West Africa

West Africa No. 2862 Week ending 21st April, 1972

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Nigeria's Commanding Heights

Step-by-step the Nigerian Government is ensuring that, as the Federal Commissioner for Finance, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, has put it, "indigenous interests" occupy "all the commanding heights of the Nigerian economy". In Nigeria this does not necessarily mean the nationalization of the foreign enterprises which for so long have dominated these heights with the very important exception of the numerous public utilities and the trade in the most important agricultural exports, which are already Government-controlled. It means in many cases the take-over by Nigerian businessmen of foreign-owned enterprises, or increased Nigerian participation in them. This approach is very different from that of governments of many other newly independent states. It is due partly to the existence in Nigeria of a thriving commercial class, who have no more enthusiasm for socialism than their counterparts in Europe, and partly to the policy of those foreign firms which initiated the policy of issuing shares to the Nigerian public. But it is also due to a realization that there are limits to what Governments can or should do in the economic field, and to the unhappy experience Nigeria has had in so many state-operated enterprises, an experience which Dr Azikiwe, for example, has just used to strengthen his warnings against indiscriminate nationalisation. Nor is the Federal Government anxious to devote to the take-over of existing enterprises public funds which should help to develop the economy.

There is, however, a very serious limitation on the capacity of Nigerian private businessmen to take the place of foreigners, apart from the reluctance of many to enter new fields. Their lack of experience may be overcome as they gain familiarity with large scale enterprise. But there is no easy way of making up for their lack of capital. And if the indigenisation decree, which excludes foreigners totally from various types of enterprises, and makes 40 per cent local participation in capital obligatory for many others, is to go into effect completely by the target date, March, 1974, a huge sum, probably over £100m, will have to be raised by Nigerian individuals or businesses.

One of the most interesting proposals, therefore, in General Gowon's budget speech (reported in last week's issue) is the establishment of an Industrial and Commercial Credit Bank to assist the indigenisation policy. General Gowon insisted that the Bank would operate on strictly commercial lines; but its object is to make loans to Nigerians to assist them to take-over existing concerns. This bank will be quite separate from the existing Nigerian Development Bank, to which the Federal Government has just paid £2m as a first instalment for its extended lending programme.

In the case of the existing commercial banks, however, the government itself is now to take over at least 40 per cent of their share capital. Although when making this announcement neither General Gowon nor Alhaji Shehu Shagari made any complaint about the policies of these banks, the Government may have been influenced by the realisation that although the three banks concerned have all made local share issues, only three per cent of their capital is now in local hands.

The relief given to local industry in the budget, as well as the protection afforded to it by tariffs, can be seen as part of the indigenisation policy, even if at present many of the beneficiary industries are foreign controlled. This year, too, the National Mining Corporation, which will engage in the mining of solid minerals, is

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to be established, as planned.

In the oil industry, which has come to be the major foreign exchange earner and major contributor to Government revenue (70 per cent in the 1971-2 financial year) the government has taken successive steps to increase its share. The Nigerian National Oil Corporation is to participate in exploration and production, in refining and in marketing. General Gowon also said that there were plans for Nigerian participation in the transport of petroleum products to overseas markets. No further oil concessions are to be granted to foreign companies, instead all areas not covered by existing leases or licences are vested in the National Oil Corporation, which can invite private companies into partnership. The company already has 51 per cent in all the off-shore licences recently awarded, and has taken 35 per cent interest in Safrap's operations and 33⅓ per cent in Agip's local affiliate. This is quite apart from any action taken in accordance with the OPEC principles adopted by oil producing countries. One company, Delta Oil, with Nigerian private participation, has also begun drilling and there are Nigerian interests in two other oil consortia.

It is oil revenues which allow the Federal Government to find the money both for increased official participation in economic enterprise and for increased assistance to private Nigerian interests in taking over foreign enterprises. Of estimated Federal revenue of some £650m expected in 1972-73 almost £500m will probably come from oil revenues. These revenues, because of their foreign exchange content, should also allow the Central Bank to sanction the repatriation on reasonable terms of the proceeds from the sale of foreign enterprises to Nigerians.

During the last financial year Nigeria's imports cost some £538m but the value of exports was some £642m. "Invisible" imports cost some £165m, so there was an adverse balance of payments. Nevertheless the great improvement in the balance of payments allowed the Government to make numerous concessions. In particular it is intended that during this financial year foreign firms can remit all arrears of dividends and profits outstanding up to the end of 1970. But it is still not possible for the Central Bank to authorise immediate payment of dividends and profits for 1971. On the other hand "sight" payment for authorised categories of imports is now possible and for some other imports the credit period has been reduced. As General Gowon said, Nigeria is "gradually returning to the normal system of international trade and payments".

The word "normal" now sums up Nigeria's economic situation. It is not an easy situation and, because of smuggling and other factors, it is very vulnerable. But it is no small achievement that Nigeria can now ride two horses which might appear to be in competