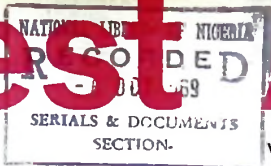


# West Africa



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## Back to Barracks

TO the end there were those in Ghana and outside who wondered whether the soldiers and policemen would really hand over power to civilians. This week, when German democracy, too has asserted itself, they did: and the National Liberation Council handed over after successful preparation of a kind no military regime ever or anywhere has attempted. In Sierra Leone and Sudan, for example, military regimes have given way to civilian ones—but not by agreement. For most military regimes the very idea of a carefully thought-out return to civilian rule is unthinkable.

Ghana has an entirely new constitution. In this, no doubt, too much confidence is reposed as a guarantee against dictatorship, but the intention of its framers and the way it was framed are beyond reproach. Electoral registers for all adults over 21 were painstakingly and honestly compiled, and 75 per cent of those eligible registered. An electoral system as nearly proof against fraud as is possible was devised and used for the general election which marked the real end of military rule. In this some 70 per cent of eligible voters voted; and in the end the NAL opposition swallowed its natural incredulity at its electoral defeat to agree that it was the victors' tactics rather than the electoral machinery to which they took exception.

This, however, was not just a return to civilian rule. For the military regime had overthrown a civilian dictatorship which commissions of inquiry have shown to have been extremely corrupt as well. Ghana's patient voters on August 29 were not just registering their desire for a return to civilian rule. They were also rejecting the notions of the previous civilian regime—a rejection which, however unfairly, seriously, injured the fortunes of Mr. Gbedemah's NAL.

Dr. Busia and many of his colleagues had long criticised the Nkrumah regime for its departure from the Westminster model which, from 1950 on, it had been hoped Ghana would follow. It was, however, the soldiers, lacking higher education or political experience, who most decisively condemned the Nkrumah regime's anti-democratic practices.

Brigadier Afrifa and General Ocran in their books, the late General Kotoka in his speeches, did not extol the specifically military virtues; they acclaimed the value of an independent judiciary, of honest elections, of limits on executive power. Their regime survived to bequeath to Ghana these democratic rights—though in spite of its great widening of liberty in Ghana the NLC could not bring itself to accept complete freedom of the press or of trade unions.

The NLC survived with difficulty however, even if one remarkable aspect of the soldiers' withdrawal from power was that few in Ghana would have criticised them strongly if they had, in the end, decided to stay longer. No military regime can escape the political corruption which power brings, or the instability which results from the ambition of junior officers to assume the political authority of their seniors. General Kotoka, architect of Nkrumah's overthrow, was murdered by power-hungry subalterns. General Ankrab, called from enforced retirement under Dr. Nkrumah to become chairman of the NLC, was obliged to resign. Air-Marshal Otu, Chief of Defence Staff, was put on trial for subversion—an unfounded charge now withdrawn. There have also been two significant reshuffles among senior officers which could not be explained solely on professional grounds.

It is to the credit of Brigadier Afrifa and his colleagues not only that they prepared so well the return to civilian rule but that they recognised that to remain in power might be to outstay their welcome—which had been enthusiastic and widespread. If ex-Brigadier Juxon-Smith had been as wise he would not now be facing treason charges in Freetown.

Mr. John Hartley, the former Inspector-General of Police and vice-chairman of the NLC, is also so sensitive to the political atmosphere that he has resigned his police appointment to remain a member of the Presidential Commission. His deputy, Mr. Deku, a member of the police on the eve of civilian rule under the special constitutional provision affecting NLC members. Even Brigadier Afrifa



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will not return to the army. Of the original members of the NLC and General Ocran and Mr. Yakubu, now Inspector-General of Police, remain in their original services. These do not look like men anxious to retain power at all costs.

Some power, however, whether they like it or not, the soldiers and police men do retain. Dr. Busia is not the man to wish to render parliamentary opposition impotent and he knows that the overwhelming vote for his party does not preclude embarrassing demands of many kinds from all parts of the country. Mr. Gbedemah—and we hope that the unfortunate legal complications about his parliamentary position can be resolved—is not the man to engage in extra-parliamentary opposition; he knows that civilian rule does not solve Dr. Busia's troubles but only allows his government to show if it can deal with them. Ghanaians as a whole are unlikely again to fall easy victims to totalitarian intentions concealed under democratic and socialist slogans.

## One-Sided Parliament

Because of the composition of Parliament and the government—with a geographical area completely dominated and another completely committed to Opposition—one must ask, however, whether, in view of Ghana's history, the dominant group will not seek to suppress the minority one, and whether the minority one would not then attempt extra-parliamentary opposition, perhaps relying on support from kinsmen in the north. Yet that would mean the Nkrumah situation all over again. Now the difference is that both sides know that in such a situation there is in Ghana a force which might once more act in the interest of peace. This is a condition we reach with reluctance. But because Dr. Nkrumah, for all his achievements so sadly distorted the path of Ghana's political progress, for a time it may be the soldiers, not Dr. Busia's undoubted adherence to democracy or the integrity of the constitution, who remain the ultimate guarantee of democracy.

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## CHAD

## France and the Rebellion

By a correspondent

THE Chad war is showing all the signs of becoming an issue in French domestic politics. Since July the rebellion there has been the subject of a number of press commentaries, the most dramatic of which have been last week's three articles in *Le Monde*, and this week's cover picture and six-page photo spread in the magazine *Paris-Match*. Now, as the National Assembly in Paris is beginning its autumn session, questions have been put down by opposition members of both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies—one asking the Prime Minister "by what decisions and under what conditions French troops have been engaged in fighting in Chad", and the other, going more to the point, asking the Defence Minister whether he envisages keeping French troops in Chad, in conditions which "remind one uncomfortably of the Indo-Chinese and Algerian conflicts, when French national interest seems to call for disengagement and neutrality".

The report in *Paris-Match* claims that by the end of October another three hundred men of the Corsica-based Foreign Legion (the Second Parachute Regiment), will follow the 300 who were flown out in September to Chad thus bringing the regiment up to full strength of 1,000. The decision to send in the Legion appears to have been taken in August, soon after French public opinion began showing an interest in the Chad war, apparently so that conscripts would not be involved in the fighting. There has been no sign yet of any withdrawal of French troops, so with the 300 or more legionnaires sent in April, and the 1,600 men permanently based at Fort Lamy, there are now well over 2,000 French troops in Chad (there are also an important number actually attached to the 6,000-strong Chad Armed Forces under military technical assistance).

Although this is scarcely on the scale of an Indo-China or an Algeria, there is a certain similarity in the way France seems to be sliding into increasing military involvement. From the point of view of the Pompidou government, the publicity the war has been getting could not have come at a worse time. With the full rigours of the post-devaluation austerity budget about to be unveiled before a distinctly restless public, France seems to be in for an autumn of strikes and wage claims, and workers feeling the pinch on their pockets must take a dim view of a costly military action in a far-flung corner of a former empire. (President Tombalbaye in August claimed that the cost of the French operation so far was more than the Chad annual budget, which in 1969 was nearly £20m.)

Why have the French decided to back the government of President Tombalbaye with military means in this way? The short answer is that they are implement-



President Tombalbaye in Moscow. He visited the USSR last year.

ing the Franco-Chad Defence Agreement of 1960 (one of several treaties the French signed with former colonies on independence—the only African exceptions being Guinea, Mali and Upper Volta). This entitles the Chad government to call on French military assistance against external aggression or internal disorder, and though the French are not always obliged to fulfil any appeal for assistance (a deaf ear was turned to the appeal from President Youlou of Congo-Brazzaville when he appealed for French assistance to put down a revolution in 1963) in practice most invocations of defence treaties have met with some response. The French have always to think of the demoralising effect any refusal might have on other countries which have agreements with France, and as long as the complex system of defence in which the French are involved on the African continent is maintained, appeals such as those from Chad have to be listened to.

French policy considerations also take account of the domino theory—that if a rebellion is allowed to succeed in one country, it may be tried in another. This was one of their justifications for the intervention in Gabon, after the violent overthrowing of governments in Congo-B and Dahomey. Other Presidents, notably the influential Houphouët-Boigny, are anxious to keep the French "police force" in Africa, as a guarantee of their own security, and because of fears that French withdrawal could lead to a power vacuum.

This also affects French thinking, which has shown signs of late of concern at Soviet penetration of the traditional French sphere of influence in Africa. One has heard the "Algiers-Lagos axis" quoted as one reason why the French have been aiding the supply of arms to Biafra, for example, and such symptoms as the Soviet fleet build-up in the Mediterranean and the growth of Soviet influence in the Arab world (where the French have also been cultivating an interest—hence the denial of Mirages to Israel) are often quoted. The emergence

in the last few months of revolutionary socialist regimes through *coups* in Sudan and Libya, the states which border Chad to the North and East (touching on areas where the rebellion has been strongest) can only add to the anxiety of those who play the "sphere of influence" game. Even under the previous conservative regimes in both countries, Chad rebels were allowed to use them as a base for operations. The Ouaddia revolt of 1967 was sustained from over the Sudan border, which led to Chad breaking diplomatic relations with Khartoum for a time; and last year's outbreak in Tibesti was made possible through connivance of the Libyan authorities at the activities of Frolinat (the Chad National Liberation Front), whose leader, Abba Siddick, revealed himself to the world in Tripoli this summer.

The recent joint Franco-Chadian operations in Tibesti, which claim to have knocked the stuffing out of the northern part of the revolt, uncovered documents indicating that the rebels had an important reserve base at the Kufra oasis in Fezzan. Frolinat has connections with militant Arab countries—Algeria, Iraq. Chad had to send its own delegation to the Islamic summit last month (although a little under half the population are Moslem) for fear that Frolinat might use the occasion for propaganda advantages. Their representatives, like their fellow Moslems in Eritrea, were actively lobbying in Rabat.

There is certainly no economic interest for the French, as Chad, devoid of minerals, is one of Africa's poorest countries, although concern for the uranium in nearby Niger may be a consideration. What further complicates the French involvement is the fact that the decision to give logistic backing last year to the Chad Army's operation against the Tibesti revolt, and to send the legionnaires in this year, were both taken by General de Gaulle and his Africa right-hand man M. Foccart. Chad is one of the holy places of Gaullism, having been the first territory to declare for the Free French in the war, and then the launching pad for General Leclerc's march across the Sahara. Although the General seldom made decisions for simple sentimental attachments, in the present curious political position in France, where Gaullism is trying to rule without de Gaulle, and a caucus of hard-line Gaullists are watching M. Pompidou's every action to see if he strays from the holy writ laid down by the General (they were not comforted by the devaluation of the franc, which the General said only last year, would be "absurd"). Chad may be seen as a Gaullist totem to be defended against those who would make France another Sweden. M. Pompidou himself, the arch realist, aware that French public opinion will hardly follow the Gaullist faithful in a new march across the desert, must be casting around for more political solutions.

## MATCHET'S DIARY

IN a Lagos *Sunday Times* article Chief Awolowo has suggested that the latest disturbances in the Western State have been masterminded by "dissident groups". To what extent has the new and alarming outbreak of violence in the State been exploited by political factors? Our leader last week suggested that the *malaise* ran deeper than simply the vendettas of the old political groupings, but Western Nigeria is such a conundrum that a number of interpretations are possible. The editorialist of the *Ibadan Daily Sketch* stated frankly what others have not, that the rioters were agitating for a state of their own, namely the Yoruba Central State, which was first advocated after creation of the 12 states in 1967, but discussion of which was subsequently suppressed until after the war. General Gowon, in his broadcast this week, has agreed that state agitation might be behind the trouble. The frequency of riots in the Ibadan area, the area where demands for the new state are supposed to be strongest, lends credence to this view.

Oyo, another area where the new State is being actively canvassed, is also in the thick of a controversy over a new Alafin,

who, it is alleged, is being imposed by the Western State Government against tradition and custom. Ogbomosho, where the Oba was killed in a previous riot in July, has also been a centre of state agitation, mainly because its people feel the town is being penalised because it is the home of the late Chief Akintola, the Premier who was assassinated in the coup of January 1966. Amenities once lavished on the area, the Ogbomoshos claim, have now been withdrawn, which underlines one of the besetting sins of Western politics since independence, mentioned in last week's leader: "too many leaders in Ibadan have used the government machine for political purposes." As the leadership of the government has passed from Ogbomosho (Akintola) to Ekiti (under Fajuyi and Adebayo) so, it is alleged and believed, have the benefits and the patronage. In the end, if leadership changes hands enough times, this may make for a haphazardly equitable development, but it is a reckless game. There has also been a kind of rough logic in the fact that, under military rule, the Governor should be an Ekiti, for the army has been one of the traditional professions of the Ekiti. Creation of more new states at the moment has been ruled out, although the issue is to be reviewed after the war: too many delicate political problems turn on the issue. But if, as has been rumoured, there may be a change of government in the West, will it only

mean as easing of trouble in one and the start of it in another?

It had been expected that Mr. Roll Gardiner, Executive Secretary of U.N. Economic Commission for Africa who is now 55 years old, would one day return to Ghana to high office—perhaps as Vice-Chancellor at Legon. He was unofficially been advising the National Liberation Council on many matters and has Mr. Yaw Adu, the Deputy Secretary at the Commonwealth Secretariat, another former head of Ghana's civil service. But Robert Gardiner returned sooner than expected, to become Secretary to the Presidential Commission and the Council of State Administration; this is not a very serious administrative burden; but it puts him right in the centre of things, in an excellent position to give advice and to help to oil the government machine—and Mr. Gardiner is not getting in the way of anybody's promotion. His departure from Accra, Ababa creates a serious gap at Ekiti which under him has become a very busy business indeed and something of a magnet as well as a complement, to the Oyo in the same city. Mr. J. H. M. Ofori, now Ghana's Minister of Finance, also left ECA, where he was a head of division. It seems unlikely he, too, will be returning to Africa. Whether the Francophone countries now feel that one of their men should head ECA, even though a Francophone, Mr. Diallo Telli, is Administrative Secretary of OAU, I don't know. But it is likely to be a great deal of traffic over this appointment which is a civil service one: the wrong man can destroy years of valuable work.



