. All the yearly resolutions and verbal spittfires of the Organisation of African Unity seem to have moved to a concrete point of fruitful articulation in the visit.

The Prospects

But will the United States and the West move as fast as Africa wants? Indeed will they move in exactly the same direction as independent Africa is proposing?

On the positive side, the hopes of Africa are not unrealistic.

Firstly, the global scene is changing fast, politically and economically, in favour of the Africa position. Besides the declining strategic value of South Africa, the cumulative pointer from international developments in the last two decades is towards a slow but sure rise of the political presence of the Third World in the world arena. The increasing volume and value Western and American trade with independent Africa, especially Nigeria, should also depreciate the premium hitherto placed by the West on the economic assets of South Africa, if pressure reaches a point of having to make mutually exclusive choices.

Secondly, the Carter administration,

as the Nigerian leader noted, seems to be more favourably disposed to a quicker and more honest solution of the Southern African problem than its predecessors. For instance, the Anglo-American peace plan on Zimbabwe has fewer ambiguities than the predecessor attempted by Kissinger. Ambassador Andrew Young, President Carter's African point-man, seems to understand and sympathise with the type and timing of satisfactory solution which African want in Southern Africa.

On the negative side, the forces at work within the United States and the Western World suggest that African hope are too sanguine.

For one thing, what is described as a change of policy on the part of the Carter administration lies more in style than in content. Historically, the trend of thought in the American establishment has been moving, maybe too slowly, towards this kind of sympathy with African standpoint. Historically again, the economic trend which helps to accelerate the pace of Establishment opinion along the desired direction has been dramatized by the near helplessness of the West in the face of the Arab oil embargo a few years ago. Carter's commitment must thus not be seen as a sudden miracle. In any case, on the issue of armed struggle, an issue which may later be critical to a complete solution of the problem of Southern Africa, Carter's stand is similar to that of his predecessors. Indeed, if one is to go by the frequency of the American President's references in his public speeches during the Obasanjo visit, there is little to suggest that he shares General Obasanjo's sense of urgency on Southern Africa. Carter's public speeches, predictably full of diplomatic niceties about Nigeria's wealth and leadership potential made its nearest public concession to African priorities in a tone nearly reminiscent of Kissinger: "There is a common theme that runs through the advice to me of leaders of African nations: 'we want to manage our own affairs; we want to be friends with

both of the great super-powers and also with the nations of Europe, we don't want to choose up sides, we don't want you (the USA or the Soviet Union) to inject yourselves. . . ."

This sounds like an edition of Kissinger's famous Lusaka declaration. In terms of activities however, Carter Administration's African policy is an important departure from its predecessors.

Secondly, the economic weapon on which the Nigerian authorities are heavily leaning on, may be an armoury not easily accessible to or completely acceptable to Carter. Besides the obviously marginal influence which the Carter Administration has on U.S. big business, there is hitherto no evidence that Carter has the will or the inclination to add to his mounting internal problems by initiating and pushing through a legislation that will discourage American business involvement in South Africa. The point is South Africa has been sucked into the Western industrial vortex. The American multinational corporations undergird the economy, while the involvement of the wider Western industrial circle is demonstrated by the increasing partnership of Israel and the atomic construction deals of France.

A third impediment may be American public opinion. In spite of all efforts, Africa still exists on the periphery of American popular consciousness. The casual attention paid by the American press to the visit of General Obasanjo and those of other African dignitaries earlier demonstrates this indifference.

The most which Africa may realistically expect from the exchange of visits is greater awareness of Africa's existence by the American public and the beginning of a slowly cautious re-thinking of strategies by Western companies, especially the smaller enterprises; for the multi-national corporations, it may require a development more radical than diplomatic and legislature efforts to steer a change of direction.



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Continued from Page 26

tion of mineral fertilizers, cement, spares and simple agricultural and transport implements.

The implementation of the programme adopted in Arusha is a very complicated task that entails many difficulties. Nyerere also writes about this in his book.

