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Acheampong's Progress Report

In the first full budget statement since the military régime took over in Ghana Col. Acheampong was able to display some modest optimism (details are summarised on page 1281). For example, each month now sees a visible trade balance, that for May being the best for four years. These results, as every Ghanaian knows, have been achieved partly by reduction in imports through the reintroduction of specific licensing, but there has also been a significant rise in the value of exports, chiefly cocoa — although, as Colonel Acheampong said, the fluctuations in world cocoa prices still make this an uncertain basis for a balance of trade surplus. In its budget estimates the government is placing no reliance on external assistance and the emphasis of the budget is entirely on self-reliance.

This self-reliance is best seen in the significant improvement in the production of food, on the import of which Ghana was spending almost £100m. a year when the military régime took over. It is impossible to say how far the measures initiated by the Busia régime are responsible but this year's production of maize, for example, is expected to be over 30 per cent above last year's and rice production to rise by an even higher percentage. The herring shoals have backed Colonel Acheampong by returning in force to Ghana's shores and the quantity of fish now available is almost embarrassing to the government because of the problems of preparation and marketing. There has been no similar

improvement in the production of crops for the factories, although much foreign exchange could be saved by an increase. For example, although the Ghana Textile Manufacturing Company now has an export trade of well over £1m annually, chiefly to the US, it spends perhaps a similar amount for importing cotton.

Like its predecessor the government has put agriculture in the centre of its programme and has allocated to it some 42 per cent of total expenditure in the economic sector.

The government also lays much importance on the diversification of exports. No doubt there are opportunities for the export of minor crops, notably citrus and pineapple. Nevertheless these

crops seem likely to make only a minor contribution to Ghana's foreign exchange earnings and the centre of agricultural policy should continue to be the efficiency of cocoa growing and the substitution of imported by locally grown food.

The government is also offering a 30 per cent export bonus for most industrial exports, although hitherto these have been relatively insignificant. But for Ghana's balance of trade far more important is the proposed alumina plant which would process local bauxite and supply the Valco aluminium smelter which at present imports alumina.

Neither the alumina plant nor any other development is likely, however, significantly to reduce the unemployment which has been a feature of Ghana for some years. Colonel Acheampong admitted that his government had been unable to do much about this problem; he complained that the people's reluctance to work in "certain fields" was partly to be blamed. He could only appeal to able-bodied people themselves to explore the opportunities for self-employment, particularly in agriculture. The government also hopes, as other governments have in the past, that its rural development programme would make village life more attractive.

It is partly the fear of creating unemployment that prevents the NRC from introducing those economies in government spending which alone could have reduced this year's budget to below



Local government in Nigeria now, decline and fall?

- Bongo and Macias come together
- Sierra Leone: More opposition arrests
- World Bank and West Africa

the level of last year's. In fact, although because of certain omissions the comparison flatters this year's figure, current expenditure in 1972-73 is estimated at some £5m. above the provision for 1971-72. Col. Acheampong warned Ghanaians that they could not, for example, afford the soaring costs of the universities or the health services; but he was unable to announce concrete measures which would significantly reduce these costs. The government is to halve its subvention per pupil at secondary schools, but insists that schools must not put up their fees.

The budget statement suggests that in a number of fields services provided by the government should either produce a profit or should be paid for by those using them. For this reason the Cocoa Marketing Board is now expected to pay for cocoa research, supply of seedlings, and the application of insecticides, as well as Produce Inspections. But the Cocoa Marketing Board is simply the cocoa farmers collectively; and although the cost of these services should not be a serious burden on the Board's income, it still means an additional charge on heavily-taxed cocoa farmers. It is proposed, too, that the engineering and architectural branches of the PWD should become a "self-financing" consultancy company, competing with private companies and operating where possible in the private sector. Although the new company might be able to offer very

much higher salaries than the PWD, it is difficult to see how its establishment could produce any profit for the government since the PWD at present has to use outside experts and the new company would be hard-put to deal with government work, and might charge more for it than the PWD does. Almost as an aside Col. Acheampong said that certain divisions of the Ministry of Agriculture were to become "commercial" concerns; but, again, it is difficult to see how, unless they greatly increase their charges to farmers, these can produce a "profit".

It would be unfair to expect any regime to correct the "structural imbalance" in Ghana's economy within a few months. The imbalance existed even before introduction of the Nkrumah policies, because of the attraction of cocoa growing. The first military régime was concerned with correcting the immediate consequences of Dr Nkrumah's policies. The Busia régime was restricted partly by the need of a democratic government to court popularity and partly by a theoretical approach to economic problems. The new régime can claim to be entirely pragmatic; but the main exception to this pragmatic approach, we would suggest, is its belief that the establishment of new government agencies and the "hiving off" of government responsibilities to allegedly "commercial" bodies can in some way deal with problems which are deeply embedded in Ghanaian society.

Nigerian Local Government: a "Backwater"

From a Correspondent.

When sober scholars speak of possibility that a system of government might "wither and die", it is "with contempt", and at best has "suffering a decline", those who under it should at least take notice. There are some of the views expressed at local government in Nigeria by participants in the third of the annual conferences on local government in Nigeria organised by the Institute of Administration of the University of Lagos. This one was held in Benin and proceedings are now published by the University Press.

Although the book's title suggests that it covers a narrow field, the conference's subject is the central local government. Several contributors urged the need for what amounts to "revenue allocation commission" of a kind which recommends division of revenue between the Federation and States) to recommend division of revenue between the states and local government. It is, indeed, the lack of any guaranteed revenue which is the first weakness of most local authorities in Nigeria, and these authorities are in all cases creatures of the state governments. In the most powerful authorities in the North, the former big NAs, have the state governments taking a large proportion of the revenues they collect. The state governments appear to have an ambivalent attitude towards them, the contributors of papers at the conference agreed that in contrast to the realities, when so much hope was put in the establishment of local authorities on the British model or on the contemporary importance of the traditional authorities in northern Nigeria, local government has become, as Alhaji Mahmud Tahir, Director of the Institute of Administration at Ahmadu Bello University, put it, "a backwater". Establishment of new states has accentuated the importance of local authorities in the north while inducing the state governments "reform" the big NAs by breaking them down into "areas" and the like.

In the South-Eastern state local government has virtually been abolished. Instead we have what is called "development administration", meant to end "undesirable dichotomy" between central and local government and making local authorities simply state agencies.

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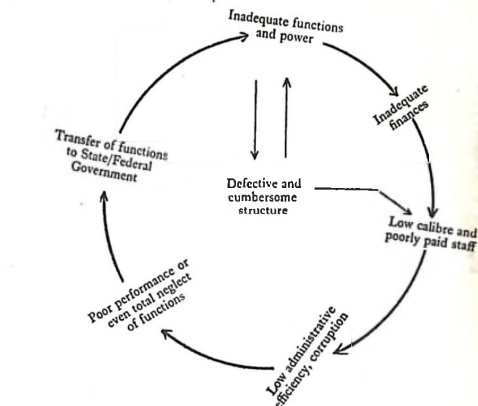
Local Government Finance in Nigeria
edited by Adebayo Adedeji and
Rowland (38s) in Nigeria, £3.50 or \$5.00
elsewhere.

The Benin Conference noted particularly the weakness of local authorities because of their lack of loan funds for capital development, and the delay in the payment of government grants to them. No generalisation is possible about local government in Nigeria, except, possibly, that even in the areas of the northern states where the traditional authorities had been so powerful that to ordinary people they represent "the government" changes initiated by the new state governments have either transferred functions to the state governments or have devolved them to lower authorities on the ground that this would "bring government closer to the people".

Dr. Adehaya Adedeji, Director of the Institute of Administration of Ife when the conference was held and now a Federal Commissioner, even ventured even in his introduction to the book to produce one of the very few illustrations of a "vicious circle" that I have yet seen. It is the vicious circle — entered at what point you will — which faces all local government in Nigeria, where inadequate functions and power are matched by inadequate finances and poor staff, taking one on to poor performance even of the inadequate functions, and the ultimate transfer of some of these functions to the state or federal governments.

It was, perhaps, significantly, Alhaji Mahmud Lukur, a Northerner, who was most dependent, "in terms of historical perspective, local government in Nigeria seems to have been suffering a decline in importance over the last one and a half decades. From being the only major instrument of government the control of which was open to Nigerians, especially in the north, it was relegated to the position of a backwater which at best served as a reservoir for political and administrative talent and at worst was regarded as a redoubt for reaction. In the process of undergoing this almost humiliating change, local government had to contend with a severe decrease in revenues in spite of the rising demands for local services, shrinking budgets and loss of functions. In an era of expanding state responsibilities, regional governments encroached on the functional preserves of local authorities, undermined the traditional authorities and generally subordinated them to regional or state governments. Thus while the principal *raison d'être* is economic development of the rural communities' the actual trend is now towards centralisation 'in spite of the popularity of decentralisation for development as a slogan'" (the quotations come from an article by Wrath and Pickering).

Other contributors of papers to the conference also asked whether "local" government really works in Nigeria today. Mallam Haruna of the Institute of Administration of Ahmadu Bello University notes that "no state seems happy about the position of local financial administration in its local authorities, almost every state has had to transfer control of local authority expenditure to the Divisional Officer or Sole Adminis-



Nigeria in a vicious circle

trator, a process which clearly undermines the very concept of local government. The states seem to be in a dilemma where to go from here, has the idea of truly local government failed in the country, leaving no alternative but direct government administration?"

Mid-West's record

Mr I. M. Okomo, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government in the Mid-west, is bold enough to criticise the performance of his own government in relation to local authorities. "Given a situation in which capital road development grants are no longer paid, in which the rate equalisation grant has never been paid, in which the government is heavily in arrears in respect of the medical and health grants and in which the general education grant has not only disappeared but in which also councils are now required to 'subsidise' school boards, it is difficult to be optimistic about the future prospects of grants-in-aid in the Mid-west. The Ministry of Local Government and Chieftancy Affairs has not, however, given up fighting and one trusts that the experience of other states will strengthen our hands in securing a just treatment for local authorities in the State".

Some of the contributors to the conference note that performance of councillors has been perhaps as disappointing as that of officials in local government. It is suggested, for example, that instead of copying the British system

of a multiplicity of committees of local authorities to look after different aspects of their work — a system which has led to nepotism and corruption — there should be only a single executive committee which might possibly command the best talent available to local authorities. Yet if people of talent and standing, apart from the big emirates of the northern states, stand aside, why should even a single committee perform much better than a multiplicity of committees?

Mr G. Orewa, head of the public administration section of ECA, notes that "for various reasons, illiterate and semi-literate persons have in the past been in the majority on a great many Councils and this is just not good enough if councils are to play an adequate role in the fields of economic and social development and to adopt sound and effective techniques of financial management".

Some critics would go much further. It was not part of this conference's job to question the whole notion of local government or to suggest the shedding of responsibilities to the new state governments in Nigeria or the assumption of responsibility for local government services by state or federal departments. But local government in Nigeria is now in limbo, the absence of reference to it in the Four-Year Development Plan is an illustration. Whether scarce manpower and services are sufficient to serve the Federal and state governments, the statutory corporations and other bodies, as well as local government is one of the most urgent problems Nigeria faces.

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GHANA

NRC'S FIRST BUDGET: 1

An average monthly surplus of almost A£19m in visible trade was earned by Ghana in the first six months of this year compared with an average monthly deficit of over £4m in the same period last year. Introducing the budget for 1972-73 in a broadcast Col. Acheampong said that this surplus was largely due to the decline in imports resulting from the re-introduction of import licensing, an increase in the volume of exports of cocoa, timber, and gold, and improvement in the world cocoa price. The surplus and the suspension of certain external payments had enabled them to build up external reserves and reduce arrears on payments for past imports. The balance of payments, however, was a major constraint on development. Many of the things they imported, and not only food, could be produced locally and there was a need for diversification in exports.

Import licensing, said the NRC chairman, would redirect both consumption and investment from foreign to local sources. A new division in the Ministry of Agriculture would be responsible for development of new crops for export, including ginger and pineapples, and the government's Ghana Export Company would be responsible for marketing. Industrial enterprises would be encouraged to export by a bonus of 30 per cent, with certain exceptions, and they would have preference in obtaining materials and spares. Trade agreements concluded with African countries offered opportunities and they were seeking to restore trade relations with the socialist world.

