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INTERVIEW WITH ACHEAMPONG



FRANCE PLANS THE FUTURE

FRANCE'S NEW IMAGE

It is now one year, almost to the day, since the "Safari Summit" at Bangui in the CAR marked the launching of President Giscard d'Estaing's new African policy, designed apparently to rid France's image in the continent of all trace of *Foecartisme* and at the same time to restore her commercial position in a continent whose patterns of trade are naturally moving away from the traditional channels of metropolitan monopoly. Indeed, the French President's *courtoisie* in contrast to the rigid protocol of Gaullist visitations, seemed at the time to herald a radical realignment of policy. Yet, one year later and with practically all the old faces gone, French policy appears to have been more invigorated than reoriented.

Certain cornerstones of French policy in Africa, of course, have never for a moment been threatened with disturbance. The heavy budgetary support of many of the poorer francophone states by the French Treasury has never been questioned, even though the increase in inflation and recession has hardly been welcome. Moreover, despite her own economic vicissitudes, France has shown herself willing to take on further commitments, courting Zaire, whose enormous economic embarrassments at the moment might, given favourable circumstances, be turned into an equal

measure of future goodwill. Determined attempts have also been made to penetrate the Nigerian market, though here economic initiatives seemed to have been judged more prudent than any immediate attempt to break down de Gaulle's legacy of distrust.

Indeed, it is markets, and particularly markets for arms, that France has suddenly become aware of in Africa. President Giscard d'Estaing's declaration last August that he would no longer sell arms to South Africa brought France in line with other European countries which also operate such an embargo, but it also reflected an awareness of the saturated South African arms market and the opportunities available in Black Africa. Since the statement declaring the (partial) embargo, Mirage fighters orders for less sophisticated, though by no means inexpensive, equipment have been placed by other states in both sub-Saharan and Maghreb Africa. Nor have French goods disappeared from Rhodesia where, despite United Nations sanctions, they possess a near monopoly of the consumer goods market. France's trade with her former colonies has also been aided to some extent by the onslaught of the enlarged EEC, and in many cases to acquire an even larger share of African markets than before. In Benin, for instance, France has succeeded in increasing its share of the market, despite a

fall in trade with the EEC taken as a whole.

Trading successes, however, although by no means unimportant, are not the principal objectives of France's new African policy, even if the acquisition of stable oil supplies has been a constant preoccupation of recent years. Here, unfortunately, France has had less success and, with the retention of Cabinda by the People's Republic of Angola, she can no longer hope to break in to existing extraction arrangements. If Giscard d'Estaing appears to have handled the issue of Cabindan succession more gently than his predecessor did Biafra, it is still too early to speak with confidence about a diminution of aggressive policy in this regard.

France's major diplomatic success in the last year, nevertheless, has been her rapprochement with Guinea. The longevity of the dispute with Guinea gave it a status unrivalled by perhaps more serious problems, and its resolution, ending (psychologically at least) the era of French imperial assertiveness, marks a crucial break with the past. The new faces at the *Elysée*, from Jean de Lipkowski at Co-operation to Guy Georgey at the African desk at the Quai d'Orsay, also encourage belief in a new approach, even if the Band of the Island of Re are still active behind the scenes.

In a year which has seen so much French activity in Africa, from the Bangui conference to President Giscard d'Estaing's taking his holiday in Gabon, it is hardly surprising that France has suffered reverses. The most spectacular of these was undoubtedly the *Claustre* Affair in Chad, which ended with the expulsion of the French garrison by the Malloum regime and considerable political furor in France over the (in the event unsuccessful) attempts to free the hostages. Yet even here, the ability of France to do as she wished in Chad, without reference to the Ndjamea authorities, was perhaps more remarkable than her eventual discomfiture. What other former colonial power could use military facilities in other African states to pursue her objectives in Chad, and with impunity?

Potentially more serious, on the other hand, are the questions of Djibouti (the French Territory of the Afars and Issas) and the Comoros. The recent OAU ministerial conference in Addis Ababa saw the public criticism of France for both her "procrastination" over Djibouti and for her refusal to cede the Comoro Island of Mayotte to the rest of the now independent archipelago, on the grounds that its inhabitants reject this solution. Both problems are extremely complicated and, over Djibouti at least, France's motives would appear to be a genuine concern to avoid a confrontation between Ethiopia and Somalia (than to prolong her now unwilling occupation). All the same, if things go wrong in Djibouti, France will not escape blame, however unfairly.

The question of Mayotte, which voted overwhelmingly to refuse incorporation in the Comoro Republic, also reflects badly on France, although it is unlikely to affect real French interests in Africa, for all the rhetoric at the OAU. The danger, in fact lies more at the UN, where the Third World and Socialist blocs appear determined to

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pillory the *Elysée* on the matter. France has already been forced to use her veto at the Security Council, and further storms lie ahead.

France has also played her hand indroitly in Angola, where her precipitate recognition of the MPLA at the end of February has not caused the Luanda regime to overlook her close friendship with Zaire, or her support for FNLA and FLEC. Angola still has large undeveloped oil reserves and unsurveyed mineral resources but France has not lost her chance of a high place in the queue for their development.

In the other serious dispute in Africa, however, France is better placed. Her support for Morocco in the dispute over the Western Sahara has placed her, so far at least, on the winning side. Moreover, professing readiness to sell arms to Algeria and working hard to overcome Algerian suspicions, France is poised to offer herself as a mediator and, if all goes well, to become a major arms supplier to both sides.

Neither has France neglected the European aspects, so to speak, of her relations with Africa. Although she gave up the chance to lead a co-ordinated FIEC policy over the recognition of Angola, France has by no means given up working towards such a policy. M. Sauvagnargues, the Foreign Minister, has already secured an agreement with his Portuguese counterpart, Major Melo Antunes, to "concert our efforts" in Africa and to keep super-power rivalries out of the continent. With another Frenchman, M. Michel Hauswirth, at the remodelled EDF, France has also retained her position as a leading light in the European aid system.

It is difficult, therefore, to detect a change in the goals of French policy in Africa, over and above the change in style and image which the government of President Giscard d'Estaing has brought to foreign as to domestic policy. French policy remains directed towards the creation of a vigorous French Community, a "Commonwealth à la Française", which will protect French interests, which are perceived to be threatened no differently today than at the time of *Lashoda*. Stable oil supplies are naturally high on the list, and probably the expensive French commitments to the Congo, Gabon and Zaire. Indeed Zaire, not traditionally part of the French community, has been brought firmly into the fold by President Giscard d'Estaing, who has taken a shrewd gamble on her present (and certainly temporary) diplomatic isolation and enormous economic difficulties.

France's initiatives in the Consumer Producer "Dialogue", though productive of little concrete result, have encouraged many

Third World countries, both in Africa and elsewhere, to place their trust in France, rather than in one of the more obdurate OECD countries. The projection of this favourable image, along with the shedding of her last African colonies and her last military bases in the continent, thus stand France in good stead for the future. Certainly the positive cast of French African policy (so different from the reactive attitudes of Britain) and the "aggressive" efforts of her businessmen has made it an exciting year for her in Africa. If the horizon is searched in vain for a change of heart, the change of style seems to have brought results, and not all of them bad. ■

Ghana's plans for bauxite

Ghana is determined to go ahead with the vast project to open up new bauxite deposits and convert the ore into alumina inside the country. Col. Acheampong told the editor of this journal during an interview in Accra (report on page 333).

The project would enormously increase the contribution made to Ghana's balance of payments already made by the Valco aluminium smelter at Tema, and provide significant extra employment, even if there would be a serious fall in the number of jobs when development of the project was complete. The Valco smelter still imports alumina in spite of Ghana's wealth of hauxite, which has to be processed into alumina before it can be fed into an aluminium smelter. Yet it was the existence of the bauxite rather than the existence of a river, the Volta, which could be dammed to produce the enormous quantities of electric power which a smelter requires, which over sixty years ago gave rise to the idea of a dam on the river. It is ironical that ten years after the commissioning of that dam Ghana seems no nearer to supplying the Valco smelter from her own bauxite, while continuing to export the ore.

Hopes were raised by the establishment during the Busia regime of an American-Japanese consortium, BASCOL, including the great American firm of Kaiser which operates the Valco smelter, to consider development of the bauxite deposits at Kibi and establishment of an alumina plant which would supply the needs of the Valco smelter and a surplus for export.

These hopes have been dimmed although

the Government is now negotiating with a Hungarian state organisation an agreement to examine another bauxite deposit, Nymahin. The Aluminium Resources Development Corporation of Japan has withdrawn from BASCOL. Among the company's reasons is the difficulty of making the new project an "integrated" one covering not only mining and processing of alumina but smelting of alumina. Because the existing Valco smelter uses well over half the output even of the expanded Volta project there is not at present enough power for a second aluminium smelter. The Volta River Authority, highly successful both financially and technically, is planning a new multi-purpose dam at Kpong, below the present dam, and a dam at Bui in the Brong Ahafo Region is also under discussion. But this new power would not be available in time to suit the Japanese company's plans.

No doubt the present weakness of the aluminium market has also had an influence on the Japanese. For the first time Valco, it seems, has marketing problems. This weakness has certainly persuaded Kaiser's that the Kibi project must at least be postponed.

The World Bank is taking an interest in the project. After examining it World Bank consultants have suggested that the proposed alumina plant, one third of whose estimated output of 600,000 tons would be surplus to Valco's needs and so would have to be exported, would be too big in view of likely future demand.

Col. Acheampong said that Ghana was not committed to any particular size of alumina plant but was determined to build one—whether from Ghanaian resources or in partnership. Certainly, if that is an economic size, a plant which would satisfy Valco's needs must look attractive to the Ghanaian Government whatever the state of the world market for alumina or aluminium, particularly as the use of her own bauxite was always envisaged as an essential part of an aluminium industry in Ghana.

Unlike an aluminium smelter such a plant would not require vast amounts of power. It would require large quantities of water and disposal of its waste would cause problems. Whether it would be built near the bauxite deposits or near the Valco smelter is partly a political and partly a technical matter. From the Ghana Government's point of view the real problem is the raising of some hundreds of millions of capital. If the aluminium firms find the project too risky can Ghana, which will also have to raise great sums for the new dam, raise such money? The World Bank and its affiliates may be the only source.

Yet even the supply of alumina to Valco from Ghana's own bauxite would not give Ghana a complete "linkage" from the mine to the finished product. Ghana makes a wide range of aluminium products, from cooking pots to sea-going launches. But to make these she has to import rolled aluminium. Unless a rolling mill is built the aluminium fabricating industry will still have to import its sheet while Valco will still export all its ingots even if the alumina plant is built. Ghana's own market for finished products may be too small to make a rolling mill economic. But this, surely, is an ideal test for ECOWAS?

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Acheampong speaks

In an interview given to the editor of this journal in Accra, Col. Acheampong (the Head of State was interviewed before his promotion to General, for details see page 357), answered questions on subjects ranging from the situation in Angola to the prospects for Ghana's bauxite. The editor reports the discussion, which took place in the Head of State's office at the Castle, Osu.

After three years as Head of State and leader of the Government Col. Acheampong can look back on significant successes and on some disappointments. His Government's reputation will always be associated with Operation Feed Yourself, which, whatever its successes or failures, clearly recognised Ghana's immediate economic problem and tried to do something about it. I asked him whether the operation was now over, if so, what were its successes and failures; if not, how could the original impetus be maintained?

Col. Acheampong insisted that the operation and the associated Feed Your Industries campaign would continue as long as the Supreme Military Council remained in office. He hoped that their successors would continue the campaigns. No rice imports had been necessary last year, and there was a "measure of self-sufficiency" in maize. This season the Cotton Development Board had organised farmers to plant 13,000 hectares against only 475 last season.

Among problems faced by the programmes, Col. Acheampong agreed, was acquisition of suitable farm machinery and its maintenance. He emphasised, too, that the price of fertilizer had more than trebled in the past year. But agriculture would remain at the centre of their economic planning — for food, for export earnings, and for material to feed industries such as textiles, sugar refining and soap making.

I asked the Chairman whether there was not a potential conflict in government food growing campaigns between the interests of farmers and of townsmen. If farmers produced significantly more food this could only result in lower prices for farmers who may not in the end be any better off.

He replied that governments could offer minimum guaranteed prices to farmers. In any case farmers benefitted financially because the government campaigns provided heavily subsidised fertilizers, ploughing services, and assistance in transport. No doubt food farmers, like the cocoa farmers who thought only of their net cash earnings compared with those over the border, and disregarded insecticides and the rest, would prefer cash to these services. But if they had the cash they would be unlikely to use it for these services so the Government had a duty to provide the services for them.

One reason why there might appear to be conflict between the interests of farmers and townpeople, Col. Acheampong also explained, was the superprofit often taken on food by middlemen — everybody here uses the term although it is usually women that they have in mind. They also smuggled into neighbouring countries food whose production the Ghanaian taxpayer had subsidised. The Government was determined to

organise effective competition with the traders through the Food Distribution Corporation.

There is some doubt whether government corporations can ever effectively compete with the traders. There is doubt, too, whether the Government's ban on the handling of certain key items, such as tinned milk, by small traders will cause them to disgorge their alleged "hoard" of these goods or prevent them being smuggled into Togo — small Togo's capacity to absorb smuggled goods from Ghana is remarkable. But the Government is determined to show the traders that it is earnest in its attempts to prevent them from distorting its economic policies. On the other hand, although he is convinced that hoarding by these traders is a major cause of shortages and high prices, Col. Acheampong agrees that traders can play a most valuable part in distributing goods and marketing food. The problem is how to harness their admitted talents for public good.

Civilian rule

Early this year Col. Acheampong announced that his government was preparing a programme for return to civilian rule. He is still not ready to announce a programme which might, as he told me, "turn out to be impracticable". Some people talk, he said, "as though there was a special science of politics which only they can understand. But we are all politicians. These self-styled experts in the art have no special training. They should realise that our real problems are economic". Col. Acheampong also recalled that throughout history soldiers had accepted the responsibility of governing; in Ghana itself the best Governor Britain had ever sent, Gordon Guggisberg, had been a regular soldier.

Like many soldiers the Chairman sees civilian politicians as producing faction and division for their own sake; "All that matters is the party, even inside a family it produces discord". So, like many others, Col. Acheampong wishes that Ghana could find a system of government which did not require parties. It is a wish unlikely to be met, but a natural one in the light of Ghana's history.

About the importance of chiefs in the government system, on the other hand, the Chairman has no doubt. He explained to me at length the institutions — Houses of Chiefs with their judicial committees, and the Chieftancy Secretariat under the Supreme Military Council, which emphasised their place.

Chiefs, he said, "played an active role in the struggle for independence and ever since their role in government and in our society

has never been questioned or subdued. If anything their role and status has been bettered". In particular they had been given "a definite role in the new local government system. Informally, as well, there was much chiefs could do in leading their people in community development and in explaining government policies to them. There were now a number of young educated chiefs who were very active in these roles.

Similarly the Chairman considered that central government administrative officers were essential in the field, in the districts and a regional headquarters. "They are regarded as impartial, they are a unifying force locally and are natural chairmen of local bodies. They are also our best source of information about people's needs and grievances".

Ghana's balance of payments may be better than is usually reported. But one obvious contribution would be development of Ghana's own bauxite to feed an alumina plant to supply the Valco aluminium smelter. Negotiations for this with the international consortium have slowed down but, said Col. Acheampong, "we are determined to go ahead with the project", whether "exclusively out of our own financial resources or with some other foreign participation".

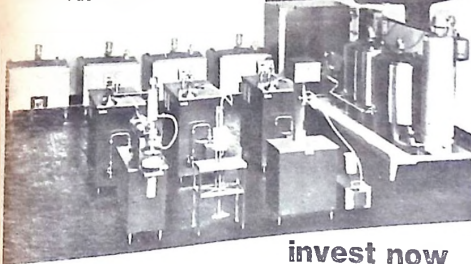
Ghana was one of the countries which recognised the MPLA government in Angola after the Addis Ababa OAU meeting. Since both UNITA and FNLA are now proscribed in Angola, Col. Acheampong told me, he could see no possibility of their participation in the government. "It does however seem possible that those who formed the rank and file of the two movements will be given the chance to share in the normal political life of their country as free and equal citizens". In Ghana they believed that the Angolan Government would show magnanimity as part of a programme of pacification, provided former members of the proscribed movements showed readiness to co-operate.

