

WEST AFRICA

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M. POMPIDOU'S DOMINOES

NOW that the Gaullists have passed through their electoral ordeal with more of their majority left than even they expected some African leaders will doubtless heave sighs of relief. A left-wing victory in France, or even an unstable centre coalition, could have had a decisive impact on France's relations with black Africa. The left parties, in particular, according to their common programme, would have reconstituted France's whole special relationship with her former African colonies, and there might have been startling repercussions in a number of African countries — particularly in the wake of French subventions. Likewise, a period of instability in France, given the closeness of the ties which exist with Africa, would have reverberated through all France's former African empire.

As it is, "continuity" has prevailed, although the voting pattern indicates a strong desire for change on the part of the French electors. There is speculation

as to how far this will affect the Gaullists' own policies. "Can Pompidou change?" asks one weekly magazine. As far as Africa is concerned, the position may be summed up thus. France's policy to Africa will not change, although that of African states towards France might.

Certainly in the last year there has been what the French call "an evolution", the pace of which has been more dramatic than could have been expected, and which is certainly far from finished. It took a year or two after the death of General de Gaulle for cracks to show in the pact system with Africa worked out under his aegis. This was President Pompidou's breathing space, in which time Africa assumed far less importance in France's foreign policy. But of late Africa has been occupying more and more of President Pompidou's attention.

Some attempt to reinforce the French position in Africa may now be expected. It is already affected by the actions of the

Governments of Mauritania and Madagascar in particular, but also by the other states which seek to revise their co-operation agreements with France (Cameroon, Niger and Dahomey). Essentially, however, there are likely to be modifications, with a view to making them more effective, to the existing arrangements which bind these countries so closely to France, rather than any total disengagement.

Mauritania's departure from the franc-zone can be reduced in importance and put in the pigeon-hole of "special cases". Mauritania can, in any case, be included in the North African Maghreb grouping, with which France's relations are less intimate, rather than in West Africa. Special arrangements can also be justified for Madagascar, an island in the East, a long way from the rest of francophone Africa — and one which has a military base to which France, although perhaps nobody else, attaches much



Pa Margai's legacy

■ A Nigerian in Guinea

Letter from Oshogbo

■ Ghana's farmers and the government

importance. Different conditions prevail there from those in West Africa. Although this is a month in which no French minister, from the Prime Minister down, knows if he will still be in a job at the end of the day, it is believed that a new agreement will soon be concluded with Madagascar, under which the Malagasy will have the financial freedom they seek within the franc-zone - but will let France keep the base. Yet, will others demand the same monetary freedom - which means in effect having the best of all worlds, freedom to use foreign reserves as you choose, but having the backing of the Bank of France in case of balance of payments difficulties?

The French still have to bear in mind the precedents they are creating. The "falling dominoes" theory, so favoured by political commentators, seems to have some application in Africa. Even in 1960, when the Mali Federation was granted independence within the French Community, that soon led the countries of the Entente to seek independence outside the Community. The French spent so much of their tax-payers' money on the military operation in Chad from 1969 to 1972, only because of the need the Government seemed to feel to maintain its credibility throughout its "sphere of influence".

At a time of uncertainty in francophone Africa, where a number of anti-French noises are now being made of a kind which would have seemed

unthinkable in the de Gaulle era, it is not surprising that there should be a new strategy. This simply concentrates on those African countries which are important, and are also good business propositions for France. These are first the Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Gabon; but they also include Zaire, Nigeria and Kenya. New kites may even be flown for a rapprochement with Guinea.

While, however, there are obvious pickings for French businessmen in anglophone Africa, especially with the entry of Britain into the EEC, it is hard to imagine any policy of abandoning France's former colonies being adopted by a Gaullist regime. The relationship with Africa may tend to provide benefits for only a section of the French community at the expense of the people in general; but the African market is still useful to the French economy, which has expanded remarkably under the Gaullists. Disengagement can only come from the policies of the francophone Africans themselves, when the hard facts of longer-term African continental objectives may, in the end, prove more rewarding than the short-term benefits which close ties with the former metropolis may bring. The same considerations may apply to the more comprehensive question of what manner of relationship Africa is to have with the enlarged EEC. And that, at the moment, is one of the great conundrums of 1973.

The Mar Legacy

By a correspondent

AS Sierra Leone's fifth general approaches, a study¹ of the ones (1951, 1957, 1962 and most topical Dr. Cartwright, of the University of Western Ontario, lecturer in politics at Fourb, three years and so can add his experience to his minute and publications of all kinds. His general survey of twenty years of Leone politics, and its main aim is to explain what were the features of the political system which were so important in maintaining the one-party rule up to 1967, and which in some ways has remained unique in Africa. So, when the possibility of establishing one-party state in Sierra Leone "by evolution", is being discussed, Cartwright's account of the opposition to the proposal, which Albert Margai brought it forward, is also topical. Indeed today we see the same kind of resolutions calling for one-party state, which many of the People's Congress one-party supporters saw then coming from SLPP members. And, sadly, the Chiefs who were harassing the APC on the SLPP are now joining in the demand for "one-party" rule.

There is, however, one great question. From the start the SLPP, which came into existence under Sir Milton Margai's leadership to fight the first, 1951, election, depended heavily on the support of the chiefs. At that time this was not an issue in that election, but whether those who wanted a political position for the Colonies, or those who wanted the great majority to have their political place, were to have their place in the Protectorate, and many of the Colony, were completely unimpressed by the Protectorate claims. The SLPP were all "fathers of their people". But, as Cartwright emphasises, the SLPP developed in the Protectorate (the Provinces) its own machine for mobilising support. Indeed several of its members positively disliked the machine in their constituencies might not only diminish their importance but might even tend to alienate them as MPs.

Instead it fell to the chiefs to support for the SLPP. Later, the Protectorate political unity dissolved, and at last the All People's Congress contrast to numerous earlier, and opposition groups, began to

¹ Politics in Sierra Leone 1947-1967, by R. Cartwright (University of Toronto Press), \$10.00.

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serious challenge to the SLPP's domination, some chiefs found themselves suppressing their people's political aspirations.

In return for their support the chiefs enjoyed the protection of Sir Milton Margai as leader of the government from 1951 to 1963. Even after the serious uprising in the north in 1955, which was really directed against the chiefs, and the finding by an independent commission that the conduct of eleven of them had been "subversive of good government", no strong action was taken by the SLPP government. In the end the SLPP suffered politically from its reliance on chiefs, at least in the north. Its leaders, however, were so closely allied to chiefly families that they felt a natural sympathy for the chiefs. The APC, however, came to power against the wishes of most chiefs and its leadership, whatever their present stand, could originally be called "anti-establishment" and lacked the close family ties with the chiefs enjoyed by the SLPP leaders. Today, in practice, there may not be much difference in relations between the government and the chiefs from those in the days of Sir Milton and Sir Albert Margai. But, particularly in the north, where the bulk of APC support lies, relations between chiefs and party members are often strained, and nowhere does the APC rely for its support so completely on the chiefs as did the SLPP.

To some extent the SLPP's reliance on chiefs was obscured when Sir Milton Margai led the government. For "Pa" seemed to most Sierra Leoneans to be the epitome of a chief himself, paternal and kindly, but ruthless when necessary. Even during the 1962 election, in constituencies where there were a number of "independents" standing against official SLPP candidates, Sir Milton, as Dr. Cartwright notes, contented himself with giving his blessing to "all my children" and playing no further part. In the Cabinet he could be dictatorial, while with his opponents he could afford to be conciliatory — as well as being ready to gaul them, if only briefly, when that seemed necessary. More than one MP who, with justice, felt that Sir Milton was grooming him for the succession, found himself suddenly removed when he seemed too sure about his future. Above all, perhaps, nobody felt that Sir Milton was an unsuitable man to exercise the highest authority or that he was doing it in his own personal interest. That was certainly not the view held of his successor, his younger brother, Albert.

Dr. Cartwright sums up Sir Milton's legacy admirably: "a party system highly pluralist in nature, and highly tolerant of organised opposition, but unable to press for any radical changes in the social structure, an administration of fairly high competence and with a considerable degree of freedom from political interference, and a pattern of small incremental development projects. Whether such a system could continue to meet the aspirations of Sierra Leoneans was questionable. Many people in the



Three Prime Ministers seen together in 1955, Sir Albert Margai, Sir Milton Margai and Mr. Siaka Stevens.

towns and even in the bush were increasing their expectations to an extent that radical changes might be needed to satisfy them, but the SLPP was not a party that could readily be brought to support radical actions. A new leader would have a difficult time moving Sierra Leone along a path different from that followed by Sir Milton.

Dr. Cartwright, before the chapter summarising his conclusions, has a chapter called "The fall of Sir Albert Margai". He considers that Sierra Leoneans at large really hated the idea of a one-party state and that Sir Albert's efforts to introduce it in the absence of a unifying and well-organised party machine had been disastrous. In the 1967 election the SLPP paid the price of unpopularity, particularly of Sir Albert's own self-seeking. The APC's victory was all the more remarkable because of the opportunities which the governing party had of organising election frauds. The military takeover Dr. Cartwright attributes, to a large extent, to Sir Albert's futile attempt to introduce a one-party state and his determination on no account to abandon office. "It was primarily the manipulations of a few members of the political elite" which deprived the people of Sierra Leone of the opportunity of carrying through their open democratic system "to the point of removing an unsatisfactory leader".

One-party failure

"The drive for a one-party state", says Dr. Cartwright, "foundered on a combination of factors. Most important, relatively few people, either among the political elite or at the grass roots, could see much benefit in it for themselves. SLPP members, though they might sympathise with the idea in theory, were in several cases put off the idea by the fact that it would consolidate the power of a leader whom they did not fully accept, the same was true of the chiefs. Certain elites, notably among the Creoles, found the idea unattractive in principle, while the ordinary people often saw it as a means by which the elite could forget their peoples' interests and fatten themselves."

Summarising Sir Albert's type of leadership, Dr. Cartwright says that his actions as Prime Minister "showed clearly how important his brother's attitudes had been to the maintenance of the Sierra Leone political system. Albert's impetuosity quickly helped land him in difficulties from which his attempts to extricate himself eventually destroyed him. His precipitate decision to dissolve the Freetown City Council in 1964 seems to have been born of a considerable over-estimation of the degree of popular support he enjoyed, the defeat the SLPP suffered there was the first step in undermining his claim to be the great popular hero, and in leading him to take more repressive measures against the opposition. His attempts to re-organise the SLPP, though not really impetuous, were pursued so energetically that they provoked more resistance than gain. Most serious of all, his attempts to coerce the opposition into accepting the one-party state, rather than to woo them, served simply to consolidate his opponents. It is hard to imagine Sir Milton breathing Sir Albert's fire and slaughter at a public meeting: 'I will shoot them down bray-bray-bray', 'I will pulverise them', 'I will demolish them'. It is likely that his threats towards the APC stemmed from a lack of certainty and of self-confidence; he was more easily led than his brother. Whatever the cause, his attempt to crush all opposition solidified the north and the Western Area against him, and created grave doubts among even the staunchest supporters of the SLPP. The speed with which tension grew in Sierra Leone politics after 1964 was largely attributed to Albert Margai."

President Stevens has constantly urged the voters to ensure in the coming election that there are no bitter contests, but only agreement among the citizens in presenting in each constituency a generally accepted candidate. As has already been noted in this journal this may sound like advocacy of a "no-party" rather than a "one-party" state. Dr. Cartwright's account of the very indeterminate division between the parties in former general elections might appear to give support to this view. In the 1962 general election, for example, he says that "the governing party was still a

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loose collection of local notables, with no significant party structure distinct from the traditional organisation of the chiefdoms. It exerted very little control over its supporters, with the result that these contested freely against each other for office. What gave it some unity of purpose was the common association of its members with the traditional elite." He notes that this was a very corrupt campaign but does not record some of the tactics used. For example, SLPP men, whose emblem was the palm, told people that only if they supported the party would they be allowed to gather palm products. APC men, whose symbol was the rising sun, told the voters that unless they supported the party they would not be allowed to dry their produce in the sun. In this and in the earlier and later elections several politicians appear to have been ready to stand for whatever party would give them a nomination.

There may be considerable difference in the social standing of the average SLPP candidate compared with the average APC one, but in the constituencies it was often hard to define policy differences. Tribalism, mercifully absent in the earlier years of political activity, became an issue when it could be argued that the SLPP was a Mende party, and tribalism (in contrast to the former Creole-Countryman conflict) is definitely an issue now. Even so each of the major parties has some support throughout the country and Sierra Leone might still escape Nigeria's problem.

