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Cabral of Guinea-Bissau and Pereira of Cape Verde

Guinea-Bissau - PAIGC at peace

Nigeria - Living without oil

Ghana - Roots of corruption

Angola - Over the Ruacana Falls

What will Nigeria do when the wells run dry?

In Nigeria today government spending is exceeding revenue. Mr. A. E. Ekuinam, Federal Commissioner for Finance, told State Commissioners for Finance at a meeting called to consider the country's position on the eve of the 1976/77 federal and state budgets. Even the balance of payments, at whose spectacular shift in Nigeria's favour many other West African countries have looked enviously, has recently experienced a "dangerous movement", the Commissioner said. In spite of the port congestion, which still means that at Apapa wharf the delay for ships carrying imports but not entitled to priority is over 200 days, payments for "non-productive imports and even 'non-imports'" were responsible.

"Relentless" cutting back of expenditure and war on waste, Mr. Ekuinam asserted, were the Government's objectives—not the least of the counts against the makers of the attempted coup is that they were opposed to the carefully planned reduction in the size of the army, on whose pay 80 per cent of the inflated defence budget is consumed. What economies are intended we shall see in the forthcoming budget and in the recasting of the 30,000m. naira Five Year Development Plan, which, as this journal has pointed out, has in addition to its more essential proposals many extravagant and

unnecessary ones. The creation of the new states is also costly, while nobody has yet ventured a confident figure as to the cost of the new capital.

It is not, however, only on the spending side that trouble lies. Figures published in a recent issue of *Business Times* in Lagos emphasise not only that last year Nigeria's trade surplus sank from £3,000m. to £200m. but that in the current year and in the following four years covered by the Third National Development Plan government revenue from oil would fall short of the estimates on which proposed expenditure under the Plan is based. This year's estimate (1975-76) is now 3,630m. naira against 4,805m. naira. The next two years should see smaller deficits, but it is estimated that in 1979-80, the last year of the Plan, when executive capacity, which is still a more serious constraint than finance, may have improved, oil revenue will be only 5,185m. naira against a Plan estimate of 7,231m. naira.

Such estimates, on both sides of the account, are obviously uncertain. But they have to be made if plans are to be related to resources, and the oil production estimates on which they are based are those of OPEC.

It is, of course, no bad thing that the figures reflect a fall in the rate of oil production, from the record 2.3m. barrels a

day (which under the Plan was expected to reach 3m. a day by 1979-80) to around constant 1.75m. barrels a day for the rest of the Plan period. For per unit this output will still give Nigeria more foreign exchange revenue than was expected before the huge increase in oil prices in early 1974. And if fall in production will mean that Nigerian oil resources are conserved, at least for a few more years.

Haunting thoughtful Nigerians is the fear that "the oil will run out", leaving the country with a level of public and private expenditure which could no longer be sustained. All mineral resources "run out" while agricultural resources can always be improved and manufacturing expanded (unless it, too, as in the case of some of Nigeria's projects, depends entirely on the supply of a mineral). It is the rate and the manner of the exhaustion which matters. In Britain and the United States as well as Sierra Leone there are derelict communities stranded by mine closure. But while the two richer countries can afford relief and resettlement, the miners of Marampa wait for news that their mine is to be re-opened, which they see as their only hope. A Nigeria without oil may not face very much more serious unemployment than she faces in the middle of the oil boom. But will she then have developed the alternative sources of revenue to support the schools, the hospitals, the stadia, the bridges and the roads? The present deterioration in the surfaces of the roads of central Lagos is due largely to the immense effort being put into construction of monster new roads. But will the monsters, now being built at a cost of 280m. naira, in their turn deteriorate when there are no funds to maintain them?

When will the oil run out?

Once again, predictions of the life of Nigeria's oil are uncertain, and the one so often used, five years, corresponds too closely to the end of the present National Plan to sound convincing. But it is salutary that such a publication as *Business Times* should use this estimate to bring a sense of urgency into the debate. For it raises the possibility that some of the projects in the National Plan could be finished just as the source for the revenue to maintain them is being exhausted.

For there is another race, more serious than that between the Development Plan and the oil. And that is a race already largely lost. It is the race to ensure that oil revenues have transformed other sectors of the economy before the oil runs out. Groundnuts and cocoa saw Nigeria through the war. Cocoa still makes a brave showing, but the maintenance of present levels of production needs constant vigilance. Groundnut exports, however, have disappeared and among cargoes waiting to enter Lagos port is one of seed-nuts. This is partly because of the needs of the local crushing industry. But the drought has dealt a blow to groundnuts which may be lasting. Production of oil palm products is said to be improving. But where are the signs of a revolution in this great industry on which the prosperity of much of southern Nigeria once depended?

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Student Bashing

Overseas students coming to study in

Britain next year face a large increase in the fees they must pay for the privilege, almost four times as much as British students, who outnumber them 16 to 1, and far more than in other EEC countries, the majority of whom charge no fees at all. Next year's fees, two thirds higher than in 1974, will inevitably mean that many will not be able to come at all, and some may even have to finish their courses half way through. Applications to study in Britain by students from overseas have almost doubled since 1971, a tribute to the high quality of British universities, despite the enormous cut backs in staff and resources they have been forced to make in the last three years. Unlike Germany, for instance, Britain has no quota for foreign students and places have been restricted by the level of fees.

Announcing the increases in the House of Commons in December, the Minister for Education, Mr. Fred Mulley, made much of the expense of providing higher education for overseas students. In fact, reliable figures are hard to come by, and comparable ones almost impossible, with those involved changing their frames of reference to suit their argument. On the other hand the logic of the argument that foreign students bring with them as much foreign exchange has been repeatedly brushed aside with a facility which can only increase suspicions that arithmetic has nothing to do with the case.

Yet while actual savings are bound to be derisory, the government is hoping for a fiscal rather than an economic advantage from its action. By raising the fees of overseas students, the government adds credibility to its stated determination to reduce government spending, which in fact it is unable to control either technically or politically. Moreover, overseas students have neither a union nor votes, and are thus an obvious target for cuts. The goodwill engendered by a period of study in Britain, reflected in trade and other entirely quantifiable activities, has not been allowed to influence policy in this matter. Nor has any sense of responsibility from a country which, despite its self-inflicted wounds, is still the twelfth richest in the world.

Even so, it would be wrong to suppose that the government's decision has been prompted solely by economic or rational criteria, notwithstanding the preference for the short-term that has become lamentably obvious in every field. Xenophobia is but scarcely hidden behind the bland apologies of Whitehall and, if concealed by the government, is strikingly obvious in its supporters. The press, which historically encouraged such emotions, has made much of the rich scions of wealthy foreign families coming to "take advantage" of the British educational system. Apparently, while Britain has always been willing to patronisingly grant her bounty to poorer folk, she balks at extending her favour to the newly rich.

Of course, this popular prejudice is woefully wide of the mark. Only 13 per cent

of the 95,000 or so overseas students who study in Britain each year come from OPEC countries (and only a few of these are richer than Britain anyway), and the majority of the remainder are supported by families and friends less well able to bear the cost than many ordinary British people. Even if the majority of West African students come to Britain on government scholarships, the cost to governments with pressing economic problems in other areas is not considerable. It must be said, on the other hand, that the existence of rich people in poor countries does rouse the pitiful instincts of the British and, having lost so many of the home-produced variety to inflation, emigration and redistribution, it is the wealthy foreign student who now receives the full glare of native British contempt.

Besides, foreign tourists, who choke London throughout the year, are easily confused in the public imagination with the overseas students who, statistically from different national and economic groups than the tourists, visit Britain more discreetly. Yet the government has done nothing to highlight this distinction, but rather has accepted support from those, such as Lord Bowden of Chesterfield, the Principal of the University of Manchester Institute of Science, who see foreign students "taking the places" of native sons — with all that this implies.

Now it is surely unfair to blame people from other countries from taking up educational opportunities no longer attractive to British subjects. The economic fertility of higher education, or any education at all, has now been appreciated by so many school-children in Britain that places at these institutions are left open to others. The low status and reward of certain engineering specialties, as Lord Bowden knows only too well, have resulted in the virtual drying up of British recruits to them, with predictable results to industrial capacity. Thus, the fact that 82 per cent of all students at the South West London College come from overseas signifies not an invasion of foreigners eager to prey on the health and education services of that city, but rather that the qualifications and knowledge obtained from the College are of more use abroad than at home.

It is tempting, too, to read other prejudices into the British government's attitude. Neither of the major political parties, for various reasons, has much love for students, domestic or foreign. The Labour Party, moreover, is especially dubious of demand for such "elitist" services when its egalitarian secondary education evokes such meagre enthusiasm. After all, nobody comes to Britain to go to a Comprehensive. But this assumes too great a degree of positivity.

Prevent government policy, with its impartial negligence of both self-interest and moral responsibility, cannot be defended reasonably. An absurdly short-sighted, stop-gap measure, unconnected with either social — since increases in fees deter the poor, not the rich — or educational criteria has made nonsense of the Ministry of Overseas Development's pious declarations of "more help to the poorest". It can only be hoped that British universities, reeling as they are from further reductions in their funds, will resist these increases as they resisted the first rises in 1967.

Above all, in spite of the strenuous efforts announced on all sides, food production is lagging behind demand. Inefficient storage, incompetent marketing and inadequate transport are among the reasons. But the problems of production itself — land tenure, lack of credit, even seasonal shortage of labour etc. are also to blame. And who supposes these will be dealt with in the next five years? Yet in the inflation which grips Nigeria and which is, according to the first report of the "Anti-Inflation Task Force", the "most serious economic problem confronting the nation", food is a leading factor. In the Lagos area in the period November 1974 to July 1975 the weighted average increase in the budgets of lower-income groups was 42.8. But the food increase was 47.3. The national cost of living index rose at this time by 33.3 per cent; but the food index rose by 44.2 per cent. In five years time will food have ceased to fire inflation?

Can industry fill the gap?

If agriculture is unlikely to fill the gap left by oil, (if that gap really does appear within a measurable time), what can industry do? Nigeria is developing an appetite for consumer goods and intermediate and capital goods, most of which her own industries, given the size of the market and the labour force, should one day be able to satisfy. But in spite of the vastly increased manufacturing production planned up to 1980, imports of manufactures are expected to increase even faster. And the deficiencies of the infrastructure which are one of the constraints on the development of industry — power, the railway, water, port congestion, telecommunications, roads — seem unlikely all to disappear within the next five years. And while industry can go far towards meeting the domestic demand for consumer goods and to increase the value of, for example, timber exports — when they resume — and exports of other natural products, is there any hope of industry replacing oil as an export earner? The same is true of non-oil minerals.

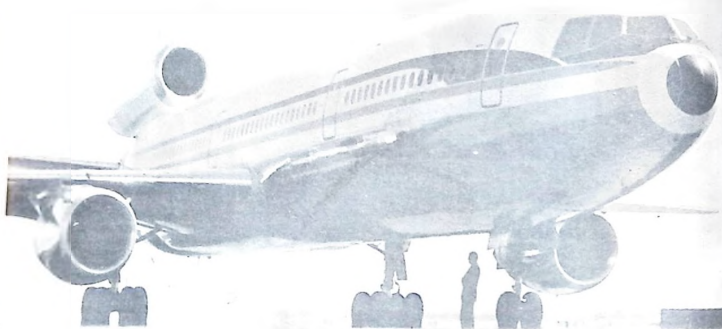
Some alarm was expressed in Nigeria because the iron and steel industry which is so important a part of the present plan, but which appeared in the previous two plans, was not mentioned in the speech of Mr. Koyin, chairman of the Council of Ministers, to the 25th Congress of the CPSU, on the recent Soviet Five Year Plan. The Nigerian Government has naturally replied that the industry is part of the Nigerian, not the Soviet, five year plan. But how long it will be before the project, in which the Soviet Union is a partner, will be in operation is anybody's guess. Yet it is potentially an exporter as well as a major foreign exchange saver — so long as the financing remains largely internal.

Nigeria, then, has no grounds for economic complacency. As the Federal Finance Commissioner put it, "prosperity is very difficult to manage with prudence". The real test of the management of prosperity is that it ensures that prosperity is never transformed into poverty.

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THE PAIGC REPUBLICS: GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDES

1: People at Peace

Basil Davidson writes from Bissau, Republic of Guinea-Bissau:

It is eighteen months since the PAIGC led Guinea-Bissau to full independence, and nine months since the same party achieved the same result in the Cape Verde Islands. Already these two countries have gone far to heal their wounds and begin a new life of their own. With foreign occupation a thing of the past, energies are bent on integrating into new social and economic structures, into new forms of political democracy, and into new attitudes of public responsibility, all the 800,000 or so inhabitants of Guinea-Bissau and the rather more than 300,000 who inhabit the historically-related sister republic of the Cape Verde. For the time being the two republics remain constitutionally separate from each other, but are governed by the same national movement, the universally acclaimed PAIGC which carried each to its own sovereignty.

Weeks of travel illustrate the progress made and the problems still to be solved. But first of all a few dates may be worth recalling. The war to liberate Guinea-Bissau from Portuguese colonial rule was launched by the PAIGC during January 1963. By 1968 the PAIGC had clearly won the war on the mainland. But the Portuguese army and airforce hung desperately on, chiefly because its commanders feared the effect of an evacuation of Guinea-Bissau on their positions in Angola and Mozambique.

In September 1973, by then controlling some two-thirds of the country, the PAIGC proceeded after a general election to proclaim an independent state. There followed the Lisbon army coup of April 1974, and the Portuguese army and airforce decided to accept their defeat. On October 14, 1974, the last Portuguese troops were ushered politely to the port of Guinea-Bissau by the army of the PAIGC, and seen on board their ship. Then the leaders of the PAIGC, veterans of a long and heroic struggle who now took over every department of government, were at last able to measure the full poverty of the colonial system they had evicted.

In the Cape Verde Islands things went differently but the outcome was the same. Here it was evident in 1974 that the PAIGC had overwhelming support. This support was confirmed by a pre-independence general election in June 1975 which gave an overwhelming vote to the national movement, and the Republic of Cape Verde was proclaimed on July 5. The secretary of the PAIGC, Aristides Pereira, became President with headquarters in the town of Praia on Santiago Island (the President of Guinea-Bissau, since 1973, is the deputy secretary general of the PAIGC, Luis Cabral, like Aristides Pereira one of the founders of the party in 1956). And here, on the islands, the leaders of the PAIGC could again measure the sorry facts of Portuguese colonial rule.

Leaving till later the Cape Verdes — ten great volcanic islands of tremendous physical drama of scenery, and a people who will contribute to the West African life a new "brilliance of the rainbow" — let us take a look at Guinea-Bissau in the second year of full independence.

Two impressions prevail. One is of peace and security wherever you go, whether in the towns or far out in remote areas of the bush. The other is of a general and almost unbelievable poverty of modern equipment, infrastructure, all the things that are said to mean "development". Here and there you come across old Portuguese plaques that have somehow survived on public buildings. These plaques were put up in 1946 to celebrate the "fifth centenary of discovery" by Nuno Tristão. Reading them, you wonder what the Portuguese can have been doing here all that time.

In Bissau, for example, Bissau is a pleasant little town spread upon a hillside going down to the sea. But the "territorial port" at the bottom of the hill did not have, until the PAIGC brought one in last year, a single heavy-weight crane. This void in modern infrastructure, unless you count some good military roads and a multitude of barracks, is evident throughout the country. Guinea-Bissau has therefore some fearsome technological problems. But what Guinea-Bissau does not have — and the peace and security are there to show it — is a political problem. The regime is manifestly both stable and representative.

Why there is stability

A man of formidable energy and vision, President Luis Cabral is very clear why this is so. The PAIGC's basic policy has been to extend and reinforce throughout the country, in towns and villages occupied till 1974 by the Portuguese army, the same structures of representative democracy, of action "at the base", as were installed and promoted in the "old liberated zones" during the war. Those structures were a principal reason why the armed struggle could be won. For they carried the people of the "old liberated zones" from support for the PAIGC to active participation in the government and protection of those zones. When the new state emerged in 1973, it already stood upon its own democratic foundations. Since 1974 the chief task in the political field has been to install the same structures elsewhere. The process is far advanced.

I could test this in the "old" as well as the more recently liberated zones. A government helicopter provided a lift to the southern provincial "town" of Catio — but it doesn't deserve the name of town — from where it was possible to go by outboard powered boat along the sea creeks to the island of Como, an old centre of armed resistance

from which the Portuguese were ejected as early as 1964. I'd last been there during the war, at the end of 1972, and now at once met old friends. They find a bed for us in a hut, and next day we can meet representatives of the fifteen village committees who run everything on Como in co-operation with PAIGC administrative personnel. The talk goes on for hours.

The venerable Bat Nomanchu, a Nalu elder whom I interviewed in 1972, and whose work then (as now) was that of liaison between committees and executives, reviews the last two years. "Nothing bad has happened since you were here", he says with peasant prudence. "We are living in freedom, and we are contented". He goes into the detail of exactly how things are. Others chip in with their comments. There are no political problems, but there are many material problems. Better roads are needed, more bridges, fresh dams for ricefield irrigation to replace those ruined by the war.

More representatives arrive, and the talk continues. We go into questions of taxes and trade. Like all the "old liberated zones" Como has been excused personal taxes for three years. The trade position is much better than two years earlier. Como's "people's shop" is larger, has more goods and there are several new sub-shops. Prices paid for rice and palm oil have improved. We go into the details. It is obvious that these people fully understand their trading situation, and approve of it.

Elsewhere it's the same. In Quitafine another zone of hard fighting where I was in 1967, people who had taken shelter in the deep forest or neighbouring Guinea-Conakry have come back. They are rebuilding villages along the forest roads, and it's a cheering site. These new villages are numerous, and people crowd along the trails. Where barnacles of landmines lay across the path, children are going to school. You scarcely see a single soldier or policeman. Afterwards we went through Kimara, through Meres in the north, through the lands beyond the Corubal, and the picture was the same.

In the "new liberated zones" it's a different picture in that their inhabitants, released from Portuguese control only in 1974, are still learning to work the new representative structures and fit themselves into a new democratic life. That requires time, and Bissau itself, with more than 85,000 inhabitants, offers some obvious problems. Here the PAIGC had to take over thousands of local parasites of the Portuguese armed forces, and consequently it had to take over much unemployment and demoralisation.

On all this President Luis and his fellow-veterans are characteristically realistic. They talk about the problems of "reconstruction", of building a viable and modern society for all the people of this country, with the same frankness and modesty as they used to talk about the problems of the armed struggle. They have the kind of open but unassuming confidence which comes to men and women who know what their problems are, and know they can solve them.

Once more, something new from Senegal

President Senghor is to be offered, like several other West African Presidents at this time, the chance of becoming President for life. But M. Senghor's vote of confidence is no isolated accolade, for political events in Senegal in the last eighteen months point to a radical rearrangement of political life from above. It may be, argues a correspondent, that Senegal is about to introduce the constitutional heir to the one-party state.

In the aftermath of the 1968 student riots, and the ensuing "Emergency", Senegal seemed to have slipped into an unremarkable and almost apolitical conservatism. The one-party state administered by the UPS, the *Union Progressiste Senegalais*, under the leadership of President Leopold Sedar Senghor, appeared to be following the road of increasing centralisation now almost characteristic of the continent, while the party itself, suffering the anaemia of inaction, lost its mass base.

In recent months, however, a radical change has taken place and Senegalese politics, unremarkable for so long, have once again begun to attract outside attention. Indeed, with legislation now before the National Assembly for a three-party state, Senegal stands at the threshold of a political experiment which has no exact precedent.