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## VALCO in the new Ghana : 2

From a Correspondent

UNDER the agreement establishing the Volta Aluminium Company Limited (VALCO), which operates the aluminium smelter at Tema, and which is the biggest user of the Volta Dam's power, the company is required only to consider how much Ghana-produced bauxite it can use after 10 years (the smelter started to operate in 1964). In the meantime it is using imported alumina. It has the right to mine bauxite in Ghana and the existing concessions of the West African Aluminium Company, which was mining and exporting bauxite to the extent of over 300,000 tons in 1960, just before the VALCO agreement came into force, will be transferred to VALCO. If VALCO fails to use Ghana bauxite after 10 years, it will have to pay more to the Ghana government.

The problem of using Ghana's bauxite for the VALCO smelter is simply one of capital investment. For an aluminium smelter does not use raw bauxite but alumina, to produce which from bauxite a vast new plant would be needed. Apart from that it may well be cheaper to import to a harbour site, such as VALCO's smelter has, alumina produced elsewhere rather than to transport bauxite from the interior of Ghana, which might need a new railway, to an alumina plant and thence to the Tema smelter.

During his recent visit to Ghana, however, Mr. Edgar Kaiser, head of the major shareholder in VALCO, Kaiser Engineers International, announced (to the surprise of many in Ghana) that VALCO would now start intensive drilling operations to determine the quantity of bauxite reserves available to the company in Ghana. He explained that at the time of the original VALCO agreement (1961) it would have been impossible to raise the additional funds for bauxite development and an alumina plant. But now they were prepared to go ahead: "in order to be competitive in the world markets, it is essential that the minimum size alumina plant be at least 600,000 tons. Today such a plant will cost a minimum of \$125m. to \$150m., depending upon its location in Ghana and the facilities required to serve it. I have, therefore, advised your Government . . . that we will start extensive drilling operations, so that we can assure the institutions that must loan us the money that we have the adequate reserves in order to justify the building of the plant. I have also assured your Government that it is our intention to build an alumina plant as soon as we can assure the lenders of the reserves, so that we can then make the necessary agreements between the lending institutions and VALCO and secure the necessary Government sanctions."

Where would the main VALCO bauxite mine be? Since 1940 deposits have been worked by the British Aluminium Company at Kanayerebo, some 50 miles north west of Dunkwa in the Western Province. But there are other deposits—at Nynahin in Ashanti; another deposit in the Western Region, more inaccessible than the Kanayerebo deposits; and a major deposit in the Kwahu area of the Eastern Province. There is no shortage of good bauxite in the world and if Ghana's own deposits are to be developed to serve VALCO, the government itself may have to assist in provision of services—perhaps a railway and almost certainly water (though here international agencies might also help) and housing.

So massive, however, will the investment be, as Mr. Kaiser pointed out, that the VALCO partners, Kaiser and Reynolds, together with the international bodies that will put up loan capital to complement the two companies' equity, may require from the Ghana government another agreement of the kind that established the smelter—the very agreement which, I suggested in my first article, may well come under fire from back-benchers on both sides of the new Parliament on the grounds that it was altogether too favourable to VALCO and was an example of Dr. Nkrumah's arbitrary handling of Ghana's resources.

It is possible that before an alumina agreement is made VALCO itself will express readiness to alter the present one, perhaps in the direction of providing

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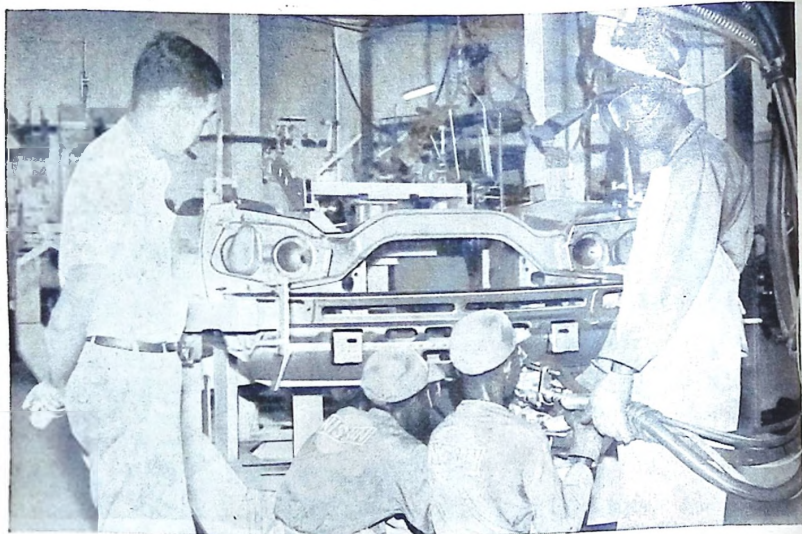
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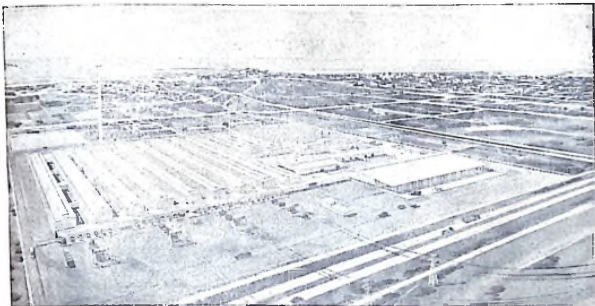
more equity for Ghanaian individuals or institutions; but the critics of the present agreement have to ask whether they are prepared to endanger a second one, which might produce considerably more employment than VALCO does at present and also benefit Ghana's balance of payments even more than VALCO's present operations do.

Of one thing neither the Ghana government nor VALCO need have any doubt—the continuing rise in the demand for aluminium. This now appears to double every ten years, so that investment in a new alumina project seems to be a sound one. Last year the World Bank gave a loan of record size to assist a consortium of aluminium producers to develop bauxite at Boké in Guinea. An 85 mile railway is to be built, together with a new

to have cast iron guarantees that supplies would never be interrupted.

Unless the VALCO smelter itself uses Ghana bauxite, it is in danger of becoming one of those oases of development so common in Africa—that is to say an enterprise gigantic in itself but employing comparatively few local people and part, not of the national economy, but of an international system. Its contribution to Ghana's foreign exchange would continue to be significant, although always suspect because under its 30-year agreement VALCO is able to handle its own foreign exchange earnings. It would continue with its highly organised programme of training of Ghanaians, but its freedom to decide its own expatriate quota would also arouse criticism.

VALCO's exemption from tax ends



The VALCO smelter: will it use Ghana bauxite? will it supply Ghana industry?

port and township quite apart from the mining facilities. On the other hand, Cameroon, which like Ghana has enormous bauxite deposits, also, like Ghana, has an aluminium smelter to use hydro-electric power but no alumina plant. Guinea also has bauxite deposits at Fria from which extensive exports have been made in recent years, and these are linked to an alumina plant, opened in 1960. The Fria company is also run by an international consortium. An aluminium smelter is envisaged, later, linked with a dam on the Konkouré river. Sierra Leone has a flourishing bauxite mine, operated by Aluminium Suisse of Switzerland, but there are no plans for alumina production or an aluminium smelter there.

At present alumina for VALCO, whose smelter is the biggest in the world outside North America, comes from various sources. It is transferred from ships to an enormous storage "dome" between the quays and the smelter, which can hold sufficient reserves to ensure that the smelter will never be held up for shortage of alumina. Nevertheless, there are probably practical advantages for VALCO in having alumina supplies entirely under its own control; but at present it is not concerned with the conditions under which its alumina suppliers operate—they only have to deliver on time. If, on the other hand, VALCO was its own alumina supplier it would have

after the ten years of "pioneer status", but further tax concessions made under the agreement will also attract criticism in spite of the vast contribution from profits made "voluntarily" through contributions to a trust fund in Ghana, to which I referred in my first article. Ghanaians can take pride in the fact that the plant, the first to have been built in the world for ten years, incorporated technical improvements developed during these years but not in use even in the United States itself. Now these and other improvements developed at the Tema smelter itself are being incorporated in the smelters which are beginning to proliferate elsewhere. The whole operation appears to be—in view of the disastrous cost of even small deficiencies in such a complex operation it has to be—highly efficient. In this it can offer an example to other enterprises, for example through the use of the computer control maintenance programme.

But all this may only emphasise the isolation of VALCO unless it makes a greater impact on the economy as a whole. Mining of Ghana bauxite, however, is only one aspect of the impact it might make. The other, which I will discuss in a final article, would be to assist in a local aluminium fabricating industry. And this would be an industry in which the main participants were Ghanaians.



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## ROUNDBOUT

### Hidden Biafrans ?

Apart from governments, how much support is there in Africa for Biafra? One can only answer tentatively, because the only popular feeling that can be measured is educated and literate, and gauging even that is difficult enough. There are also the gradations of feeling, from positive support for Nigeria or for Biafra to the feeling, certainly widespread in Europe, that neither side's aims are now worth the suffering caused (this attitude, regarded by Nigerians as pro-Biafran, is still consistent with strong criticism of secession). "Biafranism" is certainly widespread in Sierra Leone, one of the few African countries where the issue can be freely discussed in Parliament. It is also common in West Cameroon, which was part of Eastern Nigeria for 40 years, and many of whose people worked or were educated at Enugu, Onitsha or Calabar. Although the 1961 referendum which supported union with Cameroon was attributed to hostility in the then Southern Cameroons to that "Ibo domination" of which Rivers and South-Eastern people also complain, this was many years ago, and West Cameroonians can argue that, as they were able to choose their future freely, the Ibos should be allowed to do the same. Anyway, soon after secession I noted considerable sympathy for Biafra in West Cameroon.

ever, and no simple explanation of their stand is possible. Natural sympathy aroused by the fact that—by whosever fault—Eastern Nigerians have suffered more than any other community in independent Africa in recent years (outside the Congo and the Sudan) could explain a lot. Clever propaganda might play a part, though Biafran propaganda is not always cleverer than Nigerian: sometimes it is definitely repulsive. But, in Africa, the Biafrans have had some success in making their cause seem an anti-colonial one, arousing resentment against Britain (either for arms supplies and diplomatic support, or, when the Biafran line is wholly accepted, for organising and directing the entire Federal war effort), and against the Soviet Union. The attitude of Zambia and Tanzania must have some influence: and, although Portugal (and, it now seems, South Africa) are aiding Biafra, it could seem to some that the war, rather than secession, harms the African case against the "White South." As elsewhere, views in Africa on Nigeria's war cut across normal political lines, with Tanzania supporting Biafra while Guinea opposes it, and Ivory Coast and Niger part company. The large majority of pro-Nigeria votes in the OAU disguise the amount of controversy on the subject. Several opposition politicians, in Africa as in Europe, oppose their Governments on the Nigerian issue—

such as the pro-Federal Kambona of Tanzania, the anti-Federal Odinga (Kenya), Henry Fahnbulleh (pro-Biafran) in Liberia; left-wing Ivory Coast students tend to be pro-Nigerian.

### The Ghana View

If the Nigerian war does not enter domestic politics in a country where they have just restarted, Ghana, it will not be for want of trying by Biafran representatives. Whatever the official results of their lobbying, pro-Biafran feeling is widespread in Ghana, due perhaps to the large numbers of Biafrans living there (some with terrible stories). Ghanaian newspapers are not, on the whole, pro-Biafran in opinion (Nigerians criticise them, but probably because they have carried many reports from Biafra, including some of the wilder ones; though I fear that some Nigerians want nothing less than total pro-Federal censorship of other countries' publications). But one pro-Nigerian Ghanaian wrote recently that he felt isolated, and Nigerians have complained of popular hostility to their Government. Dr. Busia's recent interview with *Fraternite-Matin* of Abidjan in which he seemed to lay emphasis on a ceasefire may indicate an awareness of popular sentiment on the new Premier's part.

## Griot

### Ojukwu's Picture

Cameroon's Government supports Nigeria—more strongly now than ever; but there is dissent from its attitude in East Cameroon, too. Certainly the two religious weeklies, *L'Effort Camerounais* (Catholic) and *la Semaine Camerounaise* (Protestant) criticised Nigeria well before the war became world-famous, and last month *L'Effort* was seized for publishing a picture of Ojukwu. A subsequent issue commenting "It's disgusting" was also seized. Nigerians angered at the fairly common criticism by leading Christians in Africa and Europe may attribute it to a mistaken view that the war is a religious one. But traditional Christian ideas about the limits on Government's rights and the importance of their duties, and of the distinction between just and unjust wars, have received a new emphasis in many Churches recently (strong American Christian criticisms of US Vietnam policy are an example). The misconception that it is a religious war is found elsewhere in Africa. Hence "Biafranism" is scarcer in the Arab world, or even in Islamic countries like Niger and Senegal, than farther south.

There are supporters of Nigeria in all the West African countries I have mentioned, and a census might show them to be more numerous than the critics, even if officials of pro-Nigerian governments were deducted. The large number of critics is still interesting, how-

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## Prospects for Cocoa

From a correspondent

**T**HIS week, immediately after the end of the celebrations marking the return to civilian rule, Ghana's 1969-70 main cocoa crop buying season opens. For the success of civilian rule the season's results are likely to be more important than the celebrations. For it is cocoa which still provides the bulk of Ghana's overseas earnings and ultimately of Government revenue.

World cocoa prices will depend in the season just opening on the level of production in West Africa, says Gill and Duffus in its market report, just issued. It is too early to forecast crops with any certainty, though they are expected to be bigger in West Africa with the possible exception of Ghana.

Total production in 1968-69 is now estimated at 1.21m. tons, a fall on the two previous years. Since grindings in 1969 will exceed 1.3m. tons, says the *Tropical Products Quarterly* of the Commonwealth Secretariat, cocoa can be expected to be in short supply for the fourth year in succession, resulting in a further depletion of world stocks.

Ghana's 1968-69 production is estimated at 330,000 tons compared with 415,000 tons in the previous year, and Nigeria's at 187,000 tons compared with 235,000. Ivory Coast production, at 136,000 tons was also down, but Cameroon (100,000 tons) was 10,000 up.

Forecast of the level of West African production depends greatly on the view taken of Ghana's prospects. Paterson Simon's, for example, now say that the deterioration in the Ghana industry has reached the point where a crop as low as 300,000 tons may become the rule rather than the exception, and the 571,000 tons record of 1964-65 will be entirely out of reach. This pessimistic view is due to the poor state of husbandry in Ghana, to which the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board itself has constantly drawn attention. On some farms the crops are said to have become already semi-wild, and infestation can be dealt with only by a large scale government spraying programme. Capsid damage is particularly serious but low rainfall should mean that "Black Pod" will not now be serious.