Book Review

Title: HISTORY OF MAURITIUS

Author: Auguste Toussaint

Publishers: MacMillan Education Books, 1977, 105 pages.

Reviewer: William R. Ochieng, Nairobi, Kenya.

To many of us in East Africa, Mauritius is simply a place you go to for a holiday. It is just another Lamu, a lazy and voluptuous island bathing in the sun, with beautiful tropical beaches and sleek long-legged Creole girls. Indeed a mythology once took root among Kenyans to the effect that the most beautiful women on earth are only to be found in the Seychelles and Mauritius. The "Sitisili" (Seychelles) girl, I bet, is still the dream of "the he man" of East Africa.

And yet, these tiny islands to the east of Madagascar have played a bigger political and economic role in East African history than merely to provide long-legged blondes. Not only were they strategic military and colonization bases from which the Dutch, French and the English controlled the Indian Ocean trade, but we also know that thousands of East Africans were hauled as slaves to work in the sugar and coffee plantations in Mauritius and Réunion.

In this brief but lively book Auguste Toussaint tells us the history of these Mascarene islands. We are told that although the Asiatics had visited these islands as early as the ninth century, nobody had ever lived on them until in the middle of the seventeenth century when the agents of the East India Company sent their expedition to occupy Mauritius, and even then it was sent only to forestall any attempt at settlement by their rivals, the English and the French.

Colonization

The first attempt at Colonization was made by a party of convicts, with the assistance of slaves taken in Indonesia and in Madagascar. What followed was European rivalry to control these islands—the Dutch being eventually relieved by the French who in turn were eased out by the English. Like in other

European colonial possessions the history of these islands is that of plunder and exploitation. As an eye-witness observed in 1765 "The inhabitants of Mauritius are not much interested in farming, all they think of is making fortunes as first as they can by any means they think possible. . . . Their one aim is to enrich themselves and bring money back with them to France" To effect this desire the settlers ruthlessly plundered indigenous forests for timber export. In deed they even buccannereed in the Mascarene seas seizing ships laden with Indian treasure.

From the first quarter of the nineteenth century the rich landed European gentry put almost every inch of land to sugar cultivation, and these were worked by African slave labour. In deed the period between 1815 and 1860 saw these islands at the peak of their prosperity. This boom was accompanied by an increase in shipping movements. For example in 1850 alone, four hundred and seventy vessels visited Mauritius, totalling 136,277 tons, and in 1858 the figure of the visiting vessels increased to eight hundred and twenty five, totalling 308,018 tons. This was to prove the largest number of arrivals in the whole of the nineteenth century. These increased figures can only be partly accounted for by the increase in sugar production, in Asiatic immigration as indentured labourers, and in the import of goods needed by this opulent and ever growing population of the island. Another cause was that in 1851 gold was discovered in Australia. Mauritius then began exporting to Australia not only its locally produced sugar, but also European goods. But the greatest part of Mauritian trade of consumer goods was still with India. It was to India that Mauritius exported great quantities of rice and cotton goods, mainly for the needs of her indentured labourers.

Economy

But like in all monocultural economies, dependent on the vicissitudes of the international market, once there was a slump in the sugar market Mauritius was bound to be hurt. The trouble started from the second half of the nineteenth century. From 1863 onwards cane-sugar began to compete against beet sugar. This came about at a time when Mauritius was experiencing deadly epidemics of cholera and malaria both of which had been carried there by the Indian labourers. Between 1860 and 1868 malaria alone killed over fifty thousand people. This affected sugar production. The slow and steady decline in the sale of Mauritian sugar

and shipping was accentuated by a series of memorable disasters which came one after another at short intervals. In 1891, 1893 and 1899 there were three epidemics, in 1892 there was a disastrous cyclone which hit Port Louis, the capital, especially hard, and in 1893 and 1896 there were fires which laid waste parts of the town which had not been destroyed by the cyclone. The sugar decline intensified into the twentieth century, and this in the background of a steadily spiralling population.