Indeed the ruling party itself appears to be divided on the question of a one-party state, between those who admire and envy the Guinean system and those who are in the well-established Sierra Leonean tradition. Dr Cartwright notes that the most important motive behind the advocacy of a one-party state in 1965 was the possibility that it would defend "the SLPP leaders' personal position and the protection of the traditional system against what was perceived as the threat of a popular discontent. Sir Albert's desire to stop the APC's charges of corruption was motivated basically by the damage this was doing to his popular support at home. His motives in trying to suppress the APC seem to have included a wish to eliminate a rallying point for opposition to his personal rule, as well as the more general one of forestalling a radical mass challenge to both the chiefs and the SLPP".

These motives of self-preservation help to explain why the SLPP leaders never made clear what kind of one-party state they wanted. "If the Prime Minister had wanted such a state for reasons of national interest, it should not have been difficult for him to commit himself publicly to a number of safeguards which many people wanted. For example, one backbencher claimed that the SLPP party caucus had insisted that any acceptable system had to provide some means by which unwanted leaders could be removed, and should provide for elections in the constituencies. But this was never

publicised. Sir Albert's main references to a successful one-party system were to the regime in Ghana, which was marked by much more limited opportunities for the party followers to control their leaders. He had also remarked that a one-party system was "one of the means that would make it possible for many Members of this House to retain their seats".

This, then, is a mine of information for the student of Sierra Leone's politics

today. Ever since the 1967 General Election, Sierra Leone has experienced martial law, military rule, violent overthrow of the soldiers, a two-party system and its erosion, attempted military coups and the hanging of a Force Commander... is it not still the country which rejected one-party rule and for which the style of government of Pa Mangai is still the appropriate one?

Letter from Oshogbo

Coming into Oshogbo on the road from Ife, you see a small sign by the road (opposite Oshogbo Grammar School) saying "Art Man's Gallery". This is where Twins Seven-Seven, one of the group of artists living and working in Oshogbo, has his studio, a little way from the road along a dirt track.

If Oshogbo can be seen as a cultural state of mind, Twins is one of its more unusual products. If anything he is more showman-musician and wandering minstrel than artist, although it is his bizarre line-drawings and cloths (especially his pen-and-ink illustrations for Amos Tutuola's books) which have made his name. His early groups, both musical and theatrical, had names like the Young Stars Rocky Bank, and the Seven Wizards Rocket Theatre. He now has an Afro-beat group called "The Black Ghosts". Greeting me he apologised for his hoarse voice: "The Black Ghosts and I were screaming last night till 3 a.m.", he said, presenting me to his drum-playing junior brother, Afefelajay ("the world is like the wind").

In Twins' sitting room there were more surprises in store, for he had a beautiful visitor from New York called Barbara Ann Teer, the "prime mover" of the National Black Theatre in East 125th Street, Harlem. In the dark interior she gave an impression of watchful eyes, bronze bangles and plaited hair, with the calm and repose of a high priestess. She passed me a brochure about her theatre, which said that she was also known as Roho Taji Taifu (Spirit of the Royal Nation), a "visionary, educator and artist" who "envisions the return of theatre to its original purpose, to educate and spiritually enlighten the people it serves". Her first goal had been

to "establish an African/American Art Standard - a way of working blackly - so that an artist can work naturally from his own spiritual energies...". The theatre's activities include "Rituals and Revivals", a theatre workshop with a School for Liberation, symposia, an African market "with health foods and juices", and community work like the "Autumn-Winter Harambee Bazaar".

Twins provided me with two guides for a quick "artistic tour" of Oshogbo town. They were called Tunde and Tunji, students of air-conditioning and refrigeration at the Government Technical College, which, like Oshogbo Grammar School, is located close to the Art Man's Gallery. They were clearly fascinated with the Afro-Bohemian set-up at the gallery (Twins hopes to set up a sort of club selling drinks where his band would play), and were also well accustomed to taking visitors round, whimsically interjecting each other's conversation like Noaga and Nagoa in Camara Laye's *The Radiance of the King*.

The main ports of call in "cultural Oshogbo" are the Oshun shrine, the museum and the Mbari Mbayo centre, as well as the individual studios and workshops of the artists like Asiru, the celebrated metal panel-beater. The Oshun shrine is a strange and magic place with a temple, down by the placid, fish-crammed Oshun River, all set about by tall trees. It is here that the annual Oshun Festival takes place, when the town's founding is commemorated. "If you see a priest, and he speaks to you, give him a few kobo", Twins had said, and sure enough an old man in a dark cloth approached me and gave me the blessings of the goddess Oshun. At twilight each day, I was told, countless monkeys leap



Reliefs by Suzanne Wenger at Obalala Shrine.



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around by the water chattering, but when I was there all was silence.

The temple was reconstructed by Suzanne Wenger, the first wife of Ulli Beier (the man who more than anyone else was responsible for putting Oshogbo on the map). It was Susanne's encouragement of the bricklayers rebuilding the long wall of the grove that led to the striking series of decorations drawn from Yoruba folklore. As Ulli Beier writes of the bricklayers: "they were builders employed to do a job, and suddenly they found that the awe-inspiring atmosphere of the sacred grove and the personality of Suzanne Wenger carried them away over unexpected horizons". Suzanne's own mud architecture is also a feature of the shrine, and is seen elsewhere in Oshogbo, as at the temple of Obalala, where she is a priestess herself.



Cement screen by Oshogbo artist, Adebisi Abioye, at the Ataoja's palace

The museum is on the outskirts of the town, and houses a collection of mainly Nigerian antiquities presented by Ulli Beier, as well as some items from Papua, where he spent four years before returning to run the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ife. The curator is one of the more successful Oshogbo artists, Muraina Oyelami, who, like Seven-Seven is also involved in music and theatre, but of the more traditional kind. He also has his own group which is among those who perform at the Mbari-Mbayo Club in the heart of Oshogbo. This was originally established on the initiative of the best-known of Oshogbo's men of the theatre, Duro Ladipo, author of several Yoruba folk operas, such as *Oba Koso*. The inspiration was the Mbari club of those days, which was in Ibadan. Just before I was in Oshogbo, the town had been shattered by the death of Ladipo's friend and rival, Kola Ogunmola, likewise an actor-manager with his own theatre. All the groups in the West, including the celebrated Ogunleke, had participated in the vast funeral motorcades from Oshogbo to Ogunmola's home town of Oke-meru, to the east.

One should not, however, give the impression that Oshogbo is a town dominated by cultural activities. "Oshogbo is a very commercial town" said one of my guides, and if you drive the length of its bustling main street, Station Road, it is easy to see what he meant. It's prosperity arises in part from its strategic location, lying at the centre of a number of

important roads (to Ibadan, Ife, Ado-Ekiti, Ilorin and Ilesha). Straddling the Oshun River it is the last big town on the railway from Lagos before you reach the northern states. Thus what was already an important Yoruba town burgeoned further in the colonial period. Oshogbo also has a claim to fame as being the place where the Fulani invasion of Yoruba country was twice stopped in the 19th century (local legend says it was by the intervention of Oshun). The Moslem presence in Oshogbo - there is a sizeable mosque - came later from Lagos rather than from the north.

Although Oshogbo is out of the cocoa growing area, it has the feel of the wealthy Yoruba cocoa towns, with many imposing two- and three-storeyed houses in the Brazilian-influenced Nigerian style of the 'thirties and 'forties. There is little industry to speak of, although an industrial estate is planned. More than 100,000 people live by trade. Like Ibadan the city is composed of communities from different parts of the West (Ijebu, Egba, etc) with a kernel of "indigenes", known as Oroki. Their local Oba is called the Ataoja, and has himself been a patron of Oshogbo artists.

The other point that must be made about Oshogbo is that it is not alone on Nigeria's contemporary artistic scene. Beier himself has said there is little in common between the different artists: they all happen to work in Oshogbo. They are also to some extent organised in a way to cash in on the reputation Oshogbo has built up in a certain international art market. Thus a very good Nigerian artist like Bruce Ona Brakpeya, who has nothing to do with Oshogbo, finds himself exhibited in Washington in a show of Oshogbo works organised by Mrs. Kean Kennedy Walford.

Beier himself, operating from Ife and happy to be back in Nigeria, stresses that he has nothing now to do with Oshogbo. "They're on their own", he says; but there is still clearly a relationship between Oshogbo and activities in Ife. Peter Brook, and his experimental theatre group for example, whose orange tents can be seen on the campus at Ife, was due in Oshogbo ("Peter Brook is coming to stay with me the band can scream at him", said Twins Seven-Seven), and Beier has included works by an Oshogbo artist Sherry Fofowé (who sports a yellow Osibisa shirt) in a new series called "Pan-African Pocket Poets" he has published.

Many Nigerian artists look a little askance at Oshogbo, as being, in spite of everything Beier tried to do to encourage organic development and authenticity, a more sophisticated form of "airport art", a kind of Yoruba Disneyland. Muraina Oyelami, himself no airport artist, admits that a lot of people have climbed on to Oshogbo bandwagon. "People are polluting it", he told me; "lots of so-called artists are springing up overnight and holding exhibitions. I can't understand it." But then, Oshogbo is, as I was told, "a very commercial town".



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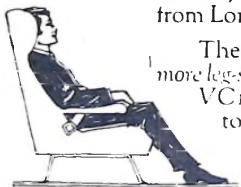
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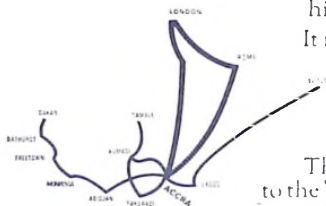


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Farmer Tsitsi's Operation Feed Yourself — year two:2

How does the Ghana government's agricultural policy look to the people in the villages now? Yao Aduamah continues his account of a village gathering discussing the eclipses and lack of rain.

WILL nothing they could do against the weather it was best to retreat into the tree shade in the afternoon for the task of discussing and charting those exceptional ways in the sky. Arriving here Tsitsi raised his hand to those who had preceded him, "Well, Afua's father, and Goglovi Movitor, and Peace, and you all there, how are you?"

"Well, sir," said Dzankre, "with one year of Operation Feed Yourself over may we say that things have improved?"

"Well," said Goglovi Movitor "it is much as before with you. What with sugar still scarce? But I do agree with you that it is worth trying — this programme, Operation Feed Yourself, as they call it. And now is the market mummy from Accra, Madam Alhastes?"

"Well, I wonder how these mummies will fare next July. Will they be expecting a wind in their maize supply, the early rains having failed?" wondered farmer Tsitsi.

But they're the very women who fight against the rain?" retorted Afua's father. "Don't you know the Borborbor song."

There's time for everything.

There's time

The farmer wants the rain,

There's time

The trader wants the drought,

There's time?"

"And what do these double nights and Apollo men going to the moon mean, souls?" asked a rather superstitious elderly man whose arms were taut and knotted with thick nerves. "As we all agree that the weather isn't what it used to be, I think it is a matter that must concern us all about our future welfare?"

"Yes haramattan was different formerly," said Dzankre. "Then I thought it was chiller, but now —"

"But how in your childhood could you know the certainties of the weather?" observed the young man lying down in the mud. "In those days, you remember, as you always tell us the children, there was no need for any Operation Self Reliance as you were already self-sufficient and carefree to be independent of the climate?"

"But I was then fat", said Dzankre "and a fat person wouldn't feel the cold. I mean to say that for several years now February weather has been unkind — the rain never comes early. What does this mean? That some great commotion is going to happen, or —?"

"Hunger? You're thinking of hunger?" said the young man.

"Will we be able to grow the crops that we are growing now in the years to come?" pursued the old landholder.

"You're thinking of hunger — never!

Apollo is out to find more land for us."

"Where? — In the moon?"

"Well there's peace now in Vietnam and it is expected that Apollo will concentrate more on its mission."

"If this Apollo we hear about can find more land for us in the moon, what about its doing something about the weather for us? That is the question," said Peace.

"Well, man cannot change the weather", remarked the superstitious old man "That would be contesting the gods."

"But the moon? Man can climb on to the moon?" wondered Afua's father.

"Well, neighbours, if a man cannot change the weather", said Tsitsi, "I believe he can at least adjust his ways, his agricultural ways to fit the weather and in fact I believe there can't be famine if there is anything to be learnt from what we saw of the Keta people at the recent Agricultural Show. How pretty the Keta shallots looked at this time of the year! Really heartening". And the farmer went on to describe the irrigation demonstrations he had seen at the show. He explained that it was his first time of seeing illiterates using such scientific methods of bringing water and manure to

crops, and irrigation. "Out of their hard life the Keta people have become hardy. Who could have imagined the unschooled people could give such attention to their farms! The sea an lagoon having taken away much of the land from them they're no longer able to afford to take the risk of waiting for nature to provide good weather. So my thinking is that at the point of death we think and find substitutes for our wants."