Poor husbandry in Ghana is said to be due largely to the resentment of cocoa farmers at their poor return from their crops. They are now paid less than any other cocoa producers in West Africa, and the National Farmers' Union has recently demanded an increase.

It seems unlikely, however, that the new Ghana government can immediately raise the cocoa price, an increase in which was announced last season to take effect in this one. There is some doubt as to the representative nature of those making demands on behalf of the cocoa farmers, and the whole organisation of the Marketing Board is now questioned.

For the producers, however, the real problem may well be not their own production but the trend of consumption.

Cocoa products are still a luxury for which there are many alternatives and substitutes. The trend of consumption, say Gill and Duffus, continues downward with the exception of the Soviet Union. In the confectionery industry itself there is an increasing use of substitutes. Soviet Union consumption is likely this year to exceed 100,000 tons, compared with less than a quarter of that amount in 1958, while in Britain the 1969 figure may well be less than the 1958 one, and in the United States the increase may be less than a quarter. The trend in other East European countries, particularly Czechoslovakia and East Germany, on the other hand, is disappointing, although it continues upwards. Demand in Communist China, too, after reaching a peak in 1965-66-67, appears to have dropped heavily. Increased demand from Communist countries as a whole, however, may well offset decline in the West.

So narrow is the area of manoeuvre in the cocoa market that any significant deficit in supply could push the price way above the present £400 a ton. If the gap is bridged, however, as a result of increased West African production and declining Western consumption, the market may well feel that the present price is too high. On the other hand, both Ghana and Nigeria have sold their coming crops well ahead, so they need be in no hurry to sell.

It is surprising, however, that neither

Ghana nor Nigeria has an effective sales organisation close to the consumers in Europe and North America. The Ghana Cocoa Marketing Company has offices in London and New York, but it is doubtful if they are of the calibre to undertake independent negotiations or to make important decisions. Nigeria lacks even offices of this kind and it is possible that, however cleverly sales are conducted from Lagos, the disabilities under which the Produce Marketing Company operates there may reduce total cocoa earnings. It is significant that, small though its crop is, Sierra Leone is reported to have sold advantageously during the recent boom, possibly because it can make sales in London.

Certainly nobody can disagree with the Gill and Duffus view that the coming season promises to be "one of the most interesting and important on record." But to those in producing countries, who have to use estimates of world prices to know the resources at their disposal, that tells little. What, too, are the prospects now, if any, of the long talked-of world cocoa agreement? The recent UNCTAD Board session seems to have made minimal progress, and little more is expected until yet another round of talks, perhaps towards the end of the year. The plain fact remains that when world cocoa prices are buoyant, producers feel less enthusiasm for an agreement, or find themselves divided; but when cocoa prices are low, it is the consumers who find it difficult to reconcile rigidities in the market with their interests.

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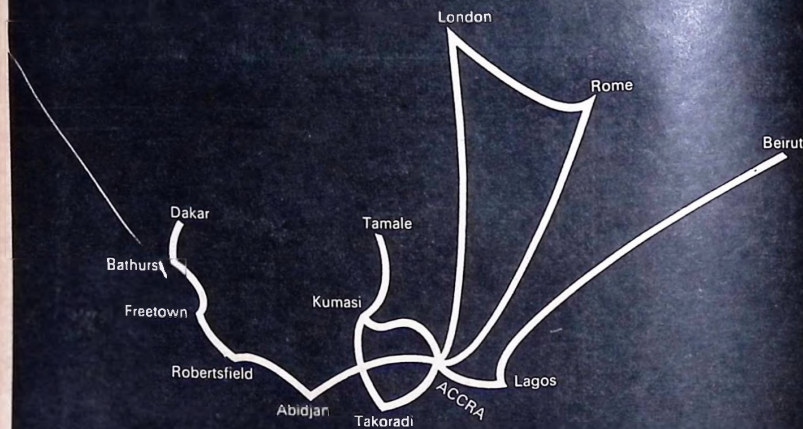
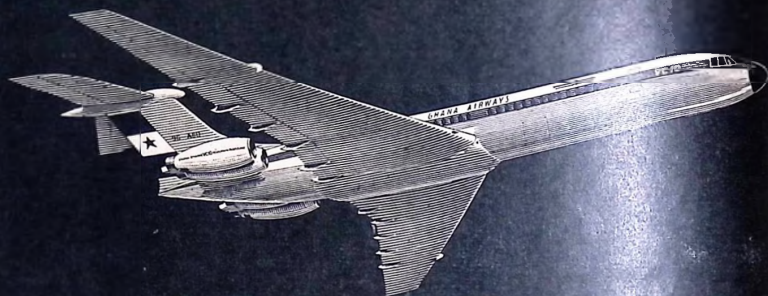
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# books and publications

## REPRINTING HISTORY

**The Occupation of Hausaland 1900-1904, being a translation of Arabic letters found in the house of the Wazir of Sokoto, Bohari, in 1903. Edited with an introduction by H. F. Blackwell and with a new introductory note by M. Hiskett. (Cass Library of African Studies: £2 2s.)**

**Journal of an African Cruiser by Horatio Bridge. (Dawsons of Pall Mall: £2 16s.)**

FOR the fast-growing army of students of African history a whole range of comparatively recent books, far less well known than some of the classics of the 18th and early 19th century, are essential. Original editions are either unobtainable or very expensive, and several publishers are filling the gap with reprints. Often, however, the reprints themselves are far too expensive for individual students and can be found only in libraries. These two works, however, are both well produced and reasonably priced, and each has a brief introduction assessing the value of the book—the absence of such an introduction reduces the value of many reprints.

In his introduction to Blackwell's work, first published in 1927, Mr. Mervyn Hiskett, himself a student of Hausa and of Northern Nigeria, puts Blackwell in the company of Palmer and Temple and others of the early British administrators who devoted themselves to study of Northern Nigerian history.

The book gives essential material for historians of the late Fulani period. In particular the letters translated give a new idea of the relations existing between the Sultan and "vassal" Emirs. The precise status in Islam of the Sultan himself is also discussed—including his actual title.

Recent comment upon Lugard's occupation of Hausaland, says Mr. Hiskett, has suggested that the British attributed to the *Sarkin Musulmi* (the Sultan) a more direct and immediate authority over the emirates of his empire than he really possessed. "If this is so, the moral justification for that occupation may reasonably be called in question." But the book cannot be said to solve this question.

Equally as important as the direct historical evidence of the letters, Mr. Hiskett says, is the light that they throw on social conditions and the times in general. "Much insight is to be gained concerning the status of the slave under the Fulani emirates, while the complexities of the boundary disputes over which they

wrangled provide some clue as to the causes underlying the decline in the central authority." These letters are only part of the evidence now available, since much Hausa material has recently come to light, which complements the letters and extends the range of understanding; but still, Mr. Hiskett maintains, the letters are "crucial".

Horatio Bridge, a lawyer by profession, became an officer in the US Navy and in 1843 became Paymaster in *Saratoga*, a sloop in the anti-slavery squadron in West African waters, under Commodore Perry. He was a friend of Nathaniel Hawthorne, who suggested that he should write some articles on his experiences. In the end the articles were published as a book under Hawthorne's editorship, and the rather deceitful publisher omitted Bridge's name from the first edition, emphasising only the name of the famous editor.

Bridge, however, deserved to have his own name mentioned, because of the

excellence of his writing and the interest of his material. This reprint is from the first edition of 1844 and includes the title page inserted in the 500 copies sent from the United States to Britain. While the main interest of the book lies in the operations of the American squadron, Bridge explains how American law, which did not permit the search by foreigners of American vessels, made it extremely difficult for the squadron to deal with ships not flying the American flag. But he also has most interesting comments on places he visited, particularly Monrovia, Freetown and Acera. There is also a description of Maryland, the community at Cape Palmas which did not become part of Liberia until 1857. Bridge's view that Sierra Leone would become bankrupt within three or four years was happily proved untrue, while his prophecies on the immediate future of Liberia were rather optimistic.

Particularly interesting, as Donald Simpson says in his new introduction, are Bridge's comments on the large number of men wholly or partly of African blood, who were exercising important powers. There was, for example, Bannerman in Accra and Ferguson in Freetown, as well as Roberts and Russwurm in Liberia and Maryland. P.D.

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## books and publications

tained when the central character is concerned with attitudes as well as action? It is possible to create an imaginary state away from the shadow of Ruritania and convey in all their truth and horror the facts of existence in Southern Africa?

At the beginning it's doubtful. It's good, it's punchy, it gives the situation and the characters but it leaves a feeling of suspicion about whether the rest of the book will be worth it.

An unworthy suspicion: the views and opinions of Max Curfew, the central character, are not comfortable. No doubt many people would consider they are not even fair, but they are most certainly valid. He doesn't like Whitey, he doesn't like Whitehall, he doesn't like much about anything. And he says so far more vehemently. He is always believable, always real, and he shows one of the forgotten truths—that human beings are bitter because they are sensitive. He really cares. He surprises himself for he still has "the shadow of the yearning" for something big and simple by which to organise his life.

All this emerges while the pure thriller aspect of the book races on. The man-hunt, the escape against the odds, the superhuman effort that makes us think "could he really do it?" and believing it when he does.

And then the magnificent, marvellous conclusion. It's logical, neat, and so right—and unexpected. What a pity this book is the fantasy and that the corresponding facts have such a different and inhuman ending.

The Southern Africa debate has gone on for many years and will continue for many more, with conflict of interests and, more tragically, conflict of moralities which should be taken as fundamental truths. This book brings them all together, from Copperlee of the Colonial Office to the young Thumuni. It's written by a white man through a black man's eyes and it's a great shriek against all the attitudes that need so badly to be changed, it's against hypocrisy and greed and economic necessities applied to fat pockets rather than thin bodies.

And along with all that, it's exciting. There are one or two small points—of fact, not of ideas. Curfew reflects that men came late to Africa. In fact the evidence is mounting to show that man was cradled in Africa. And surely goats alone didn't change the green Sahara? But these are minor points in a fascinating and successful book.

Anashara

### Familiarity in the Kingdom of the Lost by B. Simon (Barrie Cresset 30s.).

I recommend this to all who need a change from the painfully harrowing tales concerning the political and the

racial situation in South Africa. Although I find the title rather cumbersome and off-putting, it was a paroxysm of laughter to read through less than two hundred pages of criminal escapades.

It is the autobiography of Dugmore Boetie, a most disarming black South African con-man. Helped and encouraged by Barney Simon, Editor of the South African literary magazine *The Classic*, Boetie reveals with startling candour and humour what it is like to be an uneducated and unprivileged black South African. The set-up has all the paraphernalia of Damon Runyon and his "Broadway" characters. There are Boetie's friends—Nine, Tiny, Brother Joe, Jeeger, all unrepentant thieves, who believe that the only practical answer to their racial and political plight is to regard their white tormentors as theirs for the pilfering; if they get caught in the act, they stoically plead *volenti non fit injuria*.

Boetie took to crime very early. The only home he knew as an eight-year-old orphan was the back seat of a bus in Sophia Town. Later, he spent most of his time in jails, and the few moments out of prison with boon friends at their prostitute girl-friend's joint where she served them skokian (a local brew) in six-inch mugs. "Sisinyana [as she is called] appearing with my six-inch mug of skokian, caught me studying a picture hanging over the fireplace. It was the picture of Jesus Christ on the crucifix. I thought this picture was as out of place here as it would be if it was hanging in the heart of Prince Lucifer's domain. She looked at the picture and then said: 'Oh, Him. He's Jesus Christ our Saviour, the only man I pay protection money to.'"

Whatever discrepancy there is between truth and fiction in this book, as Mr. Barney Simon (who had a close association with the author) tells us in an epilogue that there is, it is difficult to resist the wealth of amusement and humour.

However one might view Dugmore Boetie's life of crime and dissipation, it was immensely zestful. His autobiography is certainly worth reading.

Joe Chukwuemeka Brown

### Concise Encyclopedia of Explorations, by Jean Riverain (Collins, 12s. 6d.)

The paperback is a well-produced and handsomely illustrated little volume, as well as a handy reference book. Although a comparatively small section of the whole 280-page work, Africa is comprehensively represented with sections on Barth, Stanley, Ibn Battuta, Brazza, Caillie and a host of others, as well as a neat map of major explorations, and fascinating details of lesser known journeys like the *periplus* of Hanno, allegedly as far as what is now Fernando Po in about 500 BC. Apart from cataloguing major explorers, a few places are also included, such as major rivers (Nile, Niger, although not Congo or Zambesi). The only pity is there is no index of items.

K.W.

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## A Gold Miners' Revolt

AT Prestea, the most successful of Ghana's nationalised gold mines, an unofficial strike broke out in May 1968, leading to a police corporal's death. The report\* of a Committee of Inquiry headed by Mr. R. S. Blay (a former judge who, after heading this inquiry, later became Speaker of the Constituent Assembly), has now been published on the strike, which was only one of many which have occurred in Ghana in the past few years.

At Prestea there were many workers' grievances, but the immediate cause of trouble was confusion over a demand for payment of a 5 per cent. increase granted to workers and junior staff as from Nov. 1967. The report, which quotes the evidence of several mine officials and union leaders, gives details of the meeting at which payment of the rise was agreed on in March 1968, and of a further meeting where the Prestea miners were told of the decision (but where, it was stated, a miner—Augustine Dagarti—made an "inflammatory" speech, greeted with cheers). Although they had been assured that they would get the increase and some apparently got it on May 8, the workers, having been told by someone that the payment would be made to all on May 9 or 10, struck on May 11 when they did not receive it. The Commission says no agreement had really been made of any date for payment. The report, which strongly criticises the workers for their subsequent action does not say who spread the false story about the deadline; one official said he believed "some intelligence agency/agencies (sic).

When many workers refused to go down the mine until they had received the allegedly promised payment the acting mine manager tried to persuade them to go to work, and the Assistant Mine Secretary, Mr. R. E. Dampare, allegedly said that they should consider themselves lucky if they received more than 2 cedis a head by the end of May. He was then attacked and fled, while other people caused damage at an office and, later, workers at the shaft started attacking "any Ghanaian senior member of staff they came across," says the report. It adds, and the Government's White Paper agrees, that the riot was a "planned and predetermined act of lawlessness and hooliganism". But the management agreed to pay the increases that day, and the workers agreed to resume work on Monday, May 13.