It is still not clear at which point President Senghor decided to embark upon his present course. Opposition parties had often grown up in the shadow of the PRA, and as late as 1973 the leaders of the PRA-Senegal had been persuaded to exchange their independent positions for cabinet posts and a share in the government's patronage resources. But opposition as such had never been approved and, after the crushing of the 1962 putsch, parties suspected of extreme views had been systematically banned. The hold of the UPS machine, hardened arteries or no, on the trades unions, local government and political facilities of all sorts (from the press to the hustings) made attempts to form political groups open to pitfalls of every sort. In August 1974 President Senghor made public his decision to reopen politics, but immediate progress was slow. UPS opposition and public apathy at first combined to create the impression that Senegal had moved only from being an unofficially *de jure* one-party state to an unofficially *de facto* one. Yet by mid 1975 a new political party, the PDS (*Parti Democratique Senegalais*), had emerged under the leadership of M. Abdoulaye Wade and claimed to be making progress in both towns and countryside. While no official responsibility was taken, it was felt in Dakar that senior echelons of the government, if not actually encouraging the PDS, were definitely curbing the zeal of local UPS militants to suppress it.

The "why" of President Senghor's decision is almost as difficult to pinpoint as the "when". Recent developments, including the release of Mamadou Dia, the former President and old political colleague of President Senghor, had added to speculation that M. Senghor was preparing for his retirement. Born in October 1906, the President is certainly old by present European standards, but, compared with his counter-

parts in the Ivory Coast or Sierra Leone, for instance, his age hardly constitutes an anomaly. Besides, as M. Senghor remarked in an interview for *Le Monde* during his recent private visit to Paris, people have been talking about "apres-Senghorisme" ever since he was elected in 1960.

Speculation about the President's retirement has also been encouraged by the proposal, also now being considered by the Assembly, to allow the Prime Minister to succeed the President should the latter resign or die in office. Elections are due in 1978 and 1983 and, as the succeeding Prime Minister would serve out the previous President's term of office before going to the country, M. Senghor could, under the Bill, time his departure to allow his successor a period of grace.



President Senghor: Preparing the succession?

Objections to this hypothetical scenario however, come from those who still do not see Abdou Diouf, the competent but politically colourless Prime Minister, as a realistic successor to President Senghor's political mantle which, despite its apparent seamlessness, is woven of complex and potentially explosive material.

Certainly, one of the results of the emergence of a credible opposition has been the revitalisation of the sleeper reaches of the UPS (see *West Africa* February 9). This has certainly pleased the President, and is one of his stated objectives for change. It would be unfair also to discount M. Senghor's preferred attachment to democracy, with whose workings he has had intimate contact during his sojourn in France. He has said that "the prime condition for permanent and uninterrupted progress is stability, and above all political stability, but with democracy" and there seems no reason to doubt the sincerity of this declaration.

In fact, the most convincing pointer to M. Senghor's seriousness, and attachment to



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democracy, has come from the ferocity of the attacks made upon his new scheme by practitioners of the one-party system who fear any relaxation, however carefully regulated, of unitary politics. The Zaire weekly *Zaire* has, for example, come out strongly against the experiment.

No Free for All

At the same, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that Senegal's essay into democratic politics is being tightly controlled. President Senghor has not only taken it upon himself to identify the "three strands of political opinion" ("liberal democratic", "social-democratic" and "Marxist Communist") at large in Senegal, but has effectively chosen M. Mahjoud Diop, former leader of the PAI, to lead the third party, the *Rassemblement National Democratique* (RND). Some also accuse him of choosing M. Wade for the PDS and add that, as proved by the recent Kaolack conference, the PDS leadership is at odds with the rank and file over its still extremely vague programme, and is concealing its secret connivance with the UPS.

Moreover, while all political prisoners are to be released by April, many persons convicted of "criminal" charges (held to be "political" elsewhere) will remain incarcerated. Even more important, laws soon to be passed regulating the behaviour of the three official political parties will prevent other groups, such as supporters of M. Dia, partisans of Cheik Anta Diop and the hard line communists, from entering the political arena at all.



President Mobutu, still championing the one-party state.

Nevertheless, it may be after all that concern for the future underlies M. Senghor's actions, for, by allowing new parties and introducing new personalities, the President may be able to inject new blood into a political system which in the countryside is being increasingly abandoned by the party to powerful traditional and religious leaders and where promotion is obstructed by a bureaucratic gerontocracy immune from interference. Yet whatever lies at the bottom of the regeneration of Senegalese politics, President Senghor's initiative has made Africa sit up and take notice. It just may be, after all, that in it lies the seeds of the true successor to the one-party state.

Matchet's Diary

from Accra

Agreeable though this country is, and welcoming though Ghanaians are, I have never seen much prospect here for the tourism that really brings in money. The formerly popular package tours of Black Americans are said to produce little net foreign exchange — it is even rumoured that one party went home without leaving Kotoka International Airport when told of the new Ghana requirement that each foreign visitor should buy a "voucher" for a minimum of \$50 (or more) according to the length of his stay. This should ensure that he spent some foreign money in Ghana and did not simply rely on what he had paid to a travel agent abroad, or the cedis he would get from a Ghanaian in return for foreign currency paid abroad.

Yet in response to a government request the UN has sent an official to advise Ghana on the development of tourism. I've no idea what he will recommend. But he must point out that Ghana must not follow other governments of poorer countries in wasting foreign exchange or internal resources in subsidising tourists from richer countries. When I was in the Western Region I visited the agreeable but totally unimportant little fishing village of Divescove, with its well preserved "toy" castle. To this and the nearby pleasure beach of Busua — both, no doubt, "tourist attractions" — there runs a magnificent branch road, almost ten miles long, from the main Takoradi—Axim road. On it I saw no traffic at all. Yet in the interior of the Region there is desperate need for roads half as good as this.

Ghana should aim at the "upper end" of the tourist market and not follow The Gambia in attracting the "lower end". Only in that way do you get the winnings of tourism without the social problems it can cause. There is enough to see, even if for most richer visitors — which means middle class, and middle aged, Americans and Western Europeans — Ghana is rather hot outside the rainy season, when tourism is impossible, and the beaches are marvellous. The hotels can take more people, there are now a variety of good restaurants, in Accra at least (James Moxon will soon re-open "Black Pot" in a beach hotel in Accra which is upgrading itself in other ways). But the ideal visitors want Highlife and local music, not Soul, would prefer the open air, if it is at all possible, rather than air-conditioning and darkened windows right on the edge of the sea, which is what the newest Chinese restaurant — apparently connected with a textile mill here — provides. And they would prefer Grasscutter Stew to badly cooked, tough, steak.

Presumably the new Foreign Exchange Shop at the Trade Fair Site is meant to cater for tourists, just like those for example, in Yugoslavia. It is, rightly, not described as "duty free" since many of the prices, for ex-



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Courtyard of the "toy" fort at Dixcove

ample those for wines (though not for spirits) are so high that I cannot imagine many tourists buying them, even to avoid the prices in the hotels which would make wine waiters in the Savoy in London apologise to millionaire diners. But photographic accessories and similar items not available in ordinary stores are available at this shop if you bring foreign exchange (not from other West African countries). Some Ghanaians question the motto of the shop — "No questions asked" — since although this allows Ghanaians to disgorge their foreign currency, however earned, there must be a limit to the application of the principle.

All politicians the same?

Inevitably the government-owned *Ghanaian Times* drew the lesson from the allegations of the Taylor Assets Committee on the Busia regime; that Ghanaians "should be wary of the politicians". This now means all politicians, since nobody has any doubt about the profligate corruption of the Nkrumah regime. There has been a vague idea that the Busia regime, whose establishment, it seemed, was favoured by the military NLC regime which overthrew Dr. Nkrumah, would follow the soldiers as reformers. There was, too, the academic nature of Dr. Busia and his personal abstemiousness. Now all that is in question. Only the first volume of the Committee's report has been published now, but the Government White Paper alleges that four houses acquired by the former Prime Minister, at a cost of some £175,000, represent illegally acquired assets and must be forfeited. Dr. Busia is also accused of Black Market currency deals even when he was Prime Minister.

Two of Dr. Busia's Ministers, both doughy opponents of Dr. Nkrumah, and detained by him, are also accused by the Assets Committee, which has been at work since 1972. Chief Simeon Dumbo, who unlike Dr. Busia is in Ghana, is ordered by the Government to refund some £70,000 allegedly acquired illegally as Minister of Health, and to forfeit certain property. Chief Dumbo is accused of making money out of alleged assistance to aliens in acquiring residence permits after the Government's abrupt decision to expel "aliens" from Ghana. He also was to have accepted responsibility for the transactions of eight of his wives. But their assets, and they are all successful traders, are deemed to have been acquired lawfully.

The other Minister now accused is Mr.

"Reggie" Amponsah, once a well-known potter. He was an early supporter of Dr. Nkrumah, but, an Ashanti, he turned against him and was finally detained for many years, a fate which he bore with dignity and fortitude. Now he has to refund the relatively minor sum of about £15,000, alleged to have been acquired illegally, and to forfeit some £25,000 worth of shares in "Club Maxim", acquired from the same Mr. Awuku who is alleged to have given Chief Dumbo shares for assisting him to get a licence. There are other charges against Mr. Amponsah, who is also, I believe, in Ghana. This would be a sad end to what might have been a valuable political career.

Certainly the Taylor findings will support the soldiers in their determination not to restore civilian rule "prematurely", to which General Acheampong referred in his interview with the Editor which was reported in *West Africa* a fortnight ago.

"Unpleasant image" of the councillors

If the Government now finds fresh cause to castigate politicians at the top, the Commissioner for Local Government, Lt.-Col. B. K. Ahlajah, has just dismissed local politicians, the members of local authorities, as having won an "unpleasant image". He noted that ever since 1951 the record of the councils was one of embezzlement and misuse of funds. Because no amenities had been provided out of the rates they paid, rural people drifted into the towns in the hope of faring better — but the urban areas were already incapable of providing amenities for their own growing populations. The staffs were no better than the councillors. The Commissioner claimed that even now his Ministry received reports of "abuse of power, total disregard for rules and financial regulations, lack of co-ordination and unwise spending of the ratepayers' money and central government grants".

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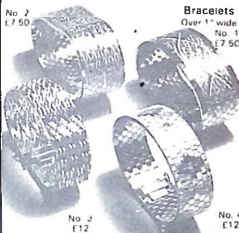
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The Administrative Service in Africa: 3

In rural areas throughout Commonwealth West Africa governments are represented by administrative officials performing many of the functions which the "DOs" or "DCs" of colonial days performed. Yet before independence there was a widespread view that independent African states would have no need for such an administrative service. In this series of articles a correspondent examines this view and the way in which the all-African administrative services came into being.

It was in the then Northern Region of Nigeria that the theory that the administrative service was some kind of colonial "scaffolding", to be dismantled at Independence, was most clearly rejected. Yet it was in this area that "native administration", which largely gave rise to the theory, was most highly developed. In 1960 a booklet by Mr. Tony Kirk-Greene, endorsed by the Minister for Local Government, emphasised how seriously the Government viewed the state of the Administrative Service, where, in 1955, apart from a handful of Assistant Secretaries, there were no Nigerians. But "Northernisation" was pursued so zealously that between mid-1955 and late 1956 eleven Northern Nigerian Assistant District Officers were appointed "directly" (i.e. from other parts of the civil service). In 1957 a further five such appointments were made, again largely from men serving in lesser government posts. Many of these "direct" appointees later attended the Overseas Service course in Britain, while many of the first group were attached to District Officers in the provinces.

In 1957 a report to the Regional House of Assembly emphasised the continuing role of the administrative officer in a self-governing Northern Region: "If the Administration collapses, chaos will ensue and there will be no scope for departmental officers; to build up a local Administrative Service is one of the major problems, and some may say the most important problem, before the Regional Government".

There followed the courses for potential administrative officers at the Institute of Administration in Zaria (courses so "generalist" that they included elementary automobile engineering), for candidates whose experience compensated for their lack of degrees.

By August 1958 there were 59 Northern Nigerians against 209 expatriates in the regional administrative service. And the Premier, the Sardauna of Sokoto, made it clear in a speech at Zaria that in his government's view the service was a continuing one: "... you are entering a service which has always served others and which must continue to do so".

The scaffolding theory, however, reappears, unexpectedly, in relation to Northern Nigeria, in the 1958 report of the Nigerian Minorities Commission. This says that the Northern system was "in a state of transition". For 50 years Emirs had been guided by British Residents. These would not be changing their function. Mr. Philip

Mason — a member of the commission, and generally credited with authorship of its excellent report — then surprisingly showed, as his ICS colleague, Sir Reginald Salloway had shown in Ghana, his devotion to the "scaffold" theory by adding, of the Residents, "if they remain at all".

At the time of independence, however, even if nobody now doubted that administrative services would stay in business in Commonwealth West Africa, there were only two Nigerians among the top 28 administrative officers in Northern Nigeria — and they were near the bottom of the list, and both in Ministries and not in the field. It was only at the junior end of Administrative Officers, Class III and IV, that you came to Nigerians serving in the field as Assistant DOs, among them an interesting number who were to become well known — M. D. Yusuf, now Inspector-General of Police, for example — although many others, having come from NA service, were already middle-aged.

In the Nigerian Federal Government, at the time of independence, all Heads of Ministries and the Secretary to the Prime Minister, though not the Secretary to the Council of Ministers, were British.

Preponderance of Britons

In Ghana, in 1957, a few months after independence, there was still a preponderance of British officers at the top of the administration. The Secretary to the Prime Minister was Mr. Daniel Chapman, brought back from a job at the U.N. But the next nine officers in seniority were British. Then came three Ghanaians, but of these only Mr. A. L. Adu had served in the field. Eight more British were in this top grade — but no more Ghanaians.

In Eastern Nigerian only the Chief Secretary, Chief Udoji, and two Permanent Secretaries were African in 1960. In Western Nigeria only the head of the Treasury, Chief Adeho, the Secretary to the Premier, Dr. Biobaku, and one Permanent Secretary were Nigerian. The senior field service officers were British. In Sierra Leone the Secretary to the Cabinet, Mr. Muhammadu Mahdi, was an African. But only three Permanent Secretaries were African, and none of the Provincial Commissioners. In The Gambia, because of the small number of Ministries and the fact that independence did not take place until 1965, the proportion of African Permanent Secretaries was higher. The head of the service and the senior field officers, however were British at the time, and the two

Gambian Permanent Secretaries were both "professional" heads of departments. In The Gambia, too, newly joined Africa administrative cadets seem to have been sent to the Divisions, rather than the Ministries, and there seems to have been no group of "Secretariat Africans".

I use the term administrative service to cover both the men in the Ministries and the men in the field. But it was the manning of the senior administrative posts in the Ministries by the British which probably aroused the interest of politicians in the service from which these officials came. Otherwise they, too, often saw the DC or the DO as a colonial institution which in due time would disappear.

The political importance of the failure to prepare for independence by ensuring that Africans, through timely recruitment to the administrative service, were available to man a high proportion of senior jobs in the Ministries can be shown by a Nigerian example.

In 1958, in response to newspaper and Parliamentary pressure, the Federal parliament appointed a back-bench committee to consider Africanisation. In 1959, on the eve of independence, the committee reported. It may have been ill informed, but was scarcely revolutionary, led as it was by the Rev. F. F. Solaru, who was to become OUP's Nigeria representative.

The Committee was concerned that when Nigeria became independent in 1960, the date fixed, there would be 58 "super-scale" expatriates in the Federal Administrative Service out of 73 posts, with only eight Nigerians; the other posts were vacant. The



M. D. Yusuf, from ADO to Inspector-General of Police

committee could see no reason why the expatriates should not be superseded. They paid tribute to the British officials but said that "so long as non-nationals control and direct the affairs of this country the people of Nigeria would not even be aware of the nature of the problem confronting them". The mere number of Nigerians in the civil service was not the point; it was the number in "control posts", of whom there were virtually none. Nigerianisation should begin from the top down. In any case the British officials would soon take their compensation and go.

The Government — which meant Nigerian Ministers — could see no practical way of Nigerianising these 58 key posts, and listed all the, undoubtedly significant, steps being taken to Nigerianise them. So Nigeria became independent with almost all the top jobs in the federal administration remaining in British hands.

Even in 1959 a bland statement came from the Committee on the Integration of Departments with Ministries in Nigeria, a committee headed by Sir Foly News, secretary to the Governor-General, and manned almost entirely by British senior officials: the Committee said that it was forced to take account of the shortage of Nigerians in senior administrative positions. "There are Nigerians in senior posts in the judicial, legal, and medical professions because Nigerians entered these professions at an early stage but Nigerians did not join the Administrative Service in any numbers until comparatively recently". Efficient administration came largely from experience and could not be acquired merely by passing examinations or attending courses. "The greatest need therefore for the Federal Public Service at the present time is the training of Nigerians in administration and the only effective way of carrying out such training is for the persons concerned to exercise responsibility under efficient supervision but at the same time, with the machinery of Government strained as it is with too few people in senior posts having to do too much, the opportunities for giving such experience must be made available in a way that does not interfere too seriously with the working of Government and at the same time does not run counter to the undertaking given to overseas Officers of the Governments of Nigeria by the Heads of the Nigerian delegations at the Resumed Conference on the Nigerian Constitution in February 1954".

Yet this was the year before independence.

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BOOKS and Publications

One Doctor's War

The Broken Bridge by R. B. Alade (Caxton Press, Ibadan; no price)

So far books about Nigeria's civil war have almost all been written by outsiders. But before a definitive history can be written, many of the participants will have to have recorded their experiences. Dr. Alade's short book must be looked on as such a contribution, although it is in some ways disappointing.

The author, one of Nigeria's most distinguished surgeons, was called up to serve in the Armed Forces Medical Services for some months in 1968, in the middle of the civil war, in the rank of Lt. Colonel — apparently doctors from institutions on the Federal side were called up for short periods to help the Armed Forces Medical Services to deal with an army twenty or more times greater than in peace time. Col. Alade spent most of his service in the liberated areas of the East Central State, and the book's chief interest lies not in his description and assessment of the Armed Forces Medical Services — although there is one graphic passage describing the arrival and the treatment of casualties at the Military Hospital, Enugu — but in his views on the health of civilians and the activities of the relief agencies.

Dr. Alade, a most humane man, was shocked by the deserted towns and villages, and by the condition of some of the people, as well as by the idea of Nigerians killing each other in organised warfare. But he dismisses as the nonsense it is the claim that anything from 1,000 to 10,000 people were dying from starvation each day in secessionist areas. And he quotes at length from the 1969 report of Professor R. G. Hendrichse, Head of the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Ibadan, who said that he found in the East Central State very few cases of malnutrition more serious than those readily observable in the Western State, and that many diagnoses of "malnutrition" were faulty. "The present nutritional state of the population in this area is at least as good as that in other parts of Nigeria, and may in fact be better than in the poorest areas of other parts of Nigeria".

Dr. Alade pays tribute to the work of the Red Cross on the Federal side. But he shows clearly that both the activities of some relief organisations on the secessionist side and the policies towards relief of the rebel leaders served to prolong the war and the very tragedy the relief agencies claimed to be meeting. And he underlines the disregard of international conventions shown by some organisations which treated the secessionist regime as sovereign.

In passing, Dr. Alade draws attention to the little-known medical assistance rendered to the Federal forces by Algerian doctors

and nurses who kept up a "rotation" of staff for much of the civil war.