Today Mauritius has a population of about one million people, all concentrated in an area as big as Siaya District in Kenya's Nyanza Province. Although tourism is the craze, the primary export commodity still remains sugar, limitedly supported by coffee. The Mauritian society itself can hardly be defined as a *tabula rasa*. Like in many African societies it is made up of different sections and forces, which are out of balance and harmony. Again, like in many African societies the Mauritian population is riddled with racism and tribalism, antagonistic forces which make it advance eagerly, hopefully but imprudently in uncharted waters at the risk of wrecking itself on the political reefs. To cap it all, like in the past the present system is controlled by the privileged few, the masses of the population continuing to live in decadence and misery. In short, like in all African nations, Mauritius is seriously suffering from an acute agony caused by underdevelopment.

I earlier on said that the book is brief and lively. It should be pointed out however, that the author is too much of an official historian whose problems are compounded by Francophilia. His emphasis is on the European element in the Mauritian society. The bulk of the people: the Africans, who found their way into these islands as slaves, the Creoles and the Asiatics, are not catered for in this epic, while their relationship with the Europeans is very briefly summed up, "there was no ill-feeling between them and the whites." There are also some other important topics, like the evolution of education and the growth of nationalist consciousness, that the author is mute on. Throughout the book one detects that the author, who is probably of French stock laments the day the British took over the administration of the islands, his only thanks going to "certain bold and energetic men" who made it possible for France to leave its cultural and linguistic mark on these islands. We are still waiting for an Afrocentric history of these beautiful beaches.

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Commissioner for Education, Col. A. A. Ali: Any need for a "conscience of the campus"?

when they occurred. It is primarily a contribution to the discussion of the methods of solving the perennial problem in the Nigerian Universities. The assumption that lies behind this discussion is that most of the disturbances would have been averted had there been an effective communication between the students and the university administrators. On the contrary, problems are most invariably left to define themselves in the form of crisis before any one seriously thinks about them and in most cases it is too late to avert the ensuing disturbances.

Rationale for University Ombudsman

A number of politically advanced countries have recognised the need for an ombudsman or some other agency, to protect the individual citizen from abuses at the hands of public officials. More than 160 years ago Sweden recognized the need for a protector of the people. In 1809 its constitution established the "Justitie-Ombudsman" as the watchman over the law's watchmen. Nils Arden, a Swedish political scientist, described the work of the Ombudsman as follows:

"The Ombudsman is a law officer, appointed by a national parliament for the task of supervising the activities of certain categories of public service and of public authorities. His main concern is with the rights and liberties of the citizens. The supervision of the activities under his control has, on the whole, the observance of the laws as its primary objective not the general suitability of decisions."²

About a year ago Nigeria has followed the example of Sweden by establishing

a similar official—Public Complaint Commissioners. Many other countries, developed and developing, have also had similar official, aimed at protecting the rights and liberties of their citizens. This is in tacit recognition that in any democratic society whether a country or a University, abuse, arrogance, and disrespect for citizens can occur in modern bureaucratic establishments and that administrative officers can perform their duties in such a manner as to deprive a person of his legal and civil rights. Although it may be an overstatement to say that the Nigerian Universities have been guilty of those excesses, one of the charges against the university administration is that the students have been caught up in a system in which their sole purpose is to serve the university and the demands of the economic and military establishment of the country. Students point accusing fingers at students' government officers, faculty, and administrators. The charge is frequently that of high-handed treatment and manipulation of students and the perversion of the academic enterprise. In recent years this has resulted in violent disturbances on many campuses and in most cases such disturbances have caused the suspension of normal educational activities.

2. Quoted in Albert H. Rosenthal, "The Ombudsman—Swedish 'Grievance Man,'" *Public Administration Review* XXIV (December 1964) p. 227.

The Ombudsman concept has, I believe, a contribution to make to the current deterioration of student/administrators relationship in the Nigerian Universities and other Institutions of higher learning. Specifically the University Ombudsman would be a campus

protector. My proposal envisions a campus Ombudsman who would be an integral part of the university system—He would be charged with the responsibility of investigating grievances within the university. Under this plan the harsh confrontation between students and the university administrators would be avoided, potentially explosive situations diffused and the escalation to disorder, strike and riot controlled. To be sure, the Ombudsman would work only in a community where the participants attempt to make the policy function as it is intended to function. However where individuals or groups on campus have a bonafide disagreement about a specific issue the campus ombudsman, could contribute to the establishment of understanding and accord.