A brief pause followed during which the villagers put their thoughts to a profounder view of the subject.

"Well", continued Tsitsi at last, for he habitually spoke at a great length in his moral ruminations, "if it is famine God will only bring his anger to those devil and not folks such as we with thach hut and few peswans to buy salt and tobacco."

Those devils. A meditation on the obvious allusion was undertaken by all, and during its continuance each directed his eyes on a passing aeroplane overhead.

"You're not cursing anyone", said one.

"No, rather lawfully spoken", said another. "Of what will human efforts in bombs and war be in this world with a ruined agriculture?"

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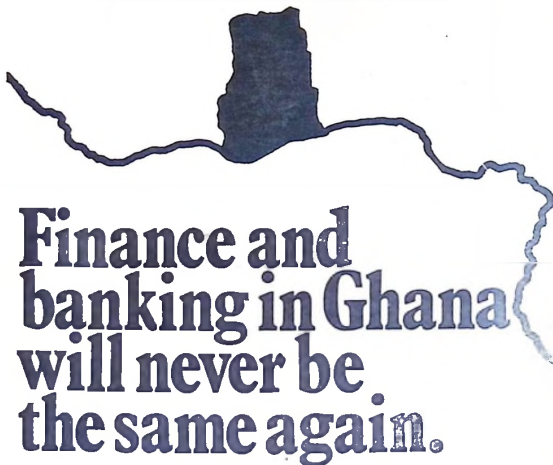
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Some reflections on Sekou Toure's Guinea: 1

For a short period in August 1968, and a longer period in 1970-71, Ladipo Adamolekun of the Institute of Administration of Life University was in Guinea as part of his research into administration. During the second of these visits he recorded general reflections which *West Africa* is now publishing. He will be using the material he collected for a book called *Sekou Toure's Guinea*. As he says, these reflections therefore, although subjective, are not just based on "impressions". The first topic he deals with here is "The Americans in Guinea".

What are the objectives of American diplomacy in Guinea? Or is this an irrelevant question? In other words does America genuinely see herself here as elsewhere, as defender of the capitalist system and guardian of the Free World?

What hopes for capitalism in Guinea and can Guinea really ever again return to America's Free World? To judge by the unrelenting efforts of the Americans, the answer to both questions appear to be in the affirmative. In fact, the American presence appears like a permanent source of hope for bourgeois-minded Guineans who would not, whatever happens, like the French to return as of old. America's credentials would then be defensible, since she is a country which even helped the Toure regime. And this help, in spite of various vicissitudes, has really not decreased - it has, in fact, increased, the latest instance being the public bus system introduced in Guinea recently with American help. Nor need I refer to the vast American involvement in bauxite exploitation.*

The French are not likely to take kindly to their displacement by Americans, but they will probably resign themselves to it as the lesser of two evils, the other being the permanent and definitive drift of Guinea to the socialist bloc.

As for the chances of capitalism in Guinea, the quarrel is essentially that of the political and administrative leaders. The traders and businessmen can be written off as already lost to the socialist cause. It does seem that while the vast majority would accept whichever side wins, the educated, young, generation is very likely to be committed to the socialist cause. This is probably what explains Sekou Toure's recent emphasis on revolutionary education. In general, it can be said that each day of the present regime which passes increases the chances of success of the Toure socialist ideal and therefore reduces the chances of a return to pure capitalism *à l'américaine*. And more concretely perhaps, the longer Toure remains in power the greater the chances of a socialist society in Guinea and the lesser the chances of a return to a capitalist system.

* America has 17.5 per cent of the shares in the Boké bauxite project and until February 1973, she held 48.5 per cent of the shares in the Fria project which accounted for between 60 and 70 per cent of Guinea's total foreign exchange earnings from 1964 to 1972.

The American presence in Guinea is a most fascinating side to the Guinean experience which began in 1958. How will it all end? It is certainly a most interesting situation to watch.

22/11/70

The "law of least effort"

Several people I have met here complain that Guineans are lazy. Why is this so?

The Marxist Suret-Canale, a sympathizer of the regime, has written that many Guineans apply the "law of least effort".† Foreign technical experts have this impression after contacts with Guineans. Africans working in Guinea - in diplomacy, private business and so on - have the same impression. Within the short time I have spent, I have made observations which indicate some laziness or at least, absence of love for exertion. Has this anything to do with the "Revolution" going on in the country? Is the fact that most consumer goods are out of the reach of these people - work as hard as they might - a reason for unwillingness to work hard? More fundamental, is there a correlation between capitalism and hard work and socialism and relative laziness? What incentives exist in other socialist countries to make people love work?

29/11/70

A Babel of tongues in Conakry

The French language is, to all intents and purposes, a nasty heritage for Toure's Guinea. The country's educational and administrative systems adopt French as the official medium of communication and about 95 per cent (a personal estimate to be checked) of all foreign technical assistance in personnel come from non-French speaking countries.

For some reasons, the useful assistance from North Vietnam with a large proportion of French-speakers has been drastically reduced since 1968. Those from Belgium, Canada and Switzerland are a very small drop in the sea of East Europeans who either know some Spanish (especially the Russians) or virtually nothing besides their national

† J. Suret-Canale, *La République de Guinée*, (Paris, 1970), p. 220.

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languages. All of them speak very poor French.

In teaching science subjects this handicap is not too bad as the oral side can be reduced to the minimum.

The most serious barrier caused by this language problem is the almost certain lack of contacts between Guineans and the East Europeans. Personally, I have not succeeded so far in establishing any real rapport with them. All my attempts have failed because of the language barrier.

- *Vous parlez français*
- *Ein*
- *Français - vous comprenez?*
- *Non, espagnol, Russe*

The effectiveness of the assistance received by Guinea from her East European friends has been seriously compromised by this problem of communication.

A return of the French in any number to cushion the effects of their language legacy is unthinkable under Touré, and if the Touré-style regime continues, it will not be until the 1980s that the problem will become sensibly reduced. It should also be mentioned that there is a significant deterioration in the standard of French spoken (and written?) here. This aspect of cultural imperialism will be interesting to study, say 20 or 25 years from 1958, that is towards the end of the present decade.

In 1969-70 the Guinean Government cancelled all contracts for foreign (French, Belgian, Swiss and Canadian) Social Science teachers.

	1967	1970
Belgians	60	6
Swiss	30	2
Canadians	12	1
French	80	2

The official reasons for cancelling these contracts included the following: (1) The capitalist mentality of many of the teachers and their contacts with the Guinean "national bourgeoisie"; (2) the French elements, particularly, were meddling in Guinean internal affairs - trying to defend French culture against the Revolutionary culture of the Touré regime.

20/12/70

Emancipation of women

For a muslim country, Guinea has certainly achieved a social revolution in its treatment of women. Virtually no profession is closed to them. To the visitor from Senegal the difference is very striking. (In Senegal, I was told by a retired civil servant, women should NOT be educated and work would go round more satisfactorily if women were kept in their rightful place - at home!)*

In Conakry, I have seen female police and militia members. There are women conductresses. There is a large contingent in the National Assembly (15 out of 75) and in many Regions women constitute

* The writer had spent three months in Senegal before arriving in Guinea in November 1970.

about half of the membership of the Regional Assemblies. There is a Regional Governor (equivalent to District Officer in Nigeria or Senegal). To crown it all, a post has been reserved for women since 1958 - that of Social Affairs.

Attitude to sex has been influenced by this emancipation. A girl who becomes pregnant before her education without any marriage.

However, it is difficult to see early exposure of the girls to the idea of a policy of emancipation. It is a product of the social life of the country. By the time a girl is 12 or 13, she needs some dresses and other things which many parents are unable to provide. In revolutionary Guinea, where commodities are scarce or non-existent, the girls resort to begging after the men who can purchase politicians, foreigners of all nations and well-to-do old men. The moral laxity here reaches a high proportion. Maybe this is emancipation of a kind, but I certainly don't like it.

If intellectuals are a problem in revolutions, female intellectuals are a greater problem. The vast majority of female students at the Polytechnic are best indifferent to the regime. They do not conceal their dislike for it, but a handful are enthusiastic. In contrast, while the male children of the rulers show some enthusiasm, the children only distinguish themselves by their conspicuous dressing.

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Matchet's Diary

Apparently undaunted by his experience a few hours earlier of having returned to his High Commission to find the building seriously damaged by the Whitehall bomb blast, and some of his staff injured, Alhaji Sule Kolo gave a spirited account of Nigeria's situation to an audience at London's Royal Society of Arts. Sir Arthur Smith, former chairman of UAC, who presided, complimented the High Commissioner for his resolution. Alhaji Sule said that the war had taught Nigerians to distinguish between "good time" and true friends. But they had learnt that it was foolish to depend on foreign assistance and that there was no altruism in international politics. After giving an account of the four year development plan, Alhaji Sule Kolo said that so far the bridge and causeway developments around Lagos had been finished and when progress had been made in interstate roads. He saw considerable prospects of co-operation with Britain and other countries in implementation of aspects of the plan, such as rural electrification. He could report considerable progress on education since the end of the war, including the opening of a sixth university.

The decline in the percentage of the Gross National Product provided by agriculture, the High Commissioner continued, could not be attributed entirely to a decline in agriculture itself. World market factors played a part but they would need increasing efforts and growing efficiency if they were to feed themselves and avoid imports of food and raw materials for industry. Above all only agriculture could provide jobs for the fast growing population. Protective devices and other barriers erected against primary produce and semi-manufactured goods by the richer countries were no help.

In spite of the problems Nigeria faced on world markets Gross Domestic Product had increased from £1,871m. in 1969-70 to £3,107m. in 1971-72, in which year the growth rate was 12 per cent, double that envisaged in the plan. Figures of investment, industrial growth, and external reserves all showed dramatic improvement, and all debts arising from war time imports had been liquidated. The government realised, however, that without the rapid growth of the oil industry, now producing some 2m. barrels a day, this expansion would not have been possible. Total assets of oil companies in Nigeria now amounted to £500m., or 60 per cent of all foreign investment. Obviously the government must have a say in the management of an industry which played a decisive role in the economy but for the foreseeable future they required foreign co-operation.

Although the performance of industry had been remarkable, said the High Commissioner, enterprises had remained largely under foreign control. The Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree was meant to modify this, and the High Commissioner explained the decree's provisions. There was no intention of scaring away foreign investors and to some degree the provisions of the decree had been carried out through natural development. He had little doubt that the full provisions of the decree could be carried out. One of Nigeria's weaknesses was inflation, in which the ever-increasing cost of imported capital goods was a factor.

In the political sphere the High Commissioner said that the nation had benefited greatly from creation of the new states, which had replaced suspicion by healthy rivalry and co-operation. A "free press and unfettered public opinion" had vigorously debated the kind of political structure Nigeria should have under civilian rule.

Bathurst to change name

At the request of the City Council, Bathurst, The Gambia's capital, is to be re-named Banjul, name of the island on which the city was founded in 1816. Ever since then most Gambians have probably used the old name rather than the name bestowed on the city in honour of the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Earl of Bathurst, who held office for the record period of 15 years (1812-1827). Bathurst, ceded by treaty to the British by the Chief of Kombo, was fortunate in being laid out by the Royal Engineers, whose work can still be seen in its wide straight streets. Some of the attractive early architecture also survives, although it is slowly being eroded. The British thought the settlement necessary because at the close of the Napoleonic wars the island of Goree, which was a key point in British efforts at suppressing the slave trade, particularly in the River Gambia, was returned to France. British merchants, too, moved to the new settlement from Senegal (as did the grandfather of Alhaji Ibrahim Muhammadu Garba-Jahumpa, The Gambia's Minister of Finance, who was anxious to maintain his British connection). Bathurst was not always a capital since The Gambia was at various periods administered from Sierra Leone, but it has been the seat of the country's administration since 1888. I am afraid that the descendants of the Secretary of State who gave the city its name (as he did to the city in Australia's New South Wales), have taken little interest in the city, and so can scarcely complain at the change of name.

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Enugu's publisher

Arthur Nwankwo, of the enterprising house, Nwamife Books, Enugu, tells me of a number of books which he has in the pipeline. The emphasis now is increasingly on educational publishing, and Nwankwo has about 40 titles under consideration. They will be published, for example, a chemistry manual for Chimere Ikoku, a lecturer at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Enugu (now again a Lecturer at the University of Lagos). A forthcoming title which Nwankwo considers very important is a book by three young Ibo writers, Chinweze, Chimezie, and Jemima Unwuchekwa, called *The Decolonisation of African Literature*, which is a critique of all the first generation African writers. They will also be publishing soon, in both novel and short story form, *The Minister's Daughter*, by Egbuna, who is now back in Enugu as Director of the East-Central State University Workshop. Other titles are *Nexus* by Flora Nwapa, still one of Mr. Nwankwo's Commissioners, and the short story collection *Tsaro-Wiwa*, Commissioned for publication in the Rivers State. The workshop is currently run by Nwankwo and Sam Oluwalana, who is also developing links with a number of publishers, including Heinemann, Collins and C. Hurst in London. Collins also recently published Nwankwo's own *The Challenge of the Third Press* of Joe Okpaku in New York, Dreyers in Oslo, and the East African Publishing House in Nairobi.