Dr. Alade's account of the course of the war tells us little new, although his emphasis on international implications underlines the importance a man of his status attaches to this factor. He makes a sound assessment of "headaches of the secessionist régime" and is naturally horrified at the use of starvation of their own people as a tactic of rebel leaders. In an angry aside he denounces Ghana for the expulsion of over 50,000 Nigerians, many rendered destitute, just at the time when Nigeria was most sorely pressed in dealing with civil war refugees. He notes that when the expulsion started thus were exempted because the war was still on. As soon as the war ended, he claims, the Ghana Government added 20,000 Ibos to those it was expelling

D.W.

COLOUR TV

White Media and Black Britain Edited by Charles Husband (Arrow Books, 95p)

Various contributors, black and white, study the media and give their opinion of the media and its impact at the grassroots level against their own direct experience. As the editor, Charles Husband, makes clear from the outset, each contribution is individualistic and there is no attempt made to collaborate ideas.

The introductory chapter describes the irony of a multi-racial society that so far seems incapable of coming to terms with the status quo. For example, the media is still dominated by an image of Britain as a white society with values developed and possibly kept alive in a dream world of imperial splendour. The paradox of the myth of a tolerant British society and the prejudice that manifests itself is appreciated; e.g. the shallowness of British tolerance as demonstrated in the popular uproar against Asian entry in 1968 which led to the Labour Government's Commonwealth Immigration Act of the same year. Despite all the evidence to the contrary, the British self-concept of themselves as tolerant, especially to immigrants, is remarkable. This mythical belief and its implications lead to such erroneous statements and conclusions as is implicit in the following extract from a *Times* editorial of August 14, 1972: "Immigrants already settled here stand to suffer more than anyone else from a rate of new immigration greater than the social body of the host country can digest, or than its prejudices can tolerate."

In other words, Husband points out, since "as a tolerant nation we cannot

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condone any increase in racial prejudice, and since an increase in the black population would surely result in more prejudice, then we must resist any pressure to admit more blacks".

Selective perception, which is an attitude that all individuals adopt depending on their perspective, allows one "prejudiced" person to view the report of the media as showing favouritism towards immigrants, whilst a "tolerant" person might see the same reports as being unfair towards the same immigrants. But the central point is made that black immigration remains a threat and a problem because of white racism. And the mass media are inevitably enmeshed in the system of forces which shape race relations in Britain. They reflect white hostility towards black people and provide definitions of events which make that hostility reasonable. Thus black immigration is made the problem, not white racism; and the black population is associated with conflict and problems whilst the underlying basis of the conflict is neglected and the positive contribution of the blacks ignored.

The contribution of Wilfred Wood, a Barbadian theologian living in Britain since 1962 and involved in the development of black self-help projects as well as being a one-time chairman of the Institute of Race Relations and current Chairman of the Martin Luther King Foundation and a member of the BBC's Religious Advisory Committee, and of Yulisa Amadu Maddy, a Sierra Leonean playwright and author, indicate the limitations imposed upon their freedom to express alternative views. They show how in their respective fields they are constrained to participate on the terms of

the media professionals, accept their white concepts of events, yield to their definition of art, or not take part at all. In other words for blacks to "succeed" in the white dominated media they must remain black vessels carrying white cargo.

The views of two psychologists and one sociologist reveal racial bias in the mass media. There is increasing evidence that British children learn at an early age to imitate the prejudices of their parents. And their assumed superiority is supported by the media — including comics, fiction and schoolbooks which exclude the contribution of blacks. At the same time the black children have no supportive literature of their own and this gives rise to a low opinion of themselves and an uncertainty about their abilities.

Lionel Morrison, a black journalist, manages to give evidence without rancour or bitterness of his experiences in the white journalistic world.

All in all, a critical and enlightening, if somewhat disheartening appreciation of the media in race relations in today's Britain.

Marilyn Awoonor-Renner

Suffer little children

Action for Children. Edited by Olle Nordberg, Peter Phillips and Goran Sterky (Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Skr 30.— surface mail and Skr 40.— airmail anywhere in the world \$1 = approximately Skr 4.40)

Based on the proceedings of the Dag Hammarskjöld Seminar on African Child Care, which was organised in co-operation with ECA, in 1973, this work now bears the

unhappy sub-title "Towards an Optimal Child Care Package in Africa".

In his foreword Mr. Peter Omari, a head of ECA's Social Development Section, recalls that when Ghana's first paediatrician returned home in 1958 he was told that medical services carried no specialist pay for him. Things have improved — but not much. And the book explains that emphasis upon WHO campaigns to control communicable diseases, upon expensive conventional medical strategies and upon family planning programmes have obscured real health problems of the less-developed countries, and in particular the failure to help children, the most vulnerable group.

In Africa, children up to 6 years of age make up nearly a quarter of the total population (twice the percentage of industrialised countries) and the number likely to double by the year 2000. Yet there are only the survivors. In Africa, death within the age group 0 to 4 alone constitutes 35 to 55 per cent of all mortality. The prospects of decisively breaking the vicious cycle of poverty, malnutrition, disease and death are, however, limited.

The results of health programmes have been disappointing for much of Africa, particular in rural areas where little if any general health service is available. The few doctors working in rural areas are often rendered helpless by the magnitude of social problems.

The seminar therefore looked at the problem of child care in the larger context of integrated services, inviting participants from far beyond the medical profession, including experts and practitioners



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economics, sociology, education and social welfare.

The major conclusion was that a new start had to be made, by accepting the fact of limited resources and seeking alternative solution. Health planning has seldom received this kind of analysis, especially of the need to subordinate costly conventional medicine to the role of adjunct. The greatest impact would be achieved by an integrated child-care "package" (that unhappy word) tailored to the overall needs of the community and within the limits of what is financially possible. The seminar carried out exercises to achieve consensus on the relative importance of the package's components, together with cost-effectiveness studies in areas of child care. "The achievement of intermediate goals, as an urgent present necessity, will depend upon finding the most effective balance of component elements in a package that is intended to reap the optimal social reward for the available human and financial investment".

The book has a number of diagrams and photographs.

A.M.

Progress report

Fourth Year of Office of Colonel Ignatius Kuu Acheampong compiled by Office of the Press Secretary to the Supreme Military Council (Ghana Publishing Corporation. No price)

In spite of its title this compilation covers the third year in office of General Acheampong. It is drawn from his pronouncements representing government policy in a wide variety of fields, and covers his tours and other activities. It also contains up-to-date lists of Commissioners as well as recent changes in their offices, and there are a number of photographs.

The speeches range from an address at the ceremony when work was begun on the head office of the Cotton Development Board at Tamale to an address at the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies in Accra.

The most important official press releases, such as that on Angolan independence, and the most important government decisions are listed. There is a summary of government decrees, and the national awards announced last January 13, and on the 18th anniversary of independence, are also listed. Heads of diplomatic missions in Ghana, and of Ghana's missions abroad (39 in all) are also listed. The 1975-76 Budget Proposals (Gen. Acheampong is Commissioner for Finance) are reproduced, there are short features on the cocoa industry, economic planning, industrial development, road development and the Chairman's tour of the North.

Finally there is a short biography of the General.

D.W.

Ghana '76 — an official handbook (Ministry of Information, Accra, 2 cedis 50 pesewas)

In almost 500 pages this guide covers topics ranging from annual rainfall to the housing programme of the Northern Region, from the history of the Kumasi University of Science and Technology to the size of deposits throughout the country examined for their suitability for the

manufacture of bricks and tiles.

As a government publication the guide divides its information largely according to the activities of ministries and their subordinate bodies. But it includes a section on religion, one on sport, one on the land and people, and one on the country's history. There is also a summary of developments since the present government came to power four years ago.

There are a number of photographs. One misses, however, straightforward tables of statistics of external trade, production and national finances — although rates of taxes etc are given in considerable detail.

D.W.

Helping hands

Appropriate Technology Vol. 2 No. 4 (Intermediate Technology Publications, by subscription)

The latest issue of *Appropriate Technology* is now available and as always is fascinating reading, bringing together ideas, virtually all tested by experience, from all parts of the world. This issue, for example, offers a "semi-automatic device for planting cassava stem cuttings on ridges" evolved and sweated over in the Department of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Ife (In passing the article observes that cassava is "moving fairly rapidly from a peasant crop to a commercial plantation crop", which makes the TPI report noted below timely).

Another article, "Cloth Dyes from Natural Sources", is contributed by Kenneth Robinson from his experiences with the *Institute de Pédagogie Appliquée à Vocation*

Rurale in Cameroon. He demonstrates the breadth of the appropriate technology concept when he mentions in passing a Malay and Dyak method of dyeing. From a different source, one happens to know that the batch dryer for rice developed at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, mentioned in this issue, has already been taken up by a small businessman in Ghana. A splendid example of the whole theory of intermediate technology, both providing farmers in Ghana with the dryer and the basis of a local manufacturing industry.

P.T.S.

Standards, specifications and quality requirements for processed cassava products (*Tropical Products Institute, 70p*)

Cassava is also known, in various parts of the world, as tapioca, manioc, mandioca or yuca and more than 100m. tonnes were grown in 1973 — Africa's share was more than 42m. It is still primarily a local foodstuff — garri in West Africa — but is finding a growing use in industries as far apart as animal feeds and papermaking, textiles and baking, for example in the ten years from 1962 to 1972 Common Market imports increased almost five fold from 400,000 tonnes to nearly 2m. tonnes. The TPI report is to help spread knowledge of existing standards.

P.T.S.

Publications received:

Recommendations made by Participants at the ECA course on commercial policy and trade promotion, held in Algiers, November, 1975 (Economic Commission for Africa, PO Box 3001, Addis Ababa).

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Although the Western State, where modern commercial production began, still produces some cotton, most is grown in the northern states, where like other crops it is grown by large numbers of small cultivators. This conforms not only with the norm for West African agriculture, but also with the best way of growing cotton in Africa, where it has persistently been found unsuitable for growing on large estates and plantations in several countries. The new projects being started with World Bank aid at Gusau, Funtua and Gombe envisage big cotton production with modern inputs and aid, but still by small farmers. In Nigeria, in contrast to the Sudan, cotton is almost wholly a rainfed crop; irrigated cotton growing there is a possibility but, it seems, only on a small scale and after several obstacles have been overcome.

The problems of improving production by small farmers dependent on annual rains are well known, but with cotton there has been particular success in overcoming them. In the northern states of Nigeria four agencies are involved in the crop: the Ministries of Agriculture; the Northern States Marketing Board; the IAR at Samaru; and Cotton and Agricultural Processors Ltd. (CAP), formerly the British Cotton Growing Association, which operates the ginneries. The IAR's involvement in the annual production scheme has led to the spreading of new varieties which has been the main achievement, in scale, so far of the Institute and the CRC. Cotton is graded by the Agriculture Ministries' Produce Inspection Divisions before being taken by Licensed Buying Agents of the NSMB to the ginneries, from which the lint is taken to the textile mills and some of the seed to the oil mills (though some cotton seed, important for oil and cake, is still exported). Some seed is annually returned to seed dumps for free distribution to farmers.

Seed multiplication

The IAR has been involved at the seed stage, seed multiplication having been the only work done by the ECGC researchers at Samaru from 1926 to 1948, when expansion of the cotton work began with the arrival of an entomologist. This work was based at the seed farm at Daudawa until last year; now initial stages of seed multiplication are at Malamfashi and Kontagora and Gusau for the Northern Zone for cotton growing, and Dadin Kowa for the Eastern Zone. These zones are adapted for separate varieties; the Northern Zone covers much of Kaduna State and extends into the old North-Western up to Kontagora and Falata Mafara, while the Eastern Zone is in the former North Eastern State, stretching from Misau to Bui and Jalingo. (There is a less important Southern Zone covering parts of Kwara and the old Benue Plateau State.)

New cotton varieties developed at the IAR can be introduced quite rapidly and widely through the seed distribution system: in five years in the Eastern Zone, in six years in the Northern. Thus the original Allen Long Staple variety, of American origin (cotton has been grown in Nigeria for centuries but local varieties were not used to

start the modern industry), has been improved and developed. The varieties Nigerian Allen, Daudawa 38, Samaru 26C and Samaru 26J were widely adopted for a time, until they were replaced by others with even better yields: Samaru 68 and Samaru 70 in the Eastern Zone, Samaru 69 and Samaru 71 in the Northern. The yield development is shown by Samaru 71's average yield, twice that of the original Allen. There are also the ASA, AASA and RSA hybrids created by crossing of local and exotic varieties, including the high-yielding new ASA variety, Samaru 72.

The average farmer's yield, however, is still usually only 2 300 lbs. per acre. Yield increases, as well as expansion of acreage, are needed if the country is to grow all its cotton requirements, which according to a report in 1971 of the National Agricultural Development Committee will reach 800,000 bales (one bale of cotton lint = 400 lb.) by 1985. Recently production has reached 500,000 bales in a year, but the drought severely reduced yields, not only by lack of rain but by deliberate, and officially encouraged, concentration on food crops, which has to some extent continued; in 1974, with generally good rains, cotton production was 280,000 bales.

Achievements at IAR

The IAR at Samaru now works on a far larger scale than in the days of its earlier cotton work, and for cotton there is important entomological and agronomic work as well as continued breeding and multiplication. As a result several recommendations on raising yields by insect control and fertiliser application have been made to the State Ministries of Agriculture. For fertiliser the recommendation now is for boronated superphosphate, to remedy the lack of boron (a trace element) which limits yields considerably. For insect control, aimed notably at the Red Bollworm (*diparopsis waterstoni*), some earlier recommendations proved impracticable for small farmers, as insecticide had to be applied with bulky and expensive equipment in cumbersome operations. But now the IAR has shown that a new insecticide application technique, Ultra Low Volume (ULV) spraying, can be much more useful, as it involves a simple and relatively cheap implement, held in the farmer's hand and with a motor operated by easily obtainable batteries. This could be one of the most important achievements of the Cotton Research Corporation's work at Samaru.

Research has also led to acceptance of the farmers' custom of planting in July or August. Earlier efforts had been made to convince them to plant in June, to obtain better yields. But in June all hands are needed for food crops and cotton has to wait. Research and extension work now aim to seek ways to improve cotton with July sowing, which is possible in several ways.

These latest results of the cotton research work aided by the CRC at Samaru show how much has been achieved to aid cotton farmers and to lay the foundations for further research work, of which, undoubtedly, there is still plenty more to be done.

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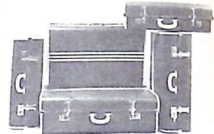
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SENEGAL DIVERSIFIES HER PARTNERS

Senegal has trade relations with some 100 countries and has signed trade agreements with : 22 countries in Africa; 5 countries in Asia; 2 countries in America; 15 countries in Europe.

SENEGAL FORMS PART OF AN ECONOMIC REGION

OMVS (Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River) is a body set up by Mauritania, Mali and Senegal for the purpose of carrying out the following projects :

- The **MANANTALI dam** : a hydroelectric dam retaining 17.4 bn. cubic metres providing irrigation for two crops a year on 430 000 hectares and water for the operation of a 150 m. MW hydroelectric power station.

- A dam to keep out salt water at **DIAMA**.

- A sea-port at the river mouth at **SAINT-LOUIS**.

CEAO (the West African Economic Community) which includes the Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal aspires to turn this market of 25 m. consumers into a single economic unit.

CEDEAO (the Economic Community of the Countries of West Africa) is still in its early stages. Once operational however it should be the largest economic unit of the African continent.

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Over the Ruacana Falls

South Africa's intransigence over her occupation of the Calueque Dam in Angola, which she has promised to evacuate if "assurances" are given by a third party, conceals the fear that, with the MPLA control of the dams, her grip on Namibia will be loosened. Here, a correspondent investigates Pretoria's motives.

The Ruacana Falls dams and hydro-electric complex, on the border between Namibia (South-West Africa) and Angola was the original reason for South African involvement in the Angolan crisis and still, after the war itself is over, it remains as virtually the last obstacle to the final resolution of the conflict. The Ruacana Falls project, like the Cahora Bassa dam in Mozambique, and the massive Spanish investment in the Bu Craa phosphate mines in the Sahara, was an expression of the confidence of the remaining colonial powers in the future of their political arrangements — a confidence which now, only a few years later, seems almost comic in its optimism. Yet South Africa, with her Angolan policy in ruins and longer term plans threatened in the process, still considers it worthwhile to make an issue of the dams, and to conduct in public, on the international stage, the sort of economic horse-trading that states usually reserve for more private occasions.

The reason for South Africa's intransigent position on the Cunene River project appears to be the concern lest her defeat in Angola weaken the position she is slowly bringing to maturity in Namibia and not some hopeless eleventh hour attempt to retrieve her Angolan adventure. Mindful of ever growing international pressure against her unlawful (some say illegal) occupation

of Namibia, South Africa is at present supervising a "Constitutional Conference" in Windhoek, the capital of South West Africa, with the aim of passing a spurious independence to a confederation of tribally and racially segregated "states". One of the crucial factors in this arrangement is the establishment of a self-sufficient Ovambo "homeland" in the north of Namibia, which would act as a buffer between Black Africa and the white dominated areas of South West Africa, and relying on tribal rivalries to prevent the creation of a unitary state in which the whites would constitute a minority. Needless to say, the white settlers inhabit the more favoured parts of a land not renowned for its gentle climate, and the aridness of the Ovambo heartland is a necessary prerequisite of Ovambo self-sufficiency. Ovamboland's present fresh water supply, coming from only 140 boreholes, will be too salty for use by 1990, so action is urgent, political reasons notwithstanding. And this is where the Ruacana Dam comes in.

Work on the project, supervised by SWAWEB, the SWA Water and Electricity Corporation, began in 1969, under an agreement with the Portuguese government and the whole project is timed for completion in mid 1977. Already, regulatory dams at Huambo and Gove in Angola have been

built and work is well advanced on the Calueque Barrage, the present bone of contention. The generating plant, capable of producing some 2000 MW, has already been built, using water from the spectacular Ruacana Falls, over 150 m. high, but is on the Namibian side of the border. Under the existing agreement, Angola will be paid some 400,000 Rand yearly for the Cunene water, though for the first few years these payments will go to the repayment of loans advanced by South Africa for power stations supplying Sa De Bandeira and Mocimedeles in Angola.

It seems unlikely, though, that under present circumstances, South Africa will get away with such generous terms and, even if a repatriation element were not to be included, the cost will surely rise. But MPLA, who have already met South Africa halfway by publicly promising not to interfere with the dams, seems likely to extract a political price as well, and one that South Africa will be most unwilling to pay. While the project will probably be allowed to go ahead, in the same way as Cahora Bassa (and MPLA has declared that it will not add to the harshness of *apartheid* for the Namibian people), the Ovambo leaders will be under no illusion as to where their political and economic future lies. The Angolan government will not need to dam the Cunene to persuade the Ovambos that SWAPO which Luanda is pledged to support, is the wave of the future. The signs are already sufficiently clear and do not require such crude emphases. Thus, when she pulls back from Calueque, South Africa will know that Namibia is as good as lost.

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LETTERS to the Editor

Who speaks for Ghana?

SIR, It is good for Mr. Yaw Amoako-Addo in his letter (March 15) to advocate the extension of the self-reliance principle to the "ability to think critically and analyse problems". However I am convinced that he is more able to teach by precepts than by examples, as his own letter is not only a hotch-pot of misinformation, but also a riotous tangle of fallacies. Critical thinking involves both a correct assessment of facts and the drawing of logical conclusions from them.

While not advocating another coup in Ghana, I find it necessary to say that it is wrong to claim that a coup d'état cannot contribute to the progress of a country. Why then does Mr. Amoako-Addo support the continuation of the present regime? Surely the Acheampong coup has brought about some progress? Everything depends on who comes into power after a putsch. The banana states of South America have been making steady progress coup after coup, whenever the soldiers, in the exercise of their so-called divine mission, step in to clear up the mess. It does not seem to matter whether the mess was created by a military or civilian regime.

Mr. Yaw Amoako-Addo shows considerable disregard for truth. There is no other reason for elevating Gen. Afrifa to the leadership of the 1966 coup. A sniff through the General's book would have laid bare the truth. Tribalism did not flourish under the first military regime, but appears to have been deliberately cultivated by Dr. Busia in whose sociology and political repertoire tribalism always seemed to play a major part.

By asking the Government to make either paternal or maternal inheritance universal in Ghana, Mr. Amoako-Addo has confessed his inability to think critically about the relative merits of these two opposing systems of inheritance. Probably he is worried about some inequities in one or both systems and came to the conclusion that by universalizing either system the inequities would go away.

His call for the abolition of chieftaincy is based on a false, unstated, major premise, i.e. that the existence of chieftaincy withdrawals from or at least diminishes, loyalty to the local and central government. This cannot be true in view of the active part played by chiefs in local government, and the almost unanimous loyalty of the chiefs to the central government.

I understand Mr. Amoako-Addo to be saying that the Twi language will help to improve the cultural standard of the other language groups of Ghana. What facts has he to prove that the Twi speaking people of Ghana enjoy higher cultural standards? Can it be said that his critical mind has been clouded by tribal prejudices? So far as communication and marketing are concerned, he has a point. But has he considered carefully the effects of the resistance of other language groups to the imposition of Twi on them? He must try to acquire information on what happened in India and is happening in Sri Lanka. There is no evidence so far as I know of Ghana's internal economy being hampered by the present use of many languages. He has made no case for the adoption of Twi as a "national language".

Mr. Amoako-Addo claims to be speaking for many Ghanaians. How many? The word "many", like "we" and "they" used in arguments of this type usually mean and prove nothing. They constitute only a bogus, ghostly figment of the imagination.

Dr. SETH C. K. AGODZO

Leave Africa alone!

SIR: Not missiles, nor nuclear arms; perhaps the greatest service that science can do to mankind is to make sure that children of the next generation are born with smaller noses! This world would long have been a peaceful place if there were no "busy bodies" around, at least if everybody minded e his business! That brings me to the current wave of threats, warnings, and "hand-wagon" appeals from the super powers on Africa's hot spots — from the Sahara to South Africa. As they all love Africa that much! As if Africa does not know who her true friends are! As if Africa does not realise she'd had a dose of colonialism already, and dreads taking an overdose! As if the OAU can be by-passed and tucked away as yet another barking dog that never bites!

Take leave, world powers: Africa will not again find herself in your workshops — at least she will resist being forged on your unscrupulous anvils!

DAN MATSE-ORERE

Kings College, London

Outside influence?

SIR: In your editorial, "Business as Usual in Nigeria" (February 23) you doubted "whether any foreign agents would place confidence in an arbitrary and ridiculous word of playboys," who were connected with the February 13th "abortive coup" in Nigeria.

One would have given you the benefit of doubt if you did not go on to conclude that the "self-glorified Caesars are alone to blame for their disastrous action."

Events have now shown that the already executed Commissioner for Defence, Major General Bisalla, master minded the coup and that the ousted General Gowon was allegedly the mentor operating from Britain. Nobody would dismiss General Bisalla or General Gowon playboys.

Since the front man of the putschists, Lt. Col.

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Dmka, said that Generals Gowon and Bisalla were the misguided plotters, you will now agree with the suggestion, that there must have been "outside influence in the pathetic, but tragic operation."

For Britain to be a perfect Pontius Pilate, thus washing her hands clean of the plot, she should hand over General Gowon to Nigeria immediately.

UCHE ORRAH

Lagos

Renaming Ikeja

SIR: I very much appreciate the re-naming of Ikeja International Airport after our beloved former Head of State, the late General Murtala Muhammed, and I believe every right thinking Nigerian does. May his soul rest in peace.

Unlike local streets or motor park names, however, airport names are world wide and therefore, should be fairly easily spelt and pronounced.

In the light of this, the Supreme Military Council would more than please everyone if they could reconsider and amend the name to say, Murt Hammed Airport. Today, we still remember that "Nigeria" was derived from "Niger Area" while "Ibadan" was originally "Eba Odan". In the same way, generations to come will know that Murt Hammed Airport means General Murtala Muhammed Airport.

L G ADEBAYO

London

Constitutional Controls

SIR: I agree with the suggestions made by Mr. Nnabue G. Anakwe in his letter entitled "A Constitution for Nigeria" (March 15). However, I have reservations on the tenure of office he suggested for both the President and cabinet and the conditions for their re-election. A four year tenure with no possibility of immediate re-election will not only dwarf the image of the President externally, and possibly internally, certain polycy

objectives, no matter how popular, may also suffer in the event of such a frequent change over with no prospect of immediate re-election. We may in future want a person to complete a set task but he would not be able to because the constitution forbids it. I am sure Mr. Anakwe will agree with me that it is sometimes better for the original architect of a programme to carry it out completely than bring a new person in to do so. There are various other control measures against corruption that can be built into the constitution without this apparent hindrance to rewarding people for their public services.

Without any further complication of what is almost an intractable task in the light of current circumstances, I suggest a maximum of two consecutive tenures for the President and cabinet if they enjoy the confidence of the people. This can not be viewed as domination as long as eight years is the maximum for any President from any state and the choice of members of the cabinet is not restricted to any state.

R O A SMITH

Chelmsford

Top level security

SIR: To me it is almost unbelievable that a Head of State could be murdered in cold blood, in a traffic jam, defencelessly. The question is, can't Nigeria acquire some of the sophisticated security equipment or devices being used nowadays?

The US President and even Congressmen never go out without being accompanied by well armed secret service agents, and I think our own country should not be an exception.

It is understandable that Gen. Muhammed believed in reducing himself to the level of a common citizen in order to have a feel of what the common people of this great nation are experiencing, but our own society repels this type of thing.

While I pray for the successful leadership of the present Head of State, I wish to inform him that Nigeria is more than ripe enough to acquire security devices for at least the Head of State. We cannot afford to keep losing illustrious sons.

JAMES ADEBAYO

Nashville

Wrong inference?

SIR: In his article, *Nigeria's Nineteen States* (March 22) Dr. Lawrence Rupley wanted his readers to accept that "little immediate (financial) hardship" will be suffered by the existing twelve states during the 1975/76 financial year as a result of the newly established nineteen state system. This hardship will be occasioned by Dr. Rupley's wrong inference that the new system came into operation on February 3, 1976, the date it was announced, and therefore, the 1975/76 revenue allocation payments from the Federal Government to the twelve states will be affected.

There is no basis for this conclusion. Not only was it made clear that the new nineteen state Federation will be operative from the 1976/77 financial year (see October 1, 1975 speech), the seven new states have, in fact, been administered from Ibadan (Ogun and Ondo), Maiduguri (Bauchi and Gongola), Enugu (Imo), Sokoto (Niger), and Jos (Benue) since they were created on February 3. The question of "hardship, little or substantial" to Benue-Plateau or any of the existing twelve states during 1975/76 simply does not arise.

S EGITE OYOVAIBRE

Manchester University

Prestea Goldfields

SIR: To the best of my belief, Prestea Goldfields Ltd. is not, as Matchel suggested last week, inactive, but a flourishing subsidiary of the State Gold Mining Corporation.

Glasgow

B K T YLBOAH

Dr. A. L. F. Thomson

SIR: A great number of professional colleagues and friends in Nigeria and Ghana will have heard with much regret of the sudden death of Dr. A. L. F. Thomson (Tommy) in London on Tuesday, March 16.

Tommy Thomson, a Scot, graduated in 1930 at the University of Glasgow (MB, ChB) and proceeded to Liverpool to take the Diploma in Tropical Medicine. After the usual residuary appointments in the UK, he applied and was appointed to the former Colonial Medical Service, where he served with distinction in various Regions of Nigeria. In the latter country he will best be remembered for his service in the north, and where he reigned as Senior Medical Officer in Kano for many years. He completed his Nigerian service in Lagos in charge of the Creek Hospital. Upon his retirement from Nigeria he was offered re-employment by the Republic of Ghana and then enjoyed a second and most fruitful career, in Cape Coast, Sekondi and at the Ridge Hospital, Accra. At the conclusion of his Ghana service, the urge to continue his identity with West Africa brought him to a new field of medicine as a Medical Officer to CAST at Akwatia, to African Manganese at Nsuta, and at SLST (now Diminca) at Yengema, Sierra Leone.

As a person Dr. Thomson was naturally shy, but beneath this he had a great capacity not only to make friends, but to retain them, and the ease with which he fitted into African society, in all three countries in which he practised, will be long remembered by a host of friends, professional and others. He was arranging to re-visit Ghana next week, at the invitation of close friends, and he was in the midst of finalising his travel plans when he collapsed and died in his London flat. He will be missed by all of us to whom he was always so kind, generous and understanding.

IVOR G. CUMMINGS

London

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If you have no intention of buying a Fiat at the moment, make sure your drivers don't get a chance of a test drive: otherwise they'll never leave you in peace.

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The Roots of Corruption ?

Dr. Tetteh Kofi, an assistant Professor at the Food Research Institute of Stanford University in California, continues the inter-university discussion on bribery and corruption.

"Corruption: A basis for Security?" (*West Africa*, January 5, 1976) by Mr. Opoku Acheampong of the University of Ghana, and "Commentary on Corruption" (*West Africa*, January 19, 1976) by Professor Maxwell Owusu of the University of Michigan offer two different theories to explain the social and economic basis of bribery and corruption in Ghana. I would like to offer a different viewpoint rooted in the mode of production. But first let me restate the two other viewpoints.

Mr. Acheampong believes that "the problem of corruption has a history. We inherited it from traditional society. You want something done, go see the appropriate man." Thus, to him, corruption is a "cultural" trait which "affords the individual the greatest security." Professor Owusu, on the other hand, believes that "The roots of bribery and corruption in Ghana certainly lie as much in our lack, at all levels of society, and in almost every institutional setting, of self-restraint and discipline... our epicurean philosophy of life..." These explanations exclude the economic motive.

It does not seem to me that self-restraint, discipline or checks against bribery and corruption will lessen or eradicate the malaise from our midst. Also, it is wrong to say that the present nature of bribery and corruption

was inherited from pre-capitalist Ghanaian societies. What then are the roots — the economic base — of the problem? The answer may be found in an analysis of the mode of organising for production and distribution. For corruption is found in all societies, both in developed and developing societies

Dependent society

The current Ghanaian (African) society is a dependent capitalist society where the inhabitants own only a part of the means of production, especially those of the industrial sector. With the exception of the labour force, we own and can generate only a small part of the productive forces — the technical knowledge (production techniques) and the organisational knowledge to produce skilled labour, etc. Given such a state of affairs, only a small part of the surplus (profits) accrue to the nationals. The two basic questions that need to be answered are: (i) How does a would-be capitalist engage in primary accumulation of capital? (ii) How does an urban worker or a petty commodity producer (farmer) augment his income which is falling below the subsistence level? Corruption becomes a mechanism whereby the businessman ac-

cumulates capital; the urban worker-civil servant or the policeman uses it to augment his meagre income.

The historical evolution of worldwide development, centred in Europe, has denied Africa and other Third World countries a natural evolution of merchant and industrial capitalists as it occurred, say, in England. On the historical evolution of the industrial capitalist in England, Marx (*Capital*, Volume one, Chapter XXXVI) commented that "the money capital formed by means of usury and commerce was prevented from turning into industrial capital, in the country by feudal constitution, in the towns by the guild organisation." Thus there seems to have been a "natural" path for the evolution of different types of capitalists. In some cases, although not that clear cut, the industrial capitalist evolved from the artisan class. A case in point which will be easily understood by Britain is that of Lord Leverhulme, who started a soap factory at Port Sunlight (Sunlight soap) and built it into an industrial giant which became a major part of the Unilever complex (United Africa Company, etc.). The point is that the Lord Leverhulmes will have to be created artificially in the Third World.

It is no longer possible to start from a small beginning with money capital accumulated from past savings out of commerce or artisan activity and, with a primitive industrial know-how, to engage in industrial production. In open economies such as ours, where multinational corporations compete with local capitalists it is easy to see that the local capitalists will need large money capital to organise for production and compete effectively. Thus, under the present parasitic and dependent capitalist development that is being practised in Africa, corruption becomes one of the avenues whereby cash capital is easily accumulated by the comparador bourgeoisie with access to political power.

Who gets what . . .

In dependent underdeveloped capitalist societies with the mode of production described above, corruption is intimately related to the distribution of the social wealth which is the basis of production and reproduction. The social relations of production express the distribution of power in the system which in turn determines the relative shares of the national pie.

Mr. Acheampong gave a hypothetical example of corruption in the marketing system. One Mr. Kofi Guy was advanced money by the Cocoa Marketing Board to purchase cocoa from the farmers, he buys a Mercedes Benz with part of the cash. But he is not sent to jail when the auditors discover what he has done. The policeman and the auditor collude to set him free. It was arranged for Kofi Guy to pay back the advance but "five years later he still has not paid". This type of corruption exists in the same form in all sectors of the economy.

It is the nature of the distribution of power among the social classes which sets Kofi Guy free. Kofi Guy, the auditor and the policeman belong to the same social

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class. Their interests as exploiters of the cocoa farmer coincide. It is the cocoa farmer who ends up footing the bill. How? It is easy to explain the riddle. The Cocoa Marketing Board advances the money to middlemen to buy the produce on its behalf, at a price which is normally below the world price. The Board then sells the produce on the world market and is supposed to distribute to the farmers, at the end of the season or at a later date, the surplus that accrues after the sale of the cocoa. The surplus is the gross receipts less administrative and other marketing expenses — transportation, storage, insurance, etc. These other expenses will include Kofi Guy's unauthorised purchase of the Mercedes Benz. Let us assume that the cocoa farmers are forced (indirectly) to pay relatively higher taxes than other groups in the society. (This taxation is mostly of the indirect type, through export duty on cocoa. The new Income Tax Decree specifically exempts cocoa farmers.) Let us also assume that the Government is incapable of checking Kofi Guy-type corruption (and wasteful consumption) Under the above assumptions it is clear that the Marketing Board can only stabilise farmer incomes at a relatively lower level. Thus the government and especially the farmers have, relatively, lower revenues with which to invest in productive activities and aid in economic development.

... When, and how —

This Kofi Guy type corruption abounds in all sorts of disguises in different sectors of the economy outside the Cocoa Marketing Board's activities. The nature of the corruption is basically the same, be it (i) the contractor who bribes his way to get a contract and overcharges the government for work done, or (ii) the urban comparator bourgeois elite who, through access to political power, appropriates the sole distributorship of an import or domestic merchandise and charges monopolistic prices to enrich himself. In the final analysis, the outcome of the corruptible practices is the unequal distribution of the national wealth between the social classes. To the extent that most government revenues come directly or indirectly out of the cocoa sales it is the cocoa community which eventually foots the bill arising out of corrupt practices.

In Ghana the central government revenue comes mainly from: cocoa duty, import duties, taxes on income and property, and Production and expenditure taxes.

During the 1947/48 season, the year the Cocoa Marketing Board was formed, total export duty on cocoa was £G.4 million and cocoa producers received £G15.4 million. Soon thereafter export duties on cocoa rose and in the 1960/61 season farmers received £G55.1 million and paid £G15.5 million in duties. For the entire period from 1947/61 farmers received £G446.2 million and paid £G235.5 million in export duties, about half of the producer gross receipts. In the same period, the total surplus accumulated by the Cocoa Marketing Board amounted to £G87.4 million. Out of this amount, at the end of the 1960/61 season £G26.3 million had been loaned to the Ghana government.

Thus, not only does the cocoa growing community pay heavy indirect taxes but

also is forced (indirectly) to save and make loans to the government to promote economic development. It seems that the duties and forced savings rates have increased since 1961. In 1961 the export duty on cocoa as a source of Ghana government revenue was 30.5 million cedis. This was 17.6 per cent of total government revenue collected that year. In 1969 cocoa duty revenue stood at 98.1 million cedis. This was 29.5 per cent of the total government revenue. Readers should note that the share of cocoa duty in the total government revenues does not represent the total contribution of the cocoa growing community. In the other government revenue contributing categories — for example, import duties — every Ghanaian contributes to this fund to the extent that the import taxes are passed on to consumers.

— And who pays the bill

It may be added that the cocoa growing community is the largest earner of foreign exchange for the country. Since the beginning of the century cocoa has consistently contributed over 66 per cent of the yearly foreign exchange receipts. Yet the cocoa farming group consumes relatively little of imported commodities. It seems that they are the most exploited group in the Ghanaian society. Why and how is this exploitation possible? Is this exploitation related to the inability of past and present governments to check bribery and corruption on the society? The following hypothesis may be advanced to explain the material base of bribery and corruption which, as Mr. Acheampong and Professor Owusu point out, are becoming formal institutions in our society: bribery and corruption are possible on such a large scale because the unproductive and parasitic class represented, in large part, by the comparator bourgeoisie, the urban elite, and the traditional elite (remnants of the pre capitalist feudal elite), have banded together and are making use of the administrative apparatus to distribute unevenly the national wealth generated by the productive class — the cocoa growers.

The above analysis seems to demonstrate that corruption in Ghana-type societies is not culturally determined as Mr. Acheampong claims. We cannot eradicate bribery and corruption through the morality of self-restraint and self-discipline as Professor Owusu wishes. Iron discipline through military rule will not eradicate the endemic bribery and corruption so long as the mode of production remains the same. It is the mode of production that needs to be changed through a revolutionary means. This will only come about when the productive class (the cocoa and other peasant farmers) raises its level of consciousness and, with the revolutionary urban class, seizes power to change the mode of organising for production and distribution.

In most western societies such a revolutionary change has not taken place. This is so because the rate of exploitation has been steady and the real-wage level has been rising in response to rises in productivity due to technical progress. This has forestalled the class antagonisms from developing into revolutionary crisis. The situation may be quite different for the African economies.

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ECONOMIC and Business NEWS

Plodding towards Nairobi

from a correspondent

It is perhaps a shame that the UNCTAD board did not feel able to reach any firm conclusions to guide the May Conference of the full organisation but it need not be a serious setback. To look on the bright side, the board has the good sense to realise that little would be achieved in passing resolutions by mere political force and it also realised that, with the GATT talks still moving (at long last) towards some measures to ease trading and the North-South dialogues in Paris under way progress can still be made. Then, too, there is the Commonwealth experts' report. All these things are earnest of a world-wide willingness to move towards a more equitable trade system and the reaction of the UNCTAD board in rejecting rhetoric, in favour of a simple admission that more work has to be done, is useful. The fact that hard work can produce the results has been demonstrated in recent months by the achievement, after a lot of talk and study, of new International Agreements for Tin, Coffee and Cocoa. Patient plodding may make few headlines but it was the tortoise that won the race.

UNCTAD stumbles over stock-piling

The 68 member board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) — the main UN body concerned with helping developing countries — decided it could reach no agreed conclusions at its two week meeting in Geneva to pass on to full UNCTAD conference — of 150 plus countries — in Nairobi next May.

Board President Kenneth Daddie of Ghana gave a summing up of the session "submitted on my personal responsibility" after vainly trying to reach agreement on a common text with rich and poor country representatives.

The core of the disagreement in the two week board session was a plan drawn up by UNCTAD's Secretariat to stock pile international commodities such as rubber and coffee with the aim of stabilising export earnings of developing countries and guaranteeing supplies to consumers.

The buffer stocks would be paid for out of a Common Fund financed by all UNCTAD members.

The plan, part of an integrated programme including help for the Third World to sell abroad, was to be the key achievement of the full UNCTAD conference, held every four years.

But the United States, the European Common Market and the Soviet Union have been sceptical or lukewarm towards the programme.

Mr. Daddie told the board at its closing session he saw a change in delegates from "the earlier, more fragmented approach to commodi-

ty problems" and general recognition "of the need for an international framework of inter-related and complementary objectives, measures and techniques".

Western industrialised states put in a paper to the final meeting saying they considered buffer stocks only one of the possible stocking arrangements on a national or international level.

The Netherlands immediately set itself apart from its partners in the European Economic Community by declaring it would contribute to a fund "duly negotiated and agreed upon" and was joined by Norway in its support for buffer stocks.

The Group of 77, linking more than 100 developing countries, appealed for an end to "indifference, reluctance and stubborn denial" and told delegates: "We expect a more constructive dialogue which will lead to positive action and meaningful and concrete results".

GATT offers under study

Third World states are studying offers of trade concessions on traditional exports of tropical products tabled by industrialised importing countries in negotiations in Geneva said a spokesman for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Offers have come from the United States, Japan, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Australia and Switzerland.

Proposals were still awaited from New Zealand and the nine-nation European Economic Community (EEC), the world's largest trading bloc.

Waiting for Ivory Coast

The sixth council session of the International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO) ended in London without any clear cut decision on the Ivory Coast question. But the Dominican Republic and Mexico have both shown interest in signing. They and the other members who have already expressed their willingness would be sufficient to meet the condition that 80 per cent of exporting members must sign.

Nevertheless ICCO executive director Kwesi Hackman told the council that the Ivory Coast and other African producers are taking a political initiative to try to find a way round the Ivory Coast's objections, which are mainly that price levels in the agreement are too low.

Even if the Ivory Coast, the Dominican Republic and Mexico all refuse to sign, the agreement could still go ahead Mr. Hackman said. In that case paragraph 69 of the pact could be invoked enabling those nations who had signed to proceed with the agreement. Among the nations who have said they will sign are Brazil and Nigeria. Ghana has already signed, the first member to do so.

ICCO cuts its forecast

The statistics committee of the International Cocoa Organisation has cut its forecast for the 1975-76 world production of cocoa by 7,000 tonnes to 1,465,600 tonnes. It has at the same time increased its estimates of grindings to 1,484,000 tonnes which makes for a supply deficit of 33,000 tonnes. The difference between the ICCO forecasts and those of Gill & Duffus, which the market seems to prefer, is mainly due to different measuring methods rather than any underlying disagreement. Also with the result of the Brazilian Tempero crop being so important many dealers feel that forecasts at present are not very significant.

More cocoa

The African Bank for Development is to lend Gabon 1,174,550,000 CFA francs (about £2,610,000) to finance the extension of cocoa plantations. The project is aimed at improving transport and working conditions in the main cocoa producing area of Gabon.

Kenya is expecting a record coffee crop this year.

Common Market to send food

The Common Market Commission plans to send several thousand tonnes of food aid to strife-torn regions of Africa. The Commission is seeking permission from the EEC governments to send the aid to the Western Sahara, Angola and to Angolan refugees in Zaïre.

Under the scheme the

Community would send 3,000 tonnes of cereals, 100 tonnes of milk powder and 80 tonnes of butter oil to the Western Sahara. Value of the aid was \$60,000 and of account (£280,000).

The Commission has already decided to send 100 tonnes of milk powder to Angola but is seeking approval to send a similar amount in the near future.

The Commission also wants to send 2,000 tonnes of cereals, 180 tonnes of milk powder and 100 tonnes of butter oil to the estimated 30,000 Angolan refugees in Zaïre.

Value of the aid to Angola proper and to the refugees was 720,000 UA £360,000. The Commission is acting in response to requests from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Oil price freeze predicted

Sheikh Yamani, Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister, has predicted that world oil prices will be frozen this year. He said that Saudi Arabia will oppose any price increase sought by other members of OPEC (See West Africa, March 11).

He was speaking in Washington after a meeting with Dr. Kissinger which followed five days of secret discussions with four American oil companies on the details of the takeover of their 40 per cent interest in Aramco — the world's biggest oil producer: Saudi Arabia already owns the other 60 per cent.

Rice record

World rice output is now estimated at 352.4m tonnes by the American Department of Agriculture, this is 7 per cent more than last year's record crop of 328.7m tonnes. The Department estimates the exportable surplus at 9m tonnes but, because of better crops, import demand may be only about 7m tonnes, with world stocks at the end of the season rising to 14.4m tonnes compared with 10.5m tonnes.

Protein from rice

Two large American food companies — Nabisco and Riviana Foods — have announced they have developed a new high protein food, a combination of rice and soy, which they have called "triciten". It costs only slightly more than rice and considerably less than meat.

Malaysia is the first country to have ratified the fifth International Tin Agreement. Britain, Denmark, France, West Germany, Thailand and America have all agreed but not yet ratified.

The Bank of Ghana and the University of Cape Coast are working out details of establishing a Stock Exchange in Ghana.

Official figures for unemployment in America in February fell to their lowest since July 1974. This is generally taken as a further sign that the American economy is picking up.

New service to Sapele

Gunnes Peat Group Limited, the commodity trading and merchant banking group, has moved into the shipping line business with the formation of a subsidiary company, North Delta Line Limited, which will operate a scheduled liner service from Weston Port docks on the Mersey to Sapele in Nigeria.

The first sailing of the new service will be by the chartered Danish vessel "Kraka" on April 15. The following vessel will be berthed on May 12 and thereafter there will be regular sailings out ward from Weston Port every 25 days.

Japan remained the world's top shipbuilder last year. Its output of 16.9 million gross tons represented 49.6 per cent of the world tonnage of newly completed merchant ships, which soared to a record 34.2 million tons. West Germany placed second, Sweden third and Spain fourth, turning out 2.5 million tons, 2.2 million tons, and 1.6 million tons respectively. Britain was fifth with 1.2 million tons — the second lowest figure since 1969.

Less aid from Japan

Japan's overseas aid programme, which hit a record \$5,700m in 1973-74, is in trouble. The Japanese aid cheque, which has become an important factor in Third World development, was halted in 1974-75 and is believed to be little better for the year ending this month. With another budget deficit expected in the coming year there is little hope of much improvement in 1976-77.

Even though Japan sent an observer to the UNCTAD preparatory talks in Manila there is not much likelihood of Japan taking part in new commodity pacts. In fact the Japanese contribution to the new buffer stock of the Fifth International Tin Agreement has been delayed by squabbles between the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and the private tin importers.

Similarly the Third World's other major target of aid on better terms and provision for debt relief will not get much comfort from Japan. And Japan has little intention of changing its policy of loans rather than grants. It believes firmly that receiving governments handle funds more carefully when they know they have to repay the money.

The World Bank is to borrow 18.49m yen from the Bank of Japan with an average maturity of 6.5 years at an interest rate to be set next February.

World Bank borrowing

The World Bank announced the placement of a \$350,000,000 issue of US dollar bonds, maturing

March 15, 1978, in markets outside the United States. The bonds were purchased by central banks and other governmental institutions of 64 countries and by one international organisation; such purchasers now hold \$1,140,000,000 of World Bank two-year bonds. The new World Bank bonds, known as "Two Year Bonds of 1976, due March 15, 1978" bear interest at 7 per cent per annum, payable semi-annually. The issue was sold at par.

The new bonds were delivered on March 15, 1976. An issue in the aggregate principal amount of \$257,700,000, placed outside the United States with similar purchasers in March 1974 matured on March 15, 1976.

Road loan for Senegal

The World Bank has approved two loans, totalling \$21.6 million, for two projects in Senegal's transport sector. A loan of \$15 million will finance a highway project designed to help Senegal continue its road rehabilitation and maintenance operations started under previous projects. The other, a "Third Window" loan of \$6.6 million, will help to establish a national programme for feeder roads.

The Board of the Arab Bank for development in Africa held its fourth ordinary session in Tunis from March 21 to 23. This was the Board's first meeting away from the Bank's headquarters in Khartoum. The board has decided to meet three times a year, once in Khartoum, once in a donor Arab country and once in a non Arab African recipient country.

Contribution from Kuwait

Kuwait is to give \$48m. to a special Arab fund for African Economic Development. No details have been given but the Kuwaiti contribution is thought to be for the Khartoum-based Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

The bank was set up in 1973 with a capital of \$231m. and approved its first loans, totalling \$85.5m to 13 countries, last September.

A meeting at Foreign Minister level of the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on Afro-Arab co-operation, will be held in April.

Poor states help Food Programme

Nine developing countries have pledged \$1.8m. to the World Food Programme of the United Nations in 1977 and 1978. The total of World Food Programme pledges for 1977-78 has now reached \$325,000,000, 70 per cent of the hoped for \$750,000,000.

Three of the nine countries — Niger, Somalia and North Yemen — are classed by the United Nations among the world's least

developed nations. A World Food Programme spokesman said their pledges were in the spirit of the Programme tradition, that all countries participate in the relief effort. Pakistan's contribution will be entirely in rice, valued at \$800,000, while India will contribute \$330,000 in food and \$660,000 in cash. The remaining countries will make their contribution in cash. The other countries and their contributions, are Barbados \$6,500, Niger \$8,889, Sierra Leone \$4,082, Somalia \$2,500, Syria \$54,795, Togo \$13,333, North Yemen \$1,000.

BP income down, dividend up

Total net income for BP in 1975 was £166.2m — a reduction of £31.2m, in 1974 which had included a non recurring stock profit of £175m. Nevertheless the net dividend is raised from 16.86p per share to 17.99p with a final of 11.74p.

Sales of crude oil, refined products and chemicals were down by 17.8 per cent compared with 1974. The fall in crude sales, 23.9 per cent, was the effect of both lower demand and more direct sales by OPEC countries. BP hopes for some gradual recovery in 1976.

Sweet news at Tate & Lyle

Chairman John Lyle told shareholders of the Tate and Lyle sugar group that he would be disappointed if 1976's profits were not better than those of 1975 which were £47m before tax. He said that the company now has substantial cash resources and is hoping to make a major investment in the near future. Mr Lyle also said the group had concluded long term contracts with the developing countries of the Commonwealth for almost all the EEC sugar quota under the Lome Agreement.

PZ keep jumping

Profits, before tax, for Paterson Zochonis in the first half of the current year (up to November 30, 1975) jumped from £35.1m to 49.1m, this includes eight months of Cassons Group earnings which amounted to £10.1m. The interim dividend is raised for 0.56p per share to 0.84p and the directors propose to pay a maintained final of 2.24p. Not surprisingly, after the new shares rose a tenth of 200p.

Executives from Nigeria, Ghana, and Sierra Leone joined colleagues from nine other countries in Malaysia for a week long conference of Duncan, Gilbey and Matheson managers. The group produces 37 varieties of drinks, ranging from gin and whisky to the cocoa and coconut based liqueur Afrakoko.

British American Tobacco expects increased operating profits in its four divisions in the coming year the retiring chairman Sir Richard Dobson, told the AGM.

The Lome Convention comes fully into force on April 1.

Leicester's third trade mission

The Leicester and County Chamber of Commerce and Industry is sending its third trade mission in two years to Nigeria in April, starting on St George's Day, April 23. The Chamber's last mission, in September 1975, returned with £1.3m worth of orders, and was described by the secretary, Mr Alan Green, as "one of the most exciting and financially successful" ever organised by the chamber. The chamber is now contemplating annual visits to Nigeria.

"Instant" road repairs

The Bristol firm of Ecol Products Ltd is looking for a Nigerian agent (and also Liberian and Gambian agents) to handle an "instant" road repairing compound that enables traffic to pass freely over a filled in hole only minutes after it has been repaired.

The compound can be mixed and poured into a hole by two men and, the company claims, five minutes later the road can be used again. It can be used on tar, macadam, asphalt and concrete surfaces, even airport runways though in this case it is 30 minutes before aircraft can use the runway.

Building conference

An international conference on energy conservation in buildings is being held at the Building Research Station, near London, next month. Some 3,000 delegates from all over the world are expected to hear 40 scheduled papers. Most of the papers are, perhaps inevitably, concerned with keeping sufficient heat in buildings but the balance is redressed by an invited paper from building design consultant Nelson Neoka whose paper is on the "Functional aspects of housing design in Nigeria, with special reference to thermal and ventilation considerations."

Homes from Hull

The British firm of Humber Portables from Hull, is hoping to set up a factory in Nigeria soon to make prefabricated homes. An example of one has been shipped out from Britain for display but the fact that the freight cost of £6,500 exceeded the cost of the bungalow is one reason for building locally. The two-bedroom homes come complete with furniture, cooker, washing machine, fridge and heater and air conditioning.

Contract Portables already have a number to provide 60 homes and fittings for 40 more on an estate being developed in the north west with a Singapore firm, East-West Company, who are doing the site work. However, Humber Portables are hoping that this is merely the beginning.

They see vast potential in the Nigerian housing market. The factory, which will be able to use a considerable amount of local material is expected to employ about 50 people.

World Bank down on the farm

The World Bank is becoming a major source of assistance for agricultural development to tackle the problems of poverty in the dominant rural sector in developing countries. In co-operation with the developing countries, the Bank has launched a multisectoral approach to achieve sustained increases in per capita output and incomes, to expand the opportunities for employment and to offer greater equity in the distribution of benefits of growth.

Since 1973, the Bank and its affiliate, the International Development Association (IDA), have quadrupled their lending for rural development and the Bank's lending programme for the five-year period 1975-79 includes about 200 rural development projects. The objective is to raise the productivity and improve the living standards of some 100 million people through this programme.

There has been a substantial increase in the flow of funds to agriculture in recent years. In calendar 1973, total bilateral and multilateral assistance for agriculture was \$2,400m. In 1974 it was \$1,800m and, on the basis of rough estimates, close to \$5,000m in 1975. In 1973 and 1974 aid to agriculture represented 15.3 per cent and 19.4 per cent of all aid: 8.9 per cent and 13.5 per cent of all bilateral aid and 25.5 per cent of all multilateral aid.

The Bank is the largest source of assistance for agriculture.

Taking calendar 1973 and 1974 together the annual average lending for agriculture was \$2,600m, of which 50.7 per cent came from the World Bank, 36.5 per cent from bilateral sources and 12.8 per cent from the Regional Banks.

The Bank's lending for agriculture has grown from \$413m. in 1970 to \$1,858m last year.

Estimates are that at full development the agriculture and rural development projects approved by the Bank and IDA in fiscal 1975 would result in additional production of seven million tons of foodgrains annually. The time required for full development and full production will be 10 years or more.

Some 2.7 million farm families or about 16 million people are expected to benefit from increased incomes arising from projects approved for Bank/IDA assistance in fiscal 1975.

As many as 37 of the 70 projects financed by the Bank and IDA have an expected economic rate of return of more than 20 per cent.

FAO's fishy business

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation holds the key to successful partnerships between Third World countries and commercial companies in developing mutually beneficial fishing operations, according to a leading

fisheries industrialist, Mr. P. J. B. Hart of Sweden. Mr. Hart was supported by many other of the 60 representatives of fishing companies at a meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Industries Development of the FAO Industry Co-operative Programme.

Company representatives expressed keen interest in new joint ventures with governments of developing countries to harvest untapped fish resources but they were short of the appropriate expertise, basic knowledge and field organisation possessed by FAO for carrying out preliminary feasibility studies. However, some delegates criticised the "lack of profit orientation" in many preliminary feasibility studies by public or in international bodies.

Mismanaged harvests

The failure of the world's greatest trading nations to agree how to manage trade in the world's principal food grain, wheat, was deplored by Dr. Eric Ojala, Assistant Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in a speech at the Trade Policy Research Centre in London. Dr. Ojala said that with aggregate stocks of basic foods at their present inadequate levels, a coincidence of bad harvests in the main developing and developed regions would spell severe malnutrition, possibly starvation, for millions of the world's poor.

Equally, bumper crops in all regions would produce a surplus which would discourage export producers, leading straight back to insecurity.

Measures to establish buffer stocks of basic foods were being held up, Dr. Ojala said, mainly by the slow pace of the current multilateral trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the International Wheat Council. Serious differences persisted on the nature, purpose and management of food stocks.

In both talks the main

ICI offers scholarship for agricultural extension work

ICI is to offer a one year scholarship in agricultural extension at Reading University, open to experienced agriculturalists from any developing country.

The scholarship will be awarded annually for an existing course at the University's Agricultural Extension and Rural Development Centre. The prime objective of the course is to study the process of innovation and communication in farming communities but emphasis will be given to the use of crop protection chemicals in the planning and implementation of agricultural extension schemes.

The successful candidate will be jointly selected by the University and ICI's Plant Protection Division, whose management will undertake initial interviewing in the candidate's own country. They will be particularly looking for people

participants are the United States, the EEC, Australia, Canada, Japan and Argentina, whose latest crop was below expectations.

The technical problems of an international grains arrangement with reserve stocks were soluble, said Dr. Ojala. But the political momentum seemed to have been lost. In the meanwhile, developing countries could not establish large enough stocks to provide security against major crop failures.

Population booms and society

A one month intensive course on the social aspects of population growth is being held at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. Fourteen of the 20 representatives, all from developing countries, are being financed by the Ministry of Overseas Development, under technical assistance arrangements.

Population programmes are now seen as a most important priority in practically all developing countries. This seminar will discuss and examine the major aspects that affect population growth.

WHO recognises the healers

The World Health Organisation's expert committee on traditional medicine encouraged African governments to recognise the work of traditional healers and take the necessary political decisions to encourage the healers.

A communique of the meeting of WHO representatives at Brazzaville said a healer was the man recognised by the community as being competent to give medical treatment using vegetable, animal and mineral substances and other methods based on local socio-cultural foundations, taking into consideration the aetiology of the illnesses and infirmities in the community as well as that of its physical, mental and social well-being.

In Papua New Guinea, Parlia-

ment has passed a resolution requiring all witchdoctors to be inducted on all medical registers after proving their healing skills.

Moving to new standards

The Interim Steering Committee of the African Regional Standards Organisation (ARSO) held its second meeting at Africa Hall in Addis Ababa from 15-18 March to work out final drafts of documents to be submitted for adoption at the founding conference of ARSO. The agenda for the meeting includes the following items: constitution budget work programme and priorities of ARSO and adoption of the Committee's report.

The Interim Steering Committee whose members are Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi and Nigeria, was appointed in September last year by the Exploratory Meeting on the Establishment of ARSO until a permanent secretariat of ARSO is founded.

Cameroon's cloth imports

Cameroon's imports of cloth have been increasing in the last three years, according to official statistics. Figures for 1973, 1974 and 1975 were 14,670 16,011, and 22,011 tons respectively.

A recent ministerial circular gave two Cameroon companies the right of veto on imports. They are Cotonnier Industrielle du Cameroun (CICAM) and Synthetiques du Cameroun (SYNTHECAM). CICAM's annual production is 30,000,000 metres of cloth, and that of Synthetecam 2,200,000 metres. This meets about 50 per cent of Cameroon's needs. CICAM and SYNTHECAM also export 15 per cent of their output to Central African Customs Union (UDEAC) countries (Gabon, the Central African Republic and Congo) while CICAM exports a certain amount of cloth to Europe.

capable of making a significant contribution to agricultural extension work in their own country.