Most likely such titles as "student protector" or "Critic and reformer" or "conscience of the campus" would elicit dismay from many academic people or a sigh of "what has happened to the good old days?" The fact is that these are not the good old days and students as well as the faculty members are concerned with their rights as citizens, students and scholars. Because this generation is vocal and because it is expressing a legitimate and significant concern, the university must be courageous and willing to experiment with new forms of campus life. The contemporary state, recognizing the need for such a safety valve or protector of the people, has provided and established procedures for the expression of complaints or charges. Walter Gellhorn describes the role of the Swedish Ombudsman as follows:

"any one can complain to the Ombudsman—a citizen about an official, an official about an official, a lawyer or the Bar Association about a Judge, one judge another an organization on behalf of its members."³

What the Ombudsman does for civil society, I propose for university community. Any person—students, faculty member, administrator or other staff members suffering from a real or imagined injustice—could approach the Ombudsman and be assured of a hearing and appropriate action.

3. "The Swedish Justices Ombudsman," *Yale Law Journal* LXXV (Nov. 1965) p. 15.

Functions

The University Ombudsman would be concerned with three broad areas of responsibility. First, is the equity functions; that is, helping individuals in specific cases to get just treatment. The second function is to make the

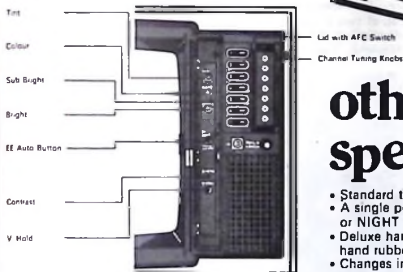
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administration operate better by telling its functionaries when ever they go wrong. This is not only to remedy the individual case in question but also to see that it won't be repeated. The third function is to help the university council supervise administration.

Ensuring 'just' treatment of persons irrespective of grade or creed, in my opinion, is a single most significant contribution an Ombudsman could make to the frequent university unrest. An accusation which cannot be substantiated could be quickly identified and its corrosive influence on the campus could be arrested. When an abuse of office or of power occurs, or when an arbitrary or whimsical interpretation or application of the university regulations has been made, it could be identified by an impartial arbiter, the

offending action reviewed and corrective action initiated. The student, lecturer or any other affected person would thus be protected from bureaucratic abuse and a climate of order and respect maintained. It is not uncommon for students to have staged violent demonstrations against government policies which they misinterpreted. The office of the Ombudsman would therefore provide an effective clearing house of information of both the Government policies and university administration as well. This will provide better outlet of information than the present system which leaves the students to be fed by extensive rumour mongerings which in most cases are false. The saving in the Psychic energy which is frequently expended in the campus misunderstandings and the preservation of good will and civility on the university campuses would alone justify the creation of the Ombudsman.

The second function of the Ombudsman would be to identify wrong doings by administrative functionaries. Most officers of the universities have been students themselves and some have been members of the faculty. In one sense they are professional administrators and in another they are not. It is unusually the case with the Heads of Department, Directors of Institutes and Deans of Faculties to romantically cling to the idea that they are still faculty members, that they are administrators for a temporary tenure and that they really understand the students and their culture. Consequently they do believe that all of their actions and intentions are in the best interest of the students. However, Deans, Heads

of Departments and other University administrators are as capable of discriminatory and arbitrary acts as are other people. They are especially susceptible to misinterpreting the interests of the students in enforcing regulations which no long serve his educational needs. In this situation the availability of an Ombudsman is important. Anderson notes that the Ombudsman should be an expert in general administration.⁴ Perhaps to select a faculty member for this post is a contradiction in terms, but I believe that a reputable academician will understand general university administration in an expert fashion. This knowledge will have been acquired through experience on various universities, attendance at various University Committees and through the discharge

4. Stanley V. Anderson et al, "An Ombudsman for the US" Centre Diary (centre for the study of Democratic Institution, Santa Barbara No. 14, October/November 1968) p. 21.

of various university assignments. It should be pointed out that perhaps no other such large-scale organization as the university utilizes its staff in such a variety of committee assignments and quasi-administrative duties. The Senior Faculty member, functioning as university Ombudsman, would be well qualified to serve as a tempering influence and a voice of reason on the university campuses.