Preserving African antiquities

Under an agreement between the Nigerian government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a centre has been established at Jos for specialists in techniques for preserving Africa's cultural and natural heritage. The setting up of the centre is in line with a convention on protecting the world's cultural and natural heritage adopted at the Unesco General Conference in Paris last November. The centre, successful Unesco pilot project in training museum technicians, is housed in a new building fully equipped for teaching, including laboratory work. It can call on the excellent Jos museum and zoo. The University of Ibadan also plans to set up a chair in museography at its Jos campus.

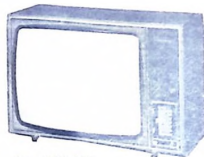
First courses are to be offered in September and will cover modern methods of preservation and restoration, and museum techniques. The participants will be 16 to begin with - are to be chosen by the governments of Unesco member states. Teaching staff will be recruited internationally. Unesco will award 14 fellowships annually for study at the centre to students from African countries.

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Books and Publications

Food and development

Nutrition, A Priority in African Development, Ed. B.O. Vahlquist, (The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Uppsala, 40 Kroner).

"At this very moment there are hundreds of millions of children in Africa, Asia and Latin America who are malnourished, many of them facing early death or serious sequelae as an inevitable prospect. Often malnutrition and severe infections go together and contribute to the enormous wastage of human life at an early stage."

This statement by Prof. Vahlquist, who edited this collection of papers given at a Dag Hammarskjöld seminar, held at Uppsala and Addis Ababa, puts into focus the dimension of the problem which malnutrition poses to African governments. Malnutrition takes a heavy death toll among children in the continent each year, and it was the growing awareness of how seriously "nutritional deficiencies limit economic and social progress that led the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation to invite a number of prominent African civil servants from ministries of agriculture, education, health, finance and planning to meet some of the leading international authorities in this field at a seminar in Uppsala in July 1971."

For too long too little attention has been paid to nutritional problems in Africa. No doubt, the problem is no less grave than that of population control. It was a good thing that the seminar was able to adopt "a total approach", that is involving all relevant disciplines and personnel branches having something to do with nutritional problems. For this reason, the problem was put in perspective.

To the extent that it succeeded in bringing together such a varied group to discuss a big subject, it can be said that the seminar has achieved one of its objectives. It has created an awareness of the gravity of the problem of malnutrition among representatives of ministries which are not normally in close contact with public health problems but which are nevertheless of major importance in implementing programmes aimed at alleviating malnutrition. It also makes clear the role of each ministry in implementing such programmes.

A malnourished population produces a sickly labour force with a high rate of absenteeism and a lack of vitality to undertake necessary jobs. Quality of population rather than number, is what

matters now. And abundant food supply does not always overcome the ill effects of severe malnutrition.

There are many types of malnutrition. Prof. Hofvander points out in his own contribution that in principle, "a long-standing under-consumption of calories or any of the individual nutrients will cause a specific type of malnutrition. Often, there is a lack of several different nutrients at the same time producing complex pictures for example, a combined lack of calories, protein, iron and vitamin A."

He says that most common widespread and dangerous types of malnutrition, especially among children, are those caused by lack of calories or protein or both (protein-calorie malnutrition, PCM). He lists as examples of long-term effects of malnutrition as blindness, rickets, iron-deficiency anaemia, goitre.

Prof. Omololu, Professor of Applied Nutrition at Ibadan, discusses nutrition surveys and nutrition training in Nigeria. There is no doubt that, as the most populous country of Black Africa, Nigeria's nutritional problems are vast. And as he notes, the main patterns differ from one region to another and from season to season. He says there is a great need for well-trained personnel to staff key positions in Nigeria's governments.

Other contributions include one by Dr. Sai of Ghana. Participants included Dis. Atta and Ekpo from Nigeria, Miss Nana Ewool of Ghana, Miss Nah, the Liberian nutritionist, Mr. John Roberts, the Gambian educationist, and Mr. James Sraha the Ghanaian agriculturist.

The book is divided into three main sections dealing with Problems of human malnutrition, Factors involved in problem solution, and the necessity of integration. In the final chapters, an economist and a paediatric nutritionist review and summarise proceedings.

The symposium makes intelligible an otherwise difficult topic and focuses attention on a problem that has become vital to the third world. F.A.

Running Scared by Ion Burmeister
(Michael Joseph, £2.25)

At first this looks like a political novel set in South Africa. It concerns the arrival in Cape Town for specialised medical attention, by a sort of Dr. Barnard, of President Bubo Lunda, 70-year-old head of an African state, Gamba, far to the north. The President, who sounds like a combination of Presidents Kenyatta (the



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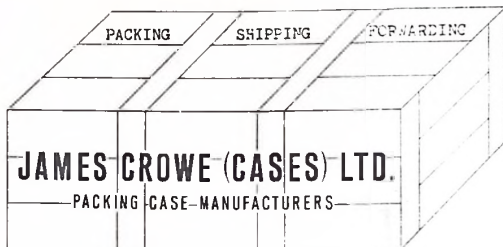
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carries a fly whisk. Banda is South Africa as a young man (he is described as "ruthless" and a keen critic of the régime in Africa but the medical attention is obtainable in Cape Town through the governments and African government is determined the visit should be a success.

Soon, however, although implications are always in the ground, the story becomes of kidnapping of the President Slade, an ambulance driver of origin, who believes that he is diseased and wants the ransom of his wife and only child. He is South African government will ransom to save its face. President's life. He has been to look after the President, and liking to him and to whom, he an attachment. Slade's careful plans go astray but the almost becomes a part of a conspiracy.

Many and extraordinary adventures in Cape Town. The President himself says he finds that in the end he is accompanied by his wife, and hand the President surrender himself. "You want to see Slade again", Banda says for a moment. Anger works face. "You slob, why don't you because of me you want to be sick and you've got nothing with, so that horrible strain has started working at you. I haven't got it", Ernie says. "You've kidnapped a President, twenty-five thousand pounds, tough government, set alight got me out of the bank, murderous escaped convict, baby, knocked down an man with one clout and the helicopter. And I'm prepared there's an hysterical woman will swear that you personally rape her after pushing her of steps". He took a deep dammit, Ernie, I didn't go that just to surrender tamely".

Mr. Burmeister, a South African lives in South Africa and his book this is, may not have clearly to emphasize the nature of his story, but the summary is apt.

As an ordinary detective novel is readable and characters are mostly without interest, and the background adds much to the

The Slave Trade by *John Murray*, £2.50.

Slavery Past and Present by *Thomas Nelson*, New York, 24p.

Dr. Ransford, formerly of the Medical Service, has written popular history books since 1911. His latest is no more about the rest, but this is welcome.

important that the European public should have access to such a work on the slave trade. Factual errors are few (they include an apparent confusion between two or three Ashanti Wars) and the various chapters giving brief accounts of the capture of West African slaves, the "Middle Passage", and slave life in the New World are adequately set out for non-specialised readers, with quotations from contemporary accounts (no criminals can ever have concealed their crimes less than the slave-traders) but, wisely, no attempt at a comprehensive survey of any aspect.

The book suffers, however, from the author's general attitude to Africa and its people. Certainly no racialist (he says racialism is a "vicious" product of the slave trade), Dr Ransford has an air of distance and distaste in writing about Africa. His general survey of West Africa before the slave trade reads like an "old colonial hand" holding forth at the Club plenty about juju, worship of ancestors as "gods" and the "darker" side of African life. The "darkness" of Africa is stressed throughout, with human sacrifices described in gory detail. The references to "superior" groups of people, and the use of the word "stock" in certain ways, seem *not* to be intended in a racialist sense, but they are ambiguous and unfortunate. The author is a physician, and his descriptions of white atrocities as well as African ones lit in with one sort of breezy medical style of conversation, which he justifies by saying that the crude horror of the situation must be graphically reproduced. But such descriptions are heavily weighted against the "uncivilised" side, and taken with the stress on Africa's impenetrable dark interior (see the chapter on Haiti), reveal an approach which grates in a book like this.

To add to this Dr Ransford makes extraordinary judgements, such as that Europeans have gone too far in generosity to Africa in compensating for the crime of the slave trade, and talks of the Poto Society (for example) as though nobody had made an studies of it to reveal more than was reported to the slave-trader John Newton. Some indication of research done this century could have appeared even in such a brief introductory book. The African religion in Brazil which is mentioned, for example, is not mysterious; it is definitely Yoruba.

The chapters on the abolitionist movement in Britain, on Brazil and the USA, and on the West Indies plantations are well done except for some straying from the subject. And to include a chapter on Palmares, the African state which existed in Brazil from 1606 to 1694, was an inspiration, for most readers it will be (as for me) the first indication that there was such a state. Dr. Ransford's descriptions are often free of the prejudice shown in his general reflections, and could with advantage have been extended at their expense.

Mr. Pinney, an American anthropologist, has produced a shorter, very

sketchy work, starting in antiquity and dealing with Greece and Rome before his account of the Atlantic Slave Trade. Impressionistic rather than detailed, this account has some vividness and interest; it includes quotations from Freyre, the Brazilian author of *The Masters and the Slaves*. An interesting fact recalled here is that many Muslim African slaves in Brazil retained their religion and Arabic (Dr. Ransford mentions their rising in the 1830s, an echo of the Fulani *jihads*).

Mr. Pinney's account of modern slavery is a summary of Anti-Slavery Society material, but summarised so briefly as to be very inadequate. Only a part of the Society's description of slavery in Rei Bouba in northern Cameroon and of a missionary's protests is summarised, and the end of the story — the liberation of the Lamido's slaves in Rei Bouba, whose effectiveness was witnessed by the same missionary — is wholly omitted. The Society's description of the late Sardauna of Sokoto as a slave-owner is baseless enough, but Mr. Pinney compounds it by saying that the victims of the slave-dealing cases regularly brought to court in Nigeria were destined for the Sardauna, in fact these cases involve petty criminals, and allegations of continued "slavery" in places like Northern Nigeria commonly refer to the fact that ex-slaves remain as retainers when legally free. The questions arising from such situations are more complex than this book suggests, it is, anyway, only the briefest summary. J.D.

The Arithmetic of Commerce First Course Nigerian Edition by J. H. Harvey (Cassell N1 60, 80p).

No time is more opportune for the publication of a work like this than when Nigeria has just changed to the metric system. More important is the fact that the present edition is an exclusively Nigerian one dealing with decimal currency and metric units. The first, non-Nigerian edition of the book appeared in 1932.

The author is eminently competent to write a book which, although designed to cover the elementary syllabus of the RSA and similar examinations, is equally useful for the general reader. Mr. Harvey has brought considerable experience in teaching of commercial arithmetic to students in technical colleges and in examining them in the subject in various examinations, to writing a book that is both adapted to local need and to difficulties of teaching a subject like this.

The book is one of the very few on decimal and metric units to be published since Nigeria went metric last January. It contains, among other things, hints to students and answers to exercises. In addition, there are supplementary test papers based on the text and questions on the 1972 summer examinations of the RSA and the London Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated).

Students and the general reader will find the book an excellent work on metric system, well worth an investment. F.D.

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Letters to the Editor

London bombs

SIR - I never thought I would ever be caught in the web of Irish terrorism. I am neither Irish nor British; but a simple, tax-paying, easy-going, law-abiding and water-drinking Nigerian.

It all happened without warning. And there I was, caught in the web of a particularly devilish operation, an operation devilishly worked out to destroy life and property.

I was in the Nigeria High Commission, doing honest work. I had just come back from lunch.

Back at the High Commission. Up in the seventh floor. Set down Thought of the food I had just had. I felt happy within myself. It could have been my last meal on earth!

Then came the terrific explosion only 30 yards away from where I was. The whole building shook. I shook with the building.

"Well, this is the end", I said to myself. I looked at the blake in front of me. He was speechless, white-faced with fear. He couldn't speak to me. I thought he went temporarily blind. All of a sudden, he stood up from his seat, knowing not what to do. And as if he knew what was to happen next, he broke out in his Abokobi native dialect, pathetic and poetic.

"E gba mi o Jesu,
E gba mi o Edumare,
E gba mi o Jesu,
E gba mi o Edumare."

which means "save me Jesus, save me God Almighty, save me Jesus, save me God Almighty!"