"Because 70 per cent of ICI's crop protection business is overseas, we know just how vital the agricultural extension services are," said Keith Moores, division regional manager for Asia and Africa, who is responsible for implementing the scholarship scheme. "Without the extension services, we would be hard put to get some of our messages to where it counts — the ordinary farmer. One way of underlining our endorsement of the importance of agricultural extension work overseas is by setting up this scholarship scheme."

The scholarship fund will pay for the student's fares to the UK, accommodation and meals, university fees, tuition and books. If married, the student's family is

likely to be invited by ICI to visit the UK at the end of the course. The total value of the award could range between £4,000 and £6,000.

The course at Reading will include studies in rural development, sociology, psychology, communication, evaluation and management techniques. Visits will be made to other centres specialising in communication, training and rural development. Field work in the UK and an organised tour to another country are also planned as part of the programme. The students will also spend a month with ICI research, marketing and field development teams.

Depending on the student's initial qualifications, successful completion of the course will normally lead to a Diploma or a Master's degree.

SHIPPING News

ELDER DEMPSTER LINES

SOUTHBOUND — From Liverpool
EBOR due Port Harcourt Mar. 30;
YALABA due Apapa Apr. 2; **ILRI** due
 Apapa Apr. 5; **MANO** slg. Pointe
 Noire Mar. 30;
 From London **EBANI** slg. Apr. 5,
SHONGA slg. Apr. 4, **BHAMO** slg.
 Apr. 21, **SHIRIKO** slg. Apapa Mar.
 29
 From N. Continent **IDOMENEUS** due
 Abidjan Mar. 20, **OSTERFEHN** slg.
 Apapa Mar. 29; **MENESTHEUS** slg.
 Rotterdam Mar. 29.
 From Middlesbrough **DIEDO** Port
 Harcourt Mar. 31, **FOURAH BAY**, slg.
 Apapa Mar. 31.
 From Glasgow **EGORI** slg. Apr. 5,
ACIOMEDON slg. Apr. 2
 To London, **DEGEMA** slg. Takoradi
 Mar. 30, **DIXCOVE** due Banjul Mar.
 30.
 To N. Continent **DUNKWA** due Le
 Havre Apr. 6, **PEGU** due Le Havre
 Mar. 29.
 To Hull **FREETOWN** due Apr. 4
EASTBOUND — **DONGA** slg. Tema
 Apr. 2

WESTBOUND — **W/A** to NY/Ark
DUMBAIA due Freetown Mar. 30;
DUMURRA due Seaport Apr. 9.

BARBER LINES

OUTWARDS — **FUGELA** now due
 Tema, thence Lagos/Apapa and
 Douala. **HUUA** slg. New York Apr. 7
 for Kamsar, Freetown, Monrovia,
 Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa and
 Doula
HOMWARDS — **HUUA** now due
 Baltimore.

K LINES

WESTBOUND — From Japan via
 Hong Kong and Singapore to Lagos,
 Abidjan, Tema, Port Harcourt,
BAHAMA MARU slg. Japan Mar. 4
 due Lagos Apr. 20
EASTBOUND — **BOLIVIA MARU**
 slg. Lagos Apr. 10, Douala Apr. 13,
 Abidjan Apr. 17, Tema Apr. 23, Pointe
 Noire Apr. 30 due Japan June 2.

BLACK STAR LINE/USNH

WESTBOUND — **K LORTE**
LAGOON Tema Mar. 23, Takoradi
 Mar. 26, Philadelphia Apr. 13, New
 York Apr. 16, thence Gulf.

BLACK STAR LINE/

UK CONTINENT — **OII RIVER**
SOUTHBOUND — **OII RIVER**
 Bremen Mar. 15, Hamburg Mar. 13;
 Antwerp Mar. 17, Rotterdam Mar. 19;
BIRIM RIVER London Mar. 26;
OITIN RIVER Middlesbrough Apr. 9;
PRA RIVER London Apr. 7
NORTHBOUND — **CAPE BLANCO**
 Amsterdam Apr. 1, Hamburg Apr. 4,
OITIN RIVER Middlesbrough Mar.
 25

DAKRA LINE

SOUTHBOUND — **ERIKA**
SCHULTE slg. Boston Mar. 22; arr.
 West Africa May 10; **HELENE ROTH**
 New Orleans May 6; West Africa May
 23

WESTBOUND — **HELENE ROTH**
 West Africa Apr. 19, Jacksonville Apr. 21,
BRIE LAGNI New York May 1, West
 Africa May 13, **AFRIKA** slg. West
 Africa Apr. 14, New York May 1.

PALM LINE

NORTHBOUND — **LAGOS PALM**
 due Hull Mar. 30, **AFRICA PALM** due
 Liverpool Apr. 1.

SOUTHBOUND — **ENUGU PALM**
 slg. Douala Mar. 29, **ILISHA PALM**
 slg. Port Harcourt, **ELMINA PALM**
 slg. Douala Mar. 30

MITSUBI OSK LINE

INWARDS — **LAPLATA MARU** slg.
 Kobs. Apr. 5, due Lagos/Apapa June 4

MAERSK LINE

INWARDS — **MARIGO YEMEOS**
 slg. Kobs. Apr. 5, Tema May 10/12,
JESPER MAERSK slg. Kobs. May 5,
 Matsui June 6/8

THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL

SHIPPING LINE
SOUTHBOUND — **CROSS RIVER**
 Dublin Apr. 30, Dakar May 19,
 Freetown May 21; Abidjan May
 24, Takoradi May 27; Lome May 30;
 Cotonou Jun. 2
AHMADU BELLO Glasgow Apr. 30,
 Port Harcourt May 13
NORTHBOUND — **RIVER OGUN**
 Avonmouth Apr. 1, Banjul Mar. 23,
 Dakar Mar. 25

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA

LINE
SOUTHBOUND — **HOEGH FRAM**
 Dakar Apr. 13, Freetown Apr. 15,
 Monrovia Apr. 18, Buchanan Apr. 17,
 Abidjan Apr. 20, Takoradi Apr. 21/24
NOR FIBOUND — **ARIZONA**
 Sapek Apr. 12/14, Douala May 3/4,
 Port Lome May 6/8, Takoradi May
 11/13, Abidjan May 14/17, Freetown
 May 19.

FARRILL LINES

INWARDS — **AFRICAN**
COMI from Monrovia Apr. 2
AFRICAN SUN from Tema Apr. 12,
AFRICAN SUN Abidjan Apr. 27
AUSTRAL PILOT Lagos/Apapa May
 27

OUTWARDS — From New York
AFRICAN MERCURY Apr. 6, due
 Monrovia Apr. 15, Takoradi Apr. 21,
 Matadi Apr. 24
AFRICAN COMET from New York
 Apr. 21, due Monrovia May 4, Abidjan
 May 8, Lagos May 13

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

EASTWIND — New Orleans Apr.
 27, Houston Apr. 9/12, Tema Apr.
 28/30, Lagos May 1/5; Freetown May
 8, New Orleans May 23/26; Houston
 May 28/31

WESTWIND — New Orleans Apr.
 6/9; Houston Apr. 11/14, Tema Apr.
 30; May 2; Lagos May 3/9; Freetown
 May 12; New Orleans May 27/28;
 Houston May 30/June 2

THE I.A.C. LINES

SOUTHBOUND — **ARANYA** slg.
 Copenhagen Apr. 5, Aarhus Apr. 8,
 Bremen Apr. 12, Hamburg Apr. 14,
 Antwerp Apr. 17, Rouen Apr. 21,
 Rotterdam Apr. 28, Lagos/Apapa May
 10

NORTHBOUND — **ALAMEDA** slg.
 Lagos/Apapa Apr. 10, Abidjan Apr.
 13, Monrovia Apr. 16, Aarhus Apr. 25,
 Mass. Apr. 28, Hamburg Apr. 30,
 Rotterdam May 1, Antwerp May 4

N.Y.K. LINES

SOUTHBOUND — **SETSU MARU**
 slg. Mat. 25/30, Cotonou Mar. 31/Apr.
 5, Tema Apr. 6/12, Abidjan Apr.
 12/15

ROYAL INTER-OCEAN LINES

INWARDS — **MAR NELLOYS** slg.
 Douala Apr. 20, Cotonou Apr. 24;
 Lome Apr. 30, Tema May 2, Takoradi
 May 4, Abidjan May 6, Monrovia 9,
 Banjul May 14, Dakar May 16
STRAVA BARLEY — due Freetown
 Apr. 5, Dakar Apr. 9, Takoradi May
 15, Tema May 24.

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- (b) **COMMERCIAL MANAGER:** A University degree in Economics, Business Administration, or any of the Social Sciences with at least 7 years post qualification experience in the Commercial Department of a large firm or Corporation. A professional qualification in Marketing will be an advantage.
Duties: The Commercial Manager is head of the Commercial Department and is responsible to the General Manager. He should demonstrate knowledge of cargo, traffic, reservation and management techniques. Knowledge of airline operations will be an advantage.
- (c) **CHIEF ACCOUNTANT:** ACA, ACCA, ACMA with at least 7 years post qualification experience. He must show good knowledge of Commercial/Airline accounting systems, preparation of budgets and budgetary control, cash forecasting and monitoring, capital expenditure appraisal and control, costing systems, taxation, international settlements and exchange control.
Duties: The Chief Accountant is the Head of Accounts Department and is responsible to the General Manager for all aspects of the Department.
- (d) **PERSONNEL MANAGER:** A University Degree in Economics, Business Administration or any of the Social Sciences with at least 7 years post qualification experience. Diploma in Personnel Management or equivalent professional qualification will be an advantage.
Duties: The successful candidate must show thorough knowledge of Industrial Relations, collective bargaining, personnel administration and Labour Laws.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Applications in applicants' own handwriting naming three referees including the present or past employers must be accompanied by copies of certificates and Testimonials and address to:

**THE COMPANY SECRETARY,
NIGERIA AIRWAYS,
MURTALA MUHAMMED INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
IKEJA, LAGOS**

to reach him not later than Saturday, 10th April, 1976. Envelopes should be marked at the top left corner with 'GM', 'CM', 'CA' or 'PM' respectively. Only applications of those selected for interview will be acknowledged.

SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

VACANCIES

We are a fast expanding Indo-Nigerian Company based in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. We are manufacturers of furniture for offices, libraries and schools, electric fans, room air-conditioners, and steel structures.

We require dynamic young men of Asian/African origin with initiative and drive to fill the following vacancies:

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS:

For conducting Time and Motion study, method study, activity sampling, preparing plant layouts, devising material handling systems, value analysis, job evaluation work, etc.

Qualifications & Experience: University degree or HND in Industrial Engineering followed by a minimum of three years practical experience in a similar work in a light engineering industry.

engineering trades, supported by class room work. Must be conversant with merit rating systems and modern training aids.

Qualification & Experience: University Graduate/HND/HNC in Mechanical Engineering followed by a minimum of five years experience in a similar work in Trade schools, colleges and industry.

PAINT TECHNOLOGIST:

To take charge of our expanding paint shop which is being modernised.

Qualifications & Experience: B.Sc./HNC in physics and chemistry or City & Guilds Full Technological Certificate in Paint Technology followed by a minimum of three years experience in industry utilising modern painting techniques and conveyerised plants for surface preparations, paint application, and quality controls, etc.

SALARIES AND PROSPECTS:

These are Management positions with bright prospects for advancement; and they all carry liberal fringe benefits and allowances for housing, conveyance, superannuation, annual leave, leave travel, medical, etc. Attractive salaries (negotiable) are offered depending upon qualifications and experience.

Please apply within 15 days in own handwriting, giving your complete Bio-Data, i.e., Name, Age, Schools, and colleges attended, standards achieved with years of passing and grades, details of experience and present responsibilities. Copies of Certificates, Testimonials and one recent passport size photograph must accompany all applications.

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To organise on the job training of technical staff and workers for various

NIGERIA ENGINEERING WORKS LIMITED

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P.O. BOX 519,
PORT HARCOURT,
NIGERIA.

SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.



VACANCIES

NATIONAL BANK OF NIGERIA LIMITED

This indigenous banking institution with branches and rapidly expanding business throughout the country requires the services of the underlisted personnel:

- (a) Professional Bankers;
- (b) Personnel Officers;
- (c) Professional Accountants and Finance Officers;
- (d) Marketing Research and Statistics Officers;
- (e) Organisation and Methods Officers;
- (f) Professional Architects and Estate Managers
- (g) Legal Officers;
- (h) Agricultural Economists and
- (i) Management Trainees.

These positions which are available at both the middle and top level managements of the bank, are challenging and will be interesting to applicants with dedicated and flexible personalities who possess relevant as well as adequate professional knowledge, initiative and drive.

Successful applicants must be prepared to work at both the Head Office in Lagos and in any other part of the Federation and possess the ability to interact effectively with the other Senior Staff of the Bank.

Applicants for the above positions should preferably be aged between 25 and 40 years and must possess the appropriate professional qualifications relevant to the posts for which they apply. Good University degrees or professional qualifications in economics, business administration, personnel management, accounting, finance banking and other social sciences will be an advantage. Candidates for positions in the Research and Planning Department as well as in the Organisation and Methods Department of the bank are normally required to possess post-graduate training and qualification in those areas. Applicants are also expected to have acquired post qualification experience relevant to the posts and levels of appointment they seek.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:

Salaries for all the above posts which are attractive as well as competitive, are negotiable depending on the age, experience and qualifications. In addition, a suitable range of attractive fringe benefits (including car allowance, housing loan and allowance, and medical facilities, contributory pension scheme) are available.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Applications, which will be treated in strict confidence, with the curriculum vitae of candidates (stating details of experience, educational qualifications, and the institutions attended, age, marital status and present salary) should be addressed to:

**THE CHIEF OF BANKING SERVICES,
NATIONAL BANK OF NIGERIA LIMITED,
HEAD OFFICE, PMB 12123, LAGOS.**

To reach him not later than Saturday, 3rd April, 1976.

NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

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Candidates are required to forward 10 copies of types application giving personal particulars, full qualifications and experience and naming three referees to reach the Secretary not later than 15th April, 1976. Candidates are also requested to inform their referees to send reports on them under separate confidential cover to the Administrative Secretary, Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER), PMB 5, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Administrative Secretary

4th March, 1976

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Dateline AFRICA

GHANA

Latest Price Control Regulations

Commercial houses and traders selling goods for which there are controlled prices must display the current controlled prices openly on their premises at all times say a Legislative Instrument on the Price Control Regulations. The prices are fixed by law.

Local authorities and market operators must also keep copies of the current lists of controlled prices openly displayed at the market entrance, and every person who carries on a trade or business involving the sale of goods must mark his goods with the same prices.

The Legislative Instrument warned that any person who contravened any provision of the regulations shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 200 cedis or to imprisonment not exceeding twelve months or to both.

The same punishment would be meted out to any person who, without authority, removes, defaces, mutilates or meddles with a list displayed in accordance with Price Control Regulations. It also becomes a criminal offence to obstruct a Price Inspector.

Any trader who organises, takes part or causes others to take part in any demonstration against the Commercial Houses and Supermarkets (sale of specified goods) Decree will be banned from trading in Ghana.

The Government has emphasised that it has no intention whatsoever of repealing the decree.

- A National Co-ordination Committee on Foreign Foods and Specified Commodities has been set up under the chairmanship of Mr. B. K. Otuo, Senior Principal Secretary, Ministry of Trade, to co-ordinate supply and distribution of the commodities affected by the decree.

Journalists freed

Two journalists who were detained in October last year have been released, according to an Executive Instrument. They are Mr. Adolphus Anang Patterson and Mr. Kwame Kesse-Adu, both freelance journalists.

Gen. Acheampong had promised at his January 9 news conference that they would be freed.

- Mr. Johnny Hansen, former Secretary General of Dr. Busia's Progress Party, and four others were arrested by security forces on March 5 for alleged subversion and are being held in investigative

custody, according to a Government statement. Mr. Hansen, a former President of the Ghana Peace and Solidarity Council, and the four others are said by the Government to have been caught allegedly organising people under the flag of the Council for subversion.

"Unlawful" detention

An Accra high court ordered the immediate release of Nii Adjetey Naawu III, senior Supt of Tema, alleged to have been unlawfully arrested and detained on the instructions of the Greater Accra Regional Commissioner, Lt-Col. W. A. Thompson. Mr. Justice J. N. K. Taylor gave the order following a writ of Habeas Corpus filed by Nii Naawu against the Regional Commissioner.

Mr. J. E. K. Appiah, State Attorney who represented Col. Thompson, submitted that Nii Naawu was in lawful custody and that the Regional Commissioner acted properly under NRC Degree 236.

Last month Mr. Justice Taylor ordered the release of the Mankrado of Akwata, who had been detained by the Eastern Regional Commissioner for allegedly misappropriating state funds. The Mankrado had filed a writ of habeas corpus against the Inspector General of Police.

Another decree on secessionism

The Government has further banned any organization whose objects include advocating and promoting the secession from Ghana of the former British-mandated territory of Togoland or any part of it or the integration of this territory with any foreign territory.

Says GNA: "Accordingly, the organization, variously called the Togoland Liberation Movement (TLM), the National Movement of Western Togoland (NLMTW) and Tollo, has been banned". A decree published on March 18 said any person who contravenes any section of the decree shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding 5,000 cedis or to imprisonment not exceeding five years or to both. The decree, deemed to have come into force on March 3, repeals the Liberation Movement of Togoland decree of that date (See *West Africa* March 15).

- Then Commander of the Army, Brig. Akuffo, has charged chiefs to be extra vigilant against any moves calculated to disrupt the aims and aspirations of the revolution.

Brig. Akuffo was addressing Chiefs and Elders at Yendi during a courtesy call on the Ya-Na, Yakubu II. He told them: "As chiefs you must be the ears and eyes of the government towards any move intended to sabotage the national security."

- The Ghanaian boxer, Joe Oke, was beaten by the former British light middleweight champion, Larry Paul, in the sixth round of a fight at Wolverhampton. The referee stopped the fight after Oke had taken a count of six with blood pouring from his mouth.

- The Government has voted 55,000 cedis to the fisheries department in the Northern Region for the continuation of its development projects this financial year.

Projects include the Nasia pilot fish farm, the Gologing fish culture scheme, and the Yapei National Fish Culture Centre on which the Government had already spent 65,000 cedis.

Under a five-year plan, the fisheries department hopes to sink about 125 hectares of fish ponds in the Region which could yield 820 metric tonnes of fish yearly.

University for the North?

The Government has set up a committee to examine the possibility of establishing a university in either the Upper or Northern Region. Maj. Michael Ofori Akuamoah, Upper Regional Commissioner, told the 34th meeting of the Upper Regional House of Chiefs. Maj. Ofori-Akuamoah said the Committee would be visiting the Region soon to gather information.

The meeting formally welcomed the Regional Commissioner and Mr. Justice G. D. Hayfron, A High Court Judge, to the Region.

- Negotiations are underway between the Bank of Ghana and the Northern Regional Development Corporation for the Bank to support the Corporation's 160,000 cedis brick and tile factory at Tamale.

The Bank has already placed an order for machinery for the factory, which is nearing completion. An NRDC official said that the Bank's support for the factory "stemmed from its interest" in the proposed "Rice City" to be built within Tamale municipality.