Before that day the workers made some more demands which were accepted; but on the demand for the removal of Mr. Dampare (particularly hated by them) and other officials, no action was taken on this. Work went on on the Monday until the afternoon, when the District Labour Officer gathered a meeting to hear the workers' grievances, expressed by Mr. Dagarti (mentioned above), and Mr. Kwesi Lamptey, the

chairman of the Gold Mining Corporation, addressed the meeting.

Mr. Dagarti expressed no confidence in the local Mine Workers' Union branch, and demanded removal of Mr. Dampare and four others, payment of mid-month advances still owed, and improvement of provisions. The mid-month advances were promised, and the Acting Mine Manager said talks were being held on the provisions, while the question of confidence in the GMWU local branch should be taken up with the General Secretary of the Union. Officials, he said, could not be removed merely at employees' wishes, but complaints against them could be investigated. According to the General Secretary of the Gold Mining Corporation, Mr. Dagarti—spokesman for the strikers—also said the miners' underground boots were too expensive (the General Secretary agreed here), and demanded bonus for underground workers on light duty. When the District Labour Officer addressed the miners he used as an interpreter one of the officials denounced by the strikers, as he could not speak Fanti. The main riot, in which the policeman died, came after this meeting. The Committee is unable to account for it, or for the attacks on police.

The committee strongly criticises the unofficial strikers and says the workers' reluctance to have policemen at their meeting showed that they planned

trouble beforehand. It found, however, "very real substance" in some workers' grievances. Food was expensive because of bad roads, the general provision store was short of many things, housing was extremely short and money collected for improving it seemed not to have been used, there was little facility for recreation, and no satisfactory arrangements existed for taking workers to and from work. The committee suggests reforms in all these respects: on sickness it suggests payment in the same way as in government service (more generous than the Gold Mining Corporation system), and says the present system for assessing illness should be changed (it appeared that most cases classified as ordinary tuberculosis by the mine doctor were in fact silicotic tuberculosis).

In view of the workers' attacks on union officials, the committee suggests a new election to union posts. And, noting that many of the strikers seemed angry at the number of Ewes among mine officials, it says some of these should be removed to remove all causes for anti-Ewe feeling. Mr. Dampare, who seems to have been appointed as Dr. Nkrumah's personal representative, is to be removed, for his own safety, the Committee decided: so is the Accidents Prevention and safety officer, said to be an electrician knowing nothing about preventing accidents. The committee thinks more policemen should be appointed than the 22 who were at the mine when the riots occurred.

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SAIL				ARRIVE			
LONDON	TEMA	APAPA	TAKORADI	TEMA	APAPA	TAKORADI	LONDON
THURS	MON.	SUN.	WED.	SUN.	TUES.	MON.	SUN.
23 Oct '69	3 Nov '69	9 Nov '69	12 Nov '69	2 Nov '69	4 Nov '69	10 Nov '69	23 Nov '69
4 Dec '69	15 Dec '69	21 Dec '69	24 Dec '69	14 Dec '69	16 Dec '69	22 Dec '69	4 Jan '70
15 Jan '70	26 Jan '70	1 Feb '70	4, Feb '70	25 Jan '70	27 Jan '70	2, Feb '70	15 Feb '70
26 Feb '70	9 Mar '70	15 Mar '70	18 Mar '70	8 Mar '70	10 Mar '70	16 Mar '70	29 Mar '70
9 Apr '70	20 Apr '70	26 Apr '70	29 Apr '70	19 Apr '70	21 Apr '70	27 Apr '70	10 May '70
21 May '70	1 Jun '70	7 Jun '70	10 Jun '70	31 May '70	2 Jun '70	8 Jun '70	21 Jun '70
2 Jul '70	13 Jul '70	19 Jul '70	22 Jul '70	12 Jul '70	14 Jul '70	20 Jul '70	2 Aug '70
13 Aug '70	24 Aug '70	30 Aug '70	2' Sep '70	23 Aug '70	25 Aug '70	31 Aug '70	13 Sep '70
24 Sep '70	5 Oct '70	11 Oct '70	14, Oct '70	4 Oct '70	6 Oct '70	12 Oct '70	25 Oct '70

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## letters to the editor

### RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE

SIR.—The successful handover of power to civilians in Ghana is unique. But some of us are anxious that nothing should give the impression that in certain cases the NLC was not exactly truthful.

Soon after the coup the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. J. W. K. Harley, announced that Kwame Nkrumah, Boye Moses, and two others, all then domiciled in the Republic of Guinea, were wanted for murder; a price was set on their heads.

Boye Moses was finally caught somewhere and transported to Ghana where he was paraded in a cage in the streets of Accra, and swallowed by the big iron gates of Usher Fort. Last week, without explanation, he was released. I am sure the NLC, still then in power, had some explanation for this "magnanimous" action. But I also think it is important that the public be kept informed. Without this some of us would certainly begin to wonder how many of the other stories told about Kwame Nkrumah were more matters of expediency and preparation.

Let it not be said by future historians that the NLC, which otherwise performed so creditably were, when it suited them, capable of telling untruths.

KOJO YANKAH

Accra.

SIR.—"West Africa" obviously thinks (September 6) that Ghana has now returned to democracy. But has she?

A Parliament divided almost wholly along ethnic lines reveals the fact that tribalism has been most potent. A pity the Nkrumah regime proved too harsh for many Ghanaians: it almost succeeded in making Ghana a nation!

The truth is that in Africa today the multi-party system almost invariably degenerates into tribal politics, thus making infinitely more difficult the admittedly difficult task of nation-building. If it is true that a nation is made not born, then the methods of making one become of paramount importance. The mighty King with his conquering army is a creature of the past. "Democracy" has now become too respectable to be ignored. It therefore behaves all African politicians to evolve their own political institutions instead of blindly copying those of Europe. One hopes that when the Nigerian leaders come to write a constitution for the Federation there will be a real attempt to produce something peculiarly African. Democracy, yes; cut-throat tribal party politics, No.

O. IDOWU.

London.

### COMMUNISTS AND CONTRACTORS

SIR.—The article by your correspondent entitled "Communists and Contractors" (Aug. 9) savours of half truths and plain distortions as far as it concerns Nigeria. The insinuation made in reference to cocoa

barter agreement between Nigeria and the Soviet Union is a distortion of the facts.

Nigeria did barter cocoa for Soviet goods—military hardware, which is not shoddy as your correspondent would want the world to believe. Chief Awolowo, the man responsible for the country's finance, had this to say when confronted with the issue: "Nigeria supplies cocoa in exchange for military hardware at the express will of the Soviet government," and this was only once, he explained.

I wonder then why the article said, "Nigeria's sales of cocoa in a barter deal with the Soviet Union last year proved so unsatisfactory that those concerned in cocoa marketing there are unlikely to want any permanent arrangement of the kind. But if Nigeria finds herself obliged to enter into more such agreements, Ghana's experience should be instructive."

Nigeria has not and in the foreseeable future will not enter into agreements that will jeopardise her interests, nor will the Soviet Union be a party to jeopardising the economic interests of a developing nation.

Benin.

OLATUNDE ADENIYI.

### ZIK'S RETURN

SIR.—Having read carefully Dr. Azikiwe's speech about his belief in one Nigeria and his move to materialise his doctrine, I cannot help joining those who applauded him. He must have been a great man to have taken such a very bold step forward—probably leading to peace-making.

Disappointingly enough, however, some selfish and disgruntled representatives cannot—or, probably, do not want to—see why

Dr. Azikiwe has taken such a glorious move to reconstruct the country he originally helped to build and where he is still highly esteemed.

Is it not high time the so-called Biafran leaders realised that we cannot afford to lose more of the innocent children and senior citizens who are being sacrificed daily and hopelessly on the altar of a "creation of Biafran state" that was never in existence?

S. A. JEJEDÉ.

Berkshire, England.

### LEADERS ON THE ROADS

SIR.—Referring to your "Dateline Africa" Ghana column in the issue of September 27, I wonder if it is too optimistic to hope that the eminently laudable decision of Dr. Kofi Busia, Prime Minister of Ghana, to travel in Ghana unaccompanied by despatch riders and be subject to all traffic rules operative in that country, may be followed by other political leaders in independent Africa?

Surely, dedicated service to the nation and not prestigious clap-trap should characterise the actions and behaviour of those who try to lead Africa.

Perhaps the time-and-manpower-wasting practice of summoning foreign diplomats and top civil servants to airports and quays, to welcome and bid farewell to political leaders in Africa whenever they return from or leave for overseas, may also be abandoned.

London.

SIERRA LEONEAN

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# commercial news

## Aid, the Bank and the Fund

**WORLD** Bank aid commitments increased by 87 per cent. in the year ending last June 30, compared with 1967-68, says the Annual Report. The World Bank itself agreed last year on 84 loans totalling \$1,399m. (last year's totals being 44 loans and \$487m.), and the International Development Association (IDA), its affiliate, on 38 loans worth \$385m. (compared with 18 credits and \$107m.). The International Finance Corporation, another affiliate, made 27 investments totalling \$93m. (1967-68: 16 investments, \$51m.). Aid to Africa rose more than any other World Bank Aid; and loans for agriculture and education have increased sharply, there was increased stress on these after Mr Robert McNamara became President of the World Bank in March, 1968).

The World Bank report says that official and private capital flows from the richer to the poorer countries reached a combined total of \$12,800m. in 1968-69, or three-quarters of one per cent. of the developed countries' gross national product (one per cent. of one per cent. being the UNCTAD aid target).

● In his annual address to the IMF, M. Pierre Paul Schweitzer said that new Special Drawing Rights which he had formally proposed a few days earlier—were the culmination of long efforts to provide an adequate base for the monetary system. Referring to recent monetary

crises, he mentioned proposals for more flexible exchange rate adjustments, but said there was widespread agreement that "the heart of the par value system is not an issue".

*(The World Bank and the IDA reports, the Washington meeting, and the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' meeting will be summarised in an article in next week's "West Africa".)*

● Commonwealth Finance Ministers, at their Barbados meeting, expressed concern that aid might be reduced, and at high interest rates and the debt repayment burden of developing countries; they placed hopes in the SDR scheme and the five-yearly review of IMF quotas. They said efforts should be started to ensure a third replenishment of IDA funds in 1971. Welcoming increased World Bank and IDA aid, they showed concern at high interest rates.

● Mr. McNamara has announced the appointment of Dr. Kandiah Kanagaratnam as Director of the Population Projects Department. The newly established Department will seek to identify and will appraise projects in the field of population which would be suitable for financing by the World Bank Group. Dr. Kanagaratnam, of Singapore, has been closely associated with developments in the field of population control, and served as a consultant for WHO and for the World Bank.

## LINKING CENTRAL AFRICA

The first conference on telecommunications in Central Africa has been held in Yaounde. The conference, presided over by Cameroon Transport Posts and Telecommunications Minister, Dr. Bernard Fonlon, was attended by six countries—Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic, and Equatorial Guinea, as well as observers from the Afro-Malagasy P and T Union (UAMPT), the International Telecommunications Union and French firms specialising in the manufacture of telecommunications materials (Congo-B and Chad sent apologies). In his opening address, Dr. Fonlon said that a satellite tracking station is to be opened in Yaounde in 1971, to work with Intelsat 6, to be launched in the same year.

Among conference recommendations were the creation of a regional zone of automatic intercommunication in Central Africa, the study of inter-state liaisons, and the creation of regional schools (there is already a project for a joint Chad-Cameroon telecommunications school, and a CAR postal school).

The Equatorial Guinea delegate was told there would be no objection to his country becoming a member of UAMPT.

● Plantation workers at Ghana Rubber Estate (a joint enterprise of the Ghana Government and Firestone) in the Western Region have ended their 30-day strike. A spokesman for the workers expressed the hope that the management of the company would speed up negotiations with the General Agricultural Workers' Union over their demands to avoid further industrial unrest. Most workers returned after an appeal by Mr. B. A. Bentum, TUC Secretary-General; others went back after a threat of dismissal.

The strike—the longest in the Western Region's history—began on Aug. 11, to back demands for wage increases. Troops intervened at one point.

● The Ghana Sanyo Electrical Corporation will start to manufacture refrigerators, electric irons and other electrical appliances before the end of the year. More Ghanaians are to be sent abroad for training in running the Corporation's Tema factory.

● The African-American Labour Centre of the US has renewed a technical assistance agreement with the Ghana TUC.

## Groundnuts piling up

More than 21,000 tons of groundnuts are reported to be in Nguru, a terminal of Nigeria's railway in North-East State awaiting transport to ports of shipment, official of the Northern States Market Board said in Nguru that out of the 30,000 tons purchased during the current season only 8,642 had been raised. He blamed the delay on the inadequacy of freight supplied to Nguru Station.



*Will the pyramids rise again?*

Purchases of 1968-69 groundnuts in Northern States totalled 764,000 tons at the end of June, as compared with 600,000 tons to the corresponding date during the previous season. Groundnut evacuation ports by road during June 1969 remained at the previous month's level (15,000 tons) while deliveries by rail dwindled by 50 per cent. to 14,500 tons.

● The African Groundnut Council in its 12th session in Dakar this month, is expected to decide whether groundnut producing countries are to pay a levy to promote sale of groundnuts in Europe, in accordance with a plan drawn up by International Trade Centre. The Council's deputy general secretary said the levy aimed at an increase in growth of the crop of consumption from the current 31 per cent to 6½ per cent, "the rate of consumption of soya beans—a strong American competitor in the world market—is growing 6½ per cent in European markets as against groundnuts with 3½ per cent," he said.

At its last meeting the council decided to open a sales promotion office in Gambia, a Nigerian—Malam D. H. Abdul Wahid, Northern Nigeria Marketing Board, has been appointed manager of the Gambia centre.

● Nigeria and Syria have signed a trade agreement. Nigeria can export palm oil, copra, soya beans, sheanuts seeds, beef, kolanuts, fresh apples, hides and crude petroleum oil, gas, timber, and other products to Syria, while Syria can export mechanical products, cotton, woollen silk and artificial textiles, canned foodstuffs, jam, electrical tomato juice, cereals, water, electrical registered apparatus, tobacco, leaf and cigarettes, and pharmaceutical products.

## GOMB's men in London

From October 1 the business of The Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Company, London-based sales subsidiary of the Gambia Oilseed Marketing Board, will be operated through the agency of Harrison & Crossfield Ltd., Great Tower St., London, E.C.3.