On hearing this sorrowful prayer, I thought that the whole building would be coming down within a few minutes and I would be buried in the rubble. A thousand thoughts came to my mind at the same time. I thought of my wife, my relations, especially my sister.

To jump down from the 7th floor would have meant a certain death. To run down the stairs would equally have meant my being buried deep down in the rubble. To go down through the lift would almost certainly have made my death much more painful than it would have been if the whole building came down. But nothing happened. A couple of minutes later I heard some screaming a few flights down. It was a poor innocent Nigerian secretary who was screaming. She had her forehead cut by flying glass. Two other girls had their smooth knees slashed by flying glass. Then followed some footsteps. I joined the throng. Within minutes, we were all out, breathing fresh air and having the hope of another lease of life. Before then, the tension and fear I had gone through were the worst in all my life.

Irish have been killing Irish for quite some time. Up there in Ireland, hundreds of people, mostly innocent people including children, have lost their lives. I have always felt that their internal strife could better be solved by discussion and with the spirit of give and take.

But why should innocent people be victims of their wickedness and for that matter, me, an innocent, law-abiding, easy-going, law-abiding, and water-drinking Nigerian? These Irish people must think and think again that their terrorist, hitlerian, is highly unchristian, and a total breach and socially unacceptable in our society.

DIPO KUMOLAI

Africa and party politics

SIR - An intriguing but fundamental question has come out of Sierra Leone in the issue of February 19 ("No Party I"). As a Sierra Leonean, I find it intriguing in that it is only being presented at present juncture.

However, of more pertinence is the fundamental question of the party-political process in a post-colonial organisation where the party-political organisation was a by-product of the trappings of independence really relevant to African situation? Party-political in other parts of the world is a by-product that make for great divisions between a particular body politics, e.g. of economic programmes.

In Africa on the other hand everyone is agreed on the need for unity. Unfortunately the way to that end is strewn with acrimonious and personality contests compounded by regional conflicts, instead of the clear economic etc. programmes that a political organisation elsewhere. The breakdown of party-political organisation in Africa and its abandonment is certainly not an option. It has military regimes in place of one-party system.

It is time, therefore, we should think of devising a system of organisation which would be better than the ones we have tried. So, I am in solution. The letter is only my own thought and suggestions, which I believe to follow in your columns.

Kings College, Cambridge

Lagos Games and the press

SIR - The All-Africa Games have attracted thousands of Africans who have never realised it. The British press interest in the Games and its contribution for the benefit of lovers of good sports in Britain.

I write with regret that the British press not hesitate to announce an All-Africa. Whatever is concerned in action, one thing is obvious that the press has a very dubious and doubtful role in African affairs. It's objective and aimed only at belittling the work of African states by exposing them and suppressing their effectiveness. The press only succeeds in coming from the British masses who would that nothing good or impressive about Africa, except its beautiful animals. Such items as show jumping, sports greyhound racing are included in All-Africa Games, they might attract attention of the British press.

Thanks to West Africa for earlier give us some news coverage of the exclusive rights of filming and the reserved by the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation notwithstanding this. BBC or the ITV couldn't do it. African Games were held in Africa of Europe by the Africans.

Lagos

Commercial News

NIGERIA

Cattle Ranch Loan

A 2.2M naira loan to Bauchi Meat Products Company has been made by the Nigerian Federal Government for full scale development of the experimental cattle ranch. This is to ensure a regular supply of cattle for slaughter. The 5m naira factory which has a slaughtering capacity of 1,700 per week, has always operated below capacity. Recently the current figure was below 400 per week.

The 10sq. mile cattle ranch is capable of handling 25,000 head of cattle a year. When completed it will have several units, a reception and quarantine area, a grazing area and breeding paddocks. There will be permanent water holes fed by pipes from bore holes to alleviate drought. Fodder will be fed in the dry season. The ranch will be stocked from buying posts set up in the area and most cattle will be purchased from Fulani herdsmen between July and December, when prices are most reasonable. This will eliminate reliance on middlemen and should stabilise prices and improve quality, affected by disease or poor feeding. Herdsmen appear reluctant to sell except in times of necessity, such as when the cattle tax becomes due in July, and direct buying should ensure more reliable supplies.

Before fattening, arriving cattle will be selected, inspected, inoculated and quarantined. Pregnant cattle will be kept in the breeding paddocks and should ensure build-up of a regular supply.

A government statement announcing the loan said that full scale operation of the ranch would enable the company to stabilise the buying price of cattle and obviate the present necessity of slaughtering female and pregnant cattle to keep up the supply.

The company hopes that most supply problems will be

solved when the ranch becomes fully operational. But it will do little towards alleviating the production bottlenecks in the factory itself, which can only supply 100 tons of frozen meat to the south per month, despite the very high demand, because of a shortage of refrigerated rail cars. Another problem is the unreliability of the electricity supply from the NEPA station at Bauchi. Figures for last year show that in the four weeks from October 17 the company lost over 20,000 naira as a direct result of power fluctuations. In that period only 700 head of cattle were slaughtered against the normal rate of 1,500 per month.

Representatives of 33 countries meeting in Geneva are trying to resolve outstanding details of the International Cocoa Agreement, procedural matters related to the setting up of an International Cocoa Council, and budgetary and administrative problems. The first full council meeting take place after ratification by all signatory importers and exporting countries accounting for 80 per cent of cocoa exports.

Contributions to, and the administration of, a buffer stock are other issues which consumer and producer delegations hope to clear up.

Ghana's Ambassador to the United States, Mr. H. R. Amonoo, has appealed to the US Government to sign and ratify the 1972 UN Cocoa Agreement which alone could help Ghana plan her development "more effectively".

Total Ghana cocoa purchases for the season so far are estimated at 385,573 tons.

The European Commission is urging member governments to commit themselves to putting the new International Cocoa Agreement

into force by June 30 this year, even if technically it has not been ratified by all signatories. A Commission spokesman said it was possible for the agreement to come into force provisionally, even when ratification was not completed, if all signatories had expressed themselves in favour. All EEC countries have signed the agreement.

American Senators are reported to have threatened to use the foreign aid programme as a "hostage" to force the Nixon government to spend more at home.

The Federal Government has decided to halt the concentration of industries in Lagos. The Federal Commissioner for Industries, Dr J.E. Adetoro, said that nine out of every ten newly approved industries would be located outside Lagos under the Government's industrial "dispersal policy".

The concentration of industries in Lagos had aggravated the problem of population drift from rural areas.

Transworld Airlines, which has been conducting a study of Nigeria Airways' operations, is to go ahead with a management assistance contract signed last October. The US Civil Aeronautics Board

The Ghana Government has opened trade offices in a number of countries during the current financial year. There are at present trade missions in London, New York, Bonn and Geneva. The oldest of the trade missions - the London office - was opened some 17 years ago. From handling the bulk of Ghana's imports from Britain when it was first established, the office now concentrates on increasing Ghana's exports. A recent addition is a reception and assistance bureau for Ghanaian businessmen. Visiting businessmen -

approved the contract at the end of February.

Under the agreement, TWA specialists in flight operations, maintenance, administration, finance, training, marketing, planning and research, and technical services will manage Nigeria Airways for five years, while training Nigerians to continue the operation.

TWA hopes to modernise Nigeria Airways along the lines developed in its own operations. The TWA team studying Nigeria Airways has completed an extensive plan for accomplishing this. TWA previously managed and organised Ethiopian Airways.

Each state, as well as the Federal Government, will have a pavilion on the site of the Nigerian 1974 Second International Trade Fair. Complete facilities will be provided on the site, which is on the new Lagos-Badagry road. According to the Federal Commissioner for Trade the fair will cost between 12m and 16m naira.

The first council meeting of the Port Management Association of West and Central Africa has been held in Accra.

traders, industrialists and promoters of tourists - can invite their friends for discussions here, deal with their correspondence and have assistance and advice from the staff of the Trade Commissioner's Office, including free secretarial services. The Trade Commissioner and his staff will assist Ghanaian businessmen in negotiations. Special attention is paid to Ghanaian exporters to the UK and Europe.

The bureau is situated at 102 Park Street, W1, five minutes walk from Oxford Street.



Mr. S.O. Larkar, Ghana's Trade Commissioner in London, discussing business in his new office.

Caribbean and EEC

A ministerial mission from five African states is to visit the Caribbean to discuss the relationship of the Commonwealth Caribbean with the enlarged EEC. Mr P.J. Patterson, Jamaica's Minister of Industry and Tourism, announcing this said a meeting was due to take place in Guyana on March 20, when the Caribbean free trade area (Carifta) council, at whose instigation the mission was coming, would be meeting. The mission will include ministers from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

The EEC has made the same offer of association to Commonwealth Caribbean as to African countries.

Foreign trade of developing nations rose sharply in 1972, according to a report by the UNCTAD Basic Products Committee. Developing countries increased export revenue, calculated in dollars, by 15 or 16 per cent, says the report. They experienced a general improvement in terms

of trade, and not only increased their sales of oil and manufactured goods, but also their income from primary products.

The increase came chiefly from increased demand in industrialised countries, following the 1971 fall. But better prices for commodities was a major factor. World prices for vegetable oil seeds, however, were generally lower than in 1971.

Prices for ores and metals remained at 1971's low level due to over-supply and weak demand as a result of the sterling float, which cut the real price of most non-ferrous metals.

The report expects that developing countries will prosper increasingly in 1973. Industrialized countries should experience high growth rates, but currency parity changes may hit developing countries' exports.

Lennard's profit

Lennards, the shoe retailers, made a record group profit of £762,952 in 1972. The London *Financial Times* comments: "Lennards'

profits growth slowed sharply in the July-December half, not helped by West African losses of £25,000 pre-tax. Demand in Nigeria and Ghana was solid enough but cheap imports lowered margins to a crucial level, and the trading background is only just beginning to improve. At home the reverse picture applied. At 15p, the one worry for a ten net p/e is West Africa, just 16 per cent of profits last year."

Lennards Shoes (Nigeria) made a net profit of 99,144 naira last year, the chairman, Mr G.R. Mount, told the annual general meeting.

• 12m. naira have been allocated by the Federal Government to the new Nigerian Agriculture Bank. Dr. Oketi Uzoga, Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration at Nsukka, is Chairman. The Bank will grant loans to individual farmers as well as to governments or organisations. States receiving loans may pass them on to farmers.

• A survey is to be conducted into the uses of the natural resources of the Niger River basin below the Kainji Dam. The survey will be carried out by an

eight-man team to assess resources in Nigeria. The team will determine the most suitable areas for agriculture and fisheries, and ways of achieving results. The team is for about one month.

• Price increases are unnecessary and too high for goods entering from the dollar areas, the Commissioner for Trade, Wenike Briggs, told a conference. This is the parity of the relation to the sterling had been too high. Many price increases on imported goods, such as cars, have been requested. Mr Briggs' action against the increases is being considered. It is being said some rises have taken goods from countries like Italy, in relation to the naira has been desired.

• Tin prices jumped in London Metal Exchange week for the first time in £1,800. The last tin traded at over £1,000 in October 1964. This is the present one-way value of the dollar against the

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Death of Lord Howick

Lord Howick of Glendale has died at the age of 69. He retired last year after 12 years as Chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corporation. During this period he made several visits to Nigeria, one of the CDC's main fields of operation. He was associated with the change of name and function of the former Colonial Development Corporation and was able to secure for the new CDC considerable additional funds from the British government. Before he retired he had also secured authorisation for CDC to invest in non-Commonwealth countries.

Lord Howick was associated with Africa for most of his career, his first appointment in the continent being that of Secretary to the Indian Agent-General in South Africa. Before joining the Colonial Development Corporation as Vice-Chairman in 1960 he had been Governor of Kenya.

• An advance in sales of £3m to £29m, and an improvement in group profit, before tax, from £1.15m to £1.42m, are announced by Paterson Zochonis for the half year ended November 30, 1972. An interim dividend of 1.3125p net is declared, the equivalent of 1.875p gross (same). The previous total was 4.375p gross.

• For the full year ended March 31, 1972, group profit, before tax was £1.75m.

The figures exclude extraordinary profits of £216,000 net of tax arising on inter-group balances in consequence of the effective devaluation of sterling in June, 1972. Nor has account been taken of the increase in distributable and non-distributable reserves which would have arisen on the conversion of net current assets to sterling at the rates then ruling.