- A West German group, "All Consult" is to establish four projects which will earn Ghana 14.4m. cedis in foreign exchange annually, its representative, Mr. Gerhard Joppe, told a news conference arranged by the Capital Investment Board. The projects are a textile factory at Tema, a cassava plant at Nkoranza, an artificial leather works at a site yet to be chosen, and the expansion of the Jibisco Wood Company.

- From July 1 this year the Government will take over 55 per cent majority shares in Lever Bros. Ghana Ltd., the chairman and managing director, Mr. M. C. Hagan, told students of Legon University on their sixth Management Day. The Government at present has a 45 per cent shareholding.

- A. J. Seward, a member of the medical division of UAC International, have given one of their award-winning, Minor Operating Tables to the Royal Society for the Blind. The table, ideal for use in rural hospitals and clinics, will be sent to Ghana, where the Society operates mobile units.

Nkrumah seminar

An international seminar to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the death of Kwame Nkrumah will be held from April 23 to 25. The Ghana Peace and Solidarity Council, organizers of the seminar, said that delegates from Africa, Europe and Latin America and other international organizations would attend the seminar on the theme "Kwame Nkrumah and the total liberation of Africa".

- The Onchocerciasis unit of the World Health Organisation has set up an operational centre at Tamale to survey and eradicate river blindness in Niger, Benin, Togo, Upper Volta and Ghana. The unit which is concerned with the prevention of river blindness, has its African headquarters in Ouagadougou and first operational centre at Bobo Dioulasso.

Dr. J. B. Davies, entomology evaluation officer of the unit, said the centre would be responsible for evaluation and treatment of affected rivers.

The unit has also signed an agreement with the Institute of Aquatic Biology to make sure that insecticides used in controlling the disease-bearing flies would not pose any danger to human beings and animals.

Angola air link?

Ghana Airways plans has begun feasibility studies on the operation of regular flights to Angola. Col. J. O. Koranteng, managing director of the Corporation, has announced. He said Ghana Airways also planned to start flights to Kinshasa, through Douala and Libreville, and extend its Dakar service to Las Palmas.

- A three member settlement committee has been appointed by the Western Region House of Chiefs to settle the dispute between the four Asafo companies of Shama and the Adontenhene, Nifahene and Benkumehene of the Area, over the successor to the late Omaniene, Nana Fraiku III.

- The Ministry of Agriculture has adopted strict measures in the Northern Region to prevent hoarding, black marketing and smuggling of fertilisers across the border this season. One of the conditions of sale is that the farmer must produce a Ghana citizens identity card.

WEST AFRICA

Cement Report

The commission which investigated the massive import of cement by the Ministry of Defence has submitted its report to Lt-Gen. Obasanjo. The head of state observed that while the ultimate objective of every government was improvement of the lot of the people, no government could function well if it regularly encountered problems such as port congestion. The report would help the Government to avoid the indiscriminate import of commodities like cement which was the main cause of port congestion in Nigeria.

Presenting the report, the Chairman, Mr. Justice Babatunde Belgore, said the panel had commented on various subjects in its terms of reference leaving the Government to decide what action to take.

States Decree

The Federal Government has promulgated a decree formally creating 19 states in the Federation with a Military Governor appointed for each state by the Supreme Military Council. The decree provides a public fund for each state from which all expenses in the performance of its duties will be repaid. It also empowers the Council to appoint when necessary a State Boundary Adjustment Commission charged with the responsibility of adjusting the boundary of any of the states. Adjustments will be affected only after the approval of the Supreme Military Council.

The Federal Government has also published a decree designed to give protection to public officers against false accusations. Under the decree, it is an offence for any person to publish in any form any false statement, rumour or report alleging that a public officer has in any manner been engaged in corrupt practices, or has in any manner corruptly enriched himself. The punishment is two years' imprisonment without the option of a fine.

The Government later clarified the provisions of the decree. The Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Justice Dan Ihekwe, told a news conference that the Federal Government had no intention to hamper or inhibit in any manner the exposure of corruption and abuse of office. He stressed that the decree, which was intended to check only false accusations, was relevant solely to false accusations made publicly without regard to the Public Complaints Commission, the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau and the Police. The Commissioner said that the only innovation brought about by the decree was that the proof of the allegation now rested on the person making it. Mr. Justice Ihekwe urged the mass media educate and enlighten the public on the need for using the facilities available for ex-

posing corruption; he warned that the Federal Government would tolerate reckless and false accusations which were not made in good faith. The clarification followed the views expressed in a decree by a section of the Nigerian press.

Opening the eighth plenary session of the international committee for the Second World Black Festival of Arts and Culture, the Commissioner for Special Duties, Cdr. Fingsi, urged delegates that most of the remaining decisions on the three postponed festival would have to be taken at that meeting. There was "no time to spend on endless colloquial debate," he said.

Cdr. Fingsi gave assurance that the Government had pledged continued full moral and financial support for FESTAC. He also announced that the two sponsors, the heads of state of Nigeria and Senegal, had accepted a previous committee recommendation that FESTAC should be held between January 15 and February 12 1973.

Mutual opportunity will be given to news media from all parts of the world to cover FESTAC, and requests for coverage should be received six months before its commencement, it was announced. The end of the committee meeting. The committee agreed that a symposium on drama and literary should be cancelled. It also instructed the FESTAC Secretary to work out details of the rules that will ensure effective participation by black and African youth.

Dr. Obarogie Ohonbama, editor of African Spark, charged a publishing house with publishing false information against the late Head of State, G. M. Muhammad, in the October issue of the magazine, has had his office transferred from the Lagos City Magistrates court to the High Court, where he faces charges under the new decree to protect public officers from false information. (See above).

Applying to withdraw the case from the Magistrates Court it might be tried by the High Court, the Federal Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. S. O. Sogbetun said that Gen. Muhammad I wanted to testify for the prosecution and had been prepared to submit to cross examination. Sogbetun said that Gen. Muhammad had declared his assets to the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Justice Dan Ihekwe. He had showed the particulars of the little landed property that he had and his bank account. Dr. Ohonbama has pleaded guilty.

Brig. Yar'Adua, Chief of Staff Supreme Headquarters, has announced that two army officers said to have played leading roles in the attempted coup on February 13, May, Afolabi and Lt. Sabo, awaiting sentence. Brig. Yar'Adua said that their sentences, and sentence on Col. Dimka, were being delayed because of the important roles they are said to have played.

- A Control Board to promote the development of computerised systems in Ghana's public administration has been established. A new decree provides for the establishment in the civil service of a central systems development unit which will function under the Data Processing Control Board.
- Other functions of the Board, according to the decree, are to promote the development of professional manpower in data acquisition and use of computers in the public services and control the import of computers.
- The armed forces have a job to do for the reconstruction of Ghana and "we will finish it with dignity and leave the scene to destroy the myth that soldiers can only shoot and kill". Gen. Acheampong told a delegation of the Armed Forces Wives' Association who congratulated him on his recent promotion.
- Microwave links are to be extended to the Northern, Upper and Volta Regions to give the whole of Ghana simultaneous television transmission, the Commissioner for Information, Brig. Kotey, said when he went to Yendi to inspect work on the construction of a television station which is due for completion in 1977.
- About 60 per cent of maincrop cocoa from the Volta Region has been evacuated to the ports under the army's "Operation Haul Out".

- Mr. Ali Ahmed al-Nifishi, General Secretary of the Libyan Federation of Trade Unions, led a delegation to Ghana for talks with officials of the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) on the triennial congress scheduled for Tripoli's next April.
- A consultancy centre to offer advice on setting up small scale industries has been established in the Tema Industrial Area. The Small Scale Industries Development and Training Centre, under the Ministry of Industries, is manned by three Indian technical experts.
- Lt. Col. E. Kwei Hammond, of the Ministry of Defence, has been appointed Executive Chairman of the Accra City Council.
- Lt. Col. Hammond, who replaces Lieutenant Colonel B. T. Okai, assumed office on March 9.
- Barclays Bank Ghana Ltd. has appointed Mr. M. M. Egan manager of their Premeh Hill Street branch in Kumasi. It is the first branch in Ghana to have been appointed manager of this branch.
- Mr. Bruno Savi de Tove is Togo's new Ambassador to Ghana. Mr. Tove, former ambassador to West Germany, succeeds Mr. Kossi M. Akou.
- The Ghana Livestock Company is to reactivate three cattle ranches at Pong Lamale, Wenchi and Tudzusu under the proposed meat sufficiency programme.

NERIA Restating Nigeria's Foreign Policy

Col. Garba has declared that while Nigeria did not seek confrontation with any power, it could not "flinch", either if challenged by any alien power, or on matters which involved the welfare of fellow-Africans elsewhere on the continent. Col. Garba said the stand was the crux of Nigeria's approach to the Angolan issue. He added, however, that Nigeria would encourage and continue to welcome assistance from friendly foreign nations, whether from the East or West, provided they shared Nigeria's vision of a liberated Southern Africa. This was irrespective of their political ideology, he said.

The External Affairs Commissioner told members of the International Students Association of the University of Lagos that in placing primacy on African issues, Nigeria was not merely seeking to fulfill its historical role, but also to carry out its OAU responsibilities, "which is to help in achieving the liberation of those African territories still under colonial and racist regimes". He denied the assumption that such a policy could not be pursued without challenging powerful and entrenched interests.

Col. Garba continued: "Our action in the Angolan situation is only a forerunner of what the racist regimes may expect from us, regarding the explosive situation they have created in Zimbabwe.

Namibia and that very bastion of racism, South Africa." On domestic affairs, Col. Garba said that a true spirit of nationalism had now emerged in Nigeria. He said that the spontaneous and unanimous show of solidarity with the Federal Government after the abortive coup was indicative of the basic ingredients which distinguish from a mere conglomeration of people.

Referring to Col. Garba's statement to the students, a Lagos radio commentary observed that the issue of going communist or remaining capitalist was an aspect of African politics that many superpowers had either failed or deliberately refused to understand. It appeared that African countries were becoming increasingly friendly with communist countries and growing cooler towards the West. This was simply because the communist countries had indicated themselves with African aspirations of liberating the continent from racism and colonialism.

• The Nigerian mission which visited Mozambique to evaluate areas in which the Federal Government could give assistance, has submitted its report. Col. Garba announced before leaving Lagos for London on an official visit. Col. Garba said that he would hold talks with Mr. James Callaghan on bilateral issues covering southern Africa, with particular reference to Zimbabwe.

Car price decree

Nigeria has reduced by over 14 per cent the pricing formula on which motor dealers base their prices. The Commissioner for Trade, Maj.-Gen. M. Shuwa, has announced. Maj. Gen. Shuwa said that after due consideration of all the factors involved in the pricing of motor vehicles the Government had decided that the formula to be adopted will be based on cost, insurance and freight, etc. This will also include customs duty and a maximum additional profit of 25 per cent of cif plus duty. He said that the formula would apply in respect of all motor vehicles regardless of size.

Any foreign motor company which fails to comply with the new pricing order introduced by the Government will be asked to leave the country, Maj.-Gen. M. Shuwa warned.

The Nigerian Union of Teachers has set up a committee to study the question of falling educational standards. The president, Chief A. A. Ezenwa, said that although NUT did not entirely agree that standards had fallen, it was worried over the persistent public outcry on the subject.

Lagos State Government has taken over all private secondary schools in the state following a week old dispute between the teachers and the State Ministry of Education over conditions of service.

The oldest teacher training institution in Nigeria, St. Andrew's College, Oyo, has been taken over by the Federal Government. The Commissioner for Education, Col. A. Ali, said that St. Andrew's, founded in 1898 by the Church Missionary Society, was one of several teacher training colleges taken over to enable the Government to meet the demand for teachers created by preparations for UPE.

£16m. for refugees

The Government has made available £16m. naira for the rehabilitation of Nigerians from Equatorial Guinea. An official statement explained that Nigerians would be resettled in eight farms located in Imo, Anambra, Cross River and Rivers States. Each of the farms will cover an area of 4,000 ha and will be devoted mainly to food production. Rehabilitation projects in each of the four states will be managed by a joint rehabilitation committee which will be made up of officials of the Federal and State Governments.

Commissioners for Lands, their wives, and children are no longer to be allocated plots in Anambra and Imo States while in office unless they have government approval. The Commissioner for Lands, Dr. Nnamani, said that this was to ensure against a repeat of the "gross irregularities" uncovered over the allocation of state plots in the former East Central State.

Britain's Social Services Minister, Mrs. Barbara Castle, told Parliament that she had postponed a proposed visit to Nigeria later this month. Mrs. Castle had intended to visit Nigeria in support of a Medical Equipment Exhibition and Seminar.

Civil servants in the Federal Public Service numbered 98,877 at the end of 1975, compared with 78,218 the previous year, says the 18th annual report of the Federal Public Service Commission. There were 10,456 vacant posts, due, said the report, to the increases in staff strength indicated in last year's estimates.

"Keep Area Courts"

The Grand Khadi of Kwara State, Alhaji Abubakar Orire, testifying before the Area Reform Committee which was hearing evidence in Ilorin, urged that area courts, with all their peculiarities, should be left as they are. He also suggested that administration of area courts be transferred from the office of the chief registrar to the Sharia courts.

At the opening of the Ibe Book Fair the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Tunji Abayode, said that the time had come for publishers to make a realistic appraisal of the problems of book development in relation to the social and economic position in Africa.

Fishermen warned

Foreign fishermen operating off the Nigerian coast have been warned against harassing Nigerian fishermen.

Lagos Radio said the Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources had received reports that some fishermen from neighbouring countries were violating the limits set down by law.

The Commissioner appealed to the fishermen to keep within the limits so that the livelihood of local fishermen was not endangered.

The Nigerian General Insurance Company Ltd. recorded a profit of 150,342 naira in 1974 compared to 181,005 naira in 1973, the chairman, Mr. Dipu Odunjin, told the 23rd general meeting.

Prof. W. A. Isaacs-Sodeye of the department of Haematology, University of Ibadan, has been invited to serve on the editorial board of the new international journal, *Huamogabnin — the International Journal of Haemoglobin Research*.

Professor A. Fabyi, Research Professor and Director of the Virus Research Laboratory, Ibadan, has been elected Fellow of the Science Association of Nigeria.

Mr. F. A. Adewunmi, acting house governor of Lagos University Teaching Hospital, has been elected a Fellow of the British Institute of Health Service Administration.

Rumours and Nigeria have signed a trade agreement granting each other most favoured nation tariff treatment.

A 37 man Swedish trade mission, led by the Minister of Trade, Mr. Carl Lidbom, has visited Nigeria. A Canadian mission has also toured Nigeria.

The Prime Minister of Guinea, Mr. Lansana Beavogui, has visited Lagos, accompanied by his Foreign Minister, Mr. Fily Cissoko.

International Media Associates of Lagos, which represents such newspapers as *Le Monde* (France), *La Stampa* (Italy), the *New York Times* and *The Times* of London, has been appointed advertising representative in Nigeria for West Africa. The address is P.O. Box 7228, Lagos; the managing director is Mr. Adeyinu Balogun.

Deserving Local Authority staff in Kaduna State who were retired during the recent purge may be re-employed for appointment in their respective Local Authorities.

Air Force ranks

Nigeria has introduced a new rank structure for her Air Force. The introduction of the ranks takes effect from April 1. Each officer in the Nigerian Air Force will now wear a badge of rank and a title which are different from that of the Army. At present, the Air Force and the Army use identical badges of ranks and titles. Some of the new ranks introduced are: Group Captain, which is equivalent to a Colonel, and Squadron Leader, which is the same as a Major in the Army. A Captain now becomes a Flight Lieutenant, while a Second Lieutenant will be known as a Pilot Officer. The highest rank in the Air Force will now be known as Marshal of the Air Force, which is the equivalent of a Field Marshal in the Army. Announcing the new structure the Chief of Staff, Air Commodore Isa Doku, said the change was to bring the ranks structure in the Nigerian Air Force in line with what obtains in other Commonwealth countries.

The Sokoto State Military Governor Lt. Col. Umaru Alhaji Mohammed, has announced the names of the Secretary to the Government and Permanent Secretaries in the State civil service. Alhaji Muhammadu Aliyu Carpenter remains as Secretary to the Military Government and Head of Services, while three Permanent Secretaries are appointed to the Cabinet office:— Alhaji Muhammad Z. Anka, (Administration); Alhaji Abubakar Garba Gumm, (Special Duties); and Alhaji Bala Sukoto, (Information).

The Niger State Military Governor, Cdr. Mustafa Nyako, has announced the appointment of Alhaji Abdulkareem Laferu as the Secretary to the State Government.

Alhaji Abubakar Mashugu is now the Chairman to the State's Public Service Commission. The former Military Governor of the Rivers State, Cdr. Diete Spiff, has been convicted of unlawful possession of firearms. Cdr. Diete Spiff was sentenced to 12 months in prison with hard labour or a fine of 300 naira.

NIGER

Differing views of coup attempt

An anonymous correspondent to *Le Monde* has given a description of events during the coup radically different from that disseminated by the government. According to this writer, who claimed to have been an eye witness to events in Niamey, more than 50 people were killed in fierce fighting which went on all morning on March 15, the day of the attempted coup, and in the man-hunts for plotters which went on until Wednesday. The authorities are reported to be seeking to interview Capt. Boulama Manga and, less definitely, Col. Dupuis Yacouba, who was involved in President Kountche's successful seizure of power in 1974 but dismissed for "ambition" in February.

Meanwhile, the Niger authorities have declared that "no leniency" can be expected for the plotters. The official version of events continues to insist that Capt. Sidi Mohammed (wounded in the fighting but not killed as reported last week—See *West Africa*, March 22) and not Major Bayere, led the attempt. *Le Monde's* correspondent alleges that Major Bayere was motivated by personal rather than political motives, repeating rumours which quote him as saying "I did not want to seize power but only to kill Kountche and rid the country of him".

M. Diallo, the Secretary of State for Information, has also said that Capt. Mohammed, former *Chef de Cabinet* at the Ministry of Defence, had accepted weapons from a foreign diplomat in Niamey (reported to be from Libya) on the correct assumption that the conspirators could never hope to capture the heavily guarded armoury. The rebels first occupied the Army Staff HQ but were repulsed in their attack on the Presidential Palace. Capt. Alzouma Sanao, Commander of the Republican Guard, and Staff Sergeant Niandou Harouna, one of the President's bodyguards, were among those killed in this attack.

The Executive Body of the UNTN has pledged its loyalty to the government and denied any corporate involvement in the coup attempt, in which M. Ahmed Moudour, its former Secretary-General "acted as an individual". Reports indicate that the weapons used in the attempt of assorted provenance and manufacture, were brought in by the State import firm, COPRONIGER, of which M. Niandour is Director. In response to the arms discoveries, the Niger authorities have called for the surrender of all weapons. A 48-hour amnesty was given and any one found with arms after that time would be liable to a capital charge. A similar amnesty as given at the time of President Kountche's seizure of power in 1974 but many did not comply with it. The curfew was lifted on March 23.

In a footnote to the government's story of the events, M. Diallo told reporters that "On Moussa Bayere we found three kilos of magic charms on which he was counting" and that the statement prepared by the Major for transmission, had the attempt succeeded, was couched in similarly demonic vein, announcing the end of "a regime of unbalanced and timorous men, slaves of a dictator inspired by Satan".

President Kountche has also claimed that there were two other plots in preparation at the time of the attempted coup, one of them an ethnic plot (believed to be by the Hausa, of whom Maj. Bayere is a member). The President said that a police commissioner and a businessman were still being sought. He also claimed to have had prior warning of the coup attempt, but did not arrest the principals as he had insufficient evidence for a trial.