Mr. J. E. Anderson, managing director of the company, who has resigned as managing director of the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company, will join Harrison & Crossfield, but will continue as managing director of The Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Company and will personally handle marketing arrangements for The Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board. Mr. N. S. Campbell, who is not joining Harrison & Crossfield, will continue as a director and secretary of The Gambia company.

## Lonrho at sea

Lonrho has acquired the Watergate Steam Shipping Company, a private concern incorporated in Great Britain, and owning five ships with a gross tonnage of 55,110 tons (it expects delivery of a 19,000 ton ship next May).

Last year Lonrho acquired ownership of Ashanti Goldfields and John Holt, the long-established Liverpool firm with many-sided operations in Nigeria, including shipping on the river Niger.

It has been suggested that the expertise which Lonrho gains from Watergate could lead to involvement in the oil tanker trade. There has already been a suggestion that it may form a tanker fleet for Nigerian oil.

● Rains in Nigeria this year have been well up to average figures and have been well spread, and all crops are reported to be doing well, says the Standard Bank Monthly Review. Communications, however, have been disrupted by the seasonal wet weather. This is a slack period for trade generally, but those who have quotas to purchase textiles from the local mills are purchasing bala and shirting to take advantage of the higher prices obtainable when produce seasons commence.

● The duty which was conditionally imposed on some items of industrial machinery during Nigeria's last budget changes has been reduced. To encourage new investment and enable existing establishments to expand, it is being reduced from 20 per cent. to a 5 per cent. flat rate—subject to importers producing a certificate of value from Lloyd's or any other internationally recognised valuer.

● The strike of junior employees of the Central Bank of Nigeria ended almost as soon as it began, after emergency talks with union leaders.

● Mr. John Holt, Heswall, Cheshire, son of one of the founders of John Holt and Co. Ltd. of Liverpool and Lagos, has died at the age of 87. Mr. Holt was familiarly known as John Holt Junior and visited West Africa regularly on business in his younger days. He served with the firm all his working life, resigning from the board in 1956. He leaves a widow and three sons.

● At close of business on July 31 external reserves of the Bank of Sierra Leone stood at Le28.861.

## ATMN: Still the World's Biggest

Amalgamated Tin of Nigeria was still the world's biggest producer of tin in the year to March 31, with an output of 5,120 tons compared with 4,743 tons in 1967-68. Gross profits for the period rose to £795,707 from £191,227. Including transitional relief the net profit is £331,707 against £166,541. The question of a dividend for the past year, however, has had to be deferred owing to Nigeria's exchange control. Applications have been submitted to the authorities for the remission of profits for the past two years to March 31, but so far nothing has been received, although approval has been given for remittance of approximately £39,000, or about one-third of the 1967-68 profit. Amalgamated Tin says the position will be reviewed as and when remittances are received.

● Melbray Group has arranged the first overseas development of its print and packaging interests, with the acquisition of a 51 per cent. interest in Associated Press of Nigeria. A new company in Nigeria, Melbray Print and Packaging Nigeria, formation of which is nearly complete, will in due course be the holding company for these shares, and any other future activities in the print and packaging field in Nigeria. APN is an important letterpress and lithographic company with significant general printing, label and other light packaging manufacture, at its modern factory at Mushin, Lagos. Last year's pre-tax profits were £N20,000.

## New Investment Cash Plan

The creation of a multi-national African Finance Corporation to provide capital investment is to be discussed at a conference in Luxembourg at the end of October, sponsored by the African Development Bank and including representatives of private industry, commerce and banking. It is to discuss the corporation and the capital would be contributed by shareholders, including banks and industries, all over the developed countries. The Standard Bank is acting as sponsor for the project in the UK and has gathered about 12 British firms interested in the scheme, says a *Financial Times* report.

## IN BRIEF

The report of a commission of enquiry into Nigeria's docks industry has been submitted to the Federal Commissioner for Labour and Information.

● A soap and soft drinks factory has been opened in Nigeria's Rivers State, the first major industry to be established since the State was recaptured by Federal forces last year.

● Canada has provided \$500,000 towards a water supply system in Kumbo, Western Cameroon. This represents about eight per cent. of the cost of the project.

● Reflective strips on the front and rear of vehicles became compulsory in Ghana on 30 September.

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m.s. "CORNEVILLE" slg. New York October 31, Halifax (Nova Scotia) November 3 for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala and Takoradi.

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# WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

## ELDER DEMIPSTER LINES

**SOUTHBOUND**—From Liverpool:—DEIDO slg. Liverpool Oct. 2; KUMBA slg. Abidjan Oct. 4; DUNKWA due Bathurst Oct. 4. From London:—EGORI slg. London Oct. 14; FALABA due Lobito Oct. 13; EBOE due Apapa Oct. 2. From Middlesbrough:—OTI slg. Middlesbrough Oct. 18. From Continent:—FREETOWN slg. Apapa Oct. 7.

**NORTHBOUND**—To Liverpool:—AUREOL due Liverpool Oct. 6; BIHAMO due Boma Oct. 5; DONGA due Lagos Oct. 5. To Hull:—KABALA due Lagos Oct. 7. To Glasgow:—DUMURRA due Sassandra Oct. 4. To London:—ONITSHA due London Oct. 7. To Dublin/Belfast:—OWERRI due Dublin Oct. 17.

To Avonmouth:—KOIHA due Avonmouth Oct. 6; PERANG due Las Palmas Oct. 5. To Continent:—FORCADOS due Amsterdam Oct. 3; FIAN due Lagos Oct. 5; KADUNA due Rotterdam Oct. 7.

**EASTBOUND**—From USA/Canada:—DALLA due Pointe Noire Oct. 2; FULANI due Dakar Oct. 8.

**WESTBOUND** To USA/Canada:—DIXCOVE due Monrovia Oct. 15; DUMBABA slg. Apapa Oct. 9.

From India/Pakistan/Burma:—TEVIOTBANK due Lome Oct. 4; TWEEDBANK due Douala Oct. 25; SHIRABANK slg. Khulna Sept. 29.

## BARBER LINES

**OUTWARDS**—FERWOOD due Douala thence Lagos Apapa and Takoradi. TITANIA due to sail New York Oct. 7, Halifax NS Oct. 10 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Douala, Lagos, Apapa and Takoradi; TEMA due to sail New York Oct. 21, Halifax NS Oct. 24 for Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Douala, Lagos, Apapa and Takoradi.

**HOMEWARDS**—CORNEVILLE due load Takoradi thence Abidjan, Buchanan, Monrovia for New York due fourth week Oct.; TEMA now due New York West Africa; TITANIA due Philadelphia then Baltimore and Norfolk.

**JAPAN "K" LINE**

**WESTBOUND**—From Japan (via Hong Kong) to Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc.:—TEXAS MARU slg. Japan Sept. 9, due Lagos Oct. 18.

**EASTBOUND**—From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. to Japan (via Hong Kong):—TEXAS MARU slg. Lagos Oct. 24, Tema Oct. 26, Freetown Oct. 30, due Japan Dec. 5.

## PALM LINE

**SOUTHBOUND**—From Liverpool:—ELMINA PALM due Las Palmas Oct. 15; ILORIN PALM due Monrovia Oct. 5; LAGOS PALM due Tema Oct. 12.

**NORTHBOUND**—To London:—AKASSA PALM slg. Port Genl Oct. 5. To Continent:—BADAGRY PALM slg. Sherbro Oct. 5; BAMBENDA PALM slg. for Tema Oct. 5.

**FARRELL LINES**

**HOMEWARDS**—AFRICAN PLANET slg. Abidjan Oct. 11 for Monrovia Oct. 14 and US Ports; AUSTRALIAN GEM slg. Tema Oct. 5 for Lagos Oct. 15, Abidjan, Monrovia and US Port.

**OUTWARDS**—AFRICAN RAINBOW due Freetown Oct. 12 for Abidjan, Tema Oct. 18, Matadi, Luanda, Lobito and Douala; AFRICAN CRESCENT due Monrovia Oct. 26 for Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Nov. 3 and Apapa Nov. 5.

**HOLLAND WEST-AFRICA LUNA**

**SOUTHBOUND**—From Continent:—KIELDRECHT due Warri Oct. 8; CONGO-KUST due Abidjan Oct. 5; GAASTERKERK due Dakar Oct. 5.

**NORTHBOUND**—To Continent:—GIESSENKERK due Rotterdam Oct. 15, Hamburg Oct. 18, Bremen Oct. 21; KATSEDIK due Bremen Oct. 13, Hamburg Oct. 16, Rotterdam Oct. 21, Antwerp Oct. 13; DAHOMEKUST due Rotterdam Oct. 17, Amsterdam Oct. 20, Hamburg Oct. 22.

**NOPAL WEST AFRICA LINE**

**EASTBOUND**—NOPAL SUN slg. New Orleans Sept. 9; Lagos Oct. 2, due Warri Oct. 3, Sapele Oct. 3; NOPAL TELLUS slg. New Orleans Oct. 7, Takoradi Oct. 24, Lagos Oct. 26, due Warri Oct. 27.

**WESTBOUND**—NOPAL LUNA slg. Luanda Sept. 2, Takoradi Sept. 17, New Orleans Oct. 7 due Houston Oct. 9; NOPAL SUN slg. Luand.

Oct. 26, Takoradi Nov. 2, New Orleans Nov. 2 due Houston Dec. 11.

**GOLD STAR LINE**

**WESTBOUND**—SHAVIT due Durban Oct. 4/6, Lourenco Marques Oct. 8/10, Capetown Oct. 12/13, Lobito Oct. 16, Luanda Oct. 17/18.

**EASTBOUND**—TSEDEK due Singapore Nov. 6, Japan Phosphates Ports Nov. 18/22, Kobe Nov. 21/23.

**BLACK STAR LINE/US/WEST AFRICA**

**WTBOUND**—BIA RIVER Monrovia Sept. 18, Montreal Sept. 30, thence Great Lakes.

**BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT/ WEST AFRICA**

**SOUTHBOUND**—KLORTE LAGOON Bremen Sept. 30, ANIAMA due WA S Route Oct. 3, Dunkirk Oct. 4, KORLE LAGOON Liverpool Oct. 7.

**NORTHBOUND**—LAKE BOSOMTWE London Oct. 3.

**SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE**

**SOUTHBOUND**—MINNESOTA ldg. Scan and Bordeaux first half Oct. for discharge WA S Route first half Nov.; MANGARELLA ldg. Scan, including Finland, Bordeaux first half Oct. for discharge WA end Oct. first half Nov.; HOEGH HERON ldg. Scan, including Finland, Bordeaux second half Oct. for discharge WA second half Nov.

**NORTHBOUND**—HJELMAREN ldg. WA first half Oct. for discharge Scan, end Oct. early Nov.; INDIANA ldg. WA S Route Oct. for discharge Continent early Nov. and Scan, second half Nov.; YARRAWONGA ldg. WA late Oct./early Nov. for discharge Scan, early Dec.

**EDWARD NASSAR LINES**

**ERERE** slg. Genoa Oct. 5 due Famagusta Oct. 10, Beirut Oct. 11; EMIR BECHR slg. Genoa Sept. 18 due Famagusta Sept. 25.

**ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINES**

**INWARDS**—STRAAT FREMANTLE from Japan slg. Kobe Aug. 23 due Lagos/Apapa Sept. 28, Tema Oct. 4, Monrovia Oct. 6, Freetown Oct. 7, Abidjan Oct. 12, Takoradi Oct. 13; HOLLANDS DIEP from China and Hong Kong slg. Hong Kong Aug. 17 due Lagos/Apapa Oct. 11, Coconoma Oct. 5, Lome Oct. 6, Tema Oct. 17, Abidjan Oct. 8, Monrovia Oct. 11, Freetown Oct. 13, Dakar Oct. 16, Conakry opt., Takoradi Oct. 22.

**OUTWARDS**—STRAAT VAN DIEMEN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong and China first half Oct.; STRAAT FREMANTLE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan second half Oct.

**CHARGEURS REUNIS**

KERGUELEN due Lagos/Apapa Oct. 12, Tema Oct. 17, Freetown Oct. 23; CIRCEA slg. Kobe Oct. 26.

**MAERSK LINE**

**INWARDS**—From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi:—JESPER MAERSK slg. Japan Nov. 7.

**OUTWARDS**—From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi to Japan via US Pacific ports:—JOHANNES MAERSK slg. Abidjan Oct. 31, Tema Nov. 3, Takoradi Nov. 6.

**MITSUI OSK LINE**

**BUENOS AIRES MARU** slg. Kobe Sept. 5 due Lagos Oct. 10; HARUNASABU MARU slg. Kobe Sept. 20 due Lagos Oct. 20; KAWASAKI MARU slg. Kobe Oct. 4 due Lagos Nov. 9.

**WERMANN LINE**

**MALOJA** slg. Antwerp Sept. 24 due Freetown Oct. 7, Takoradi Oct. 11, Tema Oct. 13; NEREUS slg. Antwerp Sept. 26 due Las Palmas Oct. 6, Dakar Oct. 9, Monrovia Oct. 12.

**HOEGH LINES**

**HOEGH MELING** slg. Bremen Sept. 29, Rotterdam Oct. 3, Rouen Oct. 7 due Dakar Oct. 14; HOEGH AURORE slg. Hamburg Oct. 22, Bremen Oct. 24, Antwerp Oct. 27, Rouen Oct. 30 due Dakar Nov. 6.

**NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE**

**SOUTHBOUND**—ORANYA slg. London Oct. 3; RIVER OGUN slg. Glasgow Oct. 4; SOUTHERN BENUE slg. Rotterdam Oct. 1.

**NORTHBOUND**—KING JAJA due Dunkirk Sept. 29, Rotterdam Oct. 3; ODUDUWA due Le Havre Oct. 10, Rotterdam Oct. 15.

**WESTWIND AFRICAN LINE**

**SOHPI C** due Pie. Noire Oct. 3, Luanda Oct. 5, Abidjan Oct. 10, Freetown Oct. 12; WESTWIND due Warri Oct. 6, Luanda Oct. 10, Freetown Oct. 16.

**HUGO BOSS LINES TRANSOZEAN**

**SCHIFFAHT GMBH**

**ATLAS HUGO STINNES** due Monrovia Oct. 4, Abidjan Oct. 8, Lagos/Apapa Oct. 11, Douala Oct. 13, Libreville Oct. 15; ABIDJAN due Dakar Oct. 6, Conakry Oct. 8, Abidjan Oct. 12, Lome Oct. 15, Douala Oct. 18.