Col. Acheampong said that the budget was based on "self reliance" and not on assistance from abroad. It was not intended that all the government's economic measures should be contained in the budget since many would be better introduced gradually and at different times. In future a budget would be presented only every two years, in the form of a "programme".

Current expenditure for the coming year was estimated at £329m, compared with £324.3m last year, but this year's estimates did not include post and telecommunications, responsibility for which now lay with an autonomous corporation. Capital expenditure was estimated at just under £98m, of which two-thirds will go to the economic sector, some 18 per cent to the social and some 16 per cent to the administration sector. In current expenditure, however, said Col. Acheampong, the proportion between the sectors was less satisfactory than in capital. For example, pre-university education would take about a quarter of the current expenditure and health services almost an eighth. Increasing population would increase the demand for education and health services.

In current expenditure as a whole

"personal emoluments" accounted for some 70 per cent, a proportion increased by the recent cost of living allowances and salary increases. The government was determined, however, not to create unemployment by retrenchment and they proposed to live off into corporations run on a commercial basis as much government activity as possible. In addition the various services provided by the Ministry of Agriculture for cocoa growers would become the responsibility of the Cocoa Marketing Board.

Halting of construction of new government buildings would greatly reduce government expenditure, suspension of construction of big hospitals would still continue, as opposed to modernisation of existing hospitals and clinics. In addition to the capital budget there would be an "investment programme" of some £20m.

In agriculture "Operation Feed Yourself" was intended to cut down Ghana's imports of food and agricultural raw materials, previously running at some £90m per annum, continued the Colonel, although most items could be produced locally. Maize production in 1971 was some 378,000 tons, but this year it was expected to exceed 485,000 tons and arrangements had been made for storage. An increase in rice production of some 32 per cent was expected this year and of some 24 per cent in yam cultivation, to which some 540,000 acres were now devoted.

Colonel Acheampong referred to the "abundant catch" in the present herring season and claimed that the target for all fish catches would be achieved or in some cases exceeded. Steps were being taken to increase freezing capacity and Ghana Cold Stores would continue to purchase catches at agreed prices. For farmers, too, there were guaranteed minimum prices for staple food and the scheme would be extended to other crops. Increase of the supply of food such as maize, rice and meat was at the centre of the government's policies. They were determined also to produce more sugar cane, cotton, palm oil and coconut oil for the factories. Almost £40m was allocated to agriculture in the budget, and this covered import of machinery and fertilisers etc. The banks were also expected to lend some £25m for agriculture, which claimed 42 per cent of total expenditure in the economic sectors. Some divisions of the Ministry of Agriculture would be turned into "commercial concerns".

Equity shares in a new Bank for Housing and Construction would be held by the government, the Bank of Ghana, commercial banks, and the State Insurance Corporation. It would start with £2m of equity capital and would raise £4m in loans. The government expected the bank to show a profit and other organisations responsible for housing



Herrings to the rescue.

would have to look to it for funds. The Bank should also mobilise individual savings. In the meantime the government was providing over £94m for construction of some 2,300 houses in various parts of the country. Locally-produced building material should be widely used and brick factories would be established in many places. Nima, the Accra suburb, would have a "face lift".

Colonel Acheampong complained that in spite of the trained staff available in the Public Works Department, most government contracts went to private contractors and outside consultants were also employed by the government. Now the engineering and architectural branches of the PWD would be turned into a "self-financing" consultancy company to compete with private firms. The company could pay competitive salaries, and have regional branches. In addition the NRC itself would have a unit to "vet" government projects. To economise on the PWD budget occupants of government houses would in future be responsible for routine maintenance. No more money would be spent on "graveling" roads, since they tended to be washed away by heavy rains. Instead all roads would gradually be given a permanent surface. The PWD had been spending some £13,000 per mile on construction of feeder roads. But in future regional organisations would take over responsibility for these roads and use voluntary labour as far as possible.

Some £65m would be spent on expanding water supplies in 1972-73, continued the Chairman. The programme included some 250 wells, and the taking over from local councils all systems now operated by the Water and Sewerage Corporation.

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MATCHET'S DIARY

In the past few years a number of new privately-owned publishing ventures have been started in Nigeria. This arises partly from a healthy desire not to allow overseas firms to reap all the profits, especially in the field of educational books, but it is also a by-product of the natural spread of education. Now a State government has, for the first time, interested itself in the publishing field. The Ethiopie Publishing Corporation, owned by the MidWest State Government, was originally set up for publishing the magazine *Impact*. It was later decided, however, to develop book publication, and later to close the magazine. Ethiopie, set up as an independent company to operate on the same basis as other commercial publishers in Nigeria, has now produced its first list. Although primarily intended to produce educational books, particularly for use in establishments in the MidWest, Ethiopie has a number of works of general interest.

The Chairman of Ethiopie is Dr. Abiola Irele, who at the moment is between posts at the universities of Ile (African Studies) and Ibadan (Modern Languages). He has contributed a number of articles to this journal in the past, including two on the Martiniquais poet-playwright Anne Caune, the subject of his doctoral thesis at the Sorbonne. Irele, in London on his way to the Frankfurt Book Fair, drew my attention in particular to a book on the Ethiopie list, *The 1963 Nigerian Census: A Critical Appraisal*, by I. I. Hammar of Ile University. This is a critical analysis of one of the most controversial subjects of Nigeria's history since independence, and draws on a lot of hitherto unpublished material collected by the census, attempting to evaluate it. It is due to be published in October. Ethiopie's list also includes works on Namibia and Zimbabwe, and, under "in preparation", *The Tragic Years: Nigeria in Crisis, 1966-70*, by Ola Balogun, of Ile University; *Poems 1957 to 1972* by Gabriel Okara, and *Cavava Ghost* by Ezenia F. Eze. More specialised works include such titles as the Papers of the Third Annual Conference of the Nigerian Society of International Law, with a preface by Dr. I. O. Elias; *Earthworm*, the first in a series called *Dissection Guides of Common Tropical Animals*; *Igbo-English Dictionary*, edited by Dr. K. Williamson, of Ibadan University, and *Motherhood and Child Care*, by J. Iyabode Macauley, with a foreword by Chief Simeon Adebajo (Irele describes this as a "Nigerian Doctor Spock").

Liberia's Dollars

Many visitors to Liberia are surprised to find that, with the exception of small coins, there is no Liberian currency. The country has always used American dollars and President Tubman for a long time resisted any suggestion of issuing separate Liberian currency. He maintained that the American currency

gave the outside world complete confidence in Liberia's creditworthiness, a confidence which has indeed survived in spite of the country's numerous applications for help to the IMF. Before he died, however, the President said that the government was considering the issue of a separate currency.

In spite of the advantages Mr. Tubman saw in Liberia's use of American currency, the system has had disadvantages as well. Some of these are pointed out in an article by Mr. Romeo Horton in the first issue of *Liberian Economic and Management Review*, to be published twice a year by the College of Business and Public Administration in the University of Liberia. Mr. Horton, himself a banker who has held several important positions in Liberia, points out that the Bank of Monrovia is responsible for importing US dollars and so is responsible for providing the economy with its money supply. Moreover the predominance of foreign ownership in the commercial banks denies the government the opportunity of influencing the economy through monetary policy. In Liberia, however, monetary policy would only have a limited role in influencing the economy, which depends so largely on the export of primary products and the import of foreign capital.

Nevertheless, as a first step towards monetary independence, Mr. Horton suggests that a Central Bank should be established whether or not a national currency is created. Such a bank could promote savings, allocate credit, aid development finance institutions, and generally assist the government in fiscal and development policies. It can be argued that the cost of establishing the bank would not be justified, but Mr. Horton says that the present system is also a costly one for the government. There is obviously a shortage of staff, but Liberia has less inhibitions than many other countries about employing expatriates.

A Ban Lifted

I am pleased to see that the government has now lifted the ban on the weekly *Accra Echo* and the daily *Kumasi Pioneer*. Both newspapers were banned immediately after the attempted coup in July. The *Pioneer*, formerly the *Ashanti Pioneer* and established by the late John Tsiaboe as part of his successful printing business, has always shown a remarkable independence and was banned by Dr. Nkrumah in 1962, and did not appear again until Dr. Nkrumah's overthrow. The *Echo* is a much newer newspaper and was established after the overthrow of Dr. Nkrumah with Mr. B. J. Da Rocha, General Secretary of Dr. Busia's Progress Party, as one of its directors. The lifting of the ban greatly strengthens the independent press in Ghana where government-owned newspapers tend to dominate the field. The lifting of the ban also shows self-confidence.



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GHANA

Subversion trial continues

Capt. Cephas Baiden, a witness for the prosecution, claimed at the military tribunal that Mr. George Ofoosu Amaah told him that the families of all officers to be killed in the alleged coup would be paid compensation. Others to be compensated would be invalids and the few trusted officers who would be laid off after the coup. Mr. Ofoosu Amaah, he alleged, said that all soldiers who had done less than six years' service would be dismissed. Capt. Baiden said that he had been told by Mr. Ofoosu Amaah that Dr. Busia and some businessmen knew of the coup and that support for the attempt would be spontaneous in Accra and Kumasi. Mr. Ofoosu Amaah is also alleged to have told a meeting of some of the alleged plotters that he intended sending a Mr. Imoru Salifu to campaign for support in the Northern and Upper Regions; but because of police surveillance on him he was not able to go. Present at the meeting were Sgt. Opon-Nyantakyi, Major Zuma, Warrant Officer Kwadzode, Mr. George Ofoosu Amaah and himself, he claimed.

Capt. Baiden, continuing his evidence, said that Mr. Ofoosu Amaah told this meeting of the formation of a National Constitutional Committee at 8 a.m. on July 14. It would consist only of Sgt. Opon-Nyantakyi, Major Zuma, W/O Kwadzode and himself (Capt. Baiden). It



Mr. George Ofoosu Amaah (foreground).

The nine persons, four civilians and five soldiers, accused of conspiracy to commit subversion, subversion, and concealment of subversion are: Mr. Emlu Adzima, former press secretary to Dr. Busia; Mr. George Ofoosu Amaah, Director of the Special Branch under Dr. Busia; Mr. Daniel Owusu Dzekwa Atankorah; Mr. David Afful Bimpong; Sgt. Kwaku Nimako, Wilberforce Agyare, Sandys Johnson Opon-Nyantakyi, Pta. Charles Adu Boateng and Kwaku Oduro. The trial is being held in public before a military tribunal at Barnah Camp. Members of the tribunal are: Col. C. R. Tachie-Menson (President of the tribunal), Maj. R. K. M. Dzankpa, Maj. G. N. Goumil, Lt. Col. E. K. Urua, Mr. Justice D. F. Annan (Judge Advocate), Maj. Tom-Addy, Lt. Cdr. C. G. Lokko and Maj. T. M. K. Adu.

would rule by decrees and proclaims for 14 days after which power would be handed over to Dr. Busia. There going to be mass promotions in ranks in the armed forces.

Cross-examined by Mr. J. R. M. O.C., defence counsel for Mr. Ofoosu Amaah, Capt. Baiden said that Ofoosu Amaah acted as supreme national commander in the alleged plot for himself and Maj. Zuma, he added. Mr. Ofoosu Amaah's immediate subordinates.

Giving evidence earlier W/O Kwaku Oduro alleged that Mr. Gbedemah gave orders to soldiers of the Field Engineers to stage a coup but this was aborted. The 100th Regiment was left out of Opon-Nyantakyi, he claimed, and when telling him of the civilians supported the alleged plot. Sgt. Opon-Nyantakyi then allegedly said soldiers from the Field Engineers Regiment who were guarding the main gate of the NRC would arrest him. Sgt. Opon-Nyantakyi, Maj. Zuma, W/O Kwadzode and Maj. Baah, both members, Sgt. Agyare, who, with Oduro and Adu-Boateng was present at the discussion near the Continental Hotel was alleged to have added that a man from the Field Engineers Regiment guarding the airport had announced about the capture of the airport.

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The Bank on the Farm

In its annual report for 1972 (see page 1294) the World Bank records that greater emphasis is being placed on agriculture, especially in Africa, as the Bank takes a more comprehensive approach to rural development. Between 1971 and 1972 the number of projects being executed increased by a sixth and over a quarter of this was accounted for by agriculture.

The World Bank has recently issued a series of pamphlets dealing with the various sectors (e.g. education, power, transport etc.) to which it directs its lending. Although they were not originally intended for publication the World Bank decided to publish them to give a better idea of its activities seen as a broad assessment rather than as projects.