• Ghana textiles manufacturing Company earned some £850,000 in foreign exchange last year through export of cotton fabrics to Europe and America. The company hopes to earn £1.2m. in foreign exchange this year, if it succeeds in exporting 5m. yards of fabrics to the US, Belgium, UK, Germany and

Nigeria. Mr. A. L. Yaw, administrative officer of the company, said that despite quota restrictions on textiles shipped from Ghana to the US and the UK, and keen competition from experienced exporters like Japan, Korea and Hong Kong, the company intended to increase production for both local and export markets. The company has set aside some £3.5m. to expand its spinning, which could save £50,000 in foreign exchange annually. Mr. Yaw said that of the 3,295 employees, 3,242 were Ghanaians and 32 Chinese, with 27 Ghanaians as managers. The company was negotiating with the National Investment Bank to establish a joint company to cultivate 8,000 acres of cotton in Brong-Ahaho.

• Ghana's Commissioner for Agriculture, Col. Frank Bernasko, has ordered the animal division of his Ministry to import cattle breeding stock from as many African countries as possible before looking anywhere else, in conformity with the Government's policy of encouraging trade among African countries. He instructed the division to complete construction of breeding stations throughout the country to receive stock expected from Gambia, Cameroon and Nigeria.

• A desert convoy composed of six heavy lorries, three Tunisian and three from the Niger Republic, has arrived in Niamey after crossing the desert from Nefta in Tunisia in eight days. The cargo carried included skins, oranges, dates, pasta, wines, canned olives and other food, bedding, gramophone records and copies of the Qur'an. It is expected that the convoys, which run once a month, will soon run once a fortnight.

• An international symposium on animal production in the tropics, jointly sponsored by the Department of Animal Science, University of Ibadan, and the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria will be held at Ibadan, on March 26 to 29. Details can be obtained from the Department of Animal Science, University of Ibadan.

Shipping News

ELDER DEMPISTER LINES
 SOUTHBOUND - From Liverpool: EBANI sig. Mar. 22, DEIDO sig. Tema Mar. 17.
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 From Middlebrough: KADUNA sig. Mar. 19.
 From N. Continent: KABALA sig. Mar. 16.
 From Southampton: AUREOL due Las Palmas Mar. 19.
 NORTHBOUND - To Liverpool: FOURAH BAY sig. Appa Mar. 18.
 To London: DALLA due Monrovia Mar. 17; DEGEMA due Mar. 19; EBOE due Abidjan Mar. 18.
 To Glasgow: KOHIMA due Mar. 24.
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 To Kool: CLEARWAY due Mar. 17.
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 BARBER LINES
 OUTWARDS - FERLAND sig. New York Mar. 21 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Appa, Warri, Douala, BARBERBROOK sig. New York Mar. 28 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Appa, Douala.
 HOMEWARDS - FERLAND due New York; BARBERGATE idg. Ghana Mar. 22. Abidjan Mar. 24, Monrovia Mar. 27, Freetown Mar. 30. BARBERBROOK idg. Lagos S. Bound Apr. 14, Sapele Apr. 16, Douala Apr. 18.
 'K' LINE
 WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong to Lobito, Luanda, Matadi, Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Abidjan. MISSISSIPPI MARU sig. Japan Feb. 8, due Lagos Mar. 17.
 EASTBOUND - From Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown, etc.: MISSISSIPPI MARU sig. Lagos Mar. 24, Tema Mar. 26, Freetown Mar. 31, Abidjan Apr. 5, due Hong Kong May 6, Japan May 10.
 BLACK STAR LINE/USNH/
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 WESTBOUND - BENYA RIVER Tema Mar. 1, Philadelphia Mar. 14.
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 SOUTHBOUND - SUBIN RIVER Hamburg Mar. 16, Bremen Mar. 12, Antwerp Mar. 21, Rotterdam Mar. 22. OFFIN RIVER Liverpool Mar. 9.
 NORTHBOUND - KLORIE LAGOON Bremen Mar. 22, Hamburg Mar. 23. KULPAW RIVER Avonmouth Mar. 14.
 DAFRA LINES
 WESTBOUND - FRANKHIG sig. Pointe Noire Mar. 22 due Calabar Mar. 25, Abidjan Mar. 28.
 EASTBOUND - HOLLAND due Jacksonville Mar. 24, New Orleans Mar. 31, Houston Apr. 4.
 PALM LINE
 SOUTHBOUND - IBADAN PALM due Freetown Mar. 24. NIGIN PALM sig. Monrovia Mar. 24.
 NORTHBOUND - KANO PALM sig. Appa Mar. 22. LAGOS PALM sig. Victoria Mar. 25.
 N.Y.K. LINE
 EASTBOUND - SAIKYO MARU Pointe Noire Feb. 23/27, Tema Mar. 12, Takoradi Mar. 1, Lobito Mar. 7/8, Japan First Port Apr. 3.

WESTBOUND - SHIMANE HARU/Appa Apr. 13/18, Tema Apr. 11/12, Douala Apr. 19/20, Pointe Noire Apr. 21/23, Abidjan Apr. 26/27, Takoradi Apr. 28/29.
 MITSUKI OSK LINE
 KINKASAN MARU sig. Kobe Feb. 20, due Lagos Apr. 1. HAVANA MARU sig. Kobe Mar. 4, due Lagos Apr. 8. HARDUNASAN MARU sig. Kobe Mar. 19 due Lagos Apr. 24.
 MAERSK LINE
 INWARDS - From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Abidjan, JESPER MAERSK sig. Kobe Mar. 7 due Lagos Apr. 11, Tema Apr. 17.
 OUTWARDS - From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Takoradi: MAREN Harcourt sig. Lagos Mar. 21, Tema Mar. 22.
 SCAN - LLOYD AB
 BANDA sig. Hamburg Mar. 23, Antwerp Mar. 26, Rotterdam Mar. 28, Rouen Mar. 30, HOEGH AUGVALD due Boma/Matadi Mar. 31, Luanda Apr. 7, Lobito Apr. 5.
 SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE
 NORTHBOUND - TORONTO CITY sig. W.A. Apr. for discharge Scan. May; CIRUS sig. W.A. 2nd half Apr. for discharge Scan. first half May.
 ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINES
 INWARDS - STRAAT IREMANTE sig. Japan Feb. 18 due Luanda Mar. 19, Monrovia Mar. 24, Freetown Mar. 26, Port Harcourt Mar. 31, Lagos/Appa Apr. 2, Tema Apr. 8, Takoradi Apr. 16, Abidjan Apr. 12.
 STRAAT MOZAMBIQUE sig. Hong Kong Feb. 8 due Lagos/Appa Mar. 15, Cotonou Mar. 24, Lome Mar. 26, Tema Mar. 27, Abidjan Mar. 29, Monrovia Apr. 1, Freetown Apr. 3, Dakar Apr. 6, Conakry Apr. 9, Takoradi Apr. 13, Luanda opt. Apr. 24.
 OUTWARDS - STRAAT FRANKLIN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong, Japan late Mar./early Apr. STRAAT MOZAMBIQUE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong, Shanghai opt., Japan late Mar.
 FARRELL LINES
 HOMEWARDS - AFRICAN PLANET sig. Matadi Mar. 30 for Luanda, Lobito, Abidjan, Monrovia, U.S. ports. AFRICAN SFAR sig. Lagos/Appa Mar. 30 for Port Harcourt, Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia, U.S. Ports.
 GULFSTREAM
 MERCURY due Conakry Mar. 29 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Apr. 6, Calinda, Matadi, Luanda, Lobito; AFRICAN SUN due Dakar Apr. 15 for Freetown, Monrovia Apr. 23, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Apr. 30, Lagos/Appa May 2, Douala.
 WESTWIND AFRICA LINE
 SANTA MAIA Tema Apr. 3, Lagos Apr. 8, Pointe Noire Apr. 11, SOUTHWIND sig. New Orleans Apr. 5, Houston Apr. 10 for Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire.
 THE I.A.C. LINES
 SOUTHBOUND - SIMBA sig. Rotterdam Mar. 15 due Freetown Mar. 23, Tema Mar. 26, Lagos/Appa Mar. 27, NORTHBOUND - BOGUTA sig. Lome Mar. 19, Cotonou Mar. 20, Lagos/Appa Mar. 28, Douala Mar. 31, Monrovia Apr. 4, due Amsterdam Apr. 12, Hamburg Apr. 14, Copenhagen Apr. 17.

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Dateline Africa

GHANA

Minister released

Dr Bruce Konuah, Minister of Labour and Co-operatives, was among the 23 Progress Party members released from protective custody to mark the 16th anniversary of independence. Ministerial secretaries released were: Mr. J.G. Amamoo (Lands and Mineral Resources), Dr. Jones Ofori Atta (Economic Planning), Mr. John Kuffour (Foreign Affairs), Mr. H.W. Kofi Sackey (Housing), Dr. T.K. Aboagye (Defence), Mr. John Kofi Fynn (Education), Mr. S.K. Opong (Rural Development), Mr. Carl Reindorf (Youth Government). The former Chief Whip, Mr. Saki Scheck, was also released. Other ex-Members of Parliament released are: Mr. K.K. Antwi, Mr. Harouna Esekue, Mr. Joseph Amankwah, Mr. D.A. Yanansi, Mr. E.S. Yarney, Mr. Amue Antwi-Kusi, Mr. Samuel Dwira, Mr. Joseph K. Osei, Mr. Alex Osei Bonsu, Mr. William Kwame Asante, Mr. Ibrahim Abubakar, Mr. Nii Quaye Ashie, Mr. S.A. Hammond.

Major Robert Kunta Zumah, Capt. C. Baiden and W/O Kwadzode, who were among those appearing for the prosecution in the trial of George Ofose Amaah and others found guilty of plotting against the government, have been granted the Grand Medal (Military) for exceptional loyalty and devotion to duty.

Others who received awards included Dr. Ephraim Anu, the musician, and Mr. Ebenezer Sersah Aidoo (Members of the Order of the Volta). Among those who received the Grand Medal (Civilian) are Col. Leslie Bean, consultant to the Ghana Chamber of Mines, and Dr. Edward Bani Forster, the Gambian who is Professor of Psychiatry at the Ghana Medical School.

There were parades of school children in Accra and all regional capitals to mark the anniversary. In a message to children Col. Acheampong asked them to think of the contribution they could make to Operation Feed Yourself: "You can do your little bit now, while you are at school, you can grow and sell, you can crack palm kernels and sell, you can collect shea butter and sell, and you can keep poultry or rear rabbits."

Eastern Region Commissioner, Col. E.O. Nyante, is expected to visit Britain soon at the head of a team to enquire into why some students are not willing to return home after completing their courses. The team is to visit London, Washington and Bonn. The London High Commission said that the committee had been set up to "examine the causes and find solutions to, a wide range of problems connected with recruitment of Ghana students abroad".

Over 23,000 bags of granulated sugar have been produced by Komenda Sugar Factory since it restarted production in mid-January. Central Region Commissioner (Dr. Amedume was told when he visited the factory.

5,000 of the bags had been sold to the Logistics Committee. The factory has also produced 7,450 tons of molasses.

Production at the factory had been suspended from November to mid-January because two of its turbines had broken down. The World Bank recently announced a \$15.6m. loan for the rehabilitation of Ghana's sugar industry.

Commissioner for Agriculture, Col. Bernasko, has ordered the animal division of his Ministry to import cattle breeding stock from as many African countries as possible before seeking supplies elsewhere.

Colonel Bernasko said the move conforms with the government's policy of developing and encouraging inter-African trade.

The three service commanders dropped from the NRC - Brig. Erskine, Brig. Beausoleil and Crd. Quaye - were relieved of their positions because the Chief of Defence Staff (Brig. Ashley Larsen) represents the Armed Forces on the Council, says an official statement. It said that the decision to drop the Commanders had been taken more than a year ago.

University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, has denied that British engineering institutions have withdrawn recognition of engineering degrees awarded by it. The Vice Chancellor, Dr. Evans-Anfom, said that the whole question of recognition by outside professional bodies of engineering degrees awarded by the university was under discussion. It had earlier been reported that British engineering insti-

tutions had withdrawn their recognition of degrees awarded by UST because of a misunderstanding over the choice of external examiners.

James Boateng Frempong, a cashier with Black Star Lines, has appeared before the Greater Accra Military Tribunal accused of subversion for allegedly stealing over 34,000 cedis belonging to the state. Mr. Gyeke Darko, Director of Public Prosecutions, alleged that in about eight months the accused stole 34,359 cedis from Black Star Line.

Ghana will not participate in the 1974 Commonwealth Games in New Zealand if the proposed tour of that country this year by a South African rugby team is not cancelled. Lt.-Col. George Yaw Boakye, Ghana's Sports Director has said.

Medical officers should accept transfer to rural areas, Col. Acheampong told medical officers at State House. Their refusal would amount to discrimination against people in rural areas, he said.

Tolon-Na in Guinea

Ghana's new ambassador to Guinea, Alhaji Yakubu Tah, Tolon-Na, presented his credentials to President Sekou Toure. This marks the official resumption of diplomatic relations which were ruptured in 1966 after President Nkrumah's overthrow.