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## MEETINGS

### THE SIERRA LEONE WOMEN'S SOCIETY

Calling all Sierra Leone Women

A surprise awaits you at the next meeting of the above Society to be held at the High Commission, 33, Portland Place, W.1 on Saturday, 11th-October, 1969.

Come and join us.

Our aim is "Help us to help out children our Country and ourselves"

L. Short (Mrs.)  
Gen. Sec.

## NOTICES

## INAUGURATION OF UNITED NIGERIA IBO UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

The above named UNION has been launched on the 23rd of August 1969, at the SEVEN SISTERS HALL, LONDON, N.7. The following officers were elected:-

Chairman	.. Mr. A. G. Okotcha
Vice Chairman	.. Mr. A. Ezenagu
Secretary	.. Mr. E. I. Ejiamike
Treasurer	.. Mr. C. Ojeogwu
Publicity Secretary	Mr. E. C. Offiah
Asst. Publicity Secretary	Mr. A. E. Nwositi
Welfare Officer	.. Mr. J. O. Osamor
Assistant Welfare Officer	Mr. G. Jumbo

## NIGERIAN STUDENTS ACTION COMMITTEE

Celebrates the National Day

1. **DANCE**—on Saturday, the 4th of October, 1969 at ST. PANCRAS TOWN HALL, EUSTON ROAD, N.W.1 from 7 p.m.—12 midnight.

Under the distinguished chairmanship of HIS EXCELLENCY BRIGADIER B. O. OGUNDIPE the High Commissioner for Nigeria in the U.K.

supported by  
State Organisations Presidents.  
Music will be supplied by the Fabulous  
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Tickets: 10/6 single, 15/- double, obtainable from the Social Secretary and at the gate. All Are Welcome.

Recorded message from Major-General Yakubu Gowon, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and Head of the Federal Military Government.  
Starts 7.10 p.m. sharp.

2. **CHURCH SERVICE**—Prayer for return of Peace to our beloved country on Sunday, 5th of October, 1969 at 10 a.m. at WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, 42 Francis Street, S.W.1. The lesson will be read by His Excellency the High Commissioner.

3. **A SYMPOSIUM**—Looking ahead!

Date to be announced later. Be on the look-out.

T. L. J. Koko, Olu. Oyeleye, Joint Publicity Secretaries.

J. K. Ogidan, Social Secretary,

52, Brailford Road, London, S.W.2.

Tel: 01-674 3827

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(Sports and Social)

Notice to Members

Members should please note that owing to expansion in our business the offices of the General Secretary have been moved into new premises.

Please contact the General Secretary at:

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Kwesi Eyson

Gen. Secretary

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on

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7.30 p.m.

Tickets 10/6d. Bar. All Welcome.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known and called Mrs. Sidikat Abike Oyenija, now wish to be known and called Miss Sidikat Abike Akeredulu. All former documents remain valid.

I, formerly known and addressed as Mr. B. R. L. Jack now wish to be known and addressed as Mr. B. A. Idimnabo Lawson. All former documents remain valid.

I, formerly known and addressed as Johnson Adetunji Akambi Omotalewa Ojedele, now wish to be known and addressed as Adetunji Johnson Oyedele Akirawonnu henceforth. All former documents remain valid.

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(Introduction by Dennis Brutus)

Chairman: Edward Blishen

Tuesday 7th October, 8 p.m.

Admission 2/6

## MUSIC OF AFRICA (2)

The Music of the Bachama (Lake Chad Area)

Jack Carochan

Thursday 9th October, 8 p.m.

Admission 2/6

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## SITUATIONS VACANT

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Applications are invited from suitably qualified Nigerians for appointment to the following posts:-

### 1. DEPUTY CHIEF ACCOUNTANT:

#### (a) QUALIFICATION:

Associate Membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants or The Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants. Applicants should have had at least five years post qualification experience either in the Government Service, or in a Commercial concern of some standing, or Statutory Corporation.

#### (b) SALARY:

Applicants earning less than £2,000 per annum need not apply.

#### (c) DUTIES:

The successful candidate will be required to perform general accounting duties under the supervision of the Chief Accountant.

### 2. INTERNAL AUDITOR:

#### (a) Qualification:

Associate Membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants or The Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants and should have had at least five years post qualification experience either in the Government Service, or in a Commercial concern of some standing, or Statutory Corporation.

#### (b) Salary:

Applicants earning less than £2,000 per annum need not apply.

#### (c) Duties:

The officer will be in charge of the Company's Internal Audit Section and will be responsible to the General Manager.

### 3. SENIOR ACCOUNTANT:

#### (a) Qualification and experience:

Associate Membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants or The Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants. Applicants should have had at least three years post qualification experience in a Commercial concern of some standing or Statutory Corporation.

#### (b) Salary:

Applicants earning less than £1,600 per annum need not apply.

#### (c) Duties:

The officer will be in charge of the Company's Commercial Accounts Section and will be responsible to the Chief Accountant or his Deputy.

### 4. ACCOUNTANT:

#### (a) Qualification and experience:

Associate Membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants or The Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants and should have had at least two years post qualification experience in a Commercial concern of some standing or Statutory Corporation.

#### (b) Salary:

Applicants earning less than £1,500 per annum need not apply.

#### (c) Duties:

The officer will be required to perform normal accounting functions of a commercial organisation.

### 5. (A) SALES OFFICER and (B) ASST. SALES OFFICER:

#### (a) Qualification and experience:

University Degree in Economics, Business Administration or Commerce with Marketing, International Trade or Statistics as a special subject. Previous Commercial experience will be an advantage to all applicants.

#### (b) Salary:

Candidates for (A) earning less than £1,500 per annum need not apply. Salary Scale for (B) is £850 x 50—£1,200; £1,300 x 50—£1,600.

### 6. SHIPPING OFFICER:

#### (a) Qualification:

Applicants must have one of the following qualifications:-

(i) Membership of the Institutes of Transport, Institute of Shipping and Forwarding Agents,

or (ii) University Degree in Economics, Business Administration or Commerce with specialization in Transport and International Trade.

#### (b) Salary:

Company's Salary Scale G.1 and G.2. £850 x 50—£1,200; £1,300 x 50—£1,600.

#### (c) Nature of duties:

Successful applicants will be required to carry out duties involving Road and Rail transportation with special interest in evacuation to ports; world Maritime Geography shipping; clearance and forwarding; customs procedure; shipping documentation; freight bookings; stemmings and berthings; lighterage; classification of vessels; Marine insurance; wharf duties; operation of Transit Sheds and Stores; Control of large wharf labour and staff.

#### (d) Special aptitude:

Applicants must have sound health, able and willing to work long and tedious hours night and day; stand up to the exerting demands of rough wharf duties. Successful applicants must be prepared to serve in any Nigerian Port.

### 7. OTHER CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:

(i) The posts are not pensionable but the Company operates a non-contributory Provident Fund Scheme for the benefit of its staff.

(ii) Officers on first appointment will be on probation for one year.

(iii) Other conditions are in accordance with the Company's Conditions of Service.

### 8. METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Applications in applicants' own handwriting, accompanied by photostat copies of Certificates and Testimonials, should be addressed to:-

THE SECRETARY,  
NIGERIAN PRODUCE MARKETING COMPANY LIMITED,  
72, CAMPBELL STREET,  
LAGOS.

To reach him not later than 31st October, 1969, after which date applications will no longer be entertained.

## SITUATIONS VACANT—Continued

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 GRADE II**

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- Teachers' Professional Certificate plus 6 years' post-qualification experience.
- Teachers' Associateship Certificate obtained after Grade I Teachers' Certificate plus five years' experience since obtaining the Associateship Certificate.

## 4. DUTIES:

Successful candidates will be required to teach in Institutions and do other duties assigned to them by their Principals; they will also be required to assist the officer in charge of the Registration and Examinations Branch of the Ministry of Education or, if employed in the General Publications Section, they will be required to assist the Education Officer (Literature Production) in the Vernacular Publishing Programme of the General Publications Section.

## 5. METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Applications should be submitted in quadruplicate on Form WSPSC. 1 obtainable from the Recruitment Officer, Nigeria High Commission, 9 Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2. Completed application forms should be submitted to reach the Recruitment Officer not later than 11th October, 1969.

E. ADE EMULEOMO  
 Secretary,  
 Public Service Commission.

MIDWEST SPORTS COUNCIL  
**VACANCIES**

Applications are invited from expatriate Coaches of mature experience and expert knowledge for coaching the following Sports in the Council; Lawn Tennis, Cricket and Basketball.

## Qualifications:

- Degree or Diploma in Physical Education in addition to Professional Coaching Certificate in the relevant sport.
- A first rate Sportsman in the relevant sport will also be considered. If candidate ever represented his Nation in the relevant game will be an additional advantage.

## Duties:

Coaching of the particular Sport at State level, running Coaching Clinics, and any other Coaching duties that may be assigned by the Sports Council.

Salary: £N 2,000 consolidated.

## Conditions of Service:

Posts are for 2 years in the first instance, renewable depending on satisfactory results, five quarters and transport will be provided for performance of official duties.

## Method of Application:

All applications in triplicate should include Photostat Copies of Certificates and Testimonials. Original Credentials will be demanded at the interview. Applications should reach the Secretary, Midwestern Nigeria Sports Council, P.M.B. 1102, Benin, Nigeria, NOT LATER THAN 30th OCTOBER, 1969.

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## SITUATIONS VACANT

Also on page 1192

Advertise your VACANCIES in this special feature at 35/- per single column inch.—Send to: Advertisement Manager, West Africa, Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, London, W.C.1.

# dateline Africa

## GHANA

### SECOND REPUBLIC TAKES OVER

ON Oct. 1 Ghana returned to full civilian rule under the "Second Republic," when the National Liberation Council handed over power to the government headed by Dr. Kofia Busia. The NLC, created after the coup of 1966, handed over in the morning of Oct. 1, after ruling for 1,297 days.

Celebrations of the hand-over began on September 30, and culminated in the hand-over ceremony in Black Star Square on Oct. 1. That day was celebrated as a public holiday. Among the numerous guests at the celebrations were President Tubman of Liberia; President Diiori of Niger; OAU Secretary-General Diallo Telli, and Commonwealth Secretary-General Arnold Smith; Sir Dauda Jawara, Prime Minister of The Gambia; Mr. Banja Tejan-Sie, Acting Governor-General of Sierra Leone; and President Eiyadema of Togo.

Mr. John Willie Kofi Hartley resigned as Inspector-General of Police a few days before the return to full civilian rule. He also retired, at the age of 50, from the police service, which he had joined in 1940; he became Commissioner in 1965, and soon after the 1966 coup, when he became Vice-Chairman of the NLC, took the newly created post of Inspector-General. He remained NLC vice-chairman until the NLC came to an end this week, and now remains a member of the Presidential Commission.

Mr. Hartley said he was resigning in order to avoid any conflict of interest between his roles as IGP and vice-chairman of the Presidential Commission. Brig. Afrifa and General Ocran thanked him for his services.

On Sept. 27 Mr. Anthony K. Deku, Commissioner of Police (CID) and NLC member since 1966, resigned from the police service. Born in 1923, he joined the police in 1940, and was for 16 years in the Special Branch, becoming COP (CID).

Mr. Bawa A. Yakubu, Commissioner of Police, was appointed Inspector-General of Police on Sept. 29. Born in 1926, he entered the police service in 1945 and became, immediately after the 1966 coup, one of the four police officers on the NLC (another of these, Mr. J. E. O. Nunoo, resigned from the NLC and the police service last May after a dispute with the rest of the Council).

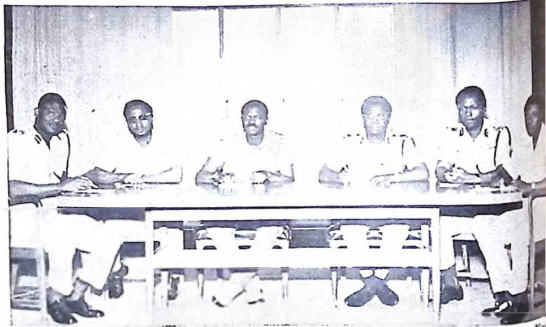
Mr. K. A. Gbedemah has called on the presidential commission, which did not swear him in as a member of the council of state. He said later that the swearing-in had been postponed. He also said he would definitely take his seat in parliament when it met on October 2. Neither of the legal actions brought against him was due to be concluded before the return to civilian rule.

Eight people have been appointed by the Presidential Commission, on advice of

The news item in last week's "West Africa" about a visit to Ivory Coast by Dr. Busia was incorrect. His planned visit was postponed.

the Prime Minister, to serve on the twelve-member Council of State. They are Ya-Na Abdulai IV, Paramount Chief of Dagomba Traditional Area; J. Kodwo Amisshah, Catholic Archbishop of Cape Coast; Mrs. Emily Hesse; Mrs. Agnes Owusu Nyantakyi; Nana Kwamina Anaisie IV; Omanhene of Sekondi Traditional Area; Dr. I. B. Asafu-Adjaye, Medical Practitioner; Mr. Daniel Chapman Nyaho, Executive Director of Pioneer Tobacco Co., former Secretary to the Cabinet; Mr. Koi Larbi, barrister and ex-detainee (who defended, Mr. Tawiah Adamafo at the treason trial).

Others on the new Council of State are the Prime Minister, Dr. Busia; the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Justice Nii Amaa Ollennu; the President of the National House of Chiefs, Sir Osei Agyeman Prempeh II, the Asantehene; and the Leader of Opposition, Mr. K. A. Gbedemah.



The six members of the NLC which left office this week: left to right are Mr. Major-Gen. Ocran, Brig. Afrifa, Mr. Hartley, Mr. Deku, and Lt-Col Yeboah.

Olumfuo Sir Osei Agyeman Prempeh II, Asantehene, has been elected first President of the new National House of Chiefs, which consists of five representatives from each Regional House of Chiefs. The Asantehene therefore represents Ghanaian chiefs on the Council of State.

Mr. R. K. Gardiner, Executive Secretary of ECA has been appointed Secretary to both Presidential Commission and Council of State, with Mr. N. A. Quao as Deputy Secretary.