The Sector Working Paper on agriculture discusses the part played by agriculture in achieving the goals of increased production and exports, greater employment and a better distribution of income. After discussing the challenges facing agriculture and major policy issues, the paper reviews the Bank's activities in agriculture and its future role.

In the agricultural sector the Bank's main activities, says the paper, take various forms. The most obvious is direct lending for projects. But much of the lending in other sectors, e.g. transport, power, education and industry, also benefits agriculture indirectly. The agricultural sector is one of the most difficult to manage in that the Bank can meet problems in agreeing with governments on satisfactory programmes. The pattern of past agricultural lending described, says the paper, is not a guide to the future. Much innovation will be required.

Direct lending for agriculture has greatly accelerated, explains the pamphlet. By the end of June 1971 it had reached a cumulative total of about \$2.5m. But until the early 1960s the importance of agriculture was not recognised, thus limiting the Bank's operations in that sector. In 1948-63 loans for agriculture amounted to only \$628m for 71 projects, 8.5 per cent of total lending. It was in 1963 that the Bank decided to increase support for agricultural development, aided by establishment in 1960 of the International Development Association, the bank's "soft-loan" affiliate. It then became possible to expand activities in very poor countries where agriculture was frequently of the highest priority. However this effort was initially hampered by a shortage of well-prepared projects. Greater assistance was then provided for the identification and preparation of projects. Thus direct lending for agricultural development for 1964-68 amounted to about \$600m., for 46 projects, almost as much as during the

previous 16 years. The proportion of agriculture in the Bank's total lending rose to 12 per cent.

In 1968 the World Bank decided to accelerate its involvement in agriculture. The target adopted was that over the five years 1969-73 lending should total about \$400m., four times as much as in the previous five years. "By the end of 1971", says the paper, "60 per cent of the time had elapsed and around 50 per cent of the target had been reached. About \$1,200m. had been committed for 96 projects, which was almost equal to the total agricultural lending during the previous 21 years." In 1969-71 agriculture's share in total lending rose to almost 19 per cent. The 1969-73 target should be met from projects under way.

The most noticeable trend in lending since the 1960s, however, has been diversification from basic irrigation infrastructure into on-farm activities, technical services and related rural development. Individual projects are becoming more comprehensive, the stress being put on general rural development.

How does the World Bank see its future role? It intends to continue to give agricultural investment high priority in developing countries, especially as bilateral aid for agricultural projects is comparatively small. For 1974-78 the Bank's agricultural lending programme is

projected at about \$4,400m., almost double that for the previous four years. The World Bank expects to remain the main external source of agricultural project financing in the 1970s. Although its contribution to overall investment in agriculture in developing countries will still be relatively small, it will rise from the present 1.2 per cent to about 4.5 per cent. The Bank proposes to raise the annual lending rate from the target of about \$500m. for about 40 projects in 1972 to \$750-850m. for about 60 projects in the mid-1970s and to about \$1,000m. for about 70 projects by 1978. Thus the Bank's share of external assistance for agricultural projects should rise to about 50 per cent by the mid-1970s, assuming, of course, that bilateral aid can be raised to \$350-450m. per annum.

The direction of future lending, it is hoped, will reflect the progress made in resolving many questions of agriculture's role in overall development. "For example, will the agricultural products of developing countries be given better access to markets in the developed countries? How might protein deficiencies in many traditional and low income diets be avoided? What constitutes the essential minimum of factors necessary to stimulate broad-based rural development?" etc. In view of such factors the Bank finds it difficult to predict long-term trends in its agricultural lending programme. But it feels that in the short term many trends that have become apparent in recent lending may be expected to continue.

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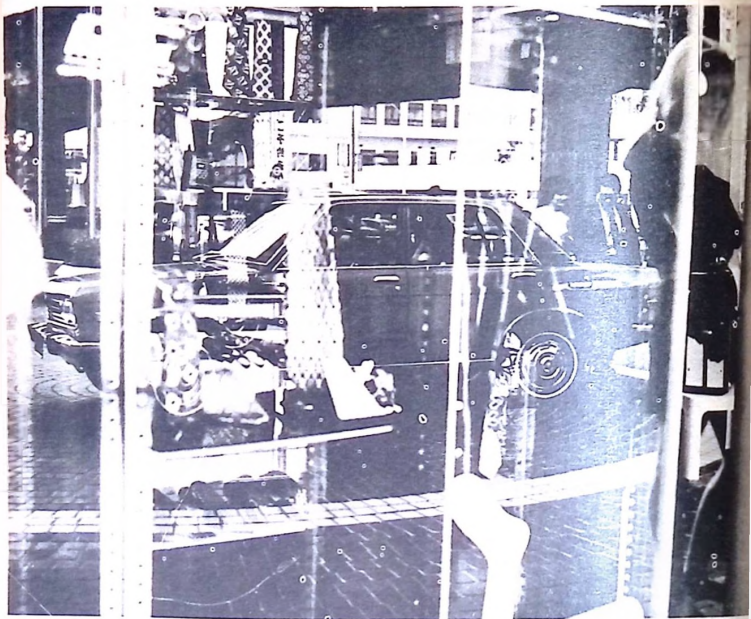
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Books and Publications

Creative schizophrenia

Dream on Monkey Mountain, by Derek Walcott (*Jonathan Cape, £2 60*) *Water with Berries*, by George Lamming (*Longmans, £2 00*). *J---*, Black Bam and the Masqueraders, by Garth St Omer (*Faber and Faber, £1 50*)

Derek Walcott has acquired considerable prestige as a poet since his first prizewinning volume *In a Green Night* was published ten years ago. There has still been, however, a tendency to pigeonhole him as a "Caribbean Eliot", or something similar, although his main work for the last nine years has been in the theatre as Director and Chief Playwright of the Trinidad Theatre Workshop. *Dream on Monkey Mountain* is a volume of some of the short plays he has written and seen performed in the Caribbean over the last twenty years.

Inexplicably, the book has had a total critical neglect in London, although it appeared at the beginning of the year. I say inexplicably, because as well as the plays, which are the essence of the book, Walcott has written a lengthy prologue called "What the Twilight Says" about his own experience as playwright. "It should not be considered either as an apologia or a manifesto" he says, but he has put so much of his heart and soul into it that it could be both, and a lot more besides.

The "twilight" is the colonial condition, especially in the Caribbean, and especially as related to culture. "My first poems and plays" he writes, "expressed this yearning to be adopted, as the bastard longs for his father's household. I saw myself legitimately prolonging the mighty line of Marlowe, of Milton, but my sense of inheritance was stronger because it came from estrangement. I would learn that every tribe hoards its culture as fiercely as its prejudices, that English literature, even in the theatre, was hallowed ground and trespass, that colonial literatures could grow to resemble it closely but could never be considered its legitimate heir. There was folk poetry, colonial poetry, Commonwealth verse, etc., and their function, as far as their mother country was concerned, was filial and tributary. I sighed up a continent of envy when I studied English literature, yet when I tried to talk as I wrote, my voice sounded affected or too raw."

He is equally hard on the "African" phase, "with our pathetic African carvings, poems and costumes, and our art objects are not sacred vessels placed

on altars but goods placed on shelves for the tourist... The result is not one's own thing but another minstrel show. When we produced Soyinka's masterpieces *The Road*, one truth, like the murderous head lamps of his mammy-waggons, trans fixed us... We tried, in the words of his Professor, to 'hold the god captive' but for us, Afro-Christians, the naming of the god estranged him. Ogun was an exotic for us, not a force... Like the Professor, only worse, we had lost both gods, and only blasphemy was left."

Even the cultural forms which were considered to be authentic "steelbandsmen, carnival masker, calypsonian and limbo dancer" have been trapped in the State's concept of the folk form, for they preserve the colonial demeanour and threaten nothing". Says Walcott "The lean, sinewy strength of the folk-dance has been fattened and sucked into the limbo of the night-club, the hotel cabaret, and all other prostitutions of a tourist culture, before you is the vision of a hundred Havanas and mini-Miams and who dares tell their Tourism Boards and Cultural Development Committees that the blacks in bondage at least had the resilience of their dignity, a knowledge of their degradation, while their descendants have gone both flaccid and colourful, covering their suffering with artificial rage or commercial elation?"

The experiment with a West Indian theatre, then, is at the heart of Walcott's philosophy and is inextricably bound up with culture, identity, and in the end politics: "the future of West Indian militancy lies in art", he writes, and speaks of the creative inspiration of the Black Jacobins of Haiti, and the strength and truth of the small island fishermen (the subject of one of the plays). Above all he writes of the people's need for a language, to be achieved by the "writer's making creative use of his schizophrenia, an electric fusion of the old and the new."

The plays themselves illustrate Walcott's attempt to produce the true and the real, seen, for example in the use of the form of the folk tale, as in *Triglan and his Brothers*, and the way in which he tries to marry the St. Lucian French *patois*, the vernacular English of the islands, and the English of the verse drama. This is something that he has experimented on very effectively in his poetry and it translates well into the theatre. Although when writing about his

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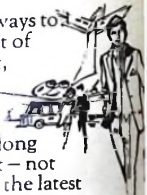
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own theatrical company Walcott is enigmatic, his constant self-questioning and doubts are somehow reassuring.

The two novels by authors from the West Indies, Lamming and St. Omer, both in their own ways illustrate the same cultural predicament. Lamming's concerns a group of Caribbean emigrés in London, their relations with each other and their home island (San Cristobal, which has featured in earlier Lamming novels). The tension is worked out by half-excluding the reader from what is going on, yet sustaining him by dazzling writing. Out of the wilful obscurity, the insistent and at times awful violence and arson, the obsessional introspection of the characters, a world is built.

St. Omer is easier to read, almost too easy, for the book is deeper than it might appear. His plot, too, concerns frustration with the Caribbean condition and its effect on personal relations. Walcott's description of the religious processions of his childhood (with madmen as actors) is echoed exactly in the importuning masqueraders, *J—* and *Black Ban*. The contempt of the masqueraders leads one of St. Omer's heroes to ask "Was it then that I decided I should become mad? I do not know. But the next morning I did not go to church. Nor have I been since. They say I'm mad. I know it's only that I have chosen a way to live with my confusion and with the pain that results from my inability to resolve it".

K. W.

The banned Bédi

Main Basse Sur le Cameroun: autopsie d'une décolonisation: Le Mongo Bédi, Maspéro Paris. Cahiers Libres 240-241, 1972, Fr. 16,50.

Not many African novelists have wished or dared to embark on the stormy seas of political polemic, at least in their writings. One of the best among them during the past twenty years, Mongo Bédi, does so now with all the fire and brilliance of a remarkable talent. The author of *Cruel City* (published under the pen-name of Eza Boto) and of *The Poor Christ of Bomba* sets out to tell the story of his native land, Cameroon, since the earliest stirrings of modern nationalism there in 1945, and the foundation in 1949 of the Union des populations du Cameroun (UPC). It is a story, as we all know, that is nothing if not painful whether in what came before Cameroon's accession to the formal independence of 1960, or even more in what came after. In Bédi's hands, it is a story of official violence, betrayal and corruption told in fearful detail that is harsh for Gaullist France but harsher still for the régime of President Ahidjo.

Bédi's judgment on events can be gauged by the titles he has chosen: *The Hitacked Cameroon: Inquest on a Décolonisation*. His heroes are the rank and file of the UPC and the leaders of Cameroonian nationalism who "took up arms against the faked elections" of 1956, and who, based largely on the

support of Bamileké and other "southern" groupings, have ever since carried on their war for a decolonisation which they could accept as genuine.

He recalls the violent death in 1958 of Ruben Um Nyobé, founder of the UPC, the still more squalid assassination of Nyobé's successor, Félix Moumié, in a Geneva hotel, and similar events, as the background to a description of the later execution or imprisonment of other UPC leaders, notably Ernest Ouandié. These he compares with the pillars of the régime, "His Excellency Al Haj Ahmadou Ahidjo, President of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, father of the Fatherland, pioneer of Negro-ness, defender of African Dignity" and with others in a "devastating cyclone" of élitist rule which began in 1960.