About Togo Col. Acheampong showed himself to be conciliatory. In spite of recent statements attributed to the Government of his neighbour he did not believe that Togo was seriously asking for the annexation of that part of Ghana which was previously, like Togo itself, Trust Territory of the UN. After all the Permanent Joint Border Demarcation Commission was already at work on its task of ensuring peace and harmony. Any adventure contrary to this spirit was certain to fail — the Chairman might have added that in the most unlikely event of it succeeding Togo would have taken over a serious economic problem. As for the now-banned National Liberation Movement of Western Togo, who could take it seriously? How could they ask the UN to ignore the results of the 1956 plebiscite which the UN itself had conducted? Two of their leaders had been perfectly content to represent Ghana in its present form as Ambassadors in Togo and Dahomey. It was true that the Movement enjoyed certain facilities in Togo but he was in correspondence with "my brother" President Eyadema about this. Members of the Movement who had ignored the Government's offer of an amnesty could not complain if their activities were now declared illegal.

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Another conviction of Col. Acheampong, about which he is now inclined to smile, is that Ghanaians will never admit that they are much better off than people in neighbouring countries and probably have the highest standard of living of any nation in Black Africa. Moreover the prosperity was spread fairly evenly over the whole country and nobody starved anywhere. Did I think, he asked, after seeing the dense traffic in Accra and the new vehicles that Ghana was clearly not dead economically? He had it in mind to organise groups of people who knew little of conditions elsewhere to visit other African countries to get things into perspective. Look how well people dressed to go to church — and how generously they contributed to the churches.

In any case, the Chairman continued, the foreign exchange position was not as sad as was often reported. Their reserves had been growing this year in spite of the disappointing fall in the world cocoa price. The existence of Volta hydroelectric electric power had cut down the soaring oil bills but all imports had become more expensive while Ghanaians wanted better social services and imported supplies for agriculture and industry — but in the end self reliance would win.

Of Col. Acheampong's desire to explain all aspects of his Government's policies there is no doubt. But during a morning when he was receiving, among others, the Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Sir Denis Spotswood (now Vice Chairman of Rolls-Royce) and a Pakistan Trade Mission his time ran out. I can only record my gratitude for having been given so much of it. ■

Matchet's Diary

from Freetown

Nobody here seriously supposed that President Siaka Stevens, although now past his 70th birthday, would decline to stand in the presidential election which must take place before the end of next month (Parliament does the electing). And if he stands it is most unlikely that there will be an opponent. But he himself felt that it was a good thing that the possibility of his standing down, which he had himself mentioned, had reminded people that the change must come sometime and that Sierra Leone's first President would have to be succeeded by the second.

"This would not be a good time for a change" he told me in his State House office. "There are certain strains in the country and the present Parliament is used to me. A change would come better when we have a new parliament, in 1978 — new men who might want a new man".

The President hopes that by that time — and there still seems to be no determination to turn this *de facto* one-party state into a *de jure* one — it will be possible to allow more

than one candidate to stand on the ticket of the ruling All Peoples' Congress in each constituency. Otherwise there seems to be little possibility of new men, who are certainly needed.

■ Never have I known such gloomy talk about the financial situation here. Everybody knows the Government's difficulties in meeting its salary payments at the end of each month. Loans from the banks and elsewhere have become necessary to meet this first obligation of a government. At the same time the Government is committed to suppliers' credits, the servicing of which demands ever more foreign exchange when for the first time the Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone has spoken of the need for foreign exchange rationing. These, no doubt, are the "strains" to which the President referred. But, like the British Government, this one feels that unemployment is its greatest social and political danger, to meet which financial risk is justified.

Particularly worrying for the Government is the pool of unemployment at the Marampa iron ore mine, now closed by its former operator, Sierra Leone Development Co. The workers have received their redundancy payments and in most cases opened bank accounts on the spot, where bank staff were ready. But that money is in many cases being drawn out again. In the meantime negotiations with Bethlehem Steel for takeover of the mine are dragging and some people now believe that more likely operators of the mine, and the associated Tonkolili concession further inland, are the German group which operate the successful Bong mine in nearby Liberia.

■ The President is convinced that to get the accounts right it is more important to improve revenue collection and ordinary financial discipline than to make damaging expenditure cuts. The Vice-President, Mr S. I. Koroma, who since last July has also been Minister of Finance, has been active in checking the sort of mismanagement which in 1974 resulted in "supplementary appropriations" to the huge sum of 22 1/2 m. Leones. He is also ensuring that the yield from local taxation, licences and the like should bear more close a relation to the size of the population and not be lost "in transit" — he demands daily returns of some payments. He also gave me a graphic account of the drama in the last third of each month when his Ministry's great concern is to ensure that the funds to meet wages and salaries are there so that at the end the Vice-President can send the President a formal telegram to say that all have been paid.

Yet such dramas do not help the balance of payments since a high proportion of the funds so painfully gathered finds its way into the purchase of imported goods. Some improvement in the diamond figures are expected this year — they could scarcely be worse than they were last year — and the great increase in rice production should continue to relieve the balance of payments of a heavy former burden. But there is a very difficult time ahead.

■ Freetown's first woman mayor, a number of doctors, including a specialist

paediatrician, Lt. Col. Yvette Gordon, head of the armed forces nursing service, a deputy Commissioner of Police, Sierra Leone's first woman Permanent Secretary, who later became the first woman to head a World Bank project, lawyers, librarians, diplomats, accountants — and just very worthy citizens — what a record the former pupils of Freetown Secondary School for Girls have. The school is celebrating its 50th anniversary and I shall always regret that it was not possible for me to join the excursion to York village which was one event in the long celebrations.

Yet, when the school was founded, in 1926, it must have been regarded as upstart by the existing girl's secondary schools, so long established has the education of girls been in this city. It was, and still is, however, unique in two ways. First, its founder, Mrs. Hannah Benka-Coker, who died in 1952, a woman of indomitable will and great energy, wanted the school to have a new type of curriculum, which emphasised African culture. And she wanted a curriculum which would allow girls to leave at any stage with a rounded education and not a half-finished one. In addition this was, and so far as I know still is, the only private one of its kind, dependent neither on missions nor governments.

■ The school started with 20 pupils and an endowment of some £250 raised by 10 Freetown citizens. The present Headmistress, Mrs. Cassandra Garber, told me that there are now well over 1,000, of whom 650 are in secondary classes, 130 are boarders, mostly from the provinces, but as usual, there are girls from elsewhere.

The school has another distinction as it is the only girls' school in Sierra Leone to teach sixth form science. But Mrs. Garber told me, a little sadly, that below the sixth form science was not very popular as the trouble was mathematics. The science block, opened in 1971, cost over £40,000, which came mostly from private donations. The school's greatest need now, Mrs. Garber maintains, is a new assembly hall.

There are few "drop-outs", one of the great problems for schools in this part of the world. The average age of the girls is lower than it used to be but they no longer all come, as they used to do, from the school's own preparatory department which is being phased out. There are girls from Liberia and The Gambia, but an interesting development is the increasing number of girls of Provincial origin. The fees may sound very reasonable — around Le40 per year, with boarding fees under Le50 a term, but uniforms and books must be paid for. For some of the parents these payments represent a sacrifice, but a most fruitful one.

There was originally a Boy's Junior School as well, and its former pupils are amongst the most enthusiastic of those organising the celebrations. They include Dr. Arthur Porter, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Mr. Ransford Jarrett-Yaskey, the architect, and the elder statesman Mr. Maurice Hotohah During.

Of the 35 teachers only five are now expatriate, including two from Ceylon, but science teaching depends heavily on them. For the cynical and the pessimistic this is an institution to gladden the heart.



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The Administrative Service in Africa: 2

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

Emphasis on local government of the British kind was a key feature of British colonial policy after 1945. It reflected Fabian enthusiasm — although it might be seen, too, as ethnocentric. It embodied the "trusteeship" theory of colonial rule and accepted the "scaffolding" theory that I mentioned in my first article. It is associated above all with Mr. Arthur Creech-Jones, as Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Sir Andrew Cohen, as Head of the Colonial Office Africa Department.

For many years the British thought of their colonial rule, if they thought about it at all, not, as it seemed to others (not necessarily their subjects), as an exercise of power, but as a legitimate and beneficent exercise of trusteeship. This would end only when the "minors" had come of age. Only such a concept allowed the empire to co-exist with parliamentary democracy and adult suffrage at home.

In West Africa the reality came reasonably close to the ideal. At any rate the best of the colonial administrators believed in the ideal, and the worst were not allowed to forget it. And it was the success of the

Kenya settlers in resisting application of the doctrine of the paramountcy of African interests which in the 1930s and 40s obliged Whitehall and Westminster, in such statements as that of the 1931 Parliamentary Select Committee on British policy in East Africa, to emphasise the trusteeship formula.

1974 was the time when talk began in the Colonial Office about self-government for Africans as a practical possibility. Then independence for some West African countries became a practical possibility. But the Colonial Office view seems to have been that during a fairly long interim period Ministerial Government would be developed, and indirect rule be transformed into English Local Government. This devotion to the transfer of English Local Government is highly important. It ruled out the French prefectural system, which was in fact the British colonial one, and was not inherently colonial. Africanisation of the civil services would be vital — but no attention was paid to the administrative service.

The devotees of the transfer of British

local government to West Africa may have been more important than the "scaffolders" in inhibiting development of an African administrative service. But in the British fashion there was no clear-cut consistent philosophy, or any unanimity that Africans should be excluded from the administrative service. For example, there was the recruitment of Africans for the Secretariats. When Chief Adebó — a clerk but also an external BA of London — went to the Lagos Secretariat in 1942, he found three other former clerks "acting as "assistant secretaries". Others followed, but it is difficult to discover now whether these Nigerians were brought in simply to remedy staff shortages; it seems that there was no intention of their serving outside.

In Sierra Leone Mr. T. C. Luke and Mr. Dillsworth became Assistant Colonial Secretaries in the early 1940s. But it was Mr. Ade Hyde, former RAF officer, who became the first African administrative officer, in the modern sense, to be recruited in Sierra Leone. Yet in Sierra Leone, I have explained, the scaffolding theory was never very strong. In a statement on Africanisation in 1959, the Government noted that "the Africanisation of the Administrative Service deserves special mention since it tends to catch the public interest particularly, probably, because its personnel are more in the public eye by nature of their duties than professional officers normally are."

Another possible reason why enlightened British people saw the extinction of the DOs as inevitable might be the view that it would be anomalous for an official to exercise in his own country the sweeping powers, even if they were partly theoretical, which a

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British administrative officer exercised in somebody else's country. The British colonial administrative officer was anything but anonymous, cheerfully wielded judicial as well as administrative, and indeed political, power, and had nothing in common with the Whitehall ideal, however benevolent he may have been. Even if he was a temporary necessity, it would not be in keeping with ideas of trusteeship to bequeath him as a legacy to the Africans. But this idea was no more consistently held than any other in this field.

It was, however, in Ghana, that the earliest and most significant breach was made in the theory that there was no place for Africans in the administrative service — although it didn't last. In response, perhaps to the private advice of Lord Hailey, given after a West African tour, two African cadet DCs were appointed in the Gold Coast in 1942 — Dr. Kofi Busia and, as we have noted, Mr. Yaw Adu. After the war Major Seth Anthony was also recruited. There was temporary recruitment of Africans, but for the secretariat in 1950; yet, as we have seen, at that time it was expected that the administrative service would be "phased out".

In the Gold Coast, too, the 1950 Select Committee's report which saw no future for the administrative service was followed by appointment of an all-British Commission under Sir David Lidbury, of the British Post Office. The Commission, whose secretary was Mr. David Anderson, then a member of the Gold Coast administration, took a very different view of the DC from that adopted by the Select Committee. At least "for some time to come", said its report, DCs provided

"the cheapest and most efficient machinery for performing a multitude of important administrative tasks". This was true even if "political and racial" considerations had been associated with discussion of the future of DCs. "The people who advocated the withdrawal of District Commissioners would do well to ponder what agency they would substitute for the continuance of these essential services in rural areas". The DCs, as "men-all-work", the Commission considered, were part of the "steel framework of the government structure". The Government's scholarship schemes should ensure that enough people of the right type came forward to fill the now alarming number of vacancies in the administrative service, including those which would result from the creation of ministries.

By 1954 the official line in Ghana had also changed. In that year the "Statement on the Programme of the Africanisation of the Public Service" noted that there was not one African administrative officer, Class I (out of 21), although ten Ghanaians had been appointed Supernumerary Assistant Secretaries. There is no specific reference to "Government Agents", civil servants who had replaced District Commissioners, or to the Regional organisations in the body of the report. But the appendices show that in the Nkrumah Government's view the administrative service had come to stay.

Appendix 28 notes that 42 of the 175 posts in the grades of Administrative Officers Classes II and IV were held by Africans. All but two had been appointed since 1950, and there were no African Permanent Secretaries or Chief Regional Officers — for whom there were 18 posts. The output of the University College of the Gold Coast was beginning to fill the vacancies in the service — five Legon graduates had been appointed cadet administrative officers in 1953 and it was hoped that by 1956 so many graduates would be available from all sources that admission could be restricted to Open Competitive Examination.

It was assumed that the administrative officers will be graduates; and "the most important part of their training is in the field through on the job training under experienced Administrative Officers". The description of their functions makes it clear that they would be, in the field, the old DCs. Yet out of over 820 Ghanaians listed as studying at the universities in the country or abroad, none was studying administration, although 220 were studying for a general arts degree. Under "departmental scholarships" there were three for the "senior service" — but these were for general arts degrees.

The 1954 Colonial Office Annual Report on the Gold Coast, like all such reports, is silent on the question of Africans in the administration. Yet safeguarding the position of the administration was a constant preoccupation of Whitehall — one almost feels that the Colonial Office, having failed wearily to prepare the administrative service for independence, were looking forward, as Sir Edward Blunt had done in his book *The I.C.S.*, which appeared in 1937, to British officers playing in self-governing countries the role of "the Brahman ministers of old Aryan kings or the Peshwas of the Maratha Rajas."

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LETTERS to the Editor

Solzhenitsyn and Africa

SIR, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, in his BBC TV interview of March 1 (published in *The Listener* March 4), laments that "the West has given up all its world positions", for the result is that "freedom has been lost in Laos, China, Angola. Tyrants, bandits, puppets have come to power. Angola is being taken..." The mind boggles when one hears this kind of view from a man who professes to be a lover of truth and freedom. Obviously, his concept of freedom accommodates the entrenchment of the inhuman apartheid regimes in Africa.

The celebrated Nobel prize laureate for literature should by all means go on with his impassioned plea for a return to the pre-Revolution, patriarchal Russia, but I have no doubt in my own mind (and I suspect I am not alone in this) that his political thinking is irrelevant to the Africa and the world of today.

OLUWASEUN IGE

London

When . . . ?

SIR, The military government of Nigeria under General Murtala Muhammed announced last October that Nigeria would return to civilian rule in 1979. Unfortunately, he did not live to realise that promise.

In Ghana, Gen. Acheampong, Head of State, has announced that there will be a return to civilian rule as soon as conditions favour it. When Ghana returns to civilian rule does not bother many Ghanaians including myself. What concerns many of us most are rumours of plots against the government. We have to realise that an attempt to overthrow the government appears to have been made last December.

It is hoped that many people in Ghana, and for that matter Africa, should by now have realised that coup d'etats contribute very little to national progress in many cases. We have examples from Latin America and other countries in Africa. The first coup of Gen. Akrifa & Co. brought frustration to a large mass of the people. It also weakened the basis of the economic and social development as well as the basis for national unity of the people of Ghana. They sold some Ghanaian industries built under Dr. Kwame Nkrumah to western capitalists at less than their value. Tribalism — sectional national politics — flourished at that time. At least this military government has shown some wisdom in this.

Many Ghanaians appreciate what the present government is doing. What many of us expect the government to do before the professed "return to civilian rule" are the following:—

1. Introduction of universal paternal/maternal inheritance in Ghana.
2. Abolition of Chieftancy or a radical re-organisation of that outmoded, feudal system or tradition. Operation National Reconciliation should have as an ingredient "Abolition of Chieftancy." It is sincerely believed that the total abolition of chieftancy will bring about a sense of loyalty and allegiance to the local and central government.
3. Introduction of the Twi language as the national language of Ghana. This will have both cultural and economic advantages in terms of communicating and marketing.
4. The re-conditioning of the Ghanaian mind to understand the forces that cause economic and political instability in Ghana and in all the developing countries. This will imply that the philosophy of "self reliance" will be broadened

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to become the ideology of our economic and social development. Self reliance will not only then imply leading oneself from ones own production but it will include the ability to think critically and analyse problems in relation to past and present conditions.

Every true Ghanaian should by now have realised that the task ahead is great and it needs the full participation of every true Ghanaian.

YAW AMOAKO ADDO

Osho

Decentralise?

SIR: Ghana's Supreme Military Council, headed by Gen. Acheampong, should realise that the chronic economic problems facing Ghana could be improved if centralisation was wiped out and decentralisation introduced.