The third and final function of the Ombudsman would be to assist the University Council in supervising administration. That all the Nigerian Universities have been taken over by the Federal Government, is an expression of the public interest inherent in the operation of the universities. Government however delegates the supervision of this public interest to a Council and they in turn, in part, nominate a vice-chancellor as Chief Executive Officer. Since the Council membership is a part-time assignment and the vice-chancellor has plenary responsibility for the university, the report of the Ombudsman could be helpful to these officials in the discharge of their responsibilities. The Reports would not replace the reports of the administrative officers, nor would they question the integrity of the administrative staff. Rather, the Ombudsman would provide an impartial point of view for the Pro-Chancellor (the Chairman of the Council) and the university council itself by commenting on the prevailing campus atmosphere. Indeed the administrative officers might find the ombudsman a valuable ally in correcting or modifying outmoded policies and regulations pre-



Prof. Ade Ajayi of Unilag: Same old story?



Ex-VC's Dr. Ishaya Adu (left) and Prof. Oluwasanmi (right). . . . they too had a taste of the crisis!



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A Coveat

It should be emphasised that the competence of the Ombudsman should be clearly established by the Governing Council of the University. The Ombudsman would not, ordinarily have the authority to reverse a decision of the administration, faculty or student judiciary. His power would derive essentially from the publicity and moral situation which would result from his presence and work. When a complaint is brought to him the Ombudsman would be the sole Judge of the significance of the issue presented. The grievance would be either accepted or rejected. Once he has established the merit of the grievance, the ombudsman would have complete access to all records and could move freely through the administrative faculty and student structure. After the pertinent rules and regulations had been established, the appropriate action would be determined. After defining the issue, the ombudsman would arrange for private consultations in which the proper clarifications would be made. Then either the grievance would be rejected as without basis or appropriate remedies would be recommended.

The competence of the Ombudsman would include the responsibility for determining the gravity of the grievance, the authority to acquire information and the opportunity to give advice and the right to make the findings public. It should be re-emphasized that the Ombudsman's main concern would be to foster understanding and goodwill. In a sense, he should represent a brooding presence to which an aggrieved member of the university could appeal in the confidence that the Ombudsman is a man of established integrity and reputation whose sole concern is the advancement of justice and equity in the University Community.

The need for a separate University Ombudsman arises from the special nature of the University. The university community, despite all that has been said about its resemblance to the public service, is still a unique social organization and draws heavily from a long standing tradition of relationships which place great stress upon professional respect, academic freedom and idealism. In such an environment the faculty members and administrators enjoy a great amount of discretionary authority and frequently make decisions and enforce university regulations as the situation seems to demand.

The requirements for the University

Ombudsman should be those of a person of "known academic ability and integrity." These two criteria, should be employed in the selection of the Ombudsman. Age, sex, and academic specialization should not be factors. Students with whom I have discussed this proposal have suggested, in addition, that the Ombudsman should have an accessible personality, so that students would feel free to approach him. But I personally would give priority to the qualification that the man be an established academician who has earned the respect of all segments of the academic community and who has a reputation for acting and speaking on the basis of principle. As I understand the contemporary student mentality, it is not the coddling and extension of the parental tie that he desires but an institutional setting that discharges its educational mission to its students and provides an environment which maximizes the opportunity for individual freedom and responsibility.