The second half of the book is more narrowly concerned with events since 1969, and especially with the prosecution and persecution of Bishop Albert Ndongo, a Bamileké prelate accused of complicity with Ouandié. The detail here acquires an ever more harrowing impact, both from its nature and from the hammer-blows of Bédi's prose, and it opens doors on many grim corridors of power and protest. If Bédi can be asked why he did not make a novel of this most contemporary drama, he can as well reply that no invention could match the reality of what merely happened, and that, if he had written it in novel form, this reality would very possibly have been set aside by, or as, a mere frantically exaggerated

this new work of Bédi's forms another important item in the "dossier of décolonisation" of the 1960s.

It remains, one has to add, a very "francophone" work. Its few comparisons with non-francophone Africa are loyally Parisian. Thus the situation in Cameroon, we are told, has been "identical with that of Nigeria, where Muslims have also tried in one way or other to suppress the Biafran élite", just as Muslims in Cameroon have acted against their "southerners", though with the difference, Bédi adds, that Muslims in Cameroon do not have the weight of numbers on their side.

This characteristically Parisian error shared by Bédi in no way prevents him from setting out to demonstrate that Paris has generally misunderstood the situation in Africa and particularly in Cameroon. But here he is on his own ground, and speaks from a personal experience, aiming many sharp and shrewd thrusts at the Africa specialists of *Le Monde* and other journals.

All this "domestic" polemic, however skillfully conducted, somewhat reduces the book's value for a wider audience. On the other hand, one might have thought Paris would have found it flattering that Bédi should concentrate so greatly on what Paris thinks. Not so. The book was banned by the French authorities almost as soon as it appeared this June. It could be argued, of course, that there can be no better proof of its effectiveness.

Basil Davidson

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China and "exotic" Africa

China and Africa in the Middle Ages by Teobaldo Filesi, translated by David L. Morrison (Cass £2 50).

"Evidence of the long contacts with other parts of the world enjoyed by black Africa continues to refute the idea of a continent totally isolated in pre-colonial times. Signor Filesi, Director of the Istituto Italiano per l'Africa, whose work has been translated by the Director of London's Central Africa Research Centre, traces the history of China's relations with the coastal peoples of East Africa back to the remote times which saw the first migration of Malaysian people to Madagascar, and after examining available material concludes that China's peaceful ventures by sea into "the exotic world of Africa" were the result of national propensities, of commercial interests, of technical ability and of the remarkable nautical knowledge acquired by the Chinese. Both the junks and the fleets which sailed to East Africa were of remarkable size. Signor Filesi rejects the notion that by the middle of the 13th century the Arabs had driven the Chinese from the Indian Ocean, preferring the evidence that in the following two centuries, particularly at the time of the great Ming fleets in the early 15th century, China herself dominated the seas between East Africa and Japan.

Particularly interesting is the evidence

from Chinese coins and porcelain found in East Africa, some belonging to the eighth century. Signor Filesi is naturally cautious in drawing clear-cut conclusions from these finds, and citing the differing views about them of a large number of authorities, urges the need for further excavation and for collation of existing finds.

The Chinese, unlike earlier and later visitors to East Africa, confined themselves to the coast and attempted no systematic penetration of the interior or settlement at the ports. Their sporadic visits had little effect on the lives of the local people, yet Signor Filesi, whose book was first published in 1962 when the modern Chinese influence in East Africa was not as evident as it is now, concludes by suggesting that further study and research may still yield new and surprising revelations.

There are some attractive illustrations, including some of pottery, porcelain and coin finds, reproductions of maps. The cover also carries a reproduction (which appears as a plate as well) of the famous Chinese painting of the giraffe sent to the Chinese court from Bengal - although Signor Filesi does not agree with the idea that it was to get giraffes, which, according to the Chinese inscription on the picture walks "in stately fashion" and has a voice as harmonious as a bell) that the Chinese went to East Africa. The references and the bibliography are very extensive for so short a book.

D.W.

Organisational Aspects of Agro-Industrial Development Agencies by Hans Blume (Weltforum Verlag, 46 Deutschmarks).

Research for this valuable study to the author to Dahomey, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Mauritius and five other African countries and the result is nine studies of organisations responsible for three crops: tea, cotton and oil palm. The Société pour le Développement l'Exploitation du Palmier à l'Ivoire, Ivory Coast, Mr. Blume is able to point to clear evidence that the agency pays higher rates to smallholders than they could earn by comparable agricultural work ("the 1st January 1969 the agricultural labourer's guaranteed minimum wage was nine cents an hour. In fact, in the fact blocks of SODEPALM, SO.7, SO.94 and SO.115 were paid per day. These figures represent payment for different kinds of work and are net sums after deducting 22 per cent for welfare services and taxes).

SODEPALM is one of the most interesting of the organisations studied and the overall conclusion is that "the expected initial losses have been reduced despite low harvests, which is an encouraging sign in a branch of the economy which still seems to think in terms of subsidies". In spite of a number of criticisms - including the relative high proportion of non-Africans on the management side and inadequate numbers of extension staff - the company is found to be "surprisingly progressive and dynamically run. This contrasts with some of the other agencies which are reviewed (Dahomey's SONADER, for example, is advised to delegate complicated questions such as planning outside consulting companies). The comparisons and cross-fertilisation of ideas which follows from choosing geographically diverse but sectorally related projects is one of the book's most useful features, and shows again that African countries need look only as far as each other's experiences and not to those of Europe.

Law, Order and Liberty in South Africa by A. S. Mathews (University of California Press).

The bulk of this book is a scholarly analysis by an academic jurist (the author is Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Durban) of South Africa's internal security laws. The detail is all in this section, but the author's commentary, which is the most interesting to the general reader, falls within a little more than fifty pages at the end of the work under the general title "Freedom, Order and the Democratic Society". Even here, however, in a measured critique of repressive racialist policy, the brutal reality of South Africa's internal security legislation seems at one degree removed, although his conclusion "the great danger is that accommodation will begin only when the force of such pressures [rapidly growing internal and external] is irresistible" seems in an ironic way to summarise the dilemma of the white South African liberal democrats. Why should it necessarily be a "great danger"?

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Letters to the Editor

Iran and aid

SIR - I see in Matchet's Diary (September 8) reference to the discussion which took place in the programme called "Controversy" about overseas aid and it is said that I could not explain why the work of economic development and in particular population control could not be financed by the countries which are benefitting - and special reference was made to Iran.

I should like to make it clear that Iran is spending from its own resources more per head of the population on an imaginative family planning campaign than any other country in the world. Obviously Iran is in a good position to undertake this task, and indeed Iran has set an example to the world.

But Iran came to the United Nations asking for guidance and advice and it seems to me a valuable function which the United Nations is performing of being ready to give guidance and advice to any country in the world which asks for it, and to provide that guidance and advice promptly.

Our team which went in response to the Iranian request included some of the best expert opinion in the world and I think that the plan whereby Iran meets the cost of its own programming but can turn to international authorities for guidance and assistance in pursuing its courageous policy is right.

CARADON

House of Lords

Who do you know?

SIR - Allow me to add a new dimension to the grudge, frustration and problems of qualified Nigerians abroad. Whether new or old the adage is now who you know and not what you know. Admittedly, there is a human element involved, and Western democracy must share part of the blame also but the dimension with which it is carried on in Nigeria today almost amounts to a national scandal and leaves much, if not a lot more, to be desired.

It is bad for development and for management. It is humiliating, belittling, and definitely undermines the confidence of those who are asked to serve the country only in the name of patriotism (as some writers mentioned). Need we have to beg for a job in our fatherland also?

M. KOJA ASHIMI

London

"Third world" myth

SIR - May I refer to reports in West Africa (June 30 and July 7). It is distressing that on this side of the twentieth century, when we hear so much of development, a situation can arise where one nation richer in income and supposedly far-minded can hold to *laissez-faire* over cement clinker, another nation poorer in income and struggling and fighting for its economic life.

The Norwegian's stoppage of supplies to Ghana must result in under-employment of plant, ancillary installations, and capital, in some under-employment or, in both. And the stoppage must add to the difficulties of a country making a determined effort to stand on

its own feet economically. The Bank of Ghana has had to provide a guarantee of hard-earned foreign exchange to get the Norwegians' to resume the supply of clinker.

This kind of situation could arise anywhere in the "Third World", because its development seems to have been following the colonial pattern with the result that local materials are often discounted, potential skills are perhaps unchallenged, and mental courage and initiative are somewhat undermined by what amounts to brainwashing and conditioning. This last influence makes the third world believe, for instance, that the secrets of most technical processes are mysterious and extremely complicated, and beyond reach.

To break this myth we must take the bull by the horns and seriously consider what we can do with our local materials, talent, and existing facilities. We have been made to believe that secrets and techniques appropriate to our needs and resources are buried deep and are inaccessible. But they are NOT.

The writer will be prepared to offer advice to any interested country or institution.

T. M. KODWO MERCER

London

Not in the CIA

SIR - In your article "The US and the Nigerian War" (September 8) I was rather amused and embarrassed to see my name, John Vianney, as the CIA code for the invasion of the Mid-West of Nigeria in 1967!

The embarrassment is all the greater because I work as an editor of the Africa Section of *Deutsche Welle* in Cologne, and recently edited a book *Politische Perspektiven Afrikas* which contained a chapter on "The Problem of Stability in Nigeria 1960-1966" by Dr. A. E. Afgho.

Since I travel a good deal in Africa I would be grateful if you could include a line in your next edition stating that the John Vianney, quoted in the CIA telegram bears no relation to the John Vianney, an Africanist at *Deutsche Welle* in Cologne.

JOHN VIANNEY

Cologne

Ghana and the Games

SIR - At this time of economic chaos and political instability, I wonder why Ghana is participating in international games.

Like China, Guinea and many other countries we should refrain from such participation for some time and start to organise ourselves locally until we reach high standards. It is appalling to see our men and women in almost every international gathering coming out with poor results only because we cannot now afford modern facilities to develop and train them to international level.

When a country is economically bankrupt, it affects it not only in the economy but also its social, cultural and political fields.

International events like the Olympics boost the prestige of the participating countries and almost every citizen feels proud to find his country at the games. But it is rather funny and a waste of funds sending poorly trained lads to the Olympics, Commonwealth and other games while there is chaos at home and when our leaders have had to go round the world borrowing and begging to re-equip our huge debts.

London

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People

Summer 1972 has seen a variety of West African bands performing in Britain's major cities. Their presence provides a breath of home to the student summer dances which are held every summer in the town halls of areas with large West African student populations, a breath that was provided in the early 1960s by *Abraham and Akani*, a highlife band led by Abraham Onyenobia, a former economics student, and Akanni, a bassist who had had a huge following during his days with *Victor Olajide and his All Stars*. The bands who make the journey can generally be divided into two types: the traditional musicians and the pop groups. The first category includes the "jaja" musicians from Nigeria whose brand of music is embedded in Yoruba folk-song and dance. These groups, who perform mainly at dances organised by the various sections of the Yoruba student body, this year included *Chief Comedian Ebenezer Ohey* and his *International Brothers Band*, *General Premier Adenike and his Western State Brothers* and *Dr Orlando Owoh and his Onigbale Brothers*. Consisting of between four and six guitarists and another four to six drummers, their highly rhythmic music can be appealing even to non-Yorubas. As well as these Nigerian groups there have been the musicians and singers who visited London in July to participate in the Mauding Conference organised by the London School of Oriental and African Studies. They included four female singers and cora players from The Gambia, the Senegalese Instrumental Ensemble and performers from Mali.

On the pop front, the summer has seen a cross-section of bands from both West and Central Africa. From Sierra Leone came the *Afro-National Band* whose music is rooted in the rhythms of the highlife, calypso, meringue and the thumba but who also occasionally break into Western-style numbers such as *Black Magic Woman*, and kwela songs like *Malaka* (vocalist Patricia Koroma follows Miriam Makeba's style). In a similar vein was the *African Fiesta Dance Band* from Zaire, whose music helped belie the general belief that African music is oriented only around the drums — their crisp guitar work highlighting the long tradition which many parts of Africa have had with string instruments (this was further emphasised by the strings of The Gambian cora players). Further along the spectrum is *Bukutu*, formerly known as *Pawalele* (El Pollos). Like most African bands, this Ghanaian group is large in terms of sound and personnel. Carl Jones, lead guitar. George Joannides, bass. Eric Okine, drums. Darku Adams, congas. Kafi Gyan, organ. Ray Allen, tenor sax/flute/vocals. Joseph Garteay, vocals and various percussions, and Araba Dadson, vocals



Joseph Garteay of Bukutu

and cabasa *Bukutu*, was formed less than a year ago and have already released two records. Their music bears much similarity to that of *Osibisa*, being punctuated by whistles, spontaneous chants and general "jungle" atmospheres, an understandable coincidence since three members of *Osibisa*, the leading exponents of "Afro-rock" in Britain, also come from Ghana (one of the West Indian members of the group, Spartacus R., has apparently decided to "go solo").