Dr. Busia has appointed the Chairman of Regional Administration for all the nine Regions. They are Imoru Salifu (Upper Region); J. A. Braimah, who was one of the first CPP Ministers but later left the CPP, (Northern Region); A. A. Owusu (Brong-Ahafo); H. R. Annan (Ashanti Region); J. A. Annobil (Central Region); A. E. Chincubah (Western Region); A. K. Adu (Eastern Region); A. S. Kpodonu (Volta Region); and A. S. O. Mensah (Greater Accra).

The report of the Commission Enquiry into Air Marshal Otu and Lt. Kwapong (Otu's ADC) has recommended the reinstatement of the former Chief Defence Staff, dismissed after his arrest in November. It clears him of involvement in subversion. The Commission, appointed soon after the Air Marshal's arrest, was headed by Mr. Justice Amisshah.

Mr. Justice Nii Amaa Ollennu, Speaker of the National Assembly, retired from the bench, with effect from day before his election as Speaker. He had been on the bench from 1956 and headed several Commissions of Enquiry.

The detainees recently freed are Moses. Ekow Eshun (former Secretary of the UK branch of CPP), Jenkin Isaac Abraham, Benjamin Otoo, Louis Assasie, George Krankson, Synessu Ayawo, Sidi Ali and Frederick Akuffo.

[Boye Moses was arrested outside Ghana in January 1967 (apparently in Nigeria) where a deportation order against him made a year later) and paraded in Accra before being placed in police custody. Eshun, also generally believed to have been arrested outside Ghana, had evidence at the enquiry into Air Marshal Otu. A few months ago a man in Nigeria saying he was a brother of Sidi Ali claimed that the latter had been held without since giving evidence at a subversion trial in 1967, and that a Mr. Tunde Harcourt and Mr. Isaac Abraham had both

been arrested by Ghanaians outside Ghana in Nigeria and Berlin respectively. There has never been any official confirmation, nor any announcement of charges against the people now released.]

A border guard has been killed and another injured in a clash with smugglers at the Ivory Coast border. The Commission of the Border Guards said that all would be armed and, for the present, would go on patrol in sections of 10 NCO each, especially at night.

Brig. Afrifa, Chairman of the Presidential Commission, has received Letters of Credence from the new Ivory Coast ambassador to Ghana, M. Christophe Mouton.

Former Army Commander Major C. Bruce has been appointed High Commissioner in Pakistan in place of Mr. E. Madjitey, now an MP. Maj. Bruce was previously defence adviser in the Washington embassy.

● Dr. Kwame Nkrumah celebrated his 60th birthday on Sept. 21.

● Mr. Victor Owusu, External Affairs Minister, has said Ghana will continue its non-alignment policy.

● Two former Volta Region Commissioners have appealed against prison sentences passed for careless dissipation of public funds.

● Charles E. Donkor, MP for Wenchi in the old National Assembly, has been charged with accepting a bribe offered to influence a public officer.

## SIERRA LEONE

### Freetown Blackout

Because of a strike of electricity workers Freetown experienced a total blackout for 12 hours last week. Troops and police patrolled the streets to prevent looting. Earlier a threatened nation-wide strike by electricity corporation employees was called off after a provisional agreement was reached between the Prime Minister and other Ministers, electricity board directors, and union leaders. Mr. Bruno Gaston, chief executive of the corporation, and the corporation's labour relations officer, were both suspended on full pay. The workers are reported to have complained that their grievances over pay and conditions were still not being attended to, and that Mr. Gaston was still using a corporation car. Mr. Stevens, in a broadcast, emphasised that legitimate grievances were being investigated. He threatened strong action against sabotage of the economy.

● Hearings in the treason trial of Paramount Chief Ella Gulama and Mr. Robert Kombe, M.P., have been adjourned to next January. Madam Ella's counsel said that this was an unreasonable time for an accused person to be held in custody without trial. Madam Ella was arrested in May 1968 and the case against her was adjourned owing to her serious illness. She was originally accused with ex-Brigadier David Lansana and 14 others on charges arising out of the establishment of the military regime of 1967.

● Mr. Jonathan Doherty has been appointed secretary to Diamond Corporation West Africa Limited (Dicorwaf) and Diamond Corporation Sierra Leone Limited. He is also secretary to the executive board of the Government Diamond Office. He was one of four Sierra Leoneans sent to London for training as diamond valuers in 1960. He succeeds Mr. Robin Walker, now in the London office of the Diamond Corporation, as secretary to Dicorwaf.

● M. Diallo Telli, Secretary-General of the O.A.U., has held talks with Mr. Siaka Stevens. The discussions were private but they are believed to have concerned the Nigerian war. Mr. Telli's visit is part of an African tour. Dr. Stevens recently declared that Sierra Leone's parliament would have to consider the recognition of Biafra. Mr. Telli is believed to be emphasising to African Heads of State and Government the need to carry out the O.A.U. conference resolution on the Nigerian conflict. This urges the need to keep Nigeria united.

● Mrs. Alice Fitzjohn, wife of Dr. William Fitzjohn, former Ambassador in Washington and High Commissioner in London, has been awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science in Education at Southern Illinois University. Dr. Fitzjohn is now principal of Harford School, Moyamba.

● A large private hospital is to be built in Freetown according to newspaper reports. Associated with the project is American Health Education for African Development (AHEAD) which is already participating with the government in the education of Sierra Leone nurses. Private doctors in the Freetown area have discussed various forms of private health insurance schemes.

● Further disturbances have been reported from Loya chieftain in Loko district in the Northern province. Disturbances have frequently occurred in connection with the commission of enquiry into the conduct of the local paramount chief.

● Mr. J. E. Anderson (managing director) and Mr. N. S. Campbell (secretary) have resigned from the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company, the London-based sales subsidiary of the Produce Marketing Board.

Messrs. D. A. Steedon and H. F. Horne have taken over management of the company.

● Mr. Desmond Luke, the Freetown lawyer, and Sierra Leone's first ambassador to West Germany, has presented his credentials. He said he hoped that as well as strengthening commercial links he would be able to assist in the development of German tourism to Sierra Leone.

● Election petitions against the Minister of External Affairs and another APC M.P., both elected in by-elections last March, have been rejected by the Supreme Court.

● Reports have appeared in the Freetown *Daily Mail* of the difficulties experienced by foreign businessmen resident in Sierra Leone in obtaining re-entry visas after visits abroad.

● Britain has been asked to provide technical assistance for a comprehensive survey of Sierra Leone mineral resources.

● A national teaching system, with a Teaching Service Commission, comes into operation this month. This will allow transfer of teachers between schools in the same way as civil servants are transferred between departments.

● Seven more Ghanaian fishermen have been sent back to their country.

● Dr. E. T. Wilson, the first Sierra Leonean to qualify in medicine in Israel, has been presented with his doctorate degree.

● Special Constables are being recruited and mobile patrols intensified, especially at night, in an effort to counteract crime, a statement released by the Prime Minister's office announced.

● The United States is to contribute Le21,000 to 18 self-help and development projects, including the building of Rotifunk secondary school, Kakakwei maternity centre, the Marikori/Gambia bridge and the Devil Hole Water Supply. Peace Corps volunteers will supervise the work. The US

has also agreed to provide Le3,068 towards the establishment of a palm oil nursery in Pujehun District.

● Port workers are to receive an increase of ten cents per day in wages. Hours will also be reduced from 48 to 45 per week.

## RABAT

### Islam and Mauritania

At the end of the Islamic summit in Rabat it was decided to hold a meeting of Islamic Foreign Ministers in Jiddah in March 1970, at which the subject of a permanent Islamic secretariat would be discussed. The steering committee of eleven included four African states—Senegal, Niger, Algeria and UAR.

The conference documents declared support for the Palestinian people and called on the great powers to intensify the efforts to "promptly accomplish an Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory", and rejected all solutions in the Middle East which did not include a return to the pre-1967 status of Jerusalem. Commentators found the document as a whole a defeat for the militant Arab states and Palestinian liberation organisations, in that the call for a complete Moslem political and economic boycott of Israel was rejected. Those states which have diplomatic relations with Israel (of African participants Mali, Senegal, Niger and Chad have maintained these ties; in West Africa, only Guinea and Mauritania have broken them off) would appear to have made their point.

Leaders of West African delegations were as follows: Guinea—Foreign Minister Saïfoulaye Diallo; Niger—Information Minister Boukary Sabo; Chad—Defence Minister Mahamat Senusi; Senegal—Foreign Minister Karim Gaye; and Mali—Labour Minister Bouabacar Diallo. Mauritania was represented by its head of state President Moktar Ould Daddah, on his first visit to Morocco since Mauritanian independence in 1960. Following a meeting between the President with King Hassan and President Boumedienne of Algeria, the Moroccan King made certain remarks at a news conference which have been widely interpreted as giving Moroccan *de facto* recognition of Mauritania (On independence Morocco claimed Mauritania as Moroccan territory). The King said that in 1960 he had said that Mauritania should vote on its future. "In all this I deferred to my father's will." Giving reasons why the claim, though justified, could not be achieved, the King said there was no common frontier and "we have never been a country of resistance and guerrilla warfare". He could not imagine a guerrilla war across 2,000 km. of desert without a tree for cover. He personally would have preferred a friendship treaty, instead of being responsible for "certain regions which would encumber our budget". He was not able to change his father's policy. "it runs in my blood, my being and my life", until the Islamic summit came up, at which the needs of Islamic unity were paramount. Regional relations in North-West Africa also dictated a change. He said at the three man summit "we did not meet to drink a cup of tea... we shall meet again and certainly achieve a result".

Algiers radio predicted "favourable repercussions" from the meeting. All issues of *Al Alam* and *L'Opinion*, the two papers of the right-wing nationalist Istiglal party of Morocco were confiscated following the

publication of a communiqué reaffirming that the party's position of claiming Mauritania for Morocco was unchanged.

President Ould Daddah, on his return to Nouakchott said that he was pleased with his talks in Morocco, and Morocco-Mauritania relations had entered a new era which could lead to normalisation of relations. Before leaving Rabat he said there was no obstacle to the development of relations in a "bilateral, sub-regional, regional and finally a continental context for we belong to the Organisation of African Unity".

Representatives of nine movements which had not participated in the Islamic summit, published a statement after the summit declaring they would only accept a solution of the Middle East question approved of by El Fateh and the Palestinian people. Among those who signed were the National Liberation Fronts of Chad and Eritrea. The document also called for support for Eritrean and Chadian Moslems.

## TOGO

### Grunitzky Dies

Nicolas Grunitzky, President of Togo from 1963-67, has died in hospital in Paris, following his involvement in a car crash in Ivory Coast, where he has been living since his deposition in 1967 by the army. Born in 1913, the son of a Polish officer in the German army and a Togolese mother, he trained as an engineer, entering politics after the second world war as head of a party formed to uphold French influence against the more radical party of his brother-in-law Sylvanus Olympio. In 1951 Grunitzky was elected deputy for Togo (then a UN trust territory) in the French Assembly, and in 1952 his party gained control of the territorial assembly. From 1956-58 he headed the first government of autonomous Togo, but was defeated by Olympio in the pre-independence elections (insisted on by the UN). Grunitzky made a comeback in January 1963 after Olympio's assassination, when the soldiers who staged the coup invited him to become President, a post in which he was confirmed by election the same year. By late 1967 the strains within the government had become intolerable, and four years after the first coup the army moved in again, this time to take power in more permanent fashion.

● About 200 chiefs and traditional leaders, meeting in Aneho after the return of President Eyadema from a fortnight's visit to France, approved unanimously the President's plan for a single party "uniting all the sons of Togo in a vast regrouping", which they hoped would be rapidly established. Interior Minister Major James Assila said that the political vagaries between 1963 and 1967 were the reasons for the take-over. All Togolese were now reconciled, but a political vacuum still had to be filled. President Eyadema told the meeting that the "regrouping" would not be "a party questing for power or a dominant party, but a single movement which will form a really free platform from which all Togolese can take part in national reconstruction".

## CONGO-K

Union Minière has announced that it has settled its dispute with the Congo government over compensation for assets

taken over in January 1967. By the agreement Gecomin, the state-owned Congolese company set up to control Union Minière's assets, will repay the Belgian company from its profits over a period of fifteen years, in the framework of an extended technical co-operation agreement between Gecomin and Societe Generale des Minerais, the subsidiary of Union Minière which has been running the mining and marketing aspects of Gecomin since 1967.

The real value of Union Minière's assets has been estimated at over £300m., but it is believed that the company has settled for much less than this—the figure most often mentioned is about half. "The exact amount of this compensation will depend on the production of Gecomin and on the value of its products. It is thus directly tied to the prosperity of the mining industry," said a company statement.

Shares of Union Minière and of Tanganyika Concessions, the British company which has a 17 per cent holding of Union Minière equity, rose sharply on the Brussels stock exchange following the announcement.

● The budget for 1970 is estimated at 200m. zaires (\$400m.). The 1969 budget was estimated 185m. zaires, but it is likely to be considerably more than that. Investments and education are likely to show increases next year.

At a news conference, Finance Minister Louis Namwizi said that if the 200m. zaire figure was passed it would risk inflation. The increase in Gross National Product in 1968 was 7 per cent, he said, but in 1969 it was likely to be only 5 per cent, because of the mediocre showing of Congolese produce in world markets.

## MALI

In a speech on the ninth anniversary of Mali independence (September 22), the head of state, Lt. Moussa Traoré, warned that the economic and financial situation remained worrying, and that the population would have to make further sacrifices. "We cannot continue to depend on a foreign country, even a friend, to meet the state's current and permanent expenses".

## CAR

Following President Bokassa's visit to Sudan, CAR and Sudan have agreed to operate air services between Khartoum and Bangui and to study the possible construction of a railway line between the two countries. The two countries have also agreed to try to seek solutions to the problems of those Africans "suffering from foreign imperialists' domination". While in Khartoum, the CAR President promised assistance to the Sudanese in combating "imperialist subversion" among refugees from Southern Sudan, and said that any Southern Sudanese in CAR desirous of returning home would be assisted.

● In his seventh government reshuffle since January 1967, President Bokassa has appointed a new Foreign Minister, M. Nestor Kombot Nguemou, former Development Minister, who replaces M. Maurice Gouandja, now demoted to Posts and Telecommunications.

## NIGER

During President Hamani Diori's visit to Canada an agreement was signed on technological co-operation—Canada will send teachers to Niger and contribute

615,000 dollars to a college in Niamey. Canada will also invest about \$1.2m. developing Niger's mineral potential more than \$500,000 will be spent to erect the country's pipelines; Canada assist in building a dam on the Niger; studies show the project to be feasible. The total committed by the Canada amounted to \$2,345,000.