Appointment Procedure

It is advisable that the student body through its union or some similar body be charged with the responsibility of nominating candidates for this post. The faculty, acting through its senate or by faculty-wide ballot, would have the authority to approve the list, delete names or add to it. Although Ombudsman is primarily conceived of as protector of students, his office should be available to members of the faculty. They should also participate in the nomination process. The university council, upon the advice of the senate, would select the Ombudsman and vest him with his office, duties and authority. This is in line with the practice of University Ombudsman in some Canadian Universities. There, the Ombudsman is responsible to the Board of Directors.

5. "University Ombudsman to be appointed" *University Affairs* Vol. 12 No. 5, May 1971, Ottawa, Canada, P. 2.

The term of office could be five years and a full-time appointment. This length of time would not only permit him to acquire institutional perspective and understanding of the office, but would also guarantee a reasonable degree of independence. His mandate and work would not be constantly subject to the pressure of selection and reappointment and his tenure would be long enough that his role as the conscience of the community might evolve.

In Summary, this proposal is offered in the hope of improving the university

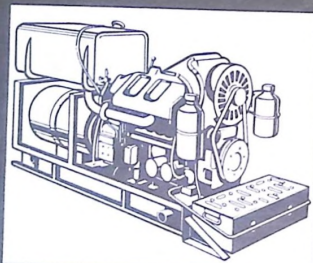


Dr. S. O. Biobaku: he had some student fans!

by proposing for the academic community a remedy against administrative abuse. The University Ombudsman's function will be to investigate and seek to resolve student and staff grievances concerning academic, social and administrative procedures, practices and decisions. If there is one institution on contemporary society which is dedicated to a fearless application of justice and equity for all, it is the University. The Ombudsman proposal, in my candid opinion, meets an obvious need in institutions of higher education — an office whose incumbent is beyond the heat of debate, who is able to suggest that a wrong or indiscretion should be corrected, and who is able to clear a charge of mal-administration or discrimination. The establishment of such an office could be a concrete recognition of the dynamic nature of the university community. To the extent that the university responds to innovation in a spirit of reasonableness and openness, precisely to that extent it is keeping faith with its tradition and is working towards the improvement of its responsibility to scholarship and society.

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COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL REVIEW

PRODUCT NEWS:

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SWEDISH PRODUCTS:

DIGISTOP

An electric digital timer that works like a stopwatch has been developed by AB Digistop and is being marketed by Janic Machine AB of Sweden. According to SWEDEN NOW, advantages that make it superior to the ordinary stopwatch are its four fixed memories plus one current timer. With it, for example, one can time five racers simultaneously. And while an ordinary stopwatch measures tenths of seconds, it measures thousandths. For precision it can be linked to control units like the starting gun.



ONE-PIECE TELEPHONE INSTRUMENT

The world's first solid-state one-piece telephone instrument has been developed in Sweden. According to SWEDEN NOW, the instrument known as ERICOFON 700 features 'electret' microphone and electronic speech circuit; and push-button dial pulsing which "can be used with any 'touch' calling telephone."

The calling unit too is an electronic tone ringer, designed to be "penetrating and pleasant."



COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL REVIEW

FOCUS:

SPRAY PAINTING GUIDELINES

There is no gainsaying the fact that paints and painting form part of that group of side developments without which hand-marks in industry and technology will be rendered useless by forces of nature. For example, without paints, irons and many

improve productivity and safety on railways has been that made by modern signalling equipment. With it, a few men can control from one power signalbox sections of track which previously would have required several signalboxes at regular intervals along the route. A good example is at London Bridge - BR Southern Region - which was commissioned in 1976. From it are controlled some of the most heavily used tracks in the world. It is responsible for 76 route km (47 route miles) containing 238 km (148 miles) of track, 580 signals, 450 point machines and a possible 900 routes.

Main contractor for the signalling scheme was Westinghouse Brake and Signal Company. The system has one main interlocking and 11 remote interlockings, all controlled from one room in the new signalbox. Normal practice in power signalboxes is for the operators control the points and signals to be mounted in the appropriate positions on the track indication panels. However, because of the complexity of the working at London Bridge - particularly during the morning and evening peak travel hours - the controls are mounted on separate panels with a combined length of 25m (65 feet).