Apart from *Bukutu* and *Fela Ransome-Kuti and his Africa '70* who

travelled to Britain last year and music is closely copied by the new African groups, most bands from the region spend the entire summer performing for the African community, rarely breaking into the British circuit and consequently failing to attract British audiences. But most summer pilgrimages musically satisfy both because their presence in Britain provides an opportunity to study the music scene there at first-hand because it enables them to make recordings which are later released in their home markets. What they need in addition to these benefits is better organisational promotion of their tours so that they can broaden their appeal to take in the British audience.

The former President of Dahomey, Emile Derlin Zinsou, who was deposed in an army coup in 1969, has paid a courtesy visit on President Etienne Eyadema in Lomé. Asked by reporters whether he had definitely given up politics, Dr. Zinsou said "when you are attached to the destiny of your country you cannot be disinterested in political affairs in the widest and most noble sense of the word". Of the ruling President of Dahomey (currently chaired by Justin Ahomadegbe Tometin) he said they were "accomplishing a difficult task, but added "I do not feel I can in judgment on this council nor on the method of acting".

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World Bank in West Africa

By a correspondent

In less than a decade the World Bank has carved a critical role for itself in Africa's development efforts. In terms of cash, the Bank's report for the year to June 30, 1972 shows that over the last four years average annual lending to developing African countries has increased by a factor of 2.9, as a result of a deliberate shift in policy by the President, Mr. Robert McNamara. Even more significant has been its re-think on the region's development problems and the advice it has tendered.

In West Africa, the Bank's first experiences were unsatisfactory. Of the 20 countries in the area, only Ghana joined the Bank as an independent country before the early 1960s. The French Government was suspicious regarding the Bank as American-dominated and its approaches as interfering.

In British-ruled Africa, Colonial officials failed to appreciate that the Bank was undergoing a major transformation from the days when its activities were concentrated on the reconstruction of post-war Europe. They were reluctant to put their faith in the Colonial (now Commonwealth) Development Corporation, although its deficiency, shortage of convertible currency, was precisely what the Bank could repair.

By 1963, loans totalling only \$130m had been made in colonial West Africa with the guarantee of the metropolitan powers, for transport, power and mining projects in Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and Upper Volta.

It was in the following year that the Bank's deeper involvement began. A Permanent Mission for Western Africa was set up in Abidjan to help governments identify and prepare projects which the Bank or its easy-term affiliate, the International Development Association, could finance. Since then the cumulative total of lending has risen to \$1,200m., more than two-thirds of the increase occurring in the last four years.

For many countries, the annual report notes, lack of trained staff for preparing projects has been a continuing obstacle to the success of diversification policies. "The Bank has helped to fill this gap chiefly through its mission in Abidjan and the work of the sector and general economic missions. Occasionally loans and credits include funds to finance project identification work in the same or related fields, or to carry out feasibility studies or preparatory work for projects already identified". This spotlighting another feature of the Bank which gives a particular usefulness in Africa is that not only capital, but technical assistance and trained manpower.

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The Bank works closely in West Africa with various bilateral agencies, as well as with the EEC's FED, the UN Development Programme, the UN specialised agencies and the African Development Bank.

Occasionally, co-operation is taken even further, as with cotton and food crop expansion in Dahomey (the total cost of the project is \$12.7m., of which the bank's "soft-loan" affiliate, the International Development Association is providing about half). In Ghana and Nigeria, in both of which the Bank maintains a Resident Representative, consultative groups of bilateral and multilateral institutions meet under the Bank's chairmanship. The difficulty of apportioning assistance was illustrated by the Bank's record in these two countries during 1971-72: three loans amounting to \$119.6m. were made to Nigeria, but Ghana received no loans or credits at all (although in the past it has received two loans and six credits worth \$84m.).

One of Ghana's main problems has been debt servicing, a field in which the Bank is playing an increasingly important role. It has built up the most comprehensive set of debt statistics in the world and has helped a number of countries to obtain relief. Ghana's debt position was due for reconsideration in mid-1972, but because of the military government's announcement on servicing obligations "further re-scheduling is being discussed between Ghana and its creditors".

The annual report contains the usual warning about the problem of debt service payments, which are estimated to have increased by 18 per cent in 1970, almost twice the average rate of recent years. The same rate is expected to continue. "This apparent change in trend resulted from the gradual hardening of the composition of flows to developing countries and the expiration of grace periods on concessionary loans of the early 1960s. Such a rate of increase foreshadows serious debt service difficulties in the future unless it is accompanied by a rapid increase in the export earnings of developing countries, a larger flow of official long-term lending on much easier average terms, or both." In spite of a clearly discernible trend from bilateral to multilateral lending the second possibility is unlikely to eventuate. There is therefore likely to be greater pressure by commodity and mineral exporting countries for higher prices, the kind of action already being adopted by the "Geneva Group" of coffee producers. This will probably lead to a worsening in the trading climate between the developed and developing world.

In its efforts to aid development, the Bank has inevitably become involved in "the commodity problem" and may come to play a vital role in the issue. During 1971 the organisation completed formal arrangements for consultations with inter-governmental commodity organisations, if a proposed project would increase production of a commodity to

an extent likely to have a significant effect on world supplies or prices, the Bank consults with the relevant international organisation. It has also begun to carry out broad analytical studies of selected commodities of major importance to developing member countries. Two, on tea and rubber, have been completed. More directly, 1971 saw the participation of the International Coffee Organisation in a Tanzanian smallholder tea project. "This was the first instance of joint financing with the Bank Group by one of the international commodity organisations. It represents a new step forward in their joint efforts to encourage the diversification of production".

It is ironic that the Bank, dominated by the Western world - it has no communist bloc members, apart from Yugoslavia - and drawing its finances from the world's major capital markets should have won for itself the confidence of the industrialised nations in its financial probity and the trust of the developing countries in its motives. Bank participation is as welcome in Guinea as in Ivory Coast, and its independent role was illustrated by its stand over the financing of the \$250m. trans-Gabon railway project. Last February Mr. McNamara himself visited Libreville and refused to confirm the Bank's tentative offer of £12m. unless the Government imposed stricter terms on the French forestry companies and the iron ore consortium which would benefit most from the railway. In effect, the Bank was accusing the Gabonese Government of favouring foreign concerns the country's own economic interests.

Because of this position, the Bank is able to organise multinational projects even where individual countries are not on good terms, to suggest radical changes in sensitive fields (its support for the expansion of the school system in Liberia gives it considerable influence in that country's educational programme), to adapt a variety of administrative and lending techniques to the particular cultural and economic needs of borrowing countries (in Chad and Mauritania, for example), "successful methods of project administration for livestock raising, which is chiefly nomadic developed elsewhere by the Bank and other institutions in radically different environments, are being adapted and combined with proven local techniques initiated by the Governments with French assistance".

The Bank is also in a position to press for the implementation of unpopular but necessary policies. In West Africa, this includes family planning. Noting the effects of rapid population growth on unemployment and on the worker-dependents ratio, the report comments:

"The implications of these trends in terms of economic and social cost are not yet widely recognised in Western Africa. The Bank is helping to stimulate the improvement of demographic knowledge and increase awareness of the benefits of family planning in terms of material and child health, infant mortality and development".

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Commercial News

'Liberalise expatriate quotas' plea

An appeal to the Federal Government to end the "arbitrary reduction of expatriate quotas" has been made by Chief Henry Fajemirokun, President of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Leading a group from the Chamber on a courtesy call on Mr. S. B. Awoniyi, permanent secretary in the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, Chief Fajemirokun commented: "Before the expatriate quota of an organisation is reduced such an organisation should not only be informed of the need to reduce, but should be allowed to say whether such a reduction will affect adversely the operations of the organisation. Reduction of quotas arbitrarily is inimical to planned training and career development of Nigerians", he added.

On the question of the procedure for obtaining decisions on applications for expatriate quotas, Chief Fajemirokun pointed out that "it takes about 9-12 months for one to get a decision but since

your assumption of office the period has been reduced considerably and the cumbersome system of asking applicants to send 10 copies of applications, whereby each copy is sent to a Ministry and each Ministry would call the applicant for interview, asking the same sort of questions is completely unnecessary and time-wasting". He described this procedure as an "unwarranted restraint on new investment proposals" since it was in Nigeria's best interest that investors should be encouraged. The Chamber considered that the expatriate quota allocation committee should interview all applicants so that any Ministry which wanted to ask any question could do so. This would not only save time and money but should make it possible for the committee to inform the applicant on the spot whether the application was granted or not.

Although there had been considerable improvement in respect of visitors to

Nigeria, this did not apply to international residents. "Although there may be vacancy on the quota, it is our experience that there is still considerable delay from the date of application to the time issue of permit in respect of expatriates who are to relieve other expatriates on transfer, etcetera. It will be appreciated if quick action can be taken in respect of cases of this nature".

After calling for a reconsideration of the Ministry's refusal to change expatriates job designation - "it is reasonable and in the interest of industrial and commercial enterprises that all employees without discrimination should have career progression" - recommended that the Chamber should be represented on the Expatriate Quota Allocation Committee. Two years ago the Ministry said it would consider the request, but nothing had been heard.

Speaking generally, Chief Fajemirokun noted that the seminar held by the Federal Government on the Four-Year National Development Plan had shown that material resources and cash would be available, but not executive capacity "is therefore essential that emphasis should be on training of Nigerians to play a more important role in the development of commerce and industry in the country. To this end, it is necessary for Government to adopt a more liberal attitude to genuine organisations who would like to bring experienced and qualified expatriates to the country in order to assist the training of Nigerians and introduce stringent measures to discourage or make it impossible for those who would like to import expatriates to fill vacancies to which Nigerians are available". (A brief report of this statement appeared in the "Nigeria News" section last week).

US money in Nigeria

US investments in Nigeria amount to more than £N250m. - more than one-third of the total foreign investments in the country - the ambassador, John Reinhardt, told the Nigerian American Chamber of Commerce in Lagos. Prospects for American investments in Nigeria were good, he added, but the absence of investment guarantees in recent years had retarded US investment. The US had spent about £N100m in support of Nigeria's economic development programmes. He told the meeting of 120 businessmen that Nigeria's gas resources could be profitably exported to the USA and that external credit for the gas industry, could be obtained. Everyday Nigeria was burning more than 1,000m. cubic feet of gas at the non-producing centres in the Niger Delta while there was a great need for natural gas in the United States.

• The University of Ife will train a large number of students of Benue-Plateau State origin at its geological and mining engineering faculty in an effort to help Nigerianise the mining industry in the country, the vice-chancellor, Professor Hezekiah Oluwasanmi, has stated.

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Mr. Victor Oba and Mr. Festus Ugwu of the Nigerian Coal Corporation, visiting the engineering works of Gullick Dobson of Wigan, England. They both attended Wigan Technical College as students. Mr. P. Nworji and the Corporation's production manager, Mr. R. Am, also visited Britain recently, to attend the International Mining Exhibition in London.

NIGERIAN TIN SMELTER WARNING

If production at the Makeri tin smelter in Nigeria dropped further, or if world market prices fell substantially, the plant would be forced to run at a loss, which could not be sustained for any extended period, according to the US Bureau of Mines Mineral Trade Notes. The smelter has a capacity of 18,000 tons a year, but production has fallen from 10,093 metric tons in 1966 to about 7,000 tons a year. The publication says that exports in 1971 totalled 8,000 long tons worth £N12m., compared with 11,000 tons valued at £N16.6m. in 1970. The decline is attributed to the fact that costs are rising faster than prices and to the decreasing quality of the ore being mined.

- Prospects of Hungarian participation in the exploitation of Ghana's bauxite resources was one of the topics discussed when Ghana's Lands and Minerals Commissioner, Major Kwame Baah, met Hungarian Vice President, Dr. Matyas Timar. The Hungarian news agency also reported that Dr. Timar expressed Hungarian interest in buying Ghanaian cocoa.
- A new aluminium smelter, a dam and a railway line linking the principal bauxite-producing regions with Conakry are to be built by the Dabola Bauxite Company, according to a broadcast by Radio Conakry. The radio, monitored in Abidjan, said that the company (a Yugoslav-Guinean operation) announced the expansion plans after a general meeting.
- Improved trading in Nigeria and higher gold and sugar prices have increased the net profits of Lonrho by 42 per cent, to £4.3m. for the nine months to June 30. The figure for the equivalent period of the previous financial year was £3.01m. The net figure is computed after deduction of an undisclosed extraordinary item of £870,000. A 15 per cent dividend total is forecast for 1972 compared with 11 per cent in 1971.