"A new era in relations between our two countries has begun", the ambassador, who is resident in Sierra Leone, said; "Ghana must renew and revitalise its roots".

President Sekou Toure said he was "satisfied" with the resumption of diplomatic relations. He also spoke of the "special and intimate" relations which has existed between Guinea and Ghana while President Nkrumah was in power.

Eight industries, valued at over 15m. cedis, sponsored by the national Investment Bank and local and foreign investors are expected to start production in 1973. They include an asbestos roofing sheet factory at Tema, a chipboard factory at Nkakaw,



Chief Patron of the Nigeria-Ghana Friendship Association, Alhaji Hamza with members and Col. Acheampong, after presenting him with a portrait on behalf of the Association.

a stationery plant in Kumasi, a soap factory in Takoradi and a palm kernel plant at Essarkyir. Others are a nut and bolt factory in Tema, an intravenous infusion factory at Koforidua and a seed multiplication unit in Accra.

● Landlords who fail to charge new government - decided rents face a possible fine of 12,000 cedis or two years' imprisonment. A new decree said tenants paying rent lower than that prescribed by the Government before the decree came into force would continue to pay the rent existing before the decree. The decree, which has a retrospective effect from February 1, also said a rent officer would resolve any disagreement between landlord and tenant with regard to rents stipulated in the decree.

● Tema Shipyard and Drydock project, suspended in 1966, is to be completed within the shortest possible time, the Commissioner for Transport, Maj. Selormey, told the Port Management Association in Accra.

● So far 28 Ghanaian girls have returned from the Lebanon since it was made an offence for Ghanaian teenagers to be employed as domestic servants outside Ghana.

● A new decree makes the issuing of a dud cheque punishable by a fine of 1,000 cedis or 12 months' imprisonment.

● Offenders previously convicted will be fined 10,000 cedis or gaoled for five years.

● Former Ministerial Secretary Albert Badu Nkansah has been fined 250 cedis by the Aidoo Assets Committee for attempting to mislead it.

● Ghana Water and Sewage Corporation is to launch a 20m. cedi dam project at Weija Water Works this financial year to provide the Accra Metropolitan area with an adequate water supply for the next 40 years. The project is a joint venture with the World Bank.

● Ghana won first prize for the best African radio-television programme of 1972 it was announced in Dakar.

The "Mountogo Black" prize (named after the former director of Cameroon Radio)

was presented by the Union of African National Radio and Television (URTNA) to the "Akosombo" programme.

● A Soviet-trained Ghana Graduates Association has been launched.

SIERRA LEONE

The Kanu case

Solicitors for Mr. Victor Kanu, former High Commissioner for Sierra Leone in the UK, and his wife, Genoveva, have approved a statement of the recent divorce hearing in London between Fanny Kanu and Mr. Kanu. The statement says that on the first day of the defended divorce hearing "both sides agreed that the Christian ceremony of 1954 did not constitute a valid marriage under the Christian Marriage Act of Sierra Leone. The rest of the nine days were spent on the question of Fanny's customary marriage and its dissolution. Experts from both sides gave evidence".

The statement says that Mr. Kanu decided to abandon his defence when, under pressure from Fanny's counsel, he refused to divulge matters he considered confidential relating to the period when he was High Commissioner. "Fanny was granted a divorce, Genoveva was completely dismissed from the case without costs, and her marriage to Victor Kanu in 1970 was not brought into issue by the judge in his judgement".

A number of witnesses came to London from Sierra Leone and Mr. Berthran Macauley, QC, was among those giving expert evidence.

● Sierra Leone is among twelve countries represented on a three-month course in London organised by Britain's Overseas Development Administration for 15 senior officials from labour ministries. The course is intended to demonstrate how Britain's labour administrators handle industrial relations, safety, health and welfare, working conditions, wages, employment services and industrial training.

● An agreement has been signed formally giving the 51 per cent holding in Sierra Leone Airways, which operates internal and Freetown-London flights. The other 49 per cent is held by British aid-donors.

CAMEROON

New National assembly

Cameroon's first National Assembly is to be elected on May 18. There will be 120 members of the first National Assembly of the United Cameroon Republic.

The Constitution of the new unified state was promulgated last June after it had been approved by a referendum.

In the former Federal Republic, formed by the merger of the old French Cameroon and former British Southern Cameroons, there were four assemblies - a Federal National Assembly, two Legislative Assemblies (one in each of the federated Eastern and Western States) and an Assembly of Chiefs from Western Cameroon.

Although Cameroon is not officially a one-party State, President Ahidjo's Cameroon National Union party will put up all candidates on a single "national" ticket.

CONGO

"Jeune Afrique" banned

The weekly magazine *Jeune Afrique* has been banned. The Congolese News Agency, reporting the decision by the Propaganda Department, accused the magazine of engaging in "systematic denigration" of the Congo - a charge it also applied to *Le Monde*.

The ban appears to have been prompted by a report on rebel leader Ange Diawara, a former army lieutenant who led an abortive coup d'etat a year ago and is now reported to be in hiding and training a guerrilla army. The magazine was trying to deceive world and Congolese opinion on the eve of a trial of alleged Diawara supporters, the Agency said, by presenting him as "the Saint Just of the Tropics, overflowing with youth and inspiration, possessed by the revolution".

In "deliberate provocation", the magazine had also distorted speeches by President Marien Nguabi.

● A joint Rumanian-Congolese textile company is to be set up, with headquarters in Brazzaville. A

£1,600,000 produce syndicate printed textiles. Sixty per cent financing will be Rumania.

● The Minister of Education has reviewed proposals for the next scholastic year with Ambassador Theodor. The staffing requirements of the University of Congo will be awarded for the Congolese middle level cadres. Fifteen ships have been ordered for Congo at Leningrad.

● Italy is providing a £1.2m. loan for construction in Brazzaville. This is the third loan to the Congo for 1972. A fourth is under negotiation.

MALI

Co-operational meeting

The Agency and Technical Co-operation which links 24 speaking countries, its third general conference in Bamako. The meeting questions of co-operation as well as financial aspects of technical in the third world.

● Libya's Minister, Jadallah Al-Talhi, said at the visit to Bamako that saw the possibility of close co-operation with Libya and Mali.

THE GAMBIA

The two Koreas

Gambia and North Korea have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ministerial level. There already has been negotiations with South Korea. A number of South Korean doctors are working in Gambia.

● The Minister of Culture of the Federal Republic of Hesse, West Germany, Werner Best, has visited Gambia. With him was honorary Consul-General Theodor Englebert Eschke, an agricultural expert.



President Jawara escorts President Tolbert as Liberia's President goes to inspect a Field Force guard of honour. Mr Harry Lloyd-Evans, Inspector General of Police, is on the right.

MAURITANIA

Spanish Sahara dispute

Mauritania has rejected latest Spanish proposals for the decolonisation of Spanish Sahara. Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Moukness said that while Mauritania was in favour of working towards decolonisation, it rejected the method put forward by Spain.

Spain recently said that indigenous in Spanish Sahara wanted self-determination without foreign intervention.

Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania, who border Spanish Sahara, consider themselves interested parties in its future and have pledged to unite their efforts for the liberation of the territory.

M. Ould Moukness has invited the Algerian and Moroccan Foreign Ministers for a meeting in Nouakchott to discuss the latest situation. Objections to Spanish proposals appear to be mainly based on an argument that Spain is adopting delaying tactics instead of implementing UN recommendations for self-determination by referendum. The meeting is expected to take place at the end of March.

IVORY COAST

Cooperation with Taiwan

An Ivory Coast company, SIACA, and a Taiwan corporation signed a protocol to set up a joint company to develop pineapple production.

The Ivory Coast company which is part-owned by West Germans, will supply 65 per cent of the capital. The other 35 per cent will come from the Taiwan Pineapple corpora-

tion, which will provide six technicians.

• The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has approved the Ivory Coast's four-year plan, and will spend \$478,000 under it on agriculture, cattle-raising, fisheries and forestry. For teaching and professional training it will spend \$192,000, \$430,000 for public services, \$413,000 for industry and \$79,000 for science and technology.

OAU and OCAM meetings

Commerce and Economy Ministers of the OAU are to meet in Abidjan from May 9 to 13. The meeting has been timed to follow the summit of the Afro-Malagasy Common Organisation (OCAM) which is to take place in Port Louis, Mauritius from May 3 to 5. The committee preparing the OAU trade conference in Abidjan at the end of February.

Mauritius Foreign Minister Gaetan Duval has said the OCAM summit will have a special political significance in view of Britain's adhesion to the EEC. OCAM, he said, could contribute towards a rapprochement of English and French-speaking African states. Mauritius, could play a special role because of its bilingualism.

• OCAM's conference on maritime law proposed that African territorial waters should be fixed at 12 nautical miles, with an as yet undefined "economic zone" beyond that limit. The proposals are to be submitted at the OCAM summit in Mauritius in May, where a common front will be

prepared for next year's international maritime law conference in Chile.

• OAU Secretary-General Nzo Ekwangaki, diverted to London by the Paris air strike, had a meeting with Britain's Foreign Secretary.

DAHOMEY Uniting the unions

Major Kerekou has proposed to Dahomey's trade unions that they should form a single central organisation. Speaking to representatives of unions, youth movements and women's organisations, he suggested the setting up of a provisional executive which could organise a constituent congress for the new single body. He stressed that it would be within the spirit of the October 26 revolution. At the moment Dahomey has at least four "centrals", of which the most powerful is probably the UGTD, the General Union of Dahomeyan Workers.

The President also proposed a continuing "dialogue" with all the groupings, as part of the process of forming government policy, just as the dialogue within the Commissions set up after the revolution had led to the *dis-cours-programme* policy statement of November 30.

• The Government has cut by two hours the Cotonou curfew imposed after the alleged plot to assassinate some of the officers who seized power last October.

• Dahomey has recognised Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia's only legal government.

• Major Michel Alladaye, Dahomey's Foreign Minister, has delivered a message to General Gowon concerning the recent attempted overthrow of the Government.

• A 16 member Communist Chinese delegation has arrived in Cotonou to set up an embassy.

GABON

Bongo's new team

President Bongo has been elected for a new seven year term as President of Gabon with 99.6 per cent of the votes cast. It was the first

time President Bongo has stood for election since coming to power in succession to the late President Mbongo in 1967.

In his message on the election, President Bongo said "I see that you have understood me, and that of you are with Bongo... By renewing your confidence in me, you voted for stability and peace. And it is in these conditions, without leaning to right or left, that we can go forward".

Shortly before the election two French priests of the Holy Ghost order and a French teacher in a religious school were expelled for alleged "involvement" in the internal affairs of Gabon. President Bongo, announcing the expulsions at Makoukou where the men worked, said the measures were not directed at either the Protestant or Catholic churches. A third priest, a Gabonese, was also being sought.

• President Bongo has completed the reshuffling of his government.

In the main changes former Interior Minister Lt-Colonel Raphael Mamaia takes over Labour and Social Welfare while M. Jean-Stanislas Migolet, former Minister for Labour becomes Minister for the Interior.

Former Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation Francois Bonjean Ondo takes over the Agriculture Ministry. His successor is M. Michel Essongue, who retains his post as Minister attached to the Presidency in charge of Social Affairs and Public External Relations.

• A national housing fund has been established to help the construction of homes and the realisation of town planning programmes. Money for the fund will come from subsidies, loans and a levy on employers who will give the equivalent of three per cent of their wages bills.

• International Loan Agencies have said that the project for the 300 mile railway was of considerable importance, as it was a vital Central African trade link. The railway should prepare for 5m. tons of traffic a year by 1980.

• France has given Gabon a non-repayable credit of 110m. cfa francs (£200,000), towards repair of roads in Port-Gentil.

President Bokassa has allowed eight Frenchmen he had sacked from Centrafrique Airways to return to their posts. They had complained about non-payment for overtime, and the President had dismissed them, and closed the airline. The President's decision to reinstate them was announced as a clemency measure on his 52nd birthday. They are now under the command of the Assistant Chief of Staff, General Jean-Claude Manda. Speaking to the airmen, General Bokassa said that overtime was a "luxury" and a "privilege for rich countries". Payment for overtime had been banned in CAR soon after independence.

The President has added the Civil Service to his own list of portfolios (Prime Minister, Defence, Information, Civil and Military Aviation, Justice). M. Antonio Franck, former Minister of Civil Service, retains his post as Minister for Ex-Servicemen. Secretary of State to the Presidency in charge of Protocol, M. Emile Bongo-Mpassi, has been dropped from the government.

CHAD

Finance minister suspended

President Tombalbaye has suspended his Finance Minister pending the outcome of an investigation of his management of the State Property Office.