The indication panels themselves have a total length of nearly 30m (100 feet). These panels show a diagram of all the tracks that are controlled from the signalbox including all signals, points and track sections. Each track section contains a small cathode-ray tube on which the number of the train in that section is displayed. As the real train moves along the track, its number automatically progresses from section to section on the panel.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE

Zaire: Still to Borrow

Debt-ridden Zaire is still poised to borrow from the international Money Market despite present huge debts. So far she hasn't borrowed more but International Bankers have no doubt she will soon send out feelers for new loans.

Their fear, however, is in her Credit-worthiness. According to the Financial Times, Zaire failed to promptly pay debt-service dues to Banking concerns in August and September. Last year a consortium of 98 banks saved Mobutu's Zaire from imminent crisis when they signed a new undertaking in a bid to help her meet obligations to Banks to whom Zaire owed an estimated \$300m.

The agreement provided for a further and immediate \$250m credit to restore Zaire's credit rating. On its part, Zaire agreed to the monitoring of its economic performances by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Observers, however, believe that although some hard core banks will refuse any further loan, optimistic Bankers will step in if and when called upon.

INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

TINE AND DISC SEEDING MACHINES

Up to now, most farmers in Africa have not stopped sowing seeds manually. They use their hands not necessarily because they enjoy it but mainly because extensive farming is yet to be engaged in, given ruling land tenure system. However, it is hoped that changing times and tides won't fail to leave their marks here too. Meaning, before long, seeding, indeed most farming activities, will be mechanised.

Among the ready materials, we have the Tine and Disc Seeding Machines made by Australia's Connor Shea & Company Pty Limited. The simplicity of this seeding mechanism enables fine grasses and seeds, up to the size of peas and beans to be sown. They sow into both prepared ground sand unprepared native pastures.

The Tine Seeding machine is much more versatile and can be used for both sowing and cultivation. The disc, on the other hand, is primarily a sowing unit without implements for cultivation.

There are two models of both machines - Linkage and Trailed models. The latter are fitted with grain and fertilizer boxes of the same capacity for all round sowing and are normally longer than Linkage models. Trailed models come in 2.1m, 2.7m and 3.9m units while Linkage ones are either 1.5m, 2.1m or 3.9m comparatively.

In the final analysis, although some of these machines are already in use, for example in Nigeria, with time, they will become more useful in agricultural Africa.

other metals would be of limited use because of adverse chemical reactions. Yet a point is on its own ineffective without the right spraying system. Focus this month, brings to you some guidelines on spray painting aimed at obtaining the right performance from a paint system at a reasonable cost - courtesy of Berger Paints of Nigeria.

Once the operator has made sure his spray gun is the right one, armed with a correctly mixed and strained paint, he should: (i) adjust fluid and atomizing air pressures to suit material and speed of operation; (ii) hold the filled gun at right-angles (90°) to the surface to be painted; (iii) maintain a distance of 15 cm between the surface and the face of the air cap of the gun; and (iv) ensure each stroke is made with a free arm motion with flexible wrist. In addition he should (v) maintain the speed of each successive stroke to make for even coating; (vi) start movement of the gun before triggering and stop trigger before stopping movement. This guides against building up of paint on surface at beginning and end of each stroke; Lastly the operator should: (vii) check abrupt and jerky releases of trigger; and (viii) aim the gun at the extreme edge of the previous stroke to ensure getting the required overlap.

Warned Berger "the edges of a spray pattern tapers off slightly and to obtain even coverage of a surface, it is essential to overlap the previous stroke by approximately 50 per cent."

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COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL REVIEW

ZAMBIA:

Oil Companies Face £4bn Charge

Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda has taken 15 Oil Companies to court for taking part in an alleged oil conspiracy against Zambia. The companies include Shell, British Petroleum, Texaco and Mobil.

According to official sources, the Zambian Government is claiming 5.5 bn. Kwacha (approximately £4bn) as damages for an alleged conspiracy to deprive Zambia of oil and keep rebel Ian Smith going against UN resolutions.