Railway meeting agrees constitution

Top railway officials from Member States of the ECA have met in Addis Ababa to consider a draft constitution for the proposed Union of African Railways. The conference has been organized by the ECA, and the German Foundation for Developing Countries will assist with its financing. The proposed constitution was drafted by the ECA secretariat, following the decision in February 1971 of the First Conference of Ministers of the ECA that such a Union be established. Its objectives will include the standardisation, expansion, co-ordination and improvement of railway services of the members of the Union with a view to linking them to each other and the African region to the world.

- The Crown Agents are to re-organise the Ghana Government's supply and storage system. The Crown Agents' team will assist in the establishment of an Inspectorate Supply and Stores and in the re-organisation of the Ghana Supply Commission, and will assess the present qualifications and state of training of the members of the government service working in the supply and storage field, determining the qualifications and training necessary for newcomers to the service. They are also to prepare a manual of supply and stores procedures.
- Prof. O. Abovade, head of the economics department at the University of Ibadan, is among the Ministers, administrators, businessmen and academics from 35 countries who are meeting in Cambridge for a conference on Trade Aspects of Development. This conference is the ninth in a series organised by Cambridge University Studies Committee, with the support of the Overseas Development Administration. The conferences are held every two years and the last one (1970) played an important part in bringing public and professional attention to the issues of unemployment in the developing countries, the 1968 conference did the same regarding rural development.

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WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

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From Glasgow: DUNKWA due Luanda Sept. 23.

From N. Continent: MACHAON due Apapa Sept. 23.
From Poole: CLEARWAY due Apapa Sept. 29.
From Southampton: AURFOI due Freetown Sept. 22.

WESTBOUND - To USA/Canada: DARU due Cotonou Sept. 29; MORIAS due New York Sept. 25.

EASTBOUND - From USA/Canada: AKOSOMBO due Dakar Sept. 24; DUM'RRRA due Dakar Sept. 24; HAN slg. Port Harcourt Sept. 23.

Eastern Service to West Africa: ERNEBANK slg. Takoradi Sept. 23.

BARBER Lines

OUTWARDS - FERLAND slg. New York Oct. 3 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala.

HOMEWARDS - FERLAND due Baltimore, thence New York. FERNGAIF slg. Mon via FERLAND slg. Lagos/S. Bound Oct. 20, Sapele Oct. 22, Douala Oct. 24, Libana Oct. 28, Abidjan/Monrovia end October/Nov.

'K' Lines

WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong to Lobito, Luanda, Matadi, Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Abidjan; TENNESSEE MARU slg. Japan Sept. 5, due Lagos Oct. 13.

EASTBOUND - From Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown, etc.: TENNESSEE MARU slg. Lagos Oct. 20, Freetown Oct. 29, Abidjan Nov. 3, Pointe Noire Nov. 9.

WORMANN Line

BIANCA slg. Dunkirk Oct. 5, Rouen Oct. 9, Le Havre Oct. 10, Bordeaux Oct. 14 due Lomé Oct. 24, Cotonou Oct. 26, USARAMO slg. Rotterdam Oct. 3 due Lis. Palmas Oct. 8, Pointe Noire Oct. 19, Matadi Oct. 21.

DAFRA Line

EASTBOUND - Franking due New Orleans Oct. 13, Monrovia Nov. 3, Warri Nov. 9.

WESTBOUND - BELGIAN due Abidjan Oct. 8, Charleston Oct. 22, New Orleans Nov. 2.

GOLD STAR Line

WESTBOUND - GIDIRA Luanda Oct. 2, Matadi Oct. 7, Douala Oct. 9.

EASTBOUND - ANAI Singapore Oct. 3, Kobe Oct. 8, Yokohama Oct. 28.

BLACK STAR LINE/SSH/WEST AFRICA
WESTBOUND - OFFIN RIVER Abidjan Sept. 8, Montreal Sept. 25, thence Great Lakes.

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SOUTHBOUND - SAKUMO LANGOON Hamburg Sept. 14, Bremen Sept. 16, Antwerp Sept. 18, Rotterdam Sept. 20, Dunkirk Sept. 22, SUBIN RIVER Newport Sept. 25, Dublin Sept. 28, Glasgow Oct. 4.

NORTHBOUND - NAKWA RIVER Rotterdam Sept. 18, Amsterdam Sept. 22, AFRAM RIVER Middlesbrough Sept. 25, London Oct. 3.

DELTA Line

DEL RIO slg. Monrovia Oct. 1 due Abidjan Oct. 3, Takoradi Oct. 4. DELTA PARAGUAY slg. Dakar Oct. 17 due Freetown Oct. 16, Monrovia Oct. 17.

PALM Line

SOUTHBOUND - ELMINA PALM due Port Harcourt Sept. 30.

NORTHBOUND - ILORIN PALM slg. Sapele Oct. 2; LAGOS PALM slg. Takoradi Sept. 28.

NYK Line

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27/28, Tema Oct. 29/30.

EASTBOUND - SAIKYO MARU Lagos/Apapa Oct. 12/15, Abidjan Oct. 25/26, Takoradi Oct. 27/28, Tema Oct. 29/30, Japan first Port Nov. 30.

MITSUI OSK Line

SALAMBRIA slg. Kobe Sept. 20 due Lagos Oct. 21, ARIZONA MARU slg. Kobe Oct. 4 due Lagos Nov. 10.

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INWARDS - From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan; MAREN MAERSK slg. Kobe Oct. 5 due Luanda Nov. 1.

OUTWARDS - From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi; SUSAN MAERSK slg. Freetown Sept. 30 due Abidjan Oct. 2.

FARRELL Lines

HOMEWARDS - AFRICAN CRESCENT slg. Luanda Sept. 2 for Lobito, Matadi, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports. AFRICAN STAR slg. Lagos/Apapa Sept. 14 for Port Harcourt, Douala Sept. 18, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports.

OUTWARDS - AFRICAN STAR due Freetown, Monrovia Aug. 31, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema, Sept. 8, Lagos/Apapa Sept. 10, Port Harcourt Sept. 15, Douala, AFRICAN MOON due Monrovia Sept. 8 for Abidjan, Tema Sept. 15, Matadi, Luanda, Lobito.

NEDLOYD - SWAL Joint Services

INDA slg. Hamburg Oct. 6, Antwerp Oct. 10, Rotterdam Oct. 11, Rouen Oct. 13. AMSTIEL-HOEB due Boma/Matadi Nov. 11, Pointe Noire Nov. 12, Luanda Nov. 15.

NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING Line

SOUTHBOUND - RIVER L'HOPE due Tema Oct. 8, Lagos/Apapa Oct. 19.

NORTHBOUND - MAREN SKOU due London Sept. 30.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA Line

SOUTHBOUND - ISDIANA slg. WA mid Oct. early Nov. for discharge S. and Oct. Nov. COVINTRY CITY slg. WA end Oct. Nov. for discharge S. and Nov. early Dec.

HOEGH Lines

HOGH BISAY slg. Hamburg Oct. 6, Bremen Oct. 9, Antwerp Oct. 11, Rotterdam Oct. 12. HOGH GUNVOR slg. Rotterdam Oct. 25 due Dakar Oct. 21, Freetown Nov. 2.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN Line

INWARDS - LARBOIS SPRINGS from Japan, slg. Aug. 15 due Luanda Sept. 22, Monrovia Sept. 27, Freetown Sept. 29, Abidjan Oct. 3, Tema Oct. 15, slg. Port Harcourt Oct. 13, Lagos/Apapa Oct. 6, STRAAT TREMANHLE from Japan, slg. Sept. 15, due Luanda Oct. 17, Monrovia Oct. 22, Freetown Oct. 24, Port Harcourt Oct. 30, Lagos/Apapa Nov. 2, Takoradi Nov. 7, Abidjan Nov. 10.

OUTWARDS - STRAAT TREMANHLE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong and Japan early Nov. STRAAT MAGHELAN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong Japan and Shanghai late Sept.

EAL Europe - AFRICA Line GmbH

WERDIAND due Sta. Cruz Oct. 2, Las Palmas Oct. 3, Dakar Oct. 6. GRIMSNIS slg. Rouen Sept. 30 due Dakar Oct. 19, Abidjan Oct. 15.

NOPAL Lines

WESTBOUND - NOPAL LUNE slg. Cotonou Oct. 4 due Takoradi Oct. 5, Abidjan Oct. 6. NOPAL SUN due Luanda Oct. 20, Douala Oct. 26, Takoradi Oct. 28.

WESTWIND AFRICA Line
WESTWIND due Luanda Oct. 7, Freetown Oct. 8, New Orleans Oct. 24, SOUTHWIND slg. New Orleans Oct. 2, Houston Oct. 7, Tema Oct. 21.

THE EAC Lines

SOUTHBOUND - BOGOTA slg. Aarhus Sept. 30, Bremen Oct. 2, Hamburg Oct. 4, Antwerp Oct. 7, Rotterdam Oct. 9, Rouen Oct. 12 due Dakar Oct. 19, Monrovia Oct. 22, Abidjan Oct. 24, Cotonou Oct. 27, Lagos/Apapa Oct. 28, Douala Nov. 4; SINALOA slg. Copenhagen Oct. 13, Aarhus Oct. 15, Bremen Oct. 17, Hamburg Oct. 19, Antwerp Oct. 22, Rotterdam Oct. 24, Rouen Oct. 27 due Dakar Nov. 4, Freetown Nov. 7, Monrovia Nov. 8, Abidjan Nov. 10, Tema Nov. 12, Cotonou Nov. 14, Lagos/Apapa Nov. 15, Lomé Nov. 22.

NORTHBOUND - SINALOA due Rotterdam Sept. 24, Bremen Sept. 26, Hamburg Sept. 27, Aarhus Oct. 1, Copenhagen Oct. 29.

Palm oil output may rise again

World palm oil production may total 2.1m. metric tons, an increase of 185,000 tons above the 1971 total according to the US Department of Agriculture's *Statistical Report*. The factors for the commodity in 1972, given as: accelerated expansion harvested acreage in Ivory Coast, Sabah, which will increase export supplies by nearly 60,000 tons; average rainfall in West Malaysia, which may trim the 1972 increase in output perhaps only 50,000 tons or one-third last year's expansion, and some decline in West Malaysia's stocks, which perhaps boost exportable supplies by additional 20,000 tons. After 1972, the Department anticipates substantial, successive annual increases in world output due to expanding acreages (chiefly in Malaysia, Sabah and Ivory Coast), increasing average yields in the latter, relatively small increase in domestic consumption in the major export countries. World exports are expected to approximate 1.1m. tons - 15% above the 1971 volume.

• Nestlé, Britain's biggest coffee manufacturer, has warned that retail coffee prices will rise again as a result of the policy of the producing countries of pushing up prices in world markets. The company has suggested that coffee producers in a stronger position to demand higher prices when the International Coffee Agreement is resumed in November. The surplus of coffee held by Brazil is expected to be ended, following recent damage to their present crop.

Following this announcement, sources in London reported that American producers were joining together to refuse to sell their coffee at less than 56 cents a lb (the present average price). Mild Arabica coffees is 53 cents.

• Malaysia's Minister for Industries, Mr. Taib Mahmud, has said that there did not appear to be over-production of natural rubber in 1972, he said, supply was expected to amount to 3,178,000 metric tons, compared with 3,132,000 tons. This compares with an excess of 32,500 m in 1971. "In fact if we take into account the notional change on commercial terms of the order of 45,000 tons per annum, it can be said that supply and demand are in approximate balance", he noted.

• Messrs. L. I. Oguen, of the Nigerian Institute of Industrial Research, Adedusi, of the Flour Mills of Nigeria, A. K. G. Amoah, of the Food Research Institute, Accra are among representatives from 12 countries who are on a 10-month course on cereal processing food technologists at the Trop. Products Institute, London.