The visit was originally intended to last 10 days, but the Niger President left short after a week, saying he was too busy. He hopes to resume the visit in the near future. On his way home he spent two days in Paris, where he denied rumours that he was circulating about why he had cut his visit short. There was no quarrel between Niger and Canada he stressed.

● Eight former members of the Mouvement Sawa party jailed in May this year, have been pardoned and released.

## DAHOMEY

### Alley on Trial

The trial has opened in Cotonou of Col. Alphonse Alley, head of state since December, 1967, to July, 1968. He is charged with attempting to abduct the then Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Major Kouandété on the night of July 1 this year, with plotting against the sale of the state and with stealing arms and ammunition. Three other officers, NCOs and a corporal (who has escaped, well as ten civilians (including five who escaped), are also being tried. Ten are defending the accused. (Col. Alley invited to become head of state by middle rank officers who staged the December, 1967, coup which overthrew Gen. Soglo. The leader of these officers, Major Kouandété himself, who had been the Chief of Cabinet of Col. Alley then chief of staff. It was under Col. Alley that the decision was made to hand power to the civilian regime of Dr. Zinsou, the failure of elections owing to a boycott. One of President Zinsou's first decisions was to retire Col. Alley and promote Major Kouandété.)

## UPPER VOLTA

Nurses and staff in Upper Volta's hospitals and veterinary clinics have been on strike since mid-September. Students and soldiers have been keeping the hospitals going. President Lamizana in a broadcast said the country could not afford nurses' pay claim, and called on strikers to heed their duty "so that nobody will be abandoned because we have deliberately refused to protect them".

● The state takeover of Roman Catholic primary school, announced a few months ago, became operative on October 1, the start of the new school year.

## LIBERIA

General Albert White, former Chief of Staff of the Liberian army, has been arrested on a sedition charge. General White has been in retirement for the last four years at Tchien, 350 miles from Monrovia. He is alleged to have fomented trouble among people in the area.

## NIGERIA

## Federal Amnesty

**I**n an Independence anniversary speech, Gen. Gowon announced the release "in the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation", of all those detained during the civil war but no longer considered to be security risks "as soon as practicable." Delay in ending the war had been deliberate, not caused by Federal inability to achieve a military solution but to facilitate post-war reconstruction; although there was still time for the secessionist leadership to retrace its steps "time is fast running out." The Federal Government would continue to co-operate with genuine humanitarian organisations to enable food, medical supplies and other relief materials to reach innocent people still under secessionist control.

Declaring that the present 12-state structure of the Federation would be reviewed at the end of the war, Gen. Gowon warned against the resumption of partisan politics in any form: all efforts should be channelled into ending secession. The Western State government was taking steps to remove the causes of genuine grievances in its area, he said. He understood that the desire for the creation of more states in the West might have been one of the factors behind the recent riots there.

Gen. Gowon told Thierry Desjardins of *Le Figaro* that anything but Nigerian unity could be discussed with Gen. Ojukwu. The Nigerians had failed to advance further, the C-in-C said, because they knew they must rebuild what they destroyed, and their superiority was limited as they had only 300,000 troops and no conscripts, while arms were not given to them free as (he said) they were to Ojukwu.

● A Federal statement on the Western State disturbances said there must be law and order, but legitimate grievances would be investigated and redressed.

The Western State Commissioners for Education (Dr. Olunloyo) and Home Affairs (Mr. Adisa) sent a letter to the Olubadan of Ibadan calling for a meeting of chiefs and religious and lay leaders (both are from Ibadan). In Lagos a "Committee for Peace in Western State" appealed to eminent Yorubas to serve on a special committee.

The Olubadan, Oba Salawu Aminu, with his chiefs and eminent Ibadan citizens have appealed for an immediate suspension of police and army raids in the Ibadan area, saying both citizens and law enforcement officers had been needlessly killed. They promised to urge citizens to keep the peace.

The *Morning Post* reported that over 30 people died in a 9-hour gun duel at Akufe in the Ibadan district, and the *New Nigerian* said about ten policemen were reported killed at Akufe, Ile Idodo and Idiamu, all in that district. The *Daily Sketch* said one policeman and several villagers were believed dead there. The *New Nigerian* said the death toll at Egbeda, scene of an ambush ten miles from Ibadan, was reported to be about 50, and that about 300 arrests were reported in all.

● Mr. Olajide Adeleye, editor of the Government-owned *Sunday Sketch* of Ibadan, has been arrested. He was released after several hours of questioning. In its lead story today, the *Sunday Sketch* reported that two security policemen assigned to intelligence work in troubled villages near

Ibadan, capital of the western state, were missing and feared dead.

Mr. Ayo Adedun, editor of the *Daily Sketch*, also owned by the Government, has been arrested and detained by military authorities in Ibadan and moved to Lagos. The arrest came soon after an editorial saying ex-politicians favouring a new state were implicated in the riots and were believed to have the backing of some members of the armed forces and police. The newspaper criticised its editor's arrest.

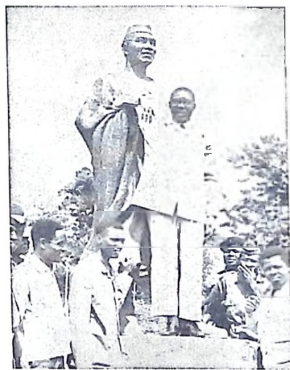
The *Nigerian Tribune*, also of Ibadan, has criticised Brig. Adebayo but said it would be wrong to move him now.

● The Federal Supreme Military Council met for two days at the end of last week. It was believed the Western State crisis was the main point discussed.

Before the meeting the *New Nigerian* said a decision on revenue allocation was hoped for as the Dina Report appeared to have been "jettisoned" and the April meeting of Finance Commissioners "ended in near fiasco", though finance officials were understood to have made agreements at Kaduna in August and forwarded them to the Government.

● Ex-President Azikiwe has returned to London for a few weeks' stay.

In a broadcast Dr. Azikiwe described his "fact finding" mission of the 12 states, saying all the heads of government and natural rulers he had met expressed a desire to return all displaced persons to their homes. He praised the efforts of the



Dr. Azikiwe has now visited the remains of his home city of Onitsha, where he is seen in this photograph standing by the statue of himself by Ben Enwonwu.

governments to deal with the property of those people. The safety of himself and his son should encourage displaced people to leave rebel territory, he said.

During the tour, Dr. Azikiwe was quoted as warning the government not to have more talks with the Biafrans until they were sure the latter had no evil intentions. He also said that during the 1964 Federal election crisis Col. Ojukwu, then Major, had urged them to set up a provisional government and assured him of army backing. In Kaduna, quoting a UNICEF estimate that two million children had died in the war, the ex-President said, "How can you have survival for any nation who would

sacrifice 2,000,000 of its children just to satisfy the ambition of a group of persons? I find it difficult to reconcile this with reason or humanity."

Dr. Azikiwe has called for "intensified psychological warfare, intensified publicity at home and abroad, intensified conventional and sophisticated warfare" in an interview with the *Lagos Sunday Times*.

Chief Awolowo has given a reception for the former president.

● After a press report that the new Alafin of Oyo had been named, a new report said he would be installed last week. This did not happen, although the *Lagos Daily Express* said security preparations were going ahead for the installation of the new Oba—for whose throne there were (it said) two candidates, Ladipo Adeyemi and Lamidi Adeyemi, supported (it alleged) by the Government and by the former traditional "kingmakers" respectively. Some Oyo people have demonstrated in favour of Lamidi Adeyemi, telling the Government not to impose an Oba on them or not to install anyone before the lawsuit over the recent appointment of new king-makers was concluded.

● Seventy-three Nigerian army personnel on board a Lagos municipal bus were drowned after their vehicle had plunged into a river, following the collapse of a bridge near Abeokuta.

● Malam Yusuf Gobir, Permanent Secretary to the Federal Defence Ministry, said the British officer recalled from the observer team in Nigeria, Major Wallsworth-Bell, offered his services to some officers at the front, and the British Government was then informed.

● M. Diallo Telli, OAU General Secretary, has met Gen. Gowon on a tour of West Africa. In Accra he was quoted as saying the Emperor of Ethiopia had started new moves to end the Nigerian war; the Emperor, he said, made a new peace initiative every day. He expressed optimism about the prospects.

● Dr. Arikpo said any attempt to raise Nigeria at the UN Assembly would be resisted. At New York he met the US Secretary of State, Mr. William Rodgers, who also met Tanzanian Foreign Minister. The latter urged the USA to use its influence towards peace. Dr. Arikpo said if Gen. Ojukwu wanted talks he could inform Emperor Haile Selassie.

At the General Assembly, Uganda's foreign minister has said foreign interests on both sides were aggravating the Nigerian war, and negotiations were necessary.

Gabon's foreign minister said it was "inconceivable" that Biafra should accept what amounted to an unconditional surrender. (He also said Gabon would no longer vote for resolutions on political and racial problems that could not be implemented.)

The Foreign Minister of Ivory Coast asked UN Secretary General and the President of the General Assembly to appeal for negotiations as well as a solution, "acceptable to all" in Nigeria. The UN, he said, should do its utmost as it had in Cyprus and the Congo.

Zambia's delegate said the problem was to determine the future structure on Nigeria and Biafra and this must be decided by their own people. He denounced the UK and the USSR for believing that the solution lay in the supply of weapons of mass destruction.

## NIGERIA—continued

● The Labour Party Conference at Brighton has called on the British Government to stop arms supplies to Nigeria. Miss Joan Lester, M.P., said they had no doubt the humanity of the Government and its desire to mediate, and did not think the ending of arms supplies would end the war; but she hoped arm supplies would be stopped. Mrs. Anne Kerr said that at the root of the Nigerian war was greed for oil and minerals. Lord Brockway said more people had died in this war than in Vietnam. (The resolution, approved by the National Executive, is not automatically binding on the British Government. A similar one was passed at last year's Conference.)

## Red Cross Mission to Biafra

The International Red Cross is sending a mission to Biafra to discuss the *impasse* over relief supplies for secessionist territory. It is reported that it believes the Biafran demand for a guarantee against abuse of the arrangement negotiated between it (the ICRC) and Nigeria is unrealistic.

ICRC relief supplies in Federally-held areas are running out, none having arrived since the new relief policy was announced on June 30, said a *Daily Telegraph* report. It added that the ICRC was unlikely to give up its co-ordination of relief operations on the Federal side on Sept. 30, when it was officially supposed to do so under the new policy. Earlier it had been announced that the Nigerian Red Cross would take over some operations of the ICRC; and a Federal Government state-

ment said the Rehabilitation Commission, while keeping itself informed on relief work, would not interfere in its normal running.

The crew of five of a C97G Stratofreighter was killed when the plane crashed during a relief flight to Biafra last Friday, Joint Church Aid announced yesterday. The crash was not due to military action by the Federal Nigerian side. Four of the dead were Americans and the other British.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Gabonese Red Cross have signed an agreement on a refugee village for Biafran children at Minboule in Gabon.

The Biafran children's village built by the German Catholic and Protestant Churches at Libreville, Gabon, is reported to have eight buildings, 250 beds, a hospital and a maximum capacity for 1,500 children, with German and Biafran doctors and European and Biafran nurses and teachers. The village was financed by the German Government and by special private collections.

● In an editorial headed, "It is the Children Who Die," the *London Times* expresses satisfaction that the Federal Government, despite the views of its members, has been persuaded to soften its conditions on peace talks by accepting the OAU resolution, which does not require prior renunciation of secession or specifically exclude this as a solution. It also welcomes the Federal concessions on relief flights, and accuses Gen. Ojukwu of "intransigence" on both matters, and urges France, as Biafran's "main supplier of arms" who has been "influenced by genuine humanitarian feeling to "press General Ojukwu for a sensible attitude to relief and peace talks."

The *Sunday Times* (owned by the same

company as *The Times*) has also had editorial blaming Gen. Ojukwu for the failure to get relief supplies resumed.

● Nigerian jets have strafed Biafran concentrations at Ogidi, Abayi, Obinase and Ebu.

Reporting from Ohuba on the Southern front, where he says the war has progressed either way in five months, *New York Times* correspondent says Biafran troops—in large numbers but untrained, especially in heavy artillery and other "sophisticated weapons", he says—are believed to have 24 new Russian machine guns with a range of 13 miles. *Kalaba* radio says new military storage and maintenance handling equipment is coming from Liaison a British consortium.

The *Nigerian Daily Sketch* reported an attempt by Biafrans to infiltrate into the Mid West through Ekebura village in Aboh division.

## Volunteer Force?

Supporters of Biafra in Great Britain are reported to be planning a volunteer force of several hundred, to offer to fight for Biafra. Some plan occupation of buildings, a boycott of major oil companies and other action. Various activities were discussed at a recent meeting.

● The Norwegian Ambassador to the UN has said Norway will help police an agreed ceasefire between Nigeria. Norway will take a favourable view of requests for aid for reconstruction work once hostilities were over.

● A decree stopping further enterprises in any Nigerian court of civil proceedings challenging an order of the Inspector General of Police, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces or any person acting under their directive, had been issued by the Federal Government.

● Col. U. J. Esuene, Governor of the South-Eastern State, has given reasons for removing two commissioners, Chief E. O. Eyo (Agriculture and Natural Resources) and Mr. O. A. Esin (Justice). "As far as I am concerned, I have lost confidence in the commissioners and they remain in office in spite of whatever they may say to brow-beat the public," he said.

Messrs. Eyo and Esin accused the State Government of carrying with the Nigerian-owned International Maritime Services Co. over paying it for services to the Government. The managing director of the shipping firm said Mr. Eyo owed it money and the company had had trouble because of the freezing of its accounts in August 1968, while the State Marketing Board's account with his line was in the Bank's favour.

● Col. Abba Kyari, North Central Governor, has said his recent statement about a resurgence of the former Northern Region was misrepresented. He had meant that the North was not a source of trouble for everyone because of the new states and creation of these—and of the Civil Services Agency, due to end next March—had not solved the area's problems, though the 12-state system had come to stay.

The Kwara State Commissioner for Education is Mr. J. T. Obaoyo not Alhaji Mukhtar as was stated in "News for the States" on p. 114-5 last week. Alhaji Mukhtar, Sarkin Bai, is the Kano State Commissioner for Education, mentioned on the same page.



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