Most of the affected companies acknowledge receipt of the writs early this month. Earlier this year President Kaunda had declared that, thanks to Lonrho, he has concrete evidence of oil companies' involvement in Rhodesia through fictitious companies. He further accused these companies of being responsible for Rhodesians (mostly black) killed with helicopters and other war machines fuelled for action.

NATIONALISATION AT END

Finance Minister, Mr. John Mwanankwawe was early this month quoted as saying that Zambia has "more or less reached the limit" in its Nationalisation Programme. According to the FINANCIAL TIMES, the Minister made the remark while passing through London from IMF meeting in Washington.



The impart mentality that gave birth to the new port. . . . "Ripples being felt in the economy."

Drawing attention to the new Industrial Development Act which was okayed last August by President Kaunda, Mr. Mwanankwawe disclosed that foreign investors were now immuned from nationalisation "unless the highest considerations of public interest" requires otherwise. Under the new Act, investors in special priority areas will be entitled to special treatment in Import Licences and foreign exchange matters.

The new Act replaces the old Pioneer Industries Act which, according to the minister had become "useless" because of insufficient investor incentives.

NIGERIA: A NEW PORT

At a total cost of ₦200m, a new port, believed to be the first of its kind in West Africa, has been built at Tin Can Island near Lagos. It has 15 berths for 10 for very large liners; 2.5 km of hard quay, a 5,000 kw power plant and many other port facilities. It is to be managed by Mr. A. O. Ogunnoki and 2,975 employees including 505 senior members of staff.

At the opening, Chief of Staff Supreme Headquarters Brig. Shehu Yar'Adua received the first two ships to berth—MV River Niger and Dora Delta. The latter is a roll-On, roll-off car vessel and discharged cars using roll-off gadgets at the new port.

Generally, the Tin Can Island port is seen as a welcome fruit of port development policies given priorities after the recent monstrous congestion at the Nigerian ports which led to the use of facilities in neighbouring countries. That congestion, said the Chief of Staff during his opening address, brought the country into "economic crisis whose inflationary ripples are still being felt in the economy."

Intensive port development continues. The third extension to the Apapa wharf and the Port-Harcourt, Calabar, Warri and a host of other ports are in top gear.

SOUTH AFRICA:

'CAN STILL BORROW'

The Financial Times of London early this month quoted racist South Africa's Finance Minister, Senator Owen Horwood, as saying that his country is still able to borrow abroad despite cries over its apartheid policies.

The Minister who was speaking on his return from IMF's meeting in Washington disclosed that he had successfully raised more loans for government and public institutions while in Washington. "Some of these transactions are in the process of being finalised" he said although admitting that all the agreements are for far shorter terms than past trends.

South Africa's capital account has been reading deficit since the beginning of this year. Both short-term and long-term flows have recorded red balances mainly because of massive short-term outflows and repayments on long-term loans.

Earlier on, crisis in domestic capital and property markets had triggered off cold-feet attitudes towards South African Investments but Senator Horwood fails to see a gloomy future. To him it would be possible to top R149m foreign capital requirements he made provision for in his budget.

Meanwhile, African countries are keeping up pressure on Western countries and their companies doing booming business in South Africa. Only recently Nigeria's Obasanjo told American businessmen while in America that the doors of Nigeria are wide open but only for companies without apartheid connections or companies ready to present blue prints on the phasing out of connections they presently have.



MEN AS COMMODITIES

*Henry Atenaga

In 1974, Tanzania's President Nyerere rightly noted that there are men who say "my market value is higher than the salary I am receiving." But humans, except of course slaves, should have no market value. Yet many make this statement when referring to gaps between their know-how and the salary they receive.

The fault is in our system. That educational system geared mainly towards displaying certificates as the key to power and privilege. That system which encourages our using Western yardsticks to measure individual ability without reference to our own social setting. Yes the system that encourages intellectual parasites and discourages talents and creativity.

But the question is: isn't it high time Africa saw the light of day?