The Minister, M. Elie Komba, was appointed Secretary of State for Finance in May, 1971, and Finance Minister in December, 1971.

Before that he was head of the State Property Office. An investigating commission found faults in the Office's accounts involving 20m. CFA francs (about £33,000).

Frolinat (Front for the liberation of Chad) claims to have killed 59 government soldiers and a sultan, in actions between December and mid-January.

The movement put its own casualties at 14 killed and 15 wounded in the clashes in the Guera prefecture about 300 kilometres south of Fort-Lamy.

M. Marcel Lalla, a Frenchman, has been arrested

in Fort Lamy. A communiqué from the Ministry of the Interior describes him as a "French terrorist". He was formerly a President of the French Commission which was sent to prepare Chad for independence, but he stayed on after 1960 as a merchant. He had been expelled in 1964 by order of President Tombalbaye. According to the communiqué he returned secretly to Chad and became the "mastermind" of the Chad National Liberation Front (Frolinat) helping to supply members of the organisation, and procuring supplies for certain Chad diplomats. "Seized documents" taken from his briefcase proved that consignments of material had passed between him and certain Chad diplomats who were "agents of French colonialism in the Presidency".

SENEGAL

Developing drought areas

Senegal plans to transform the drought-affected northern areas into farms, President Senghor said in an interview with *France-Matin*. He said it would take about three or four years to convert about 35 per cent of the area into farms which can be cultivated all the year round. There were also plans to build five major dams on the Senegal River and its tributaries. The President said that economic policy would give special priority to agriculture. He added that the number of industrial workers was expected to double in the next 10 years from the present figure of 100,000.

Some 1.5m. people are affected by the drought which has caused a 50 per cent loss in certain crops, according to a statement in February by the Minister of Rural Development, Habib Thiam.

President Senghor, current Chairman of OICAM, is to visit Brussels towards the end of March, to discuss questions relating to the forthcoming renegotiation of the Yaounde Convention.

Senegal has authorised the banned African National Congress of South Africa to open an information office in Dakar.

IN BRIEF

The Middle East problem is a just cause in which the African people must fight, Mr. Nzo Ekangaki, OAU Secretary-General, said in Tunis.

West Germany is to lend Chad £667,000 to supply rural areas with drinking water.

NIGERIA

Elias promises reform

The Federal Government will soon promulgate a decree against prolonged detention without trial the Federal Chief Justice, Dr. Taslim Elias, said in Onitsha. A uniform system of court procedure would soon be introduced, he added.

Under the decree persons who had stayed either in prison or police custody up to one year without trial would be discharged, he told the Obi whom he visited while on a tour of the area.

Dr. Elias regretted that some people had spent up to three years in custody without trial. This he described as a disgrace to the administration of justice. He also condemned the practice of keeping first offenders with hardened criminals in the same cell.

Earlier, the Obi of Onitsha had complained that there were people who had spent up to three years in the Onitsha prison without trial.

A direct telephone link between Chad and Nigeria was inaugurated by General Gowon, with a call to President Tombalbaye.

General Gowon stressed the need for personal and direct contacts between African leaders in their efforts to achieve continental unity.

Apapa Wharf in Lagos is to be extended to provide for 1,000 extra metres of berthing space. The extension, included in the second national development plan, will provide for four berths and four transit sheds.

The Port Authority's standing tender board has, in a notice in the *Federal Gazette*, called for applications to tender, 10m. cubic metres of sand and clay will be dredged and removed. An

Cuba is to send experts in sugar cane and processing to

Togo has recognised Germany "in view of rapprochement between two German states"

Mr. Alan Brown succeeded Mr. Frankman as British Ambassador to Togo and Dahomey

area of 400,000 metres will be reconstructed tower, other buildings, and crane tracks are to be constructed.

During the current year plan period, the Ports Authority will spend more than N33m on investment on Lagos, Warri and Port Harcourt

Mr. Samuelsen, economist and former Central State Comptroller, has said that more higher learning should be established as centres for social and national unity in Calabar. Mr. Li said that more universities should be established. He also argued that universities should have enough facilities for the establishment of postgraduate studies.

The former Comptroller emphasised the need for federal government control over all universities and that the establishment of more universities could lead to a more balanced development. Universities with more than one campus should have a central campus and autonomous branches.

Nigeria's trade deficit in the first 10 months was 350.4m. naira compared with 59.2m. naira in the corresponding period of 1971. Imports were 1,000.0m. naira, a fall of 8.7 per cent. Output of petroleum products was 58.6m. barrels, a fall of 51.8m. barrels. Production of tin, coal and iron ore declined. Commercial loans and advances were 19.4 per cent of total naira. Official reserves stood at 253m. naira at the end of October, a fall of 272.2m. naira from the corresponding time last year.

• In a general review of activities in the year March 1969 - March 1970 Mr. Philip Asiodu, Chairman of the state-owned Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, notes that the formal commissioning of the Kainji Hydro power station marked the transition in Nigeria from thermal to hydro generation. The thirteen year-old tariff structure was simplified and reformed to give an additional five per cent revenue, although the chairman thinks that it should stimulate consumption in some areas. He notes a DM13m. loan for sub-stations.

After payment of interest due to loss of revenue in the east during the war the corporation's deficit was £517,000. This was less than the previous year but brought the accumulated deficit to almost £3m.

The number of consumers rose from 207,165 in the previous year to 230,425.

The corporation employs over 8,000 people and at the end of the war re-absorbed over 1,200 junior service permanent staff and 59 senior. Among those being trained by the corporation were 25 electrical engineers on attachment abroad.

Total sales revenue was some £14½m., almost 20 per cent above the previous year. Lagos accounted for over half total sales. Among projects executed during the year was electrification of Potiskum and Mubi in the north-east. Capital expenditure was financed mainly from internal resources although £½m. was received during the year, part of £1.6m earmarked by the federal government to finance re-habilitation of liberated areas.

The Electricity Corporation has now been merged with the Niger Dams Authority to form the Nigeria Electricity and Power Authority (NEPA)

water and a long period of drought throughout the Western state. "People have resorted to drinking from unhygienic wells and streams in the absence of clean drinking water". Water is being transported daily in tanks from Ibadan's new waterworks. The first outbreak of cholera in Nigeria was in December 1970

• Following the demonstrations in the universities against the proposed National Youth Corps, the Governor of Kwara State has said that there is no question of cancelling the project. But the Federal Military Government has taken no final decision on it and it is still open to revision.

Lectures have resumed in all universities after the boycott of classes by thousands of students protesting against the projected compulsory two-year national service.

After a week of protest demonstrations the students decided to end their boycott and enter into negotiations with Federal authorities.

• Foreign exchange transactions were suspended by commercial banks throughout Nigeria in reaction to the current world monetary crisis. Transactions were suspended on March 5, when the Central Bank did not announce exchange rates.

• After nearly two months the government has lifted its order that all incoming diplomatic bags should be searched as an anti smuggling measure during the changeover to decimal currency.

From the States

The six northern states have granted Kaduna Polytechnic 2,033,524 naira for capital and recurrent expenditure during 1973-74. The grant was approved during a two-day meeting of the Interim Common Services Agency in Jos.

A communique said that the meeting discussed the financial needs of *New Nigerian Newspapers* and approved a total of 613,518 naira for the company's capital and recurrent estimate for 1973-74. This will cover part of the cost of starting the southern edition which went into production two weeks ago.

The Agency approved

540,000 naira for its secretariat during the same financial year. A new rate of fees and charges in the Institute of Health at the Ahmadu Bello University were also approved.

The meeting, which was presided over by Benue-Plateau State, Governor Gomwalk, considered among other matters, the continuing role of some of its institutions. It was attended by all the governors of the northern states.

Police changes

A recent Gazette notes that that Police Service Commission has, after consultation with respective State Governors, made the following appointments of Commissioners of Police of the States: J. Adeola (to North Central), B. Jimeta (to North Eastern), I.S. Adejo (to Lagos), J. James (to Mid Western). The following have been appointed Acting Commissioners: G.N. Ezekwem (Kano), I.I. Omoregbee (South Eastern), G.A. Agbaje (North Western), P.A. Alli-Idowu (Rivers), O. Ojeisekhoba (Kwara).

• Twelve members, a representative from each state, have been appointed to the reconstituted Federal Scholarship Advisory Board.

• A Natural Science Research Council has been established to encourage, promote and coordinate all forms of research on natural science. The 12-man council will advise on national science policy and utilise the result of its research programme for government welfare plans.

• Pye T.V. have secured a 1.7m naira contract for a television station for Kano State. Pye have already built a television station for the Mid-West State and are building one for Benue Plateau.

• Kano state oil mill is soon to be commissioned. It is the largest in Africa and the second largest in the world. When in full operation it will be able to crush well over 4,000,000 kilos of groundnuts yearly, in addition to about 900,000 kilos of cotton seed, whose oil will be refined and canned.

• A feasibility survey for the establishment of a brick industry in Kano State is almost completed.



Gen. Gowon with Mali's leader, Moussa Traore during his visit to Bamako.

• Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation transmitters were too weak, and reception too poor to make for public confidence, the North Central State Governor, Brig. Kyari, told NBC's director general in Kaduna. Mr. Kelade said that he hoped the technical development and reorganisation of the corporation would enable it to improve services.

In an editorial on the re-organisation, the independent *Daily Times* claims that NBC's most serious problem has been that of lack of modern equipment. It welcomes an allocation of 9.8m. naira, said to have been made by the Federal Military government for technical reorganisation. But it thinks that this sum is not enough especially

as it is for all stations in the Federation. While welcoming the establishment of television and radio stations by state governments, the *Daily Times* thinks it is not advisable to allow the states to have powerful stations which can propagate stands that may sometimes be against the nation's interest. States should not be allowed to operate transmitters more powerful than the national ones.

• An outbreak of cholera has been reported in Abeokuta. Reports said at least six people have died among several cases reported to hospitals and private clinics. Hospital authorities said the disease followed an acute shortage of pipe-borne

• "Public offices are not meant perpetually for any particular class of people", said Governor Bamigboye, commenting on last year's reshuffle of Commissioners in Kwara State. Col Bamigboye was on a nine day tour of the North Eastern State.

• Government Technical School, Honn has been temporarily closed as a result of a clash between its students and the nearby College of Technology.

• North Central State is distributing cattle feed as part of its measures to ensure cattle production despite the drought. Guinea corn and millet is also being distributed to people in drought areas at subsidised prices. Over a thousand tons of grain have been released from the State grain reserve for sale.

• Four men found guilty of armed robbery have been publicly executed in the Western State, bringing to 213 the number of people shot since public executions were decreed in 1970.

Two people shot in Ibadan were found guilty of highway robbery two years ago. A

second pair were executed at Ijebu for highway robbery last August.

• The South Eastern State Government was giving serious attention to the severe shortage of court accommodation and the need for an adequate law library, the Governor, Brig. Esiuene, said in Calabar.

• Lagos State doctors have asked for talks with officials of the Ministry of Health to try to solve the problems facing health services.

• Twenty-six villagers in Ogoni Division of the Rivers State have been arrested after new clashes between the people of Ogoni and of Afam in the East Central State.

• River State government has set aside two million naira for the Peremabin rice polder scheme the State Commissioner for Agriculture said while inspecting the scheme. 636,000 naira is to be spent on it this year. The present 60 acres are to be expanded to over 1,500 acres.

• Rivers State farmers who participated in the increased food production scheme are to receive a 260,000 naira government subsidy.



Among the 490 cadets who passed out of Sandhurst on Monday were 12 Nigerians (see above). The new officers included completed the two year session, as well as some who had completed the new-style six month course, which is to replace its longer course.

The Nigerians who passed out were: J.O. Okafar, D.R.A. Ojo, M.O. Otiwa, M. Abdulsalam, G.W. Adebisi, S.O. Atombi, T.O.P. Oweh, A. Walbe, A.O. Iketubopin, and E. They were congratulated after the parade by the Nigerian Attaché, Colonel Usman (right of picture).

Two Ghanaian cadets, E.K. Kofi and J.K. Peroah, also passed there were three from Sierra Leone (A.S. Turay, W. Mornah Jawara), and nine from Zaire (Bengua-Lenga, N. Musungu Ginenga, P. Kabuta, M. Mutale, J. Mayambu, J.M. Lotava, and B.S. Kabamba).

• The Muslim Association of Nigeria is to construct a 200,000 naira Islamic cultural centre. It will include a mosque, a library, reception centre and bedrooms.

• Police have arrested 33 suspected thieves in Onitsha.

• Plans for a hospital in the South State have reached advanced stage and a plot of land has been acquired.

• "Sukoto Gardens" is to be expanded in several thousand acres.



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