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Dateline Africa

GABON

Frontier dispute settled

President Bongo has announced that the frontier dispute between Gabon and Equatorial Guinea had been settled, following his meeting in Kinshasa with President Francisco Macias of Equatorial Guinea. The two Presidents had been invited to Kinshasa by President Mobutu of Zaire and President Nguabi of Congo-Brazzaville. The four leaders decided to set up a commission of representatives from each of the four states to draw up measures to settle any remaining differences on a peaceful basis. A meeting to consider the report of the commission would be held in Brazzaville as soon as possible. The role of mediation was assigned to Zaire and Congo by the recent Central and East African summit meeting in Dar es Salaam.

President Bongo had earlier gone to the UN Security Council to complain of incidents provoked by Equatorial Guinea on Mbame and Cocotiers (two small islands off the Gabonese coast), and Equatorial Guinea had called for a Security Council meeting on what it called Gabon's occupation of the islands of Corisco, Elobey Grande and Elobey Chico. The government in Bata had lost contact with the people of the islands, said the complaint. Gabon had also stationed warships in the Rio Muni estuary, it was claimed. After a meeting of the African group at the UN, however, it was agreed that since there was already a mediation, under OAU auspices, there was no need to raise the matter at the UN.

In an interview President Bongo said



Presidents Bongo and Houphouët-Boigny and Gabonese military cadets in Abidjan

that he had made several attempts to try to settle differences with President Macias, but had been spurned in an unfriendly fashion. He had been concerned at the number of Equato-Guinean refugees arriving in Gabon, many of whom had been molested because of "family ties" in Gabon. President Macias had also refused an invitation to attend Gabon's 12th anniversary celebrations on August 17, and had refused a Gabonese offer to declare a neutral zone.

Gabon's claim to Mbame and Cocotiers was based on the 1900 treaty between France and Spain, which had fixed the land frontier between Rio Muni and Gabon at the first parallel north. At sea the treaty accorded the islands of Corisco and the two Elobeyes to Spain, although they were south of the parallel and only a few miles from the Gabonese coast. Gabon did not claim them, although they constituted "an enclave in our territorial waters", but Gabon would never agree to turn the other islands over to Equatorial Guinea. The Nigerian fishermen who had been coming into Gabon in recent weeks complaining of molestation in Rio Muni could stay there until the government in Lagos arranged for their repatriation.

President Bongo subsequently visited Ivory Coast to attend the passing out of Gabonese cadets from the Ivory Coast military school, and to brief President Houphouët-Boigny on the dispute at Yamoussoukro. Speaking on arrival in Abidjan President Bongo recalled the African saying that when somebody has been murdered, the man who weeps

loudest is the murderer. This had been illustrated by President Macias' appeal to the UN and the OAU. He denied Equato-Guinean charge that Gabon seized any Guinean territory. On the contrary the Guinean forces had made "armed incursions" into Gabon. He said the Guinean leader was making out because his conscience was uneasy. He accused President Macias of refusing dialogue, invited journalists to visit the contested region and said that the dispute would be on the agenda of the next OAU summit. He also described Mbame and Cocotiers as "just sandbanks" and denied that any oil had been found in the area.

Semi-official sources in Madrid said that Spain backed Equatorial Guinea in the dispute. Since, as former coloniser Fernando Po and Rio Muni she had sovereignty over the islands, Spain considered that Equato Guinea also had sovereignty over them. But she favoured a peaceful negotiated solution to the islands question. Equato-Guinea Public Works Minister Jesus Oyono Mba has talks in Madrid on the crisis on his way to New York.

However, when he returned to Libreville, the radio reported him as saying that no conclusive agreement had been reached in Kinshasa, as he had been asked to withdraw his gendarmes from the islands concerned. He had refused to do so and pointed out that the islands belonged to Gabon. France had asked to make available the documents signed with Spain about the sovereignty of the disputed islands.

Just after the Kinshasa talks the UN published a diplomatic note that it had received from Equatorial Guinea saying that it "will not accept ... the unilateral extension by the government of the neighbouring Gabonese Republic of its territorial waters to 100 nautical miles".

FRENCH AID A new phase?

M. Pierre Billecoq, the newly appointed French Secretary of State for Co-operation, has been visiting Ivory Coast, Togo, Dahomey, Mauritania and Mali as part of a number of fact-finding visits he is due to make in coming months. In Abidjan he said, "Franco-African co-operation is getting its second wind and entering a new phase", adding "we want our action to engender others because the needs of our African friends are increasing with rising standards of living. To come he said that ten years after independence France was now revamping its co-operation to meet new needs and a new situation. "When you are a father you do not treat in the same way a small child and a child who has become an adult. President Pompidou had decided to co-operate with our African friends to apply a new approach to problems, a new style and a new way of considering Franco-African events". In Conakry M. Billecoq conceded that some of France's agreements with her African partners had become out of date and should be revised and re-adapted.

GHANA

Two-Yearly budget?

Budgets will in future be presented every two years, in the form of a "programme", said Colonel Acheampong introducing the military régime's first full budget. An interim budget, introducing some economies but also restoring some cuts made by the previous régime, was presented last February.

To meet an estimated budget deficit of some £20m. in 1972-73 the government would not resort to borrowing or rely on external aid but would raise additional taxes. The main new measures were a charge for certain import licenses and premium bond issues. Colonel Acheampong announced a current visible trade surplus and said that the emphasis of the government's policy was on cutting down imports of food and goods which could be produced in Ghana and encouraging exports and their diversification (details of the budget appear on page 1281).

- The Greater Accra branch of the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) staged a demonstration in support of the abolition of the students' loan scheme in the budget. The demonstrators marched through the streets with placards pledging support for the financial policies of the ruling National Redemption Council and urging the Council to be fearless in implementing the 1972-73 budget proposals. The students later presented a resolution to Col. Acheampong asking the NRC to establish a security agency to thwart the "omnibus activities" of imperialist agents who would go to any extent to see Ghana fall in her efforts to become self-reliant. The resolution asked the NRC to stop negotiations with the various mining and timber industries and suggested the nationalisation of these industries.

- Ghana has a total trade surplus of 79.3m. cedis between last January and June, according to the provisional figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics. Total imports for the period amounted to 211.3m. cedis, while exports were 290.6m. cedis. The figures show that Ghana imported 25m. cedis-worth of goods and exported 29.8m. cedis-worth in June. During the first six months of 1971 Ghana had a trade deficit of 18m. cedis. Imports amounted to 244.5m. cedis, while exports totalled 226.5m. cedis.

- Dr Robert Gardiner, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, has been asked by the UN Secretary General, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, to discuss with President Amin of Uganda humanitarian aspects of his expulsion of Asians. Dr Gardiner's report, however, is said to have shown that he was not able to obtain any promise from Gen. Amin to consider further extending the deadline for the expulsion from three to 12 months or to allow the Asians to take more of their assets with them, as the Secretary-General had proposed.

- Ghana will only import skilled manpower when a Ghanaian is not immediately qualified or available. Maj. Kwame Asante, Commissioner for Labour, told a 14-member immigrant quota committee. Immigration quota allocations would now be made with strict adherence to the needs and requirements of the nation. "Where such quotas are granted, there must be ample justification that the expatriate or non-Ghanaian, as the case may be, is qualified in all aspects of the job for which the quota is being allocated", he said. He asked the committee to ensure that Ghana imports only skill in short supply in the country.

- A decree giving legal effect to the decision to abolish the Supreme Court and make the Court of Appeal the highest court in Ghana has been published. The NRC proposes to legislate to protect the interests of those whose appeals are pending before the Supreme Court and to transfer its jurisdiction in chieftancy matters to the Court of Appeal. According to the decree the Court of Appeal is to consist of five judges.

- No person will be able to import cattle into Ghana when the Cattle Development Board begins operations on October 1. As from then, said the Chairman and Upper Region Commissioner, Lt. Col. Minyila, the arrangements by which importers were allowed to use the Board's import licences, would cease. The meat division of GHOC would work with the Board for effective distribution of "reasonably-priced" meat. Lt. Col. Minyila announced that from October 1 the price of meat with bone should be 55 pesewas per pound and boned meat 65 pesewas per pound.

- Cdr. Kyeremeh, Commissioner for Brong-Ahalfo, said that he had written letters warning "B known smugglers" in the region that they would be held responsible for any cocoa carried illegally across the border. Ghana and Ivory Coast were to co-operate in tracking down smugglers along their common border, he also announced. Authorities of the two countries would make available names and particulars of smugglers operating on either side of the border.

A recent decree made smuggling or attempted smuggling of cocoa out of Ghana punishable by a term of imprisonment of no less than 15 years.

- Inter-African exchange of news and programmes was a priority requirement of the African revolution, said Col. Acheampong in a speech read for him to a workshop of the Union of National Radio and Television Organisation of Africa (URINA) at Legon. Such an exchange was essential for fostering the unity of Africa "which is our goal and which must be the goal of any patriotic African today". Col. Acheampong regretted that news from one part of Africa had to be channelled through Europe before it could be received in another African country. "This is not to say that we should not co-operate with radio and

television networks of other countries. But I think this is no reason for African radio and television stations to lean so heavily on foreign organisations for news and programmes". Foreign images adorning the screens in Africa should be replaced with the "heroes and martyrs of Africa". Col. Acheampong urged the workshop to counter the "distorted image" of the continent on foreign networks.

The workshop was organised by URTNA in association with the Friedench-Ebert Foundation of West Germany and the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation.

- Police have issued warrants for the arrest of five people - Mr Dominic Owusu Sekyere Akoto, Mr. L. E. N. Ampadu, Mr. Joseph Vernal Agyenin Boateng, Mr. Lawrence Jonah Ofosu and Mr. Samuel Yaw Broni, all described as businessmen. A police gazette gave descriptions of the men and appealed to the public and those in neighbouring countries to disclose their whereabouts.

- Chief of Defence Staff, Brig. Ashley-Lassen, has warned the mass-media against sensational reporting, which could jeopardise national security. "We are more interested in accurate and harmless news" he told a seminar organised by the Public Relations Directorate for senior personnel of the mass media. "You have one of the biggest weapons either for assisting our effort and those of other state agencies at national security or of compromising these efforts".

- Farmers are to be given guaranteed prices for their foodcrops to enable them to sell more, Lt. Col. Atta-Fynn, Chairman of the Food Distribution Association, has said. He was speaking at a seminar to explain to managers final preparations for the distribution of food crops under "Operation Feed Yourself".

- The Federation of Ghanaian Trade Associations has called on the government to enter urgently into joint partnership with foreign enterprises in Ghana to "save the people from exploitation".

- The government has lifted a two-month ban on two independent newspapers, the *Pioneer* and the *Echo*.

- A circular from the NRC has directed hotels and catering houses to serve more Ghanaian dishes.

SIERRA LEONE

Three more arrests

Three more people, claimed to be supporters of the SLPP have been arrested for questioning in connection with the death of a government party supporter during the Kailahun by-election campaign. Mr. Yusuf Sherif, Leader of the Opposition, and six other party leaders had already been arrested in connection with the APC man's death, alleged to have been caused by a SLPP Land Rover. All the arrested men have been charged with murder. The Freetown magistrate, Mr. Adelubi, who heard the charge ruled that the case should be transferred to Kailahun where the alleged murder had

taken place, in accordance with a prosecution submission. Mr. Bertham Macaulay, Q.C., heads the team of defence lawyers. A number of other people who were detained for questioning have been released.

As in the case of the by-elections in Karlahun and Kono, where government candidates were returned unopposed, the national state of emergency has been lifted in Bonthe and Tonkolili to allow by-elections to take place in these constituencies. In all, 12 by-elections were to be held, three for chiefs' seats. Following the party's inability to nominate candidates in Karlahun the opposition SLPP has declined to participate in any of the by-elections. A general election is due not later than April next year.

• In evidence before the Barthes-Wilson Commission, which is enquiring into the causes of price increases, Mr. Jabez Luke, the architectural engineer, said that imported goods were nearly always cheaper than those manufactured locally, particularly building materials. He urged freer imports to compete with local products. Dr. Omotunde Johnson, lecturer in economics at Fourah Bay, criticised the government-sponsored National Trading Company on the ground that a body set up for the purpose of lowering prices should not itself be given a monopoly of the import and distribution of certain commodities. Price control, Dr. Johnson maintained, would be impossible to enforce and would encourage smuggling and corruption. Competition was the main factor in reducing prices, while encouragement for savings and investment would reduce pressure on the supply of goods.

• At a farewell reception for him Mr. S. J. J. Olver, the retiring British High Commissioner, said that the High Commission was issuing some 2,500 entry permits per year for Sierra Leoneans travelling to the UK, while it administered aid and technical assistance totalling just on £1m a year. Mr. Olver said that relations between Britain and Sierra Leone were excellent although he had been pained to see some of the attacks which had been made on British businesses and businessmen in the newspapers. The government, however, always stressed Sierra Leone's desire to cooperate with external private enterprise.

In an editorial offering good wishes to Mr. Olver, the government-owned *Daily Mail* said that in the light of the importance of Sierra Leone's trade with Britain, British technical assistance seems inadequate in volume.

• Receiving the new Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Ben Yehuda, the President said that relations between the two countries had always been cordial and that there had been close co-operation, particularly in technical assistance.

• Sierra Leone's High Commissioner in The Gambia has presented his credentials to President Senghor of Senegal, to whose government he is also accredited.

LIBERIA Firestone's Taxes

Tax concessions granted to the Firestone Company, whose Liberian rubber plantation is said to be the biggest in the world, had now become "absurd" said the Finance Minister, Mr. Stephen Tolbert, at a Chamber of Commerce lunch. Many infant industries, if the government permitted, would remain children throughout their lives. He agreed, however, with the principle of tax concessions for industries when they were starting. Mr. Tolbert also explained that excess duty imposed on locally produced goods was primarily a revenue device, more than offset by incentives granted to local enterprises. The Minister said that the government's policy was to have a 50 per cent holding in any concession but there was no intention of abrogating existing concession agreements. A "model concession agreement" was being prepared. The government also intended to increase the bonded warehouse space at Monrovia Free Port.

• The government has denied that it is taking over the Liberian Produce Marketing Corporation, jointly owned by the government and the Danish East Africa Company, although the agreement will be "brought up-to-date". The corporation offers guaranteed prices for cocoa, coffee, piassava and palm produce, and has developed processing facilities.

ZAIRE

The government has been renamed the "National Executive Council", and ministers are now simply members of the National Executive Council. In the hierarchy the President comes first, followed by the Congress of the MPR (Popular Movement of the Revolution), then the MPR Political Bureau, followed by the National Executive Council, grouping former ministers and former members of the MPR National Executive Committee. Ministerial secretaries-general are now directors, with a Director-General at their head for the whole administration. The ministerial Department of the Civil Service has been abolished, and replaced by a Public Commission, directly under General Mobutu. It will watch the interests of state employees, who from now on will be appointed by members of the National Executive Council. It will include a representative of the MPR Political Bureau, a representative of the Zaire National Workers Union (UNIZA), and a representative of the scientific research sector.

• Foreign Minister Ngaza Karl-Bond has been on a three-day official visit to Belgium. After talks with Belgian Prime Minister Gaston Eyskens and Foreign Minister Pierre Harmel, a communique was issued saying that the two governments desired to settle their differences through negotiations and dialogue with

strict respect for each other's sovereignty. A Zaire radio communique said the communiqué clearly showed determination of our Belgian counterparts to stop what we call the selling of Zairian currency below its value". The radio recalled that in July President Mobutu had condemned the "underhand manoeuvres" in Brussels whereby Zaire currency, "which enjoys national confidence" was being devalued. Appropriate strong measures taken, and it was heartening to note the Belgo-Zairian talks had put an end to this unhappy situation.

• Boboliko Lokonga, President of the National Assembly, is on a two-week visit to the USSR.

• A telephone link has been opened between Kinshasa and Conakry.

THE GAMBIA Camara Vice-President

Mr. Sheriff Dibba has resigned as Vice-President by Mr. Andrew Casamance Minister. He is succeeded by Vice-President by Andrew Casamance, Foreign Minister. Mr. Dibba has been Vice-President since the proclamation of the republic in 1970.

• The President, Sir Dauda Jawara, returned from his visits to Britain and West Germany. While in Munich for the Olympics, he met Foreign Minister Karl Schönbauer and discussed questions of economic co-operation.

In an interview with the BBC in London, Sir Dauda said that the Gambia's position with regard to Amalgamation with the FEC was not yet clear. The Gambia was studying the problem along with other Commonwealth African countries under the auspices of the Commonwealth Secretary. It had been reported widely that The Gambia, at the recent meeting in London, had decided to go ahead with Yaoundé association (see *West Africa* August 1973). In fact The Gambia was leaving options open and would give further thought to the problem.

SENEGAL

Health officials in Dakar have reported that one of the five cases of cholera in Dakar has now died. The new outbreak of cholera in Senegal began in July in the town of Rosso on the Senegal River and spread last month to the river capital of St. Louis. Officials said there was no cause for alarm, as a vaccination campaign had already been carried out in the capital. Vaccination teams have been despatched to the Sine Saloum and Casamance regions. Total deaths including one in Rosso and six in St. Louis, are now eight.

• Senegal is to open diplomatic relations with North Korea. She already has relations with South Korea, which has an ambassador based in Paris.

NIGERIA

World support for Arts Festival

Four separate government delegations have visited different parts of the world to gain international support for the second world black festival of arts and culture scheduled to take place in Lagos in 1974. Federal Commissioner for Information, Chief Anthony Enahoro, led the mission to Brazil and Algeria. The other delegations, led by state commissioners, visited countries in East Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America.

A report recently published by the Central Bank puts Nigeria's external trade surplus at £16.4m in April, £2.5m more than in March. The report also shows that holdings of gold and convertible currency fell by £10m, as against the previous months figure. The amount of money in circulation stood at just over £301m. The volume of marketing board purchases of agricultural export commodities also fell considerably.

Dr. Olu Arikpo, Commissioner for External Affairs, has returned to Nigeria after his tour of Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand, Indonesia and Japan. "I believe Nigeria could play a vital role in the development of New Guinea in particular", he said.

High-level talks over the expulsion of Nigerians from Zaire have been taking place between officials of the two countries, the Commissioner for External Affairs, Dr. Olu Arikpo, announced.

Col. James Olulove, acting governor of Kwara State while Col. Bamigboye was in Munich for the Olympics, has said that the overseas tour of the State Governor, Col. David Bamigboye, was a confirmation of the peace and cordiality between him and his people. The Governor could not have undertaken the tour if he knew that things were not in order in the State, the Colonel pointed out.

Shortage of manpower is causing the South Eastern State Government some difficulty in executing its four-year development plan, the State's Commissioner for Economic Development and Reconstruction told the inaugural meeting of the State's Manpower Committee. The problem of skilled manpower in the country generally, he said, had been aggravated by the creation of states, which had led to more ministries and departments and a rise in the tempo of development.

Two agreements, one economic and technical and the other concerning trade, were negotiated during the recent tour of China by a Nigerian delegation. Dr. Adedun, Federal Commissioner for Trade and leader of the mission, said that the agreements would lay a "solid foundation" for co-operation. The mission, the first Nigerian official mission to China had been "very successful".



The eighth conference of Commonwealth Auditors General has been held in London. Here Mr. Daramola (centre), Auditor General and Mr. B. A. O. Sungawewa (right), Principal Auditor of Nigeria, the Chairman of the conference, Sir David Pitblado, Auditor General of the UK.

Census committees have been established in all states of the Federation by the National Census Board.

Work has started on the first phase of the £3.5m. expansion of Aba Textile Mills.

Chief Adeniran Ogunsanya, Lagos State Commissioner for Education and Community Development, has accused commercial banks of frustrating the government's intention of taking over the administration of schools. He said that many banks were refusing to grant loans to private schools for fear of their eventual take-over.

Professor K. R. Hill, former Professor of Pathology at the Royal Free Hospital, who has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Benin University for two years, has been given a Special Commonwealth Award to enable him to take up the assignment.

Special Commonwealth Awards can be granted by the Minister for Overseas Development to eminent British academics who are prepared to serve for a minimum of two years in important university posts in developing Commonwealth countries. The awards, worth £1,500 a year, are payable in addition to emoluments normally paid to British staff in overseas universities concerned.

Twenty-eight Nigerians are among over 200 scholars from Commonwealth countries who will be studying at British universities this year under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship plan. From other countries in West Africa there are eight scholars from Ghana, three from Leone and one from The Gambia.

Under an arrangement between the University College of North Wales, Bangor, and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, academic staff whom Bangor is recruiting for the new Centre for Social and Economic Research at Zaria, will be full members of the staff of the Department of Economics at Bangor.

Any attempt to stop the teaching of religion on schools will be resisted by the Nigerian Union of Teachers, the president, Chief Omoyearhe, has said.

The Odinani Museum has been established at Nri, near Awka, by the Ibadan University's Institute of African Studies to help discover the hidden and forgotten culture of the Ibos.

A 10-storey block of flats on Victoria Island has been taken over by the Lagos State Government because the land was being wrongly used by a Lebanese company, Real Habbib Estate, was reportedly planning to build three similar buildings on the site.

The Federal Commissioner for Health, Alhaji Aminu Kano has paid a three-day visit to the Rivers State. The Governor, Lt. Col. Diete Spiff said that much had been done to improve medical services. Hospitals were to be built in the State's four divisions.

The Federal Government is to have 55 per cent of the equity in two companies which will produce edible salt. The plants will be at Sapele and Ewekoro.

Mr. Dan Ihekwe, former East Central State Commissioner for Works and Housing, has been sworn in as a Supreme Court Judge.

Nigeria has set up a two-mile fishing limit exclusively for dug-outs under new fishing regulations. The move follows complaints by small fishermen that they were losing catches to bigger vessels fishing offshore.

East Central State Cabinet is to be reshuffled soon, the Administrator, Mr. Ukpa Asika, said on his return from the Olympic Games in Munich.

A sub-station and crop laboratory is to be established in Umahia by the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria.

A Cabinet Office statement said that the Federal Government would grant £500,000 to each state for the development of specialist hospitals.

Allhaji Mustapha Kassim Ekemede, Chief Imam of Ansar-Ud-Deen Society and former Head of Muslim Broadcasting of the NBC, has died aged 73.



The choir of King's College Cambridge has toured Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone and sung in churches and at concerts. Above General Gowon is seen with the boys outside Christ Church Cathedral, Lagos, beside him is Mr. David Wilcocks, the choirmaster. Below the choir is seen outside Freetown Anglican Cathedral, in the group are the Archbishop of West Africa and the British High Commissioner.



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British MPs for Sierra Leone and The Gambia

Under Commonwealth Parliamentary Association auspices and at the invitation of CPA branches in The Gambia and Sierra Leone, a delegation of members of the UK branch of CPA will be visiting both countries in December.

It will be led by Mr. John Hunt, 43, Conservative M.P. for Brentford. Mr. Hunt is chairman of the sub-committee on UK Citizenship, chairman of the British-Caribbean Association and chairman of the British Parliamentary Group.

Another member of the party is Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler, Conservative Member for King's Lynn. He worked as a farm manager in 1954 before joining Lever Brothers as a management trainee in 1957. The Conservative is Mr. Robert Aspinall, 43, MP for Billingham. George Wallace, Labour MP for Northampton North, is at 66 the oldest member of the group. He first entered the Commons in 1945 and was Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs in 1965. He was a former RAF man. Mr. David Watkins, 47, the other Labour member of the group, and is a former member of Bristol City Council.

The group are expected to visit the Gambia between December 4 and 10 and Sierra Leone between December 11 and 16.

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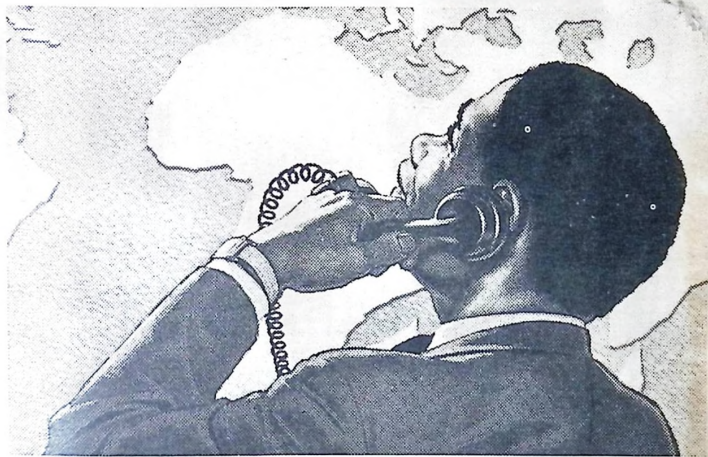
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