Most developed and developing countries have known the unpleasant side effect of centralisation and are shifting rapidly to decentralisation. Why must the government of Ghana hang on? Treatment is due without further delay. Start the race with these countries before the situation gets out of control.

ISAAC BOADI

London

Heed Bangura's warning

SIR, Any loyal and forward thinking Sierra Leonean who read the excerpts from the speech of the Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone and the editorial "Sierra Leone: cash problem" (*West Africa*, February 16) would have had his heart stopped in cardiac failure.

The Government seem to have a broad carpet under which they sweep inefficiency — global inflation. But what action is being taken to combat and control this economic ill?

Efficiency is lacking in all areas of government. How do they expect to get their sums right when government accounts are produced five

years in arrears? Apart from the fact that we are suffering a technical and professional manpower deficiency, freedom to criticise might go a long way towards correcting any apparent maladministration.

Workers, particularly civil servants, attend their work with no apparent devotion and loyalty of service. Corruption and bribery are commonplace. The word "put" has assumed a new meaning in the daily vocabulary — for you will have to "put" before a man would give you service for his paid employment. Among other things, this is one aspect of ruin that the government should try to eradicate.

The government have got to educate the people to understand the need for hard work and progress. We should not expect others to toil our land for us to reap.

HAROUN TURAY

London

A Constitution for Nigeria

SIR, The creation of 19 states in the Federal Republic of Nigeria is most welcome. In view of this I suggest that the panel considering the new constitution for Nigeria should recommend a no-party state.

Nigeria should have two Houses: Upper and Lower, or Parliament and Senate; or call it what you may. The Upper House should have a set number of elected representatives from each state. I suggest that each of the 19 states should elect 10 members to the Upper House. From the total of 190 members an executive President would be sworn in, and this President will choose the members of the Government both from within and from outside the House.

The post of the President should rotate amongst the 19 states in alphabetical order and the tenure of office should be four years.

The Lower House could be made up of the permanent members — the natural rulers from each of the states, and elected members from the states.

I believe that this system will achieve the following: it will bring the Government home to the governed — the people of Nigeria; Nigerians will give their national identity priority over tribal identity; the fact that the tenure of office would be four years with no early re-election of those who have held cabinet posts will guarantee the early detection of any corrupt practices amongst the outgoing President and his cabinet members.

No doubt the advocates of the Westminster type of democracy will jump up in criticism of the suggested no-party system. However let me remind such readers that Westminster cannot be transplanted into Nigeria just as the White House or The Kremlin cannot be transplanted into the UK. So I wonder what is wrong in having a Nigerian system of government?

NNAEBUE G. ANAKWE

Newcastle upon Tyne

Who exploits Ghana?

SIR, Mr Jibo Ray Jackson's reply (February 23) to my letter (February 9) appears deeply rooted in apathy. This is not the first time I have been writing against social injustices in Ghana. In February, 1970, December, 1970 and October, 1971, I wrote in the same vein when Dr Busia was in power.

I do not know how long Mr Jackson has been away from Ghana, but any time he goes back I urge him to take a trip to Dome, residential area near Achimota, where the new CMB flats are being built. Next, he should travel to any of the cocoa growing areas and compare for himself the yawning gap between the living standards of the producers and the vendors of cocoa. Does it make an economic sense to kill the goose that lays the golden egg?

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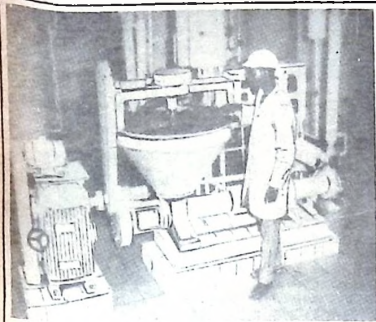
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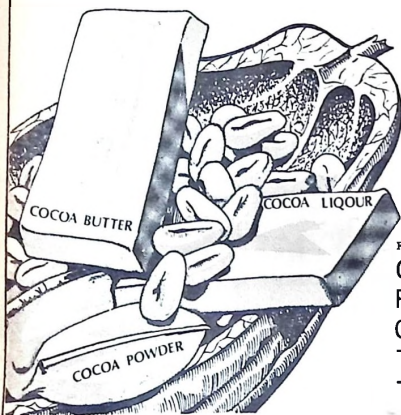
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I still maintain what I said in my letter — the current exploiters of Ghanaians are not the white imperialists, but rather a few Ghanaians at home.

THOMAS TWUM BANNOR

Edinburgh

Positive Approach?

SIR, Mr. Mpyakhe's letter entitled African Attitudes (March 1) cannot go unanswered. I found his last paragraph quite astonishing. The Presidents of Senegal and Ivory Coast have demonstrated very clearly their attitudes towards apartheid by choosing too many non-Africans. Surely, this can't lead to a negative approach to their South African policies. Rather the reverse, I should have thought.

M. SHIBOWALE

London

Ondo State

SIR, The writer of the letter "Naming the States" (Feb. 23) appears tribally biased and not concerned with how to solve our present problem.

What is in a name after all? The name Ondo has no effect on Ondo State; but the writer would have preferred it to be called "after something well known or something common to the people".

Our problem in that state, and in Nigeria as a whole, is how to administer peacefully; to bring the entire people together and accept each other as one. The writer should recall that under the old Western State, Ondo State existed as Ondo Division. And no one ever thought to rename it, then, "after the River Ogbese or River Oluwa which run through many towns in the state".

If this concept should be allowed to creep into our reasoning, a majority of the states in Nigeria will be affected, and the postmortem of events will be worse than we had ever experienced.

JIDE LAYIWOLA

Mamouth

Bendel State

SIR, The reason for adopting the name Bendel for the Mid-Western State of Nigeria is not immediately clear, apart from presuming that it is coined from Benin/Delta provinces. If so, it does not appear less inappropriate than its predecessor as it equally lacks historical relevance.

The majority, if not all, of the ethnic groupings of the two provinces are Edos. They have Edo as their common historical name. The agitation for the creation of the state was based on the strong feeling of Edo speaking people to have their own state as distinct from the then Yoruba dominated Western Nigeria. Hence "Edo speaking people" was a hackneyed expression during the campaigns for the creation of the State. It is therefore surprising that at each opportunity to name the State, Edo has been passed over.

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The IFE Book Fair this week is mainly about new books, but African publishing has a long pedigree. The first printing presses arrived in West Africa some 150 years ago so it is hardly surprising that printed *Africana* is one of the most widespread of book collecting specialities. Not that these early presses were printing books, more likely catechisms and hymnals since they were put up by missionaries for the practical purpose of spreading the Word of the Lord. But anyone who has one of those early catechisms could find Mammon smiling on him as well; they were printed on fairly poor quality paper and had to face a pretty testing climate and way of life so that few survived. Those that did are rare and valuable collectors' items.

On the whole, though, *Africana* tends to be European in origin, with much of it in English, which helps since London is the centre of the *Africana* collector's world. It is not a very big field, perhaps fewer than 2,000 titles worth serious consideration, but it reaches all round the world and many of the dealers and collectors know each other both by repute and personally.

Alan Mitchell, for example, is a dealer who counts most of his customers for should it be "clients" in such an esoteric trade) as friends. So much so that a book which might interest one collector will be held back for him until he has had a chance to decide, even though another collector may be willing to overbid.

Unlike some of the older established

dealers, who run antiquarian book shops dealing in a wider range than purely *Africana*, Mitchell has no shop and publishes no catalogue. "Most of the serious collectors know what they want and let me know too. I have a stock of about 300 significant volumes plus, of course, the standard works which is probably the biggest in Britain, Europe and America... though I know a dealer in Johannesburg who probably has more stock but he specialises in South African books. There are only about 2,000 significant titles in the period which I cover. Which is up to 1900, though I do creep up to about 1925 with a few anthropologists. This century there have been so many books about Africa that keeping on top of them is impossible. Let the ordinary book buyers and readers winnow through them and in the next century we will know what has some lasting value. Another problem for me personally is that the manufacture of modern books is nothing like the quality of the pre-1900 book. The paper is poorer quality and the binding is neither substantial nor beautiful. The aesthetics of books are a real part of collecting and of my own concern with them. Why quality is less good now is that books are sold to a mass market and so are, and have to be, cheaply made. A hundred and fifty years ago most of us could not have afforded to buy a book. Take Mungo Park for example, which is almost the foundation of *Africana*, being the first "scientific" book in Africa.

"I can let you have a first edition in good condition for £50. Applying Professor Rettinger's theory of the economics of taste the price of the first edition, which was almost the 1799 equivalent of today's paperback, was equivalent in value to £65 in today's money (that calculation is pre the two dollar pound). I mean that the money the book cost then would have bought other goods which today would cost £65. So you see why I say that books are cheap today.

I said Mungo Park was the beginning of serious *Africana* but of course the first book was Leo Africanus' *Description of Africa* first published in Antwerp in 1556 and translated into English in 1600. I have had six Antwerps through my hands and five English editions, plus a couple more lacking their maps.

To go back to how cheap books are. The top collectors' item in *Africana* is *African Scenery and Animals* published in 1804 comprising 30 folio sized hand coloured plates. Now just think for a minute, what sort of price does the supreme stamp or painting or piece of china command. This book by Samuel Daniell would be worth about £4,000. But it is no use offering £6,000 for one, there just is not one on the market. The people who have them would not part with them.

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An African Metropolis

Lagos: The Development of an African City edited by A. B. Aderibigbe (*Longman Nigeria; 5 naira*)

Prepared as a contribution to the now-postponed Second World Black and African Festival of the Arts, this fascinating collection of essays can now serve as a tribute to the city which has nearly ended its career as capital of Africa's most populous country. In his foreword Professor Jacob Ajayi, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos, whose past or present staff have provided all but two of the ten essays as well as the editor, says that the University is a "relative late comer" to the city, so that this is only a first attempt at synthesising "something of the University's effort at exploring the nature and structure of the city in its historical, economic, social and cultural setting.

The emphasis is on history, but history which illuminates the present in this city where traditional homes and institutions persist so strongly alongside the skyscrapers, the traffic jams, the hotels and the industries. The editor, Professor Aderibigbe, is himself Professor of History

at Lagos, and he opens the book with an account of the city's history up to the middle of the last century, by which time the various "quarters" of immigrant groups were established, groups which were to maintain their distinctive cultures and religious observances. Professor Aderibigbe draws attention to the exchange of diplomatic missions between Lagos and Brazil early last century, and notes that some of the "free servants" of African origin who accompanied the Portuguese mission to Lagos led by Manuel Alvarez Lima were to become founders of the great "Brazilian" families which are a feature of the Lagos scene. Yet it was not until 1854 that the Portuguese name "Lagos" first appeared in place of the old "Omm" in Portuguese records, to describe the town as opposed to the river.

The growth of Lagos as a commercial centre, the tangled relations with Benin, the growth of the Oba's wealth, the slave trade which contributed to this wealth are strands in the narrative. Dr. P. Dele Cole, now a senior civil servant in the Cabinet Office in Lagos but a notable student of Lagos history, contributes an essay on the social history of the city in the 19th century, and deals in greater detail than does the first essay with the origins of the Obaship: today, he concludes, Lagos "is not only the seat of the Federal and State governments, it is also the seat of a virile traditional political hierarchy headed by an Oba, advised by a large command of chiefs, whose power is as real as it is pervasive.

Dr. Cole explicitly explains some of the adverse comments passed on Lagosians by Europeans in the past by reference to the trying conditions Europeans experienced in those days. But by the end of the century there was electricity, a busy modern harbour, a railway terminal, and plans for pipe-borne water and a tramway (Dr. Cole does not mention the racecourse, now so suddenly overwhelmed by government buildings). But it is traditional Lagos which attracts Dr. Cole, and he describes the chief institutions in detail, as well as taking up the history of the immigrants — among them the "Sarus" (educated Africans, with strong Sierra Leone connections) who lived like Victorian gentlemen and were imperialist in outlook. And even then visitors were regaled with champagne, and what has come to be called "race relations" were civilised. Yet it was the connections of Lagos with the hinterland, as well as the relations among its residents, which made it distinctive. This chapter is marred by some misprints, e.g. the use of 1880 when 1780 is meant.

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Dr. B. A. Williams, Professor of Political Science at the University, has been conducting a study of administration in the city, and contributes a chapter on the constitutional status and relations with the government of the Federal capital, particularly following establishment of the Lagos State in 1967. Development of modern local government, from the Sanitary Board of Health to Lagos City Council is described. Dr. Williams is in general satisfied that the difficult problems of the relations of Lagos with the various governments of the Federation (it was once part of the Western Region) although complicated have been well handled.

A chapter on "Urbanisation and Problems of Urban Development" is contributed by Dr. P. O. Sada and Mr Adefolalu, both of the University's Department of Geography. The city's rate of growth has become the highest in Africa resulting in obvious problems among which the two authors place housing in the forefront: "the problem of Lagos is that of planlessness, and with the Master Plan that is under preparation, it is hoped that urbanisation in Lagos could become an asset and an agency for increased production". One would have liked to know what the two authors expect from the removal of the federal and state capitals, announced long after the book was in print.

Another joint chapter, on industry, comes from Dr. R. A. Akinola, Professor of Geography at the University, who has studied location of industries, and Dr. N. O. Alao, of the Department of Geography, who specialises in land use. They draw particular attention to the "suburbanisation" of population which is accompanying suburbanisation of industry. Once again one would like to know what effect these authors see on the pattern of industry of the removal of the federal and state capitals.

With over 200,000 children enrolled in schools Lagos probably has the biggest educational establishment of any city — and a bigger one than most countries — in Africa. In his chapter on the development of Western Education Mr. Segun Adesina, Lecturer in Education at the University, emphasises the serious problem of "drop-outs" and wastage — the percentage in primary schools was as high as 37.78 in 1972; "paradoxically, therefore, the city while possessing increasing opportunities for schooling is also characterised as a centre for high educational frustration". This judgement extends to teachers.

"Health and Social Welfare" is the chapter contributed by Dr. S. O. Daniel, now Lecturer in Community Health at the University's College of Medicine. But he can also draw on his experience as a former Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health for the city. He notes the continuing importance of traditional healing in a city where the first General Hospital was built in 1873 (although the first one outside Lagos was not built until 1898) and the first Nigerian doctor, Nathaniel King, began work in 1876. The chapter ranges over administration, sanitation, water supply, rodent and insect control, social welfare services, and even the welfare of seamen and the ill effects of traffic jams. The general pic-

ture is somewhat at variance with those, like Professor Olatunbosun, author of *Nigeria's Neglected Rural Majority* (to be reviewed next week) who in a sincere demand for justice for the rural areas might unintentionally give the impression that the people of the metropolitan area enjoyed a high degree of amenities.

Another of the university's historians, Dr. G. O. Gbadamosi deals with the fascinating religious history of the city. Lagos is "not a secular but a truly religious African city where, alongside the normal pressures of urbanisation and forces of modern development, religion is still a vital force of life". Here, too, tradition is still strong alongside Islam and Christianity, some families having adherents of all three types.

In a final chapter, which may appeal more to laymen than any other, Mr. Frank Aigimoukhede, of the Federal Ministry of Information, and a former editor of *Nigeria*, covers juju and high-life music, as well as the history of play production, literature and the first known Nigerian painter, Onobolu, who was painting in the early years of this century. Mr. Aigimoukhede might puzzle some visitors to the Black Arts Festival by his assertion that the life bronzes have no more continuity with today's Nigerian art than has that of Byzantium with the art of today's successor countries of the empire. But this needs saying, and proving. Grillo, Mr. Aigimoukhede suggests, is the only Lagosian among Nigeria's national artists today, but he gives an impressive list of Nigerians working in Lagos. Musical instruments, museums — all are skilfully woven into the chapter, which fittingly ends the book.

An excellent bibliography drawn up by Mr. Adegboye Banjo, makes one wonder, so rich is the material, why it has taken so long for such a book to appear.

D.W.

African Realism

Culture and the Nigerian Novel, by **Oladele Taiwo** (Macmillan Educational) *hardback* £4.95, *paperback* £2.45

Oladele Taiwo, in this important and considered work of criticism, comes down firmly in the position taken by Chinua Achebe in his famous 1964 essays on "Colonialist Criticism" and "The Role of the Writer in the New Nation". That is, on the side of the social function of the artist in Africa, and against aestheticism.

Achebe insisted that, in traditional Africa, "artists lived and moved and had their being in society and created their works for the good of that society", and that the role of the modern artist in Africa was to rehabilitate that dignity that "many African peoples all but lost in the following period." Above all, therefore, he should relate the present to the culture of the past.

In choosing the Nigerian novel to support this thesis Taiwo has ample material to consider. For the novel as a medium, although on the face of it a "Western" art form, is above all, even in the West, a classic medium for portraying society.

The relationship of the novel with culture in Taiwo's title, and the suitability of the novel as an instrument for a culturally conscious society is thus evident. And for those who feel that the novel is so "Western" that

it is wrong for Africa, Taiwo quotes Achebe again: "... did not the black people in America, deprived of their own musical instruments, take the trumpet and the trombone and blow them as they had never been blown before, as indeed they were not designed to be blown? And the result was it not jazz?" One point that Taiwo particularly hammers home, is that, reasonably enough, even for those Nigerian writers using English, a knowledge of Nigerian languages and culture is essential before a substantial work of criticism can be made. This does not exclude foreigners criticising the writing of Nigerians (his own references to European critics of Nigerian works recognise this); but some homework needs to be done. His own book is a justification of such a point of view, since his approach is to study systematically a range of Nigerian novelists in relation to their cultural background, above all in their depiction of traditional societies in full transition.

Lest the reader fears he is in for unrelieved sociological analysis of the Nigerian novel, let me assure them that Taiwo's approach is much more comprehensive. Indeed at one point he chides Onuora Nzekwu for a description (in *Wand of Noble Wood*) of the use of kola in Igbo society, which he calls " tiresomely explicit sociological material". For Taiwo, clearly, the cultural message should also involve good writing, and he is most preoccupied with the good and proper use of language to create effects. Thus he has evolved a critical method of showing the relationship of an author's mother tongue (L1) to his use of English (L2). Although not setting it up as a criterion for success, a good L1-L2



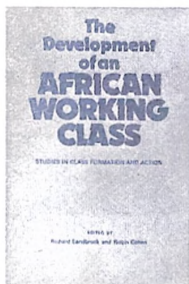
This map of West Africa, from Morocco to Zaire in modern terms, was first published in 1602. Only five copies are known to exist; this picture is taken from Weireb and Dawson's latest catalogue of foreign maps. They price the map at £1200.

relationship clearly wins approval, and as he says, varies considerably among Nigerian authors. In some cases it is innocent (as in Tutuola), in others deliberate.

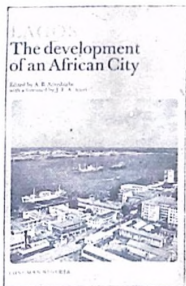
The main body of the work, after a historical introduction in which several European novels about Africa (*Prestre John, Sanders of the River, Mister Johnson*) are critically and usefully considered from an African viewpoint, is a series of in-

dividual Nigerian novels. Three authors are given pride of place with chapters of their own, in which their major novels are considered: Amos Tutuola, Chinua Achebe and T. M. Aluko.

The reappraisal of Tutuola, in particular, is welcome, because there has been some danger of his being relegated to a whimsical backwater, as a sort of literary equivalent of the Oshogbo artist Twins Seven Seven.



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whose works he sometimes inspired. Taiwo answered many of the charges against Tutuola, including that of plagiarism, and stresses his "oral" quality — "the peculiar rhythms of his English are the rhythms of Yoruba speech". But above all Taiwo takes pains to stress that Tutuola's "achievement as a writer lies in the way he has extended the traditional fantasy in the Yoruba folktales to cover aspects of modern industrial civilisation, while at the same time reminding people in contemporary society of the values and conditions of their ancestral past".

A similar equation is seen in the works of Achebe, who stands massively at the centre of the Nigerian experience, and about whom other authors have written books, these, or (in the case of Thomas Melone) analysed with Levi-Strauss structural techniques. Suffice it to say Taiwo's contribution is an understanding one, all the time relating the novels, not only to a traditional society but to the colonial period (for example, the failure of indirect rule as illustrated in *Arrow of God*) and the flashy and embittered age of Nigerian politics.

Politics also figure in Taiwo's study of the novels of Aluko, perhaps the most interesting chapter of the book, in that Taiwo believes this author to be seriously underestimated, and demonstrates his beliefs with skill and persuasion. Other novelists studied include Talawa Balewa (*Shahin Umar*), Nzekwu and Amadi, Nwankwo and Okara, Egbuna and Ulas, all of whom meet varying levels of approval. Not included are Ekweni (too commercial) and Soyinka's one novel *The Interpreters*, which Taiwo is clearly unhappy about, but shrinks from criticising for

fear of doing an injustice to a writer who is not primarily a novelist. This is a pity, as the novel could probably do with some L1/L2. Or perhaps it had better be given the structuralist treatment by Professor Melone in Yaounde?

But to return to what Taiwo does do, not many of the authors receive open criticism, which is also a pity, because he is good at putting down the sloppy use of language, or exposing the more absurd clichés (as in *Wind and Polygamy*). But he always does it with a view to showing how poor writing diminishes the cultural value of what is written.

Taiwo is also, as befits an Eng-Lit. academic, occasionally pedantic, and he can show signs of incipient pomposity. But his concern with language puts him on the side of the angels as far as any writer (and this reviewer) is concerned. And he writes with a mature, even style. More important, he concerns himself with the humanity behind the language, above all with the humanity of the society he lives in. This makes his book a lasting contribution to the study of Nigerian society through its writers (here Nigeria must rank itself particularly fortunate among African countries), to be valued not only by all students of Nigerian literature in English, in Africa and elsewhere, but also by all those who would understand Nigeria.

P. H. Bistouri

New States in the Modern World ed. by Martin Kilson (Harvard University Press: £9).

Fifty new states were born between 1945 and 1970 and, despite their varied geographical location, they have been

presumed to share common problems as well as common experiences of colonial rule. The internal policies of new states, their place in the international order and three case studies, of Ghana, Cameroon and Egypt, form the basis of this collection, which attempts to provide a theoretical framework for the relations of new states with the developed and established world. Dr. Kilson's chapter on "Cleavage management in Ghana" deals primarily with the Nkrumah era but his findings do not require major revision to fit present day circumstances. Dr. W. R. Johnson's chapter on the Cameroon Federation is more historical, though he does mention that "most people throughout the country seemed to consider the benefits (of federation) as greater than costs," pointing to the unusual and, considering its problems, remarkable success of this experiment of federation. The current academic tide running against this solution might well take note of this.

There is also a paper by Karl Deutsch and Dieter Senghaas on "The Fragile Sanity of States", which, one feels, is hardly appropriate to the purported task of the book: revealing as it does in politico-psychology of the most dubious relevance, though its internal logic remains pristine. Certainly, new states are likely to feel more threatened than longer established ones (hence the constant vigilance against plots, electronic surveillance and neo-colonialism), but disappointingly, there is nothing on this. Study of new states began originally as an attempt to obtain a closer fit between theory and reality and it is always a pity when this goal is lost sight of, even at the end of a book.

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Zimbabwe Prophet

From Rhodesia to Zimbabwe by Lawrence Vambe (Heinemann, 16.50).

Born in 1917, Lawrence Vambe was one of the first Zimbabwe nationalists to speak out against the perils of Federation and to voice fears about the motives of the settler groups which have now come so convincingly to roost. But Lawrence Vambe himself was a prophet without honour in his own country, and his political prescriptions, since overtaken by events, are now consigned to the limbo of what might have been. Mr. Vambe's first book, *An Ill-fated People*, gave a history of the peoples of Rhodesia as recorded in their own oral tradition but his present book, while largely autobiographical, in one sense provides a sequel to the first. For Lawrence Vambe's personal history is in many ways the history of Zimbabwe and the gulf between Chishawasha, where he was born, and Harare, where he went after the Second World War, is the difference between the new Rhodesia and the old. Whatever happens in Rhodesia now, the future will surely be divined from the pages of this book.

W.A.

Scientists' delight

The Oklo Phenomenon/Le Phénomène d'Oklo. *Proceedings of the symposium of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA: \$36).*

In 1972 engineers working at the Oklo uranium mine in Gabon found deposits whose unusual composition led them to believe that they had found a "natural atomic reactor", in which, millions of years

ago, a spontaneous chain reaction had taken place. Although research has since modified the highest expectations of that first discoverer, the international research team which studied the phenomenon set an encouraging precedent for future scientific cooperation.

The findings of the Libreville symposium of June 1975 which drew together the fruits of the IAEA research project, from the general to the abstrusely technical, are presented together in this book. Printed in French and English consecutively, the chapters provide an exhaustive coverage of the Oklo phenomenon and if the exhaustive detail (and the price) will discourage the general reader, the scientific community should find it a delight.

A.E.

Les Cadres Géographiques a Travers les Langues du Niger by Pierre Donaint (Published by Etudes Nigériennes at the Collège de France; 40 francs).

This book, the published thesis of a former student at the Collège, investigates the anthropological backgrounds of the peoples of Niger, but its refreshing tone, and its inclusion of climatological information, would make it ideal for an advanced human geography of the country. The appendices, containing symbolical representations of the perceived day of various peoples, illustrations showing tribal facial markings, pictures of typical housing and farmsteads, and tables comparing the derivation of indigenous units of measurement, are particularly fascinating. Even if too complicated for the general reader, the text cries out for editing into a text-book.

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Apt Epitaph

A Historical Dictionary of Somalia (African Historical Dictionaries No. 6) by Margaret Custagno (Scarcecrow Press; \$9.50).

The Castagnos are well known for their work on Somalia and this historical dictionary, the sixth in the series, benefits from their extensive knowledge. Mrs. Castagno has kept as much as possible to indigenous rather than colonial personalities and places, thus providing some fascinating, and much needed, biographical details of the country's new leaders. Modern political problems are not stressed, as is appropriate in such a work, and the history of the TFAI (French Somaliland), for instance, only reaches 1973. Yet with its obvious grasp (and love of) Somali customs, life and history, this book alone would do honour as an epitaph to the late Dr. A. A. Castagno.

H.P.J.

Change in Contemporary Southern Africa edited by Leonard Thompson and Jeffrey Butler (University of California Press; £10.75, paper £3.75).

The pace of events in Angola makes the prospect of change in southern Africa even more topical than when the conference on Southern Africa, of which this book is the product, met in 1974. Sixteen of the papers given are reproduced, and the section on changes in the white oligarchy, usually ignored by the more internationally oriented approach to the subject, makes particularly thought-provoking reading.

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ECONOMIC and Business NEWS

Commonwealth Experts report

Commonwealth economic experts are said to have proposed a much bigger role for the International Monetary Fund in helping developing countries to cope with huge payments deficits.

The group of 10 economic experts set up by the Commonwealth Summit Conference in Jamaica last May has set out a series of proposals for international action to close the gap between rich and poor nations.

The second report by the experts will be a Commonwealth contribution to the May session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi. The experts examined the financial problems of non oil producing developing countries, whose collective deficit last year was estimated at \$35,000m, compared with surpluses of about \$9,000m in the studies. The experts say that the most optimistic forecasts put the deficit in the \$35,000m region for at least the next couple of years.

We could not envisage a lower deficit without stagnation, and in some cases starvation, in several non oil developing countries," Mr. Alistair McIntyre, of Grenada, who is chairman of the group, said. The group also expressed concern that this year only some \$6,000m appeared likely to become available through institutional channels for financing the deficit. The poorest countries (those with a per capita annual income of \$200 or less) are in a seemingly desperate position. They only managed a 2 per cent growth rate last year which population increases effectively turned into a decrease of 0.8 per cent.

While recent deficits were largely covered by borrowing on capital markets, some developing countries have stretched their commercial borrowing limits too far.

The Commonwealth experts recommend enlarged and less restrictive borrowing facilities within the IMF, increased development aid and help with debt relief from the wealthy industrialised countries, and a more determined effort to encourage agricultural and industrial development in the poorer countries.

The experts feel that the IMF cannot respond quickly enough to foreign exchange needs of developing countries — help is often needed in days, not months — and action should be taken to make possible prompt and more effective use of fund resources.

We suggest," Mr. McIntyre said, "that the Fund should, as a

matter of priority, review and correct the factors which inhibit greater utilisation of its resources by the developing countries.

This review must also include an examination of the Fund's procedures for providing balance of payments support. We see an enlarged role for the Fund in fields such as compensatory financing and debt relief."

On debt, the group urges that the IMF should provide, at the request of debtor countries, credit facilities for meeting the debt service payments in respect of short and medium term private debt.

Official Development Aid (ODA) related debts of the poorest countries should be made grants.

The IMF, in consultation with the World Bank, should convene, at the request of any individual country, a meeting of creditors for finding solutions to its debt problems.

Turning to commodities, the group says that the stabilisation of real commodity earnings is the common first step.

The group also says that the benefits from the exploitation of the resources on and below the seabed should be equitably distributed and the proposed international seabed authority should be given adequate resources to operate effectively in this field.

The group urges the industrialised countries to intensify their efforts to promote in distribution of developing countries. They should keep in view the agreement of the international community that by the year 2000 at least 25 per cent of total world industrial output should originate in these countries.

It says that industrialised nations should remove speedily tariff and non tariff barriers on imports from developing countries.

Less help from private banks

A leading West German banker, Herr Ludwig Poulain, chairman of the Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale, told a financial conference in London that private banks would not be able to help the less developed countries with funds over the next three to four years on the scale of last year and 1974.

Governments, international development banks, and the IMF would have to come in on a much larger scale with their own funds and with guarantees, said Herr Poulain.

Nigeria and the falling £ . . .

The £ sterling has gone below the two dollar mark — considerably. It was standing around \$1.93 to \$1.94 when *West Africa* went to press.

The two dollar value was a psychological mark rather than one of vital economic significance (*writes a correspondent*) and indeed it was generally felt that the Bank of England and the Treasury were quite happy to see the £ go below two dollars — to make British exports more competitive — but that they did not want, or expect, the decline to be so sharp. The rapid fall encouraged speculators to step in and sell sterling short. Which exacerbated the situation.

One strange part of the whole episode was the emphasis given in the *Times* and *Guardian* newspapers to alleged sales by Nigeria. It was mentioned that Nigeria, which has large sterling balances, asked the Bank of England to sell £80m worth, a fairly reasonable operation and not a particularly large sum — to anybody not in possession of the full facts behind such a deal it would appear to be no more than getting in some foreign exchange to pay some bills due in dollars or marks or francs or whatever was bought. However following a sale by the Bank of England of £85m to buy for the reserves it did rather suggest that the Bank felt the pound to be unduly strong.

But the *Times* and the *Guardian* seemed inclined to blame the £'s

while fall on the Nigerian selling which the *Guardian* headlined "Nigeria vents its spite — and the pound plummets". (Admittedly both papers subsequently carried details that Nigeria was to blame) On the other hand the popular papers, like the *Daily Express* and *Daily Mail*, which measure their circulations in millions rather than hundred thousands, seemed to regard the alleged Nigerian selling as a prudent commercial operation, if unfortunate for the pound, rather than a spiteful gesture.

Mallam Adamu Ciroma, Governor of the Bank of Nigeria, has confirmed that Nigeria has for some time been diversifying her reserves because of trade requirements and to protect them from the fluctuations in the exchange markets. Nigeria now has holdings in marks, Swiss francs, yen and American and Canadian dollars as well as sterling. According to IMF figures Nigeria's reserves at the beginning of this year totalled \$5,800m.

The value of the pound in West Africa last Monday after the two dollar break through was 1,241 naira, 233 cedi, 439.75 CFA francs, 4 dalasi, 0.991 zaire, 1,942 drams, 2 leone. The decline of the pound should make imports from Britain cheaper for West African countries and has already improved the prices of cocoa, coffee, tin and other commodities on the London commodity markets.

The cocoa outlook

Gill & Duffus' latest report in the world's cocoa position finds the scene little changed from December though it forecasts that the surplus for the 1975/76 season may be 26,000 tonnes rather than 24,000 tonnes. However this is hedged with the warning that, since the unexpected reversals in Cameroon and Ecuador production, a greater reliance is being placed on the Bahia Tempero crop. At present this looks excellent but the possibility of surplus dies depend on this one crop.

Although technical reasons may have lifted cocoa prices to their present levels Gill and Duffus feel that longer term these prices are going to be justified and may well seem bargains, particularly if anything at all goes awry in Brazil.

American grindings have shown a definite improvement, although British and Dutch grindings seem to be showing some improvement as well but too much weight should be placed on these figures.

Trust hints

Another hint of world economic recovery comes from the fact that two unit trusts management groups on Britain, M and G and Lawson Securities, have launched new units with an emphasis on commodities. The reasoning is that as the world's business activity picks up the demand for raw materials is

bound to increase. So far the trusts seem to be oriented towards shares in companies dealing in commodities rather than direct investment in commodities.

● The International Tin Research Council's conference on tinplate (*West Africa*, November 24, 1975) will be held at the Europa Hotel in London, from October 5 to 8. Already 30 papers have been received from 13 countries.

Commonwealth conference dates

Commonwealth Heads of Government will meet in London from June 8 to 16 next year, Mr. Sheolath Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretary General, has announced.

The last 35 nation Commonwealth Summit on major world political, economic and trading issues was held in Kingston, Jamaica, from April 29 to May 6 last year.

The London Summit will enable Commonwealth leaders also to take part in celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne. She is the symbolic Head of the Commonwealth. The last Commonwealth Summit in London was in January, 1969.

● The West Africa Committee gave a luncheon in London for Mr. Maurice Foley, Deputy Director General of the IREC.

Multinationals pay more

A new study of multinationals by the International Labour Office says that most multi-national companies pay higher wages than the national average.

In developing countries, the ILO found that multinationals paid substantially higher wages — sometimes up to 50 per cent, more — than all national companies. This is probably due to the higher technology and economic strength of multinationals in these countries, the ILO suggests.

Working conditions in multinationals, on the whole, in line with those of large national companies, although multinationals "have been viewed as the source of desirable innovations in such areas as pay systems, career development, a more democratic work environment, and alternative form of shop-floor organisation." Benefits achieved by exporting parent country practices to the country of operation, however, have been countered by the export of less "desirable" attitudes. "Multinationals have resisted demands for certain types of fringe benefits not found in the home country, not always emphasised secure and stable employment, and tried to implement wage systems not in line with local values."

The insular attitude of many multinationals in relation to collective bargaining and industrial action has the effect, says the ILO, of irritating trade unions in the host country.

- The United Nations Commission on Transnational Companies has been meeting in Peru for the past fortnight.

Copper hopes

An editorial commentary in *Harro's*, the leading American business and financial weekly, forecast that copper would go to \$900 a ton before the end of the year. German experts visiting Zambia's copper mines have also forecast "a remarkable rise" in prices in the second half of the year.

World Bank loan

The World Bank has arranged for a private placement with Coöperatieve Centrale Raiffeisen Boerenleenbank G.A., Utrecht. The Bank will borrow amounts to Netherlands Guilders 50 million and is repayable in five equal annual instalments of F 10 million on March 3 of the years 1982 to 1986.

Another ferry via the Sahara

A regular 15 day transport service to Nigeria using the trans-Saharan route is being launched this month by Seavor Projects (UK) Ltd. Announcing the door-to-door freight service in London, Mr. A. L. Johnson, a director of Seavor, said that there might be a possibility of introducing a similar

service to Ghana.

The first convoy of five trailers carrying 200 tons of motor spares and engineering equipment, will travel to Algiers via the roll-on-roll-off ferry from Marseilles. In Algiers the goods will be unloaded into special desert trucks operated by the Algerian Societe Nationale Transport Routiers (INSRT) with which Seavor has signed an exclusive one year contract. The convoy will then continue to Kano where arrangements have been made for customs clearance. Distribution of goods in Nigeria will be handled by H. Safiedine of Ibadan.

Mr. Johnson said that the company's charges for freight were about 75 per cent of air freighting charges.

"For the first four weeks we will be operating a five-trailer convoy service. After that we will be despatching ten trailers weekly." In Nigerian cargoes will be collected by Hushfield Sargent & Co.

Air Afrique going up

Air Afrique, French-speaking Africa's multi-national airline, achieved an annual turnover of 40,000m. CFA francs (\$160m.) last year, 21 per cent up on 1974, the airline carried 16.2 per cent more passengers — 429,000 — compared with the previous year, covering 1,352,956 passenger-kilometres, and increased its freight traffic to 43,275 tons from 40,165 tons.

The Air Afrique Board of Directors met in Abidjan next month.

Luanda service

The Algerian state shipping company, Compagnie Nationale Algérienne de Navigation has inaugurated a new regular service to Luanda C.N.A.N. freighters of the West African coast route previously went as far as the Congo.

Air Algérie is to operate a weekly flight from Algiers to Luanda starting next month.

Weather threatens wheat harvests

Russia may lose as much as 25 per cent of its winter grain crop — mainly wheat and nearly a third of the total harvest — because of an unfavourable weather. The weather was unusually dry when the crop was sown in the autumn (and in several areas reserves of soil moisture were below normal) which hindered full germination and development before the remarkably severe temperature drops experienced in the past winter, sometimes with only poor snow cover to protect the young grain.

Last year's harvest was the poorest for a decade and some experts indicate that this year's winter grain is in no better condition than last year's. However it will not be possible to make firm

assessments until the spring thaw shows the full extent of the winter losses.

America's wheat crop is likely to be 10 per cent less than the original estimates of 2,200m. bushels because of drought this winter — in some areas the worst for 20 years. The Secretary for Agriculture has warned that the estimated loss could go higher if rains don't come soon. On the other hand, he pointed out that carry-over stocks were more than double the expected shortfall.

Russian reduces farm targets

Russia has scaled down its growth targets for the food production industry over the next five years to 23.25 per cent according to revised guidelines for the 1976-80 economic plan.

The draft guidelines published last December had proposed a production rise for the food industry of 26.28 per cent. The original version called for a production increase of 20.22 per cent in the meat and milk industries, but the revised version states only that factory output of whole milk should rise by 20 per cent, and gave no figures for meat.

However, it calls for a 70 per cent rise in output from inland fish farms, instead of the 50 per cent originally envisaged. This suggested that some fish was being sold-outside for meat.

Emergency help for Mauritania

The U.N. World Food Programme has announced emergency aid of more than \$2m to offset crop damage in Mauritania. An MPP mission which visited Mauritania last month reported that emergency food stocks there were exhausted following severe crop damage caused by rodents, grasshoppers and birds.

The food aid, worth \$2.2m., was approved by the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Mr. Edouard Saïouma. FAO recently called for a \$5m. campaign to ensure adequate crop protection in the Sahel countries of West Africa.

- The African Development Fund has approved loans totalling more than 1,000m. CFA francs (about £2m) to Lesotho, Mauritania and Niger.

ADF funds will run dry in June

The resources of the African Development Fund will be exhausted on June 30 but industrialised countries participating in it have agreed to provide more money according to president of the African Development Bank, Mr. Abdelwahab Labidi.

Negotiations on new resources amounting to almost \$430m. dollars for the period 1976-78 have already been completed. Mr.

Labidi said. The Bank and the Fund had devoted most of their resources to relieving the effects of the drought in Africa.

It has been said recently that the drought problems had been resolved, this is not true, because foreign aid was not sufficient to wipe out the enormity of the disaster," he said. Both organisations intend to continue to help affected countries and are ready to place their structures at the disposition of donating countries.

Mr. Labidi said a special \$80m. fund provided for the Bank by Nigeria would come into effect around June.

OPEC aid may be levelling off

The flow of aid from OPEC member countries to the rest of the developing world climbed to \$5.6bn. last year from \$4.6bn. in 1974, but this trend seems unlikely to continue this year.

The figures come from the Development Aid Division of the OECD, and as far as possible exclude military assistance and, of course, the three non-aid giving members of OPEC Ecuador, Gabon and Indonesia.

The total of disbursements containing a grant element of at least 25 per cent rose last year to \$2.58bn. from \$2.54bn.

Although it fell as a proportion of the gross national products of the givers from 1.4 per cent in 1974 to 1.28 per cent, such assistance will above the aid target of 0.7 per cent of GNP officially adopted for the industrialised world, and which so far has never been collectively met.

Commitments of assistance from OPEC also rose, from \$8,600m to \$9bn. Of this, \$4.1bn. was in the form of concessional aid, and \$4.9bn. of other official flows, granted on less generous terms.

Not surprisingly, the biggest OPEC donor in 1975 was Saudi Arabia, with \$903m. of concessional aid.

The OECD statistics show that the bulk of bilateral aid from OPEC, which excludes funds channelled to international institutions, went to Arab countries.

- The African Association of Finance and Development Institutions (AAFDI) will hold its second general assembly in Kinshasa from April 28 to May 1. AAFDI's executive committee will meet to prepare for the assembly on April 26 and 27.

UNDP meeting in Yaounde

African representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are holding a two-week meeting in Yaounde on development aid in Africa.

Representatives of specialised UN Aid agencies and 38 resident representatives of the UNDP are attending the conference.

Taste for Scotch

beer

The latest in a long line of Nigerian orders for "Double Diamond Pilsner" and "Long Life" beers, which began 18 months ago, has been placed with Allied Breweries, Scotland.

The order for 5,000 cartons of 12 and 16 ounce cans is worth £12,000. It came from a group of companies comprising G. B. Oluwat, A. G. Leventis and John Holt & Co.

A spokesman for Allied commented, "Nigeria is by far our best market. When you consider that there are two dozen cans to each carton, you're talking about a lot of beer." The Allied brewery also exports to the Persian Gulf, the Far and Middle East, Scandinavia and the West Indies, but its largest export order ever was for 12,500 cartons from Nigeria.

Filmobiles

The Crown Agents, acting on behalf of Kano State, Nigeria, have placed an order for three filmobiles worth £27,201 with British Films Ltd. They will be used by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Information to show films on health, hygiene and education and other subjects.

Barclays do better internationally

Barclays Bank profits for 1975 were more than £20m down, from £158.12m to £137.53m, but this pre-tax figure comes after double

ing, to £30m, provision against bad debts. Barclays Bank International showed improved results however and now accounts for nearly half of the group's profits.

East Asiatic dip

Pre-tax profits of the Danish-based East Asiatic Company fell from 245m, krone (about £19.7m) to 207m krone (about £16.6m) but the board feels the outcome was "reasonably satisfactory". Results were affected by unfavourable freight market conditions and lower earnings in some sectors. The dividend is 12 per cent.

Lonrho bid

Lonrho has made an agreed £2.5m bid for Lubok Investments which used to be one of Mr. Jim Slater's companies, which Mr. Slater used for investing in the appreciation of gold in 1974.

• Thirty buses, based on Ford R1011 chassis and powered by Ford 6.2 litre diesel engines, have been shipped to Nigeria. The deal is worth £380,000.

• Sir Denis Spotswood, vice-chairman of Rolls Royce, has been on a fact finding visit to Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and Botswana.

• Mr. A. G. Kanelis has been appointed a director of Paterson Zochonis.

• Mr. J. R. K. Buckley, joins the board of Bridon on April 5.

• Mr. Charles L. Ferguson has been appointed a director of Blackwood Hodge. He continues to be responsible for the group's operations in Africa.

Road and training college contracts

Some major building and civil engineering contracts in Nigeria have just been announced. There are road works for George Wimpey and for Taylor Woodrow of Nigeria and building works, for the Federal Ministry of Education, for Wimpey and Cubitts.

The biggest job is for 119km (75 miles) of roads between Jos, the capital of Plateau State, and Bauchi, capital of the newly formed Bauchi State for the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Works. The value of the contract is £27.8m. This is a design contract with the design being undertaken by Ove Arup and Partners of Nigeria.

Taylor Woodrow of Nigeria has been awarded two major asphalt contracts, each worth £4m by the Federal of Federal Highways for Nigeria.

The contracts, one in Lagos and the other in Kano, consist of levelling and resurfacing existing town roads, which have become eroded and require potholes filling and a running surface of 40mm of hot rolled asphalt.

Another big contract for Wimpey is to build an advanced teacher training college at Pankshin in Plateau State for the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Education. This is worth £124m. When completed the college will provide accommodation for 768 students and 104 staff. The college

has been designed by Oluwole Oluwatoye and Associates.

Cubitts Nigeria, has been given a £10m contract by the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Education to build an advanced teachers' training college at Yola, Gongola State.

The contract covers houses, hostels, staff quarters, laboratories, assembly halls and lecture rooms. More than 100 buildings are involved, on a mile square site.

Cubitts contract also covers the construction of roads, sewage, drainage water supply, and all electrical and mechanical work.

Cubitts face formidable logistical problems. Imported materials must be ferried across the River Benue and the company will have to quarry its own stone. A generating plant has had to be built to supply electric power; and all water has to be transported to the site. Later, water will be drawn from wells that have to be sunk and processed by the complex's own filtration plant.

Yola college is part of the Federal Government's five year development plan and on its completion in January 1978 it will cater for 800 students.

Finally, and smaller, Wimpey has been awarded a £285,000 contract by Leyland Nigeria to prepare and drain a site for a new commercial vehicle assembly plant in Ibadan.

SHIPPING News

ELDER DAMPIER LINES

SOUTHBOUND — From Liverpool
1. ALABIA slg Mar 12
2. From London, EBANI slg Mar 13
3. SHIRIRO slg Apapa Mar 19
4. From N Continent, IDOMENEUS slg Rotterdam Mar 15; MENESTHEUS slg Rotterdam Mar 27; OSTERFEIN slg Antwerp Mar 15; DALLA slg Tema Mar 16
5. From Middlesbrough, DEIDO slg Mar 17; FOURAI BAY slg Apapa Mar 19; FREETOWN slg Apapa Mar 18
6. From Glasgow, EGORI slg Apr 5
7. From Poola, CLEARWAY slg Apapa Mar 22

NORTHBOUND — To Liverpool
1. ELRI due Mar 20
2. To London, BIAMO due Mar 23; DICEMA slg Port Harcourt Mar 24; DINGOVI due Takoradi Mar 16; SIHONGA due San Pedro Mar 16
3. To N Continent, DARU due Amsterdams Mar 22; DUNKWA slg Sherbro Mar 15; PEGUO due Le Havre Mar 25
LASTBOUND — DONGA due Abidjan Mar 19; SWEDRU slg Apapa Mar 21

WESTBOUND — W/A to N/York
1. DUAHIA slg Apapa Mar 16
2. DUMURIA due Lome Mar 15

BARBER LINES

OUTWARDS — TUGELA due Monrovia Mar 22, thence Abidjan Tema, Lagos/Apapa and Douala; TIJUCA sailing Baltimore Mar 26, Philadelphia Mar 29 and New York Apr 2; Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Lagos/Apapa, Tema and Douala.
HOMWARDS — TIJUCA due Jacksonville Mar 18, thence New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia.

K LINE

WESTBOUND — From Japan via Hong Kong and Singapore to Lagos, Abidjan, Tema, Port Harcourt, LAMBROS ISAGLIOTIS slg Japan Feb 6, due Lagos Mar 20.
LASTBOUND — BOLIVIA MARU slg Lagos Apr 4, Abidjan Apr 8, Douala Apr 11, Pointe Noire Apr 15, due Japan May 9.

BLACK STAR LINE/USNH

WESTBOUND — BIA RIVER Philadelphia Mar 13, New York star 17, thence Gulf.

BLACK STAR LINE

UK CONTINENT
SOUTHBOUND — OTI RIVER Bremen Mar 15; Hamburg Mar 13; Antwerp Mar 17; Rotterdam Mar 19; BIRMI RIVER London Mar 24; OTEIN RIVER Middlesbrough Mar 26.
PRA RIVER London Apr 1
NORTHBOUND — CAPE BLANCO Bremen Mar 18; Hamburg Mar 20; BIRMI RIVER Hull Mar 7.
PRA RIVER London Mar 15.

PALM LINE

NORTHBOUND — ILORIN PALM due Asamouth Mar 23; ANDONI PALM due London Mar 22; LAGOS PALM slg Abidjan Mar 16.
SOUTHBOUND — AFRICAN PALM due Apapa Mar 4; waiting to berth. 1. NEGU PALM slg Port Harcourt Mar 19. 2. KATSINA PALM due Apapa Mar 16.

MISMI OSK LINE

INWARDS — ELIEE slg Kofe Mar 19; due Lagos/Apapa Mar 18; BUENOS AIRES MARU slg Kofe Apr 5; due Lagos/Apapa June 4.

MAERSK LINE

INWARDS — SUSAM MAERSK slg Kofe Mar 5; arr Luanda Apr 3; MARIN MAERSK slg Lagos Mar 17; arr Tema Mar 18.

THE NIGRIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE

SOUTHBOUND — RIVER IADJIA slg London Mar 18; Apapa Mar 30; Tema Apr 7
RIVER INNEE slg Liverpool Mar 18; Banjul Mar 28; Monrovia Mar 31; Kofe Mar 6; Sapele Mar 13
RIVER NIGRO slg Glasgow Apr 6; Port Harcourt Apr 19
NORTHBOUND — LL KANEMI due Dabon Mar 28
RIVER ITIHOPE slg Mar 30; Banjul Mar 16

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE

SOUTHBOUND — ARIZONA Dakar Mar 22; Tema Mar 27/31; Port Harcourt Apr 13/17; Sapele Apr 5/7; Douala Apr 2/3; Takoradi Mar 25/26
NORTHBOUND — MIRABOQA Douala Mar 27; Apr 1; Takoradi Apr 4; 3. Abidjan Apr 5/8; Monrovia Apr. 10, 11; Freetown Apr 13

FAIRLINE LINES

HOMWARDS — AFRICAN MERCURY slg Matadi Mar 15; for Tema Mar 17; Abidjan, Monrovia US Ports.
AFRICAN COMET slg Lagos/Apapa Mar 27; for Abidjan, Monrovia US Ports.
GLADYS — AFRICAN SUN due Dakar Mar 30; for Monrovia, Apr 2; Buchanan, Abidjan, Tema, Apr 11; Matadi and Douala
AUSTRAL PILOT due Monrovia Apr 9; for Abidjan Lagos/Apapa Apr 15.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

WESTWIND — New Orleans Apr 27; HOUSTON Apr 9/12; Tema Apr 28/30; Lagos May 1/5; Freetown May 8; New Orleans May 23/26; Houston May 28/31
WESTWIND — New Orleans Apr 6/9; Houston Apr 11/14; Tema Apr 5/10; Lagos May 3/9; Freetown May 12; New Orleans May 27/28; Houston May 6/30

THE PAC LINES

SOUTHBOUND — ALAMEDA — Aadius Mar 15; Moss Mar 16; Ham burg Mar 18; Antwerp Mar 21; Rotterdam Mar 28; Rouen Mar 23; Freetown Apr 1; Abidjan Apr 4; Lagos/Apapa Apr 6
NORTHBOUND — SINALOA Abidjan Mar 15; Monrovia Mar 17; Copenhagen Mar 21; Hamburg Mar 26; Aarhus Apr 1; Antwerp Apr 6

ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINES

INWARDS — 5 FRAAT NEDELLOYD KAWIK Douala Apr 16; Cotoum Apr 11; Apapa Apr 19

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Applications in applicant's handwriting, stating age, qualifications, experience and names and addresses of *three* referees and enclosing a passport-size photograph and photocopies of certificates should be received by —

**The Managing Director,
Nigerian Industrial Development Bank Ltd.,
P.O. Box 2357,
Lagos,**

not later than Monday, 29th March, 1976.

GOVERNMENT OF THE RIVERS STATE OF NIGERIA
VACANCIES
IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING, PORT HARCOURT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for appointment to the following posts in the Rivers State Ministry of Works and Housing, Port Harcourt.

1. POSTS AND GRADE LEVELS

	Grade Level
(i) Principal Architect	12
(ii) Architects Grades I & II	09.08
(iii) Senior Quantity Surveyor	10
(iv) Structural Engineer Grade I (Civil)	09
(v) Structural Engineer Grade I (Building)	09
(vi) Senior Marine Officer	10
(vii) Marine Officer Grade I	09
(viii) Senior Marine Engineer (Mechanical)	10
(ix) Senior Executive Engineer	10
(x) Executive Engineer Grade I	09
(xi) Mechanical Engineer Grade I	09
(xii) Electrical Engineer Grades I and II	09.08

2. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- (i) Candidate must possess a University degree or Diploma in Architecture recognised by the Royal Institute of British Architects or its equivalent plus 7 years post qualification experience.
- (ii) Candidate must possess a University degree or Diploma in Architecture recognised by the Royal Institute of British Architects or its equivalent plus not less than 3-2 years post qualification experience.
- (iii) Candidate must possess a University Degree or Associate membership of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors or its equivalent from recognised Institution plus not less than 4 years post qualification experience.
- (iv) Candidates must have a pass in the Associate Membership Examination of the Institute of Structural Engineers and a University degree or any other qualification recognised for the purpose of granting exemption from or as equivalent to the Examination mentioned above plus 3 years post qualification experience.
- (v) Candidate must have a University Degree or any other qualification recognised for the purpose of granting exemption from or as equivalent to the College Membership of the Institution of Civil or Structural Engineers plus 3 years post qualification experience.
- (vi) Candidate must have a First Class Marine Officer's certificate of competency plus 5 years post qualification experience. 2 of which should have been spent on on-shore duties.
- (vii) As above plus 3 years post qualification experience.
- (viii) Candidates must have First Class Marine Engineer's certificate of competency for steam and motor and should have not less than 5 years post qualification experience.
- (ix) Candidate must possess either a University degree or diploma in Civil Engineering recognised by the Institute of Civil Engineers or its equivalent and should have not less than 5 years post qualification experience.
- (x) Candidate must have a pass in Parts I & II of the examination of the Institute of Civil or Mechanical Engineers, a University degree or any other qualification recognised for the purpose of granting exemption from or as equivalent to the examination mentioned above plus not less than 3 years post qualification experience.
- (xi) Candidates must possess a University degree in Mechanical Engineering and should have not less than 3 years post qualification experience.
- (xii) Candidates must possess a University degree in Electrical Engineering and should have not less than 2-3 years post qualification experience.

3. DUTIES

- (i) To assist the Chief Architect in planning, design and the supervision of building constructions either by contract or by direct labour.
- (ii) To be engaged on the preparation of sketch plans, working drawing and specification for various types of building projects. Supervision of building works by contract and direct labour and the general administration duties connected with them as instructed by the head of Building Section.
- (iii) (a) To be responsible for estimating all types of building preparation of schedules, contract documents and site measuring for Interim Valuation and Final Accounts.
(b) Negotiating contracts and agreeing prices with contractors.
(c) Analysis of tenders.
- (iv) To be responsible for structural design and control of subordinate staff.
- (v) Designing reinforced concrete and structural steelwork for buildings and other structures including preparations of working drawings, schedules and specifications.
- (vi) To be responsible for the administration of the Marine Base.
- (vii) To be responsible for the administration of the Marine Base.
- (viii) To be responsible for works connected with Mechanical and Electrical design and maintenance of Marine engines — steam, diesel or petrol.
- (ix) (a) To carry out design and construction of roads, bridges and aerodromes. (b) To carry out preliminary surveys and investigations for all types of civil engineering undertakings particularly in Road, Aerodrome and Bridge works. (c) To carry out tests of soils and foundations. (d) To supervise works being carried out either by contract or direct labour.
- (x) To be engaged in the design, construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and other civil engineering structures.
- (xi) He will work under the Senior Mechanical Engineer with the direction of the Principal Mechanical Engineer.
- (xii) He will work under the Senior Electrical Engineer with the direction of the Principal Electrical Engineer.

4. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:

Appointment is either on permanent and pensionable terms or on contract terms. New entrants to the Rivers State Public Service, if appointed on permanent and pensionable terms, will be on probation for two years. A contract appointment which is renewable on mutual agreement may be negotiated. Other conditions of service will be as those in force for staff of equivalent grades in the Public Service of the Rivers State.

5. LENGTH OF TOUR

The normal length of a tour is twelve months.

6. METHOD OF APPLICATION:

- (i) In Nigeria: Applications from candidates not in Government Service should be completed in duplicate on Form RSPSC 1, obtainable from the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Port Harcourt, and from the Federal and any of the State Public Service Commissions of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as accompanied by copies of certificates and testimonials. Applications from candidates in the Public Service other than that of the Rivers State of Nigeria should be submitted in letter form through the appropriate Public Service Commission accompanied by copies of Confidential Reports for the last three years. Applications from candidates in the Rivers State Public Service should be submitted in letter form through their Heads of Department accompanied by copies of Confidential Reports for the last three years.

(ii) OVERSEAS: Applications should be completed and submitted on Form RSPSC 1, obtainable from the Recruitment Attache, Nigerian High Commission, 9 Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2, if the candidates are in Europe or to the Head of Chancery, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1333 Sixteenth Street, Northwest Washington D.C. 20036 if they are in the United States of America or Canada.

7. CLOSING DATE

Completed applications should be submitted through the appropriate channels to reach the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Port Harcourt not later than 15th April 1976.

Dated at Port Harcourt
This 14th day of February, 1976

SECRETARY,
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION,
Rivers State.

Dateline AFRICA

GHANA

Acheampong promoted General

Ghana's Head of State, Col. Acheampong, has been promoted to the rank of a General, according to an official statement issued on March 7 by the Supreme Military Council.

The statement said the Council decided it was time for the Head of State to assume his proper rank now that a number of promotions had been made or contemplated in the armed forces.

Other Generals on Ghana's active list are Maj. Gen. L. A. Okai, Chief of Defence Staff, Maj. Gen. Erskine, seconded as deputy force commander and chief of staff of the UN Emergency Force in Egypt and now head of the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in Jerusalem. Brigadier Akuffo is Commander of the Army and Air Force, Brigadier Agyemang is Head of the Air Force, Brig. Utiaka heads the Border Guards Unit and Cdr. Dzang the Navy. These, plus the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Ernest Akompong, make up the Council under the chairman, Gen. Acheampong.

Official statements say that he has resisted all efforts to promote him to a rank befitting his status as Commander in Chief. Other promotions are contemplated. Gen. Acheampong, 45, insists that he accepted to avoid embarrassing senior officers and that he is still determined not to lord it over the people of Ghana. As Colonel he was commanding the First Infantry Brigade, Accra, at the time of the overthrow of Dr. Busia in January 1972. He had held this position only since November 1971, before which he had been commander of the 5th battalion (appointed 1969). In 1966 he had been made chairman of the administration commission in the Western Region, and before that, 1962-63, had served with the Ghana peacekeeping force in the Congo, during which time he was mentioned in despatches.

Poison wins

title fight

David "Poison" Kotey of Ghana retained his World Boxing Council Featherweight title when he stopped Japan's Haragi Uehara in 12 rounds at the Accra Sports Stadium.

Kotey, 25, dominated the fight and British referee Harry Gibbs stepped in after one minute and 15 seconds of the 12th round with the Japanese challenger unable to

defend himself after taking a barrage of blows. At the start of the 12th the referee called a doctor to Uehara's corner to examine damage to the challenger's right eye. He was allowed to continue but the fight was soon over as Kotey produced his decisive assault.

The champion had steadily built up a points lead with a variety of punches to both head and body.

When the referee signalled the end, the crowd sang and danced to acclaim Kotey's victory. It was the first defence by the Ghanaian of the title which he won from Mexico's Ruben Olivares in the US last September.

In a supporting bout, Sulley Sittu, Ghana's former African Bantamweight champion, scored a unanimous points win over Mexican challenger Secco Luna.

The Head of State, Col. Acheampong had earlier cancelled an official cocktail party to celebrate Ghana's 19th year of independence because it would have clashed with the fight, which, he said, he wanted as many people as possible to see.

Independence parade

A parade of schoolchildren, youth and voluntary organisations took place at Independence Square to mark Ghana's 19th Anniversary of Independence.

The Commissioner for Education and Culture, Mr. E. Otuasi Jorjosh, took the salute as contingents of the various organisations marched past.

He urged Ghanaians to begin to appreciate the dignity of labour and the rewards that accrue from good agricultural practices and occupations which their hitherto considered not worthy of the products of their formal educational system.

He told the school children that the Government and society looked up to them to become useful in nation building which not only required relevant knowledge and appropriate skills but also attitudes of tolerance, loyalty and willingness to serve.

On March 9 the promised airlift of newspapers and Government publications to remote areas began.

The exercise — code named Operation Talking Drums" — is being organised by the Information Ministry, in conjunction with the Air Force.

Helicopters, bicycles, horses

canoes and runners will be used, where necessary, in the distribution of the news.

Pre-set radios will also be sold at or near the landing sites on the day of the Operation.

The ship ordered by the late President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana but never collected has joined the British Naval force protecting trawlers fishing off Iceland. The 2,388 ton frigate *Mermuid* was ordered by Dr Nkrumah at a cost of £5m in 1964 as a presidential yacht and navy flagship. The NI Co which overthrew him in 1966 cancelled the order.

In 1973 the Royal Navy bought the frigate and after converting the cockpit bars and lounges commissioned the ship for service as HMS *Mermuid*. Last year the vessel ceremonially sailed out of Singapore, ending 150 years of British Naval presence in the former colony.

The *Mermuid* — armed with two four-inch and four 48-mm guns — joined the frigates *Seila*, *Buchholtz* and *Naid*, protecting 32 British trawlers off Iceland from Iceland patrol boats in the fishery limits dispute. The frigate replaces the *Antiveduta* on protection duty.

Movement banned

The Supreme Military Council has issued a decree banning the "National Liberation Movement of Togoland". The decree says that any of the following acts, if carried out in Ghana, shall be unlawful: the summoning of persons to a meeting of the Movement and attendance at such a meeting; the publication of the meeting or advertisement relating to any meeting of the Movement, persuasion of and participation of persons in propaganda campaigns of the Movement, the recruitment of persons to support the Movement, contribution to funds held by or on behalf of the organisation, and the acceptance of contributions for the Movement, giving any guarantee in respect of such a fund, and becoming a member of the Movement.

The penalty for contravention of the decree upon summary conviction is a fine not exceeding 5,000 cedis or imprisonment not exceeding five years or both.

Publication of the decree marks the climax of several efforts by the Ghana Government to halt

agitation for secession of the Volta Region to Togo, writes a correspondent. In August 1975 the Government granted an amnesty to all who had been involved in the activities of the National Liberation Movement of Western Togoland, whether in Ghana or abroad. Members of the Movement who were in exile were given three months in which to return to Ghana and live as law-abiding citizens. During this period only three of the 23 men executive of the Movement were reported to have returned, and the amnesty was extended to the end of January 1976.

Among those said to be involved on the Movement are Mr. S. G. Anan, a former leading member of the Progress Party and Ambassador to Togo under Dr. Busia. Also said to be involved is Mr. W. Dromgala, Ambassador to Benin under the Progress Party Government.

Ghana has pointed out on several occasions, most recently in a letter to the London *Times* by the Ambassador to the UK, Col. S. M. Asante (*West Africa*, Feb. 16) that the UN-sponsored referendum in 1956 had decided the frontiers of Ghana and Togo once and for all.

Brig. Utiaka, Border Guard Commander, has ordered the immediate closure of wayside petrol stations in towns along the Upper Volta and Togo borders to combat the smuggling of petrol and petroleum products from Ghana. Brig. Utiaka made the order during an inspection of the border post at Mtsaga, after he had been shown 1,700 litres of petrol and diesel oil intercepted by guards at Wadana, on the Togo border.

Bauxite talks

A two-man delegation led by Lt. Col. Katin, Commissioner for Lands and Mineral Resources, is in Hungary to hold discussions on the Nyamtabauxite project. The other member of the delegation is Mr. J. G. Renner, Executive Chairman of the Ghana Aluminium Industries Commission.

Col. Katin told Ghana News Agency before leaving that they would negotiate an agreement for Hungarian experts to carry out feasibility studies on the project, and visit Hungarian industries, especially those producing mining equipment.



Col. and Mrs. M. Asante welcome the Liberian Ambassador in the UK and his wife to a reception held at London's Commonwealth Institute to mark Ghana's 19th anniversary of independence.

"Disaster year for rice"

The Northern Region Rice Growers' Association has called on the Government to consider 1975 as a "disaster year for rice" and give every assistance to farmers to enable them to bring in a bumper harvest during the 1976 season. The Association's Chairman, Alhaji Yakubu Mahama, told a news conference that farmers should not be blamed for crop failures caused by natural hazards last year.

Alhaji Mahama explained that following the bad rice harvest last year the seed multiplication unit of the Ministry of Agriculture requested all rice growers to keep their own seed and not to expect seed supply from the unit or any other government agency.

This, he said, the farmers did only for army personnel to seize.

Alhaji Mahama said it had come to the notice of the Association that soldiers were forcibly seizing paddy rice from private houses meant for seed for the coming season and sending them to the Government Rice Mill. By this action, the soldiers were aggravating an already serious situation.

The chairman, therefore, called for an end to such seizures, warning that if the exercise continued it would adversely affect the "will and capacity of the farmers to produce a good crop this season".

The Government Rice Mills unit has so far purchased over 70,000 bags of paddy since the purchasing season started last November out of a target of over 380,000 bags.

During the same period last year, the unit purchased over 400,000 bags of paddy from farmers in the region.

More trade with China

Ghana and China have signed an agreement and protocol under which Ghana will export to Peking 14m cedis worth of goods in return for the same value of imports.

Under the terms of the protocol, Ghana's exports will include timber, both logs and processed, cocoa beans and cocoa products, coffee and tobacco leaves. China will send Ghana cotton yarns, chemicals, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, textile machinery, building materials and paper.

The two countries also exchanged letters extending the validity period of the present agreement, due to expire on March 26 for another year.

● The Department of Civil Aviation has announced that with immediate effect all landing fees, parking and hangar charges for non-scheduled flights and private aircraft will be payable in convertible currency only. Acceptable currencies are US or Canadian dollars, the pound Sterling, French francs and Deutsche marks.

● Gen. Acheampong told a two-man Pakistani delegation that Ghana's doors were open to foreign investors who wanted to participate in her economic development. Their participation in last month's Ghana's International Fair showed overseas confidence in the country's economic potential.

The delegation, which was joined by the Pakistani Ambassador in Ghana, Mr. Syed Ahsani, discussed trade relations. Mr. Ahsani reiterated Pakistan's determination to assist in Ghana's development.

The Ambassador, on behalf of the delegation, presented to Gen. Acheampong samples of high yielding maize and rice which Pakistan exhibited at the Fair.

Bank aid for farmers

The Ghana Commercial Bank is giving financial help to small-scale farmers as part of the five-year agricultural development plan. The assistance will take the form of farm machinery and equipment, fertilisers, short term overdrafts and loans and marketing service.

The Bank noted that about 90 per cent of Ghana's total agricultural production was in the hands of small farmers.

This year two main crops, cotton and groundnuts, have been selected for development countrywide and the Bank will ensure that finance is available to farmers for land preparation.

● Fifty architects from nine Commonwealth countries — Ghana, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, the UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Singapore — took part in a week long conference in Accra aimed at improving regional cooperation.

● In January and February the Government released 12m cedis for the import of foreign food including milk. Col. Quarshie, Commissioner for Trade, has announced. Additional funds, he said, were being released for the import of more commodities to stock the licensed outlets under the new distribution policy (see last week's issue). In the past three years the Government had spent 157m cedis on the import of foreign foods, he added.

● In a follow-up to the banning of petty traders from trading in these commodities in Accra-Tema from March 15, (see last week's issue) the Government said it was establishing supermarkets to ensure equitable distribution of the commodities. The ban has now been extended to all Regions.

Besides the supermarkets, only large commercial concerns will be allowed to trade in the commodities.

The statement pointed out that the Government had spent an average of \$2m cedis every year since it came to power in 1972 on import of the commodities. It therefore wanted the public to have easy and direct supplies.

NIGERIA

Dimka held

Lt. Col. Bukar Dimka, wanted in connection with the assassination of Gen. Muhammed, was captured on March 5 at a road block manned by army and police at Abakaliki, Anambra State. Lagos radio said that he had been detained as he travelled by car towards Abakaliki, and had been taken for interrogation to army headquarters in Enugu before being sent to Lagos.

According to one report the wanted man was first sighted at a hotel near Enugu, where he was recognised by the proprietor who called the police. But Dimka had already left.

Two soldiers, Capt. Dauda Usman, and Sgt. Yildar, also wanted by the police in connection with the coup attempt are still at large.

● Lagos Radio reported on March 5 that the special military tribunal had begun trying people in connection with the events of February 13. The cases being tried had been sent to the tribunal by a board set up by the SMC to investigate the abortive putsch.

Sir Martin recalled

Britain withdrew her High Commissioner, Sir Martin Le Queue, on March 4 at the request of the Nigerian Government on the ground of his "personal unacceptability".

A Nigerian statement charged Sir Martin with "lack of sensitivity for a nation that had lost its leader," recalling that the Government had rejected a note of claims which he had made for reimbursement of the cost of damage done to the High Commission building during a demonstration after the assassination of Gen. Muhammed. It expressed disappointment that the High Commission could be talking about reimbursement for a demonstration caused by a report which, it alleged was "leaked" from his office.

The statement linking Nigeria's demand to Sir Martin's claim for compensation also intimated that it related to the incident on February 13 when Lt. Col. Dimka called at the High Commission and asked to be put in touch with Gen. Gowon. The authorities had been concerned at the three hour delay which had elapsed between Dimka's visit and any report of the incident reaching them. The High Commission has explained this, saying that rather than take the risk of any misunderstanding of a verbal message Sir Martin wrote a report which was typed and sent to the authorities about three hours later. Three days later a further, more detailed, report was handed to the External Affairs Ministry, and Sir Martin asked if he might release a full account of the matter. He was asked not to, and agreed. However, news of the incident was published by Reuters (whose office is in the

same building as the High Commission), and this led to Nigerian accusations that the High Commission had "leaked" the story. This was categorically denied, and a Foreign Office has said that it was satisfied that neither the High Commissioner nor his staff had leaked the story and that it considered that the High Commissioner's conduct had been "exemplary and entirely correct".

Mr. John Williams, Minister of the High Commission, has taken charge until a new appointment is made.

● Two high Nigerian officials cancelled plans to address a audience of leading businessmen in London on opportunities in Nigeria for British companies. The day after the High Commissioner, Sir Martin Le Queue, was withdrawn at the request of the Nigerian Government the CBI office in Lagos was informed that they would be unable to attend.

Mr. S. C. Tawo, director of the investment information and promotion centre at the Ministry of Industries, and his deputy, Mr. E. L. Nwaezeanu, were to have spoken on investment and joint venture opportunities for British businessmen in Nigeria.

● The Federal Government has reopened the country's borders from six a.m. to six p.m.

● Three hundred Nigerian students demonstrated in London in support of the Federal Government. They marched from Marble Arch to Downing Street and the High Commission in Northumberland Avenue.

Mozambique survey

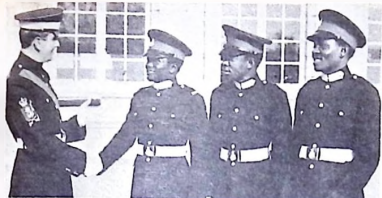
The Federal Government is to send a special envoy to Mozambique to assess the areas in which it can be of help to the people of Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The Government described as courageous the decision of Mozambique to close its border with Rhodesia.

As far as Nigeria was concerned the battle for the liberation of southern Africa had begun and there would be no turning back.

● Key towns in Lagos State — Ikorodu, Epe and Badagry — are to be expanded to help decongest metropolitan Lagos, the State Commissioner for Special Duties, Mr. Akin Laguda, told the inaugural meeting of the board of the Lagos State Development Property Corporation.

● Public officers affected by the recent purge of the public service cannot seek redress in any court of law, says a decree which suspends that part of the constitution which gives them the right of power to sue. Nor can civil proceedings be brought by any public officer whose assets were seized by the Government.

The officers include former governors, the former Administrator of the East Central State who were retired following the changeover of power in July.



Passing out parade. Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on March 5. Company Sgt Major Perkins of the Cadets, an Guards' congratulates D. M. Kama (from Jos) who has selected as the best overseas cadet of the course. Looking on are F. U. Onofia (from Calabar) and (right) S. O. Asahor (from Agbor).

Two more assembly plants for Volkswagen and Peugeot cars are to be established in Nigeria within the next five years, with the existing ones will be expanded, the Commissioner for Industries, Col M. I. Wushishi, announced while opening the *Daily Times* Motor Show. The Commissioner said that the figures of production for both Volkswagen and Peugeot cars showed a deficit of 40,000 cars below this year's projected demand. He said that if an annual increase of 20 per cent is assumed, local production would still fall short. On the servicing of cars by distributors, Col. Wushishi said that his office was flooded with complaints of inadequate servicing facilities, lack of spare parts and unreasonably high prices. He observed that the main distributors had not been encouraging indigenous mechanics to set up auxiliary servicing centres and called on importers to put forward concrete proposals to remedy the complaint. Col. Wushishi said that if satisfactory provisions were not made to rectify the situation, the Government would increase the minimum conditions for maintenance before allowing dealers to import.

National freight company

The Government is to establish a national freight company to supplement transport services provided by railways and indigenous road transporters. The company will go into operation with a fleet of 300 vehicles, rising to about 500 next year. This was announced in Lagos by the Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Transport, who said that a National Transport Coordinating Commission would be set up to co-ordinate transport services.

The latest play by the Nigerian playwright and actor, Yemi Ajibade, will open at London's Royal Court Theatre on March 17. Called *Parcel Post* it deals with a Nigerian household living in Islington who are awaiting the arrival of a virgin bride. When she turns up, things do not turn out as expected.

As well as writing and acting, Mr. Ajibade has also directed both in Nigeria and England. In 1966 he

led the Pan African Players to the First World Negro Arts Festival in Dakar with his production of Obi Lebusu's *Wind Versus Polygamy*, and recently directed and played in the Wakefield, Freycyle Company's season of African plays in London.

Parcel Post is directed by Donald Hayward whose last production for the Royal Court was Mustapha Matura's *Play Mas* in 1974. The designer is David Shout.

Rudolph Walker who last appeared at the Court in *Play Mas* now the cast which includes the author Yemi Ajibade, Taiwo Ajo, and Glenn Foster Jones, on release from *The Black Mikado*. Also in the cast are: Christopher Asante, Muriel Oduonon, Willie Payne, Ilario Pedro and Stuart Rayner.

Record customs revenue

With four months to the end of this financial year, revenue of more than 452m. naira has been collected by the Customs and Excise, a surplus of 11m. naira over the estimated revenue of 441,068,340 naira for the 12-month period. The figure also exceeds that of last year by about 179m. naira. Last year's figure for the same period was 273,012,003 naira.

Altogether 3,205,744,946 naira was collected as revenue for the first eight months of the year. Direct taxes showed a surplus of 235,500,847 naira over that of the previous year with a figure of 1,948,456,498 naira. The estimated revenue from the direct taxes was 3,422,449,104 naira. The revenue from mining within the same period was 703,383,799 naira while interests and repayments were 54,493,711 naira.

The board of the *Daily Times* has accepted most of the recommendations of the panel appointed by the Government to investigate its organisation, whilst some were accepted with modifications.

The board, says a statement signed by the Chairman, Alhaji Akko Mohammed, rejected the recommendation that "the group managing director should restrict himself to purely administrative functions, and on no account must

he interfere with editorial functions".

The board felt that as chief executive of the organisation the group managing director, apart from administrative functions, should be able to give leadership and guidance to the various heads of departments/divisions in the organisation, including the editor-in-chief.

It was also decided to accept the recommendation of the panel that certain posts be abolished and their incumbents redeployed where possible.

The *Daily Times* has appointed Mr. Tony Momoh as acting editor. Mr. Momoh, 37, joined the *Daily Times* in 1962. At various times later, he was assistant editor of the paper, editor of Spear Magazine, and group training manager of the Times Newspaper Training Centre. Professor A. D. Peaceock, FRSE Emeritus Professor of Natural History at Queen's College University of St Andrews, Dundee, has died aged 90. In 1911 he accepted the appointment of Entomologist to the Government of South Nigeria, returning in 1913 to Durham University.

Prof. Peaceock was the author of several publications on entomological subjects, notably *Entomological Pests and Problems of South Nigeria*, *The Louse Problem of the Western Front*, and papers on parthenogenesis and Pharaoh's Amn.

Mr. Justice J. O. Kazem has ruled in the Lagos High Court that no formal agreement existed between the US Embassy and the former Governor of the Western State, Maj. Gen. Adeboye, over a property on Victoria Island. The embassy claimed that he had agreed to grant a lease on the property after helping the retired general to obtain a loan and sought a court order to make him honour the agreement. Gen. Adeboye denied that any formal agreement has existed, and Mr. Justice Kazem ruled that there was no contract which had existed between the two parties. The judge also noted that the US Embassy, being an alien in Nigeria, could not acquire or sublet a property in Lagos without the consent of the Governor of Lagos tendered in court as extant.

Angolan sympathy

Two Ministers from the people's Republic of Angola have arrived in Lagos to convey the condolences of the MPLA government to General Obasanjo on the death of Gen. Murtala Muhammed. Mrs. Digenes Boavida and Augusto Leisera, the Angolan Ministers for Justice and Industry, also held talks with officials on the economic financial and promised by Nigeria to the P.R.A.

Mr. L. E. Scott Emuakpor, deputy director, Federal Ministry of Information and Counsellor (Information) at the Nigerian High Commission in London, has been promoted Federal Director of Information.

The *Daily Times* reported that the former Governor of the Rivers State, Cdr. Alfred Diye Spiff, was due to appear in court on charges of unlawful possession of military weapons.

The newly appointed chairman of the Oyo State Public Services Commission, Canon J. A. Akinyemi, has died aged 65.

Bendel State Government has acquired 30,942 ha. in Warri, Sapele and Benin City for the building of markets.

The Free Education Association of Nigeria organised a public lecture to mark the 67th birthday of Chief Ohafeke Awolowo.

A Nigerian chapter of the Institute of Statisticians has been launched in Lagos.

The University of Benin is to open a School of Dentistry in the next academic year.

Mr. S. P. O. Ebie has been appointed general manager of the Federal Housing Authority.

A 2.6m. naira cattle ranch has been opened at Bagauda, Kano State.

The Oluokare of Ikare, Alhaji Amusa Momoh III, has died aged 52.

THE GAMBIA Cabral on State Visit

When President Sir Dawda Jawara welcomed President Luis Cabral of Guinea Bissau to The Gambia for a state visit he referred to the ancient links between the two countries, long pre-dating the colonial era, when the Kingdom of Cabou was flourishing with its capital in what is now Guinea Bissau with influence reaching to The Gambia and beyond.

The President said, on another occasion during the State Visit, that there was a "very special relationship" between the two countries, which has been demonstrated by the fact that The Gambia had been one of the first states in Africa to recognise Guinea Bissau's independence.

President Cabral said that Guinea Bissau treasured The Gambia's swift recognition of its independence and particularly the fact that The Gambia's first Ambassador has presented his letters of credence in the bush in areas liberated by Guinea Bissau's freedom fighters. "We were deeply moved by your Government's gesture of solidarity" President Cabral said.

President Sir Dawda Jawara has been visiting Libya for talks with President Gaddafi about bilateral cooperation and also about various African questions.

Three men from Mars have been visiting The Gambia. They talked with officials of the Gambia Produce Marketing Board, because the Mars confectionery firm in Britain is buying 1,000 tons of confectionery quality groundnuts this year and is interested in buying even more.

WEST AFRICA

SIERRA LEONE

Harmony for sea development

Mr. Harry Williams, Sierra Leone's Deputy Minister of External Affairs, called for harmonisation of resources by West African countries to exploit the resources of the sea for their mutual benefit.

He said if events such as the present dispute over fishing limit between Britain and Iceland were to be avoided, then there was an urgent need to pool resources together in the spirit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Mr. Williams was speaking after visiting Ghana's state fishing corporation at the port of Tema.

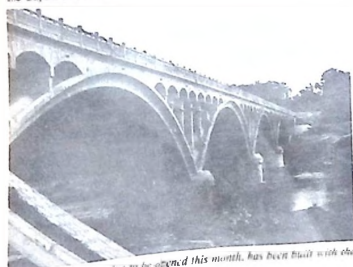
Mr. Williams said his government was determined to modernise its agriculture and set up a fishing industry.

Deputy Superintendent of Police, Santigere Bangura, attached to the Special Branch, faced charges at the Freetown Magistrate's Court recently of assault, obscuring and causing actual bodily harm and malicious wounding to Dr. Abdulai Conteh, a Freetown lawyer, along Pademba Road in Freetown. No plea was taken. The hearing was adjourned to March 11 and Mr. Bangura was granted bail.

Chinese power

China is to build a power transmission line from Goma to Kenema, just over 50 miles, from the small hydro electric station being built at Goma. There will be transformer stations at Kenema, Pangam and Mano. The Chinese will be responsible for survey, design, organisation and supplying equipment and materials and skilled technicians. Sierra Leone will handle land deals, local materials and labour.

Delegates from Africa, Switzerland, Hungary and Russia called for the formation of an African Christian Peace Organisation to promote and strengthen Christian activities in the continent. The call was issued after a conference of churchmen at the Cape Sierra Hotel.



The Manje Bridges, due to be opened this month, has been built with the assistance of the Chinese

Mr. J. E. O. Jones, Permanent Secretary with Vice President's office, died suddenly in London early this month. He had gone to London for medical treatment after a sudden illness in Freetown.

The Czechoslovak Red Cross has given 50 tons of powdered milk and blankets to the Emergency Relief Committee set up after the June 21 Storm disaster.

The Sierra Leone national boxing team is to have two months in intensive preparation in Cuba for the International Tournament at Winnipeg in Canada.

According to the 1975 annual report of the Leprosy and Tuberculosis Programme in Freetown, there are now five leprosy clinics in the Freetown area, at Wellington, Port, Kissy, Cline Town and Connaught hospital. The report says that although registrations in 1974 by 82 per cent last year increased by 1974 there are still some cases not coming forward which makes it impossible to predict when leprosy will be finally under control in the area.

Sierra Leone has been invited to attend an Agricultural Fair in Bologna, Italy, in November. The invitation was extended to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mr. S. A. T. Kautina recently by the Italian Ambassador to Sierra Leone, president in Liberia, Mr. Dino Ruscioni. Giving details of the fair, Ambassador Ruscioni said that it will focus on agricultural machinery for earth movement and asks the delegation lots of opportunities to see latest innovations in this area.

A six-man Canadian Trade Mission is expected in Sierra Leone shortly.

UPPER VOLTA

Lamizana speaks out

President Sankoule Lamizana has declared that his military government is a "Task Force" with the job of making a return to constitutional rule, a "concrete reality". This would be "as soon as possible" but no one should decide themselves that the military

government would vacate power "until there is a new political definition of the conduct of the President's affairs," said the President. He said the "discouraging voices" in the past, which he went on to promise that, President's representatives in the government, "must remain a permanent feature of the new political arrangements."

Mr. Emile Bassano, the new Minister for Information, has announced the lifting of all prior censorship of the press. Restrictions, however, remain on the would-be "press of scandal and agitation".

SENEGAL

Rumours denied over RND and Angola

Mr. Serigne Cheikh Mabeke, the spokesman of the Mouride Caliph, has denied reports associating him with the proposed RND party in Senegal. He apologised for carrying a report in *Jeune Afrique*, March 11, that was due to misleading reports was due to misleading reports emanating from rumours current in Dakar and not, as we had supposed, from informed sources.

Senegal has no immediate intention of recognising the MPLA regime in the People's Republic of Angola, according to Mr. Assane Seck, the Foreign Minister. Speaking about Senegal's African foreign policy, Mr. Seck said that recognition would depend upon Angolans being allowed to freely choose their own leaders. Similarly, the POLSABARIO Front in the western Sahara would have to show its representative character before recognition, though Senegal would do anything it could to reduce tension in the area. Meanwhile, Senegal would continue to support the IIC decision which, said Mr. Seck, had approved the occupation of the territory by Morocco and Mauritania.

On Rhodesia, Mr. Seck said that the distressed British metres. They had been asked many times by the OAL to intervene but had done nothing. Their present action was therefore suspicious.

ANGOLA

Hope for Lusaka recognition

Confirmation from South Africa intelligence sources that the USSR is halting its supply of heavy arms from Angola, and that the Cuban troops in the country have not crossed the line of the Benguela railway have finally begun to allay excessive fears of the immediate spill-over of the fighting in Angola into other parts of southern Africa, writes a correspondent. MPLA troops continue to consolidate the areas of Sa de Bandeira and are presently engaged in getting the railway from Mocimboa to Serpa Pinto back into operation. News that an Angolan government

delegation is shortly to visit Lusaka has also given credence to suggestions, backed by the visits of Comolense and Sierra Leone, says to Zambia, that President Kaunda will shortly accept a Luanda regime. Certainly, Zaia seems to be taking her responsibility seriously, and has closed off ENLA and UNITA offices in Kinshasa.

Gulf Oil has now released some \$100m of the revenue it has paid into blocked accounts and is expected to resume shortly. At Luanda Boavista, however, many fish boats were wrecked by a sudden storm and the Secretary of State for Fisheries, Sir Victor de Caualhos, has had to personally take charge of operations to restore the capital's fish supplies. Other problems are also being encountered, including some unfair trade gaps between theory and practice in the mass literacy campaign now under way. Although progress is claimed, MPLA admits that lack of a *lingua franca* in the countrywide, organisational deficiencies and the unwillingness of some students and other privileged groups to pull their weight have hindered the programme.

ZAIRE

New ambassador for Belgium

M. Jacques Lokongo L'Ombe, former deputy Foreign Minister, has been appointed as the new Zaire ambassador to Belgium, the ending the two year break in diplomatic relations between the two countries. M. L'Ombe, who was ambassador to Brussels from 1971 to 1972, before M. Elebe ma Ekenzo, is a former MPR Politburo member. Relations between Zaire and Belgium, originally strained, writes a correspondent, by the appearance of an unflattering biography of Mobutu in Belgium, and the nationalisation of Belgian property under the Zaireisation decrees, are now in the hands of a joint ministerial committee. The failures of the Zairean foreign policy, and the increasing economic dependence of Zaire have also increased Kinshasa's willingness to make up differences.

Mr. Rudahindwa, the Zairean director of the Kinshasa Shaba company, has said that "the situation in Angola" has brought the export of manganese from Zaire almost to a standstill. The destruction of the Luao River bridges, the disruptions in Bay Zaire caused by the influx of refugees, and the situation in Rhodesia had effectively blocked the majority of the alternative export routes, continued M. Rudahindwa, and the congestion at Dar es Salaam had made that route inoperable as well.

FNLA office closed

Zairean gendarmes have closed the offices of FNLA in Kinshasa after the organisation, having failed to elicit any response from Luanda

to its "offer of peace", announced a redoubling of the guerrilla war of force against the PRA. President Mobutu, who agreed at Brazzaville to ban the FNLA and UNITA, was apparently incensed at this in gratitude on the part of his erstwhile protégés.

● M. Ivan Ivarov, the USSR ambassador to Zaïre, has held talks with M. Ngura Karl I Bond, the Zaïre Foreign Minister, in Kinshasa. M. Ivarov congratulated M. Bond on his new appointment and bilateral relations between the two countries were then discussed.

GUINEA-BISSAU

No wish for total rift

The Guinean escudo, suspended on March 4, has now been succeeded by the *peso*, which will appear in 50,100 and 500 *peso* denomination notes. The new notes, illustrated with pictures of liberation war heroes, will replace the estimated 340 million escudos presently in circulation, over 300 million of them as paper currency. The Bissau authorities have officially assessed the proportion of the assets of the *Banco Nacional Ultramarino* which are to be nationalised and no mention has been made of the loans granted by Portugal to Guinea-Bissau before independence, and which have been the principal bone of contention between the two countries.

However, writes a *correspondent*, Guinea-Bissau seems far from eager to break completely with Portugal, or to leave the escudo zone. Portugal still holds Guinea-Bissau's foreign currency reserves and could if she wished create problems for the former colony in this field. Certainly, Bissau would like to be relieved of the burden of paying civil service pensions, and of her \$70m. National Debt, but she appears willing to "search for just solutions in a spirit of mutual dignity" and to compromise on almost every issue.

CAPE VERDE

The Soviet Union has signed a merchant shipping agreement with Cape Verde, providing for favoured treatment at ports and help with the development of the Cape-Verde merchant fleet.

IVORY COAST

Former conspirator in new government

President Houphouët Boigny has reshuffled his government, bringing the number of ministers to 26, excluding the President, and, for the first time in the Ivory Coast, bringing a woman into the cabinet. Major appointments have remained unchanged, with MM. Arsène Usher Assouan (Foreign Affairs), Laurent Dona Fologo (Information) and Henri Konan Bedie (Finance) remaining at their posts. Only four ministers lose their jobs, MM. Hippolyte Aye (Health), Souleymane Cisséko (Posts), Joseph Eloué (Civil Ser-

vices) and Blaise Koffi (Tourism).

Among the appointments, the most significant is undoubtedly, writes a *correspondent*, the reappearance of M. Jean Baptiste Moeckey as Minister for Health and Population. M. Moeckey, a comrade of President Houphouët Boigny in the years before independence, was Secretary-General of the PDCI, Vice-Premier until 1959, then Minister of the Interior until 1963 when, despite his being considered the natural heir to President Houphouët Boigny, he was implicated in the abortive coup d'état of that year. Deputed to Minister for Agriculture, he was rearrested and condemned to death in 1965 and, 1967, had worked in his profession of chemist, seemingly having given up his former political ambitions.

Joining M. Moeckey in the government are MM. Kei Boguonard (Civil Service), Ibrahim Kone (Tourism), Alphonsé Yao (Social Affairs), Léonard Dacoury Tabley (Environment), Emile Brou (National Assembly liaison) and the sole woman cabinet-member, Mme Jeanne Geïssas, who takes the portfolio (appropriately enough) of the Condition of Women.

According to *Le Monde*, the inclusion of M. Moeckey (who was relegated to the Political Bureau of the PDCI at the Party congress last October) marks the culmination of the process of political reconciliation launched in recent years by President Houphouët Boigny, and the recovery of the Ivory Coast political elite from the traumas of the conspiracies of 1963.

● A fire in the port of Abidjan has caused damage estimated to 30m frs. CFA to goods awaiting export, including rubber, cotton, and almonds.

● A meeting of Insurance specialists in Yamoussoukro, in the Ivory Coast, has lent support to the hope that AFRICARE, the international insurance agency established by the African Development Bank, could be extended throughout West Africa. The International Conference for Insurance Control, which was addressed by the President, was expected to draw up plans for an International Reinsurance company.

● The USAID agency is to grant \$84,500 to the Ivory Coast economic and Social Research Centre to finance five separate development projects over the coming three years. M. Jean Léroutignon Guédé, the Minister for Scientific Research, said in Abidjan that, if successful, the Centre might expect further US aid.

The Ivory Coast, writes a *correspondent*, is one of those countries reputedly in line for particularly favourable attention from USAID, if President Ford's new policies on overseas aid are accepted. The President wishes to see US aid express American satisfaction, or otherwise, with the international diplomatic stand of

recipient nations and the policies of the Ivory Coast, so far at least, have been congruent with American thinking.

● Mgr. Pierre Coty has been consecrated as the new bishop of Daloa in north-west Ivory Coast. Mgr. Coty is the seventh Ivorian bishop and with his appointment only the diocese of Katiola is held by a European, a French missionary Daloa is the least Christian of the provinces of the Ivory Coast, containing only a few thousand Christians among its half million people. Mgr. Coty will be the first Ivorian priest, though he himself comes from the diocese of Abidjan.

CHAD

New agreements with France

New co-operation agreements between France and Chad have been signed by the Chad Head of State, Gen. Félix Malloum and the visiting French Prime Minister, M. Jacques Chirac. On his arrival on March 5, M. Chirac declared that his visit would prove that "France remains faithful to her friends," and the agreements, which include a new joint co-operation commission, health aid, university exchange facilities and economic support, have borne this out. M. Chirac volunteered after the talks that Gen. Malloum had himself brought up the issue of Mme Clautre, though adding that Chad did not as yet possess the means of solving the problem.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the talks, however, lie in the military agreements reached. Details are not known, writes a *correspondent*, but Chad is presumed to have asked for large quantities of French military equipment, including helicopters, scout cars and instructors. France has been granted storage rights at Ndjamena military airbase and, if the matter of whether French service personnel in Chad should pay customs duty was shelved once more, the conclusion of the Franco-Chadian period of the estrangement seems to have arrived. The French military presence will not on the other hand be large and France appears to have been more concerned to prevent the establishment of a Soviet base there rather than acquiring one for herself.

"Treachery" at Faya

The Chad authorities have stated that "soldier accomplices" aided "by treachery" the attempt by a band of "outlaws" to seize the town and post of Faya in northern Chad last month. Before the attack, the rebels apparently had sent word to Donza and Anakaza tribesmen to leave the town and a number of people suspected of having prior knowledge of the attack had been moved temporarily from the town. According to the Foreign Minister, Major Kamougou, the government's offer of uncon-

ditional talks with the rebels is still open. President Malloum went on an extensive tour of the "insecurity zones" last month, which included meetings with leaders of the Anakaza tribe, of whom Hisseme Habre (the bandit leader who still holds the Clausfers) is a member.

SAHARA

Final diplomatic break

Morocco and Mauritania have finally broken off diplomatic relations with Algeria, who, according to Morocco and Mauritania, "houses, finances and arms POLISARIO". POLISARIO, meanwhile, has decided to form a civilian government to act as a rival to the occupation authorities. M. Mohammed Lamine Ahmed, an assistant to the POLISARIO Secretary-General, M. el Ouah, is to head the government, assisted by Defence, Foreign and Interior Minister and four Secretaries of State. The government's spokesman will be M. Baba Miske, who declared the new regime's policy to be "non-aligned, progressive and Muslim". Algeria has promised to give POLISARIO all the "necessary political, moral and material support".

Col. Viah Ould Mayouh, commander of the Mauritanian assault regiment, meanwhile told correspondents how his men routed the POLISARIO forces in southern Sahara, taking advantage of their relative inexperience and their disinclination to attack the Mauritanian forces, which contain many of their kinsmen. Col. Mayouh claimed victories at Aoussert, Fichla and Arghub and claimed that it was POLISARIO's decision to attack Mauritanian frontier towns which finally decided President Ould Daddah to seek a military solution.

The Sahara crisis, writes a *correspondent*, appears to become more serious daily, although full-scale hostilities have so far been avoided. POLISARIO seem to be principally concerned with evacuating their refugees, said to number more than 70,000, from the desert proper before the dry season begins. Moroccan air forces operations are continuing, presumably against more than refugee camps, but further details on the fighting are scarce. The Soviet Union, the major arms supplier for Algeria, is reported to be urging caution on President Boumediene, and may be holding talks for the railway from Gara Dieblat as an inducement towards this policy. All the same, neither side has displayed any real enthusiasm to play the matter down, and each becomes further committed with each step taken. The Arab League mediation attempted by M. Riad seems eventually to have failed and Algeria refuses to countenance mediation by France, the obvious choice for this office. Besides, M. Chirac has publicly declined this role.

Liberia's next four years

Some of the projects scheduled for completion under Liberia's National Development Plan for 1977-80 are outlined below. There are, of course, many other developments underway in Liberia

The Cabinet and the Development Council have jointly approved the four year National Development Plan, which according to present estimates will cost about \$413m.

In the area of electrical power, the plan calls for a total investment of \$24.5m. over the four-year period.

Of this amount, \$5.1m. will be used for the upgrading of transmission and the distribution of electric power, while \$2.4m. will be used for technical assistance projects which will strengthen the management and planning aspects. The thermal plant expansion programme will cost \$13m., also, \$4m. will be used for the system improvement project.

To enable station ELBC to broadcast effectively, the government will buy and install a 20-kw medium wave and a 50-kw short wave transmitter in Monrovia, and 5-kw short wave transmitters at Voinjama, Sanniquellie, Greenville and Gbarnga.

The total cost of the project is tentatively estimated at about \$3m and it is anticipated that the system would be operational within 18 months of the placement orders.

According to the plan, which becomes effective next July, the present priority of the country's water and sewerage systems is to provide adequate facilities in Monrovia, the other County seats and large towns around the country.

It is noted in the plan that in Monrovia an expansion programme has already begun with the general objective of increasing the average of the water treatment plant. The total cost for the project is estimated to be about \$23.7m.

In the area of housing and urban development, an amount of \$9.8m. for the construction of core

and conventional housing units is expected to be invested.

During the four-year development period, 1977-1980, a total of \$35.7m., it has been proposed, should go on the development of community schools, teacher training institutions, secondary schools, technical and vocational centres and the University of Liberia.

The community schools' programme plans to build about 40 modular units each year throughout the four-year plan period. Each unit will accommodate about 120 students.

The secondary education programme, consisting mainly of construction of comprehensive high schools and a diversification of curricula, emphasizes science instruction and vocational training. New comprehensive high schools are expected to be completed in Zuedru and Voinjama by 1977. Centres of science and technology are planned for Sanniquellie and Greenville.

In the field of health, about \$22.6m. has been earmarked for development expenditure, with to 60 per cent of this amount to be used for expansion and renovation of hospitals and clinics around the country, including procurement of equipment. The remainder will be used for non-capital development costs.

Also in the plan is the construction of a central medical store in Monrovia this year at a cost of \$0.3m, to facilitate the improvement of medical services in rural areas. It is hoped that the medical store will ease the difficulties of procuring and distributing medical equipment and supplies.

The development plan also notes that the rural community development programme should

serve to improve the community schools, motivate special rice and tree crop projects, develop farmers' co-operatives, construct feeder roads and establish staff health posts and clinics.

Looking at social welfare, the plan calls for a development expenditure of \$1.8m. to train social welfare workers, improve the physical facilities and training orientation of the various institutions and co-ordinate the efforts of private individuals and charitable groups.

The European Economic Community's permanent representative in Liberia, Britain's Arnold William Wood, said that the Community hopes to spend US\$30m. in Liberia on various economic development projects over the next four years. As permanent representative of the EEC in Liberia, his main job is to ensure that the Lome Convention is implemented to the fullest possible extent, to benefit Liberia, he said.

President Tolbert called in the Ambassadors of Botswana, France and West Germany, to warn them that conflict between the black majority and the white minority in Southern Africa will erupt, unless South African Prime Minister John Vorster and Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith get off the fence. Presidential Press Secretary Milte Greaves said President Tolbert saw the Ambassadors separately, to ask them to inform their governments of his concern over Namibia (South West Africa) and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

The President's anxiety arose from the "new realities" occasioned by recent events in Angola, where Cuban spearheaded troops of the Soviet-backed People's Liberation Movement (MPLA) now virtually control the whole country. Mr Greaves said.

Mr Bernard Blamo, President of the Umueto of Monrovia, has paid a visit to the Ivory Coast, where he had a meeting with President Houphouët Bouigny and prepared for greater co-operation between Abidjan and Monrovia under a visit Mr. Blamo said that a new building on the Monrovia campus was to be named after the Ivory Coast President, who is to visit Liberia.

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