UPPER VOLTA

Second strike by Minor Unions fails

The three day General Strike, organised by the Trades Unions for March 16-18, collapsed on its second day after failing to elicit more than scattered support for the package of pay rises and constitutional reforms demanded by the *Organisation Voltaïque des Syndicats Libres* (OVSL) and the *Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs Voltaïques* (CNTV). Even in Banfora and Koudougou, strongholds of the OVSL and CNTV, production was disrupted for only one day and major industrial concerns alone appear to have been affected.

MM Emmanuel Ouedraogo, leader of the CNTV, and Boniface Kabore, Secretary General of the OVSL, have thus failed, writes a correspondent, to challenge the position of the other two unions, the *Union Syndicale des Travailleurs Voltaïques* (USTV) and the *Confédération des Syndicats Voltaïques* (CSV) as the chosen intermediaries of the government of Gen. Lamizana. These last two unions, led by MM. Zoumana Traore and Hado Paul Zabic, were the leading elements in January's successful General Strike which persuaded Gen. Lamizana to change his government. This new administration, announced in mid-February, has a majority of civilian members and is pledged to consider the return to civilian rule. Moreover, M. Traore is its Minister for Labour and the Civil Service, and is already well established in its councils. In fact, the USTV and CSV have condemned the strike as "premature", pointing to the forthcoming 51 per cent wage rise fixed for April 1, and the political concessions still in preparation.

The defeat of the OVSL and the CNTV also points to the relatively greater strength of those unions whose members, being largely civil

servants, have skills with which to threaten the government. The greater numbers of factory operatives in the OVSL and CNTV are a source of weakness in a land where labour is plentiful and jobs scarce.

India has agreed to carry out a survey of the mineral resources of Upper Volta after the visit of the Indian Minister of Mines, Mr. Chandrangi Yadav. Mr. Yadav held talks with his counterpart, M. Emmanuel Zuma, and indicated that further help in the mining field could grow from these first contacts.

BENIN

Togo Frontier reopened

Benin and Togo have agreed to reopen their borders and to resolve all future disagreements by regular contacts between the heads of State. The two Presidents agreed to settle their differences at a summit in Cotonou over the weekend of March 20-21, organised by President Sekou Toure. The summit came after several separate visits of the Heads of State to Cotonou, during which President Sekou Toure urged them to come to terms. The genesis of the dispute, whose present phase has lasted for more than five months, was not, however, revealed by the Presidents' joint communique.

President Sekou Toure, writes a correspondent, is gathering himself something of a reputation as a peacemaker, now that this latest reconciliation adds to his successful intervention in the Mali-Upper Volta border dispute, a quarrel of similarly long standing. Now that both quarrels appear to have settled down (at least for the moment), there is hope that regional co-operation projects can be successfully launched.

The border is expected to be opened on March 25, with both governments seeking "frank co-operation and sincere friendship".

A seminar of jurists in Cotonou has decided to restructure Benin law and legal practice in line with "the legalistic socialist". The seminar, called by the Central Committee of the Popular Revolution, pursued studies designed to make the judicial apparatus conform more closely to the socialist structure of the state.

TOGO

New French co-operation accord

M. Jean de Lipkowski, the French Minister for Cooperation, has paid a visit to Togo, where he was received by the Head of State, Gen. Gnassingbaye Eyadema. While in Lome, M. de Lipkowski signed new aid agreements with Togo, replacing those originally signed in 1963, including technical, economic and judicial relations and a new agreement on the relations between the French and Togolese Treasuries, in order to achieve a

smoother balancing of the Togolese budget. Togo stressed that her economic isolation (provoked in part) by the border closures with Benin) made French and particularly valuable and official sources stressed that FAC aid had over the years come to more than the 13.6frs. CFA admitted to officially.

M. de Lipkowski assured the Head of State that Franco-Togolese relations were good and that Togo could count on French aid for all those development projects for which she requested it.

GABON

Government reshuffled

President Bongo has reshuffled his government, dismissing three ministers and appointing four, bringing the total membership of the cabinet to 42. President Bongo continues to hold seven portfolios, including those of Defence, Information, Education and the Civil Service, and remains at the head of the Party. MM. Paul Moukambi (Principal adviser on Economic Affairs), Jacques Essouque (Water and Forests) and Emile Abibouka (Agriculture) lost their jobs in the change, being replaced by MM. Jean-François Ntouteume, Theodore Kwana and Fulbert Bongoita respectively. M. Kwana has been given special responsibility for Gabon's hardwood reforestation programme. Major offices remain in the hands of their existing holders.

President Bongo has reviewed the censorship of foreign publications previously in force in Gabon and has found them "anachronistic". The President has therefore decided to relax the controls "invoked at another time" as contrary to the spirit of Gabon. Magazines such as *Le Canard Enchaîné*, *Minute* and *L'Afrique et L'Asie* will now be allowed into Gabon, despite their satirical or bitter attacks on the regime and the President in the past.

Gabon has asked Germany to participate in the development of its iron ore manganese and uranium extraction industries, and in the long-term development of its energy requirements as "Gabon's oil reserves would be exhausted within 10 years."

The Director-General of the Islamic World League has presented Libreville with a cheque for \$1,720,000 for the building of the mosque in the capital. An Islamic seminar for Moslem Ministers was held in the mosque on March 12.

A special commission to arbitrate in wage disputes is to be set up under the direction of the Prime Minister's office.

President Bongo has apparently decided to buy the Isola 2000 hotel on the French *Alpes Maritimes*, where he recently spent his holidays. The hotel, which is part of the complex built by the late Sir Bernard Sunley, will remain under

its present management. The price paid is reported as £1.5m.

Gen. Nazaire Boulingui, Chief of the Gabonese armed forces, has been given charge of the police force as well, with the rank of Inspector-General of the Security Forces.

IVORY COAST

S. African Minister's visit

M. Connie Mulder, the South African Minister of Information, has visited the Ivory Coast on his way to France. M. Mulder spent two hours of talks with President Houphouët Boigny, whom he characterised as "a leader of stature". M. Mulder confirmed that South African troops would be withdrawn from southern Africa by March 28, after assurances given by a "third party". M. Mulder would not confirm speculation that the third party had been either Britain or the Ivory Coast herself.

M. Ah Aref, the leader of a transitional government in the French Territory of the African Islands has paid a visit to the Ivory Coast, where he had a meeting with President Houphouët Boigny. M. Aref is thought to be seeking guarantees from African states in Ethiopia and Somalia will not attempt to seize the territory after independence.

EEC officials and representatives of the European Investment bank have held discussions with Ivory Coast officials on the scope of European development aid for the Ivory Coast's next Five Year Plan. A \$20m. loan from ECU for CMAO, the cement project jointly run by Ghana, Togo and the Ivory Coast has already been signed by M. Paul Guébo, Ivory Coast Minister of Mines.

MAURITANIA

Troubled waters

Mauritania has asked France to observe fishing limits of at least nautical miles off the coast of Mauritania, for "reasons of security". The Mauritania area specified by the Nouakchott authorities, from Nouadhibou to the south coast of the former Spanish Sahara and the call, which Mauritania does not have the naval resources to enforce, must be connected, writes a correspondent, with the current guerrilla war in the territory.

M. Ishaq Ould Rajal, Minister for Industry and Mines, has paid an official visit to Mauritania where he was expected to conclude a fishing agreement with Spain. The waters off Mauritania and former Spanish Sahara are rich in fish and some experts claim to catch 2,000,000 tons could be saved each year. The Sahar town of Guera, on the Atlantic of the Nouadhibou peninsula, is the chief fishing port for Saharan banks.

• Portugal has agreed to provide technical services to Mauritania in exchange for a new fishing agreement which nevertheless includes higher export charges on the catch and the compulsory inclusion of Mauritians in the crews.

• M. Sall Abdull Aziz, President of the National Assembly, has paid an official visit to Gabon, visiting the uranium mines at Moanda as well as Port Gentil and other towns. M. Aziz expressed the hope that ties between the two countries would become even stronger.

Gabon is one of the few Black African countries so far to have come out strongly in favour of the annexation of the former Spanish Sahara by Mauritania and Morocco.

Railway open

The Dakar magazine *Africa* (now appearing monthly and in a different format) carries a report to the effect that the iron ore railway from Nouadhibou to Zaouate in Mauritania is running normally and has not been cut by POLISARIO guerrillas as reported by the Front last December. The magazine notes that the schedule of departures has not been affected and no special notice given to consignees.

CAR

Eight shot for assassinations

Eight people accused of attempting to assassinate President Bokassa on February 3 have been executed a few hours after being found guilty by military tribunal. Among those executed was M. Fidel Obrou, President Bokassa's son-in-law, and M. Obrou's brother, M. Martin Meya.

• President Bokassa has alleged that the assassination attempt made upon him last month was organised by two "Great Powers". While on a visit to Cameroon the President told journalists that "the attempt was perpetrated by these two big powers whose names I will not disclose now so that I can decide what future action to take".

• A hydroelectric project at Bouly in the CAR, built by the Yugoslav firm *Energoexport*, has been opened by President Bokassa. A large sports stadium built by the same firm was also inaugurated by the President.

• President Bokassa has paid a brief visit to Yaounde in order to christen a new CAR ship in the port. The CAR ship, which is too large ever to reach the CAR, was unable even to enter the port of Yaounde because her arrival coincided with a low tide. Only by emptying her fresh water tanks was the vessel able to proceed up the channel for the ceremony.

• President Bokassa has ordered the creation of the post of Deputy Secretary General of MESAN, the CAR's ruling party. The post carries the position of deputy prime

minister, under the present P.M. Mme Elizabeth Domitien.

• M. Joseph Ouatebo has been appointed general manager of the Central African news agency by order of President Bokassa. The present manager, M. Jean-Max Ancret, is to be moved to another post.

ANGOLA

Last S. African troops to leave

South Africa has declared her intention of withdrawing her troops from southern Angola after receiving "assurances" from a "third party" that Angola would not allow harm to come to the workers or installations at the Calaque dam. South Africa has already given up responsibilities for the refugee camps she set up in the country and Red Cross officials are concerned lest harm come to the refugees before further supplies can arrive.

UNITA resistance, writes a correspondent, has evaporated without the promise of a protracted guerrilla struggle so confidently predicted. Massive infantry sweeps have rounded up the last units of the scattered UNITA forces and their effectiveness is now presumed to have been broken for good. Nevertheless, negotiations with Zambia are not proceeding as smoothly as those with Zaire and, while it is reported that a meeting between the Presidents has been arranged, further details have not been forthcoming. However, until the Benguela railway is repaired, neither side has any pressing urgency for a formal agreement and Zambia may well feel that she needs a "decent" delay in order to save face. Besides, meeting with Presidents Machel, Nyerere and Seretse Khama in Lusaka, President Kaunda has other things on his mind.

CONGO

President rescues crash victims

President Nguabi narrowly avoided injury in a helicopter crash on March 19 when two people were killed and all the other passengers injured. After the crash, which took place in dense forest, near Owando, to the north of Brazzaville, the President walked 15 miles through the undergrowth to bring help for the injured. Mechanical failure is suspected as the cause of the accident.

• M. Jean de Lipkowski, the French Minister for Cooperation, has held talks in Brazzaville with M. Theophile Obenga, the Foreign Minister in preparation for the next meeting of the Mixed Commission. The French envoy was also received by the Prime Minister, Major Louis Sylvain Goma.

• President Nguabi has given another warning against a certain discontent which he recognises as reactionary "seeking to prevent the radicalisation of the revolution.

SIERRA LEONE

Constitutional amendments

Two Bills providing for the election of a President whenever the office becomes vacant, were approved at a recent meeting of Parliament. The Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1976, the first Bill to be approved, repeals part of the Constitution of Sierra Leone and replaces it with a new subsection which regulates the election of a President. The second Bill, the "Election of President of Sierra Leone Act, 1976" makes legislative provision for the implementation of Section 16 of the Constitution relating to the election of the President of Sierra Leone.

Both Bills were introduced by the Acting Vice-President, Mr. C. A. Kamara-Taylor, who said the Amendments were crystal clear.

According to the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1976, Members of Parliament may, with the consent of the Presidential candidate concerned, declare their preference for such candidate at a Special Session of Parliament. Where more than one candidate is validly nominated, the Presidential candidate who obtains the preference of more than one-half of the total number of Members of Parliament present and voting shall be declared duly elected as President. The Bill adds that if in a Presidential ballot no candidate is declared elected, a further ballot shall be taken at the same Presidential election meeting, until a candidate is declared elected. The Presidential meeting may be adjourned for not more than two days.

The Chief Justice shall be the Returning Officer for the Election of a President and any question which may arise under the Constitution or any other Law shall be referred to and determined by the Returning Officer whose decision shall be final and shall not be questioned in any Court.

Minister's warning

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, has warned farmers not to misuse government tractors. Speaking at Moyamba, Mr S. A. F. Koroma told farmers to treat the tractors with the same care given to their own property, because these tractors were bought with their taxes. Mr Koroma reminded them that if the tractors are ruined they as farmers would suffer because while they await replacement, those in regular employment would be receiving salaries. He hinted that they might even lose chances for further assistance from the Government.

Mr Koroma emphasized that Government is selling input to farmers at low rates to encourage them. He pointed out that farmers pay only Le10 to plough an acre which costs Government Le49, and buy fertilisers, which cost Government Le15 a bag, at Le3.

• Mr Sam Margai, a brother of the former Prime Minister, has applied to join the APC. He said that after nine years of watching Dr Stevens' efforts he is most impressed with the President's leadership and achievements.

• Mr. M. M. Koroma, former organising secretary of the SLP, has also applied to join the APC.

• President Stevens received a special envoy from President Ould Daddah of Mauritania who presented an up-to-date briefing on the situation in Western Sahara.

• The Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation has started a bus service to and from Monrovia, fares from Freetown, Bo and Kenema are, respectively, 35, 30 and 28 Leone.

• The Mano River Union Agricultural Research Committee met in Freetown to settle procedures for awarding research contracts.

• The Munge Bridge, constructed by the People's Republic of China, has been formally opened.

• A representative of the West German Ministry of Economic Cooperation paid a week's official visit to Freetown.

• Sierra Leone and Mozambique have established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level.

• The Bata Shoe Company is to start local production of sandals from synthetic leather.

• The Vice-President, Mr. S. I. Koroma, has returned from a ten day official assignment in Europe.

THE GAMBIA

Libyan aid

A team of Libyans will be arriving in The Gambia next month to conduct studies and surveys on the Issaua Kerewan and Soma Basse roads. Their purpose is to help raise finance to resurface and bitumise the roads. This has been one of the main results of Sir Dawda Jawara's three day visit to the Libyan Arab Republic part of a tour of Middle East countries upon which the President is engaged.

Another result for the visit is the possibility that the LAR and The Gambia will set up a joint venture in the form of an agricultural development company.

The proposed company, which will be discussed in more detail when the Libyan experts arrive in Banjul in late April, could eventually take part in projects involving land reclamation, development of water resources, and agricultural and horticultural production. It may also help in the provision of agricultural credits to farmers.

Sir Dawda and the Libyan Prime Minister, Major Abdul Jalloud, discussed the newly set up Gambian-Libyan Arab Public Transport Corporation, and agreed that it should be expanded to meet the growing demand for its services.

Another point of discussion concerned the proposal to build, with Libyan help, a central mosque and Islamic centre in Banjul. Plans are being finalised and will be submitted shortly.

Mr. Abdoulaye Dibba, brother of Mr. Cherif Dibba, leader of the National Convention Party, has been officially removed from office as the Head Chief of Central Badibba. Mr. Abdoulaye Dibba is at present in prison at Mile 2, where he is serving a six month sentence after being found guilty of corrupt practices and a further offence relating to the Dobo Forest Park.

Marenah for FAO

The Director of the Department of Agriculture, Dr. Lamin Marenah, has gone to Rome for the first stage of a year's work with the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

After his initial briefing at FAO headquarters in Rome, Dr. Marenah is expected to be seconded to Mogadishu in Somalia, to work as an agronomy adviser to the Ministry of Economic Planning. Last year he held a consultancy post for FAO in a number of countries in both East and West Africa.

Dr. Rudolf Fegtmeyer, a commercial attaché at the West German Embassy, paid a day long visit to the Central Badibba district. He was accompanied by Dr. Lamin Sahu, who is understood to have appealed for assistance.

Dr. Sahu later left Banjul for West Berlin, to take part in a conference on student participation in national development in Africa. He will also be attending a seminar to discuss town planning and industrial development in developing countries and return to Banjul towards the end of April.

Seven new Peace Corps volunteers have arrived in The Gambia. Three of them will work with the Ministry of Economic Planning as advisers on indigenous enterprise; another three as agriculture marketing advisers for the Ministries of Economic Planning and Agriculture and the seventh as an advisor on primary school construction for the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

The Gambia Co-operative Movement has decided that in future if any member of a co-operative is in default on repaying loans all members of the society will be denied loans.

Ministers from The Gambia Senegal and Guinea Bissau met in Banjul to formulate a joint request to the European Development fund for aid for the Bigonza Ziguinchor-Bissau highway project.

The Gambia took part with films and demonstrations, in the World Tourism Fair in Brussels. It is intended that The Gambia will also be represented at another similar fair at Copenhagen in May.

LIBERIA

Tolbert will not serve after 1983

President Tolbert has said that he will veto any Parliamentary bill designed to extend his Presidential term after his eight year mandate ends in 1983. President Tolbert was speaking during a tour of Lofa County development projects. It was a reaction to a proposal by Lofa representative in the National

Assembly, K. Poto, that Mr. Tolbert should serve a new term after his present one.

President Tolbert was personally behind a recent constitutional amendment, limiting Presidential office to a single eight-year term only. Mr. Tolbert has repeatedly said he was "not interested in terms of office, but in terms of effective development and progress".

New US envoy

America's new ambassador to Liberia is to be Mr. Beverley Carter, who while ambassador to Tanzania last year defied American policy on terrorism and negotiated with terrorists to secure the release of three American students and a Dutch woman who had been kidnapped.

Dr. Toga Nah Tipoteh, former associate professor of economics at the University of Liberia, has been elected a member of the Executive Council of the Association of Third World Economists which was formed after a conference in Algeria last month.

The Liberian Chamber of Architects and the Liberian Engineering Society have petitioned President Tolbert for equality of pay between government employed architects and engineers and those employed by autonomous government agencies.

Vice President James Greene has been discharged from the Columbia University Medical Centre in New York, but he must continue to visit the hospital weekly for a while for medical checks.

The Episcopal Church of Liberia has voted overwhelmingly to become an associate member of the Church of the Province of West Africa which links Anglican churches of Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Rio Pongos.

Senator Frank Emmanuel Tolbert, chairman of the Deacons Board of the Zion Praise Baptist Church in Bantol City has called for an amendment to the Lord's Prayer. He wants the phrase "Lead us not into temptation" to be changed to "Suffer us not to be led into temptation".

President Tolbert has told representatives of the United Workers Congress that the Government is prepared to consider, on its merits, any proposal to unionise bank workers.

Mr. John Beh has taken over as the new Director of the Bureau of Mines. He pledged himself to expand the country's mining and to encourage Liberians to enter the industry, especially goldmining.

The first consignment, 50 tons, of frozen meat from the Argentine has arrived in Monrovia. The meat is being imported to boost supplies and bring down prices.

Liberia and Spain have initiated an Air Services Agreement with a view to strengthening trade and communication between the two countries.

The Capitol Building, which has been undergoing renovation for the past five years is due to be dedicated on April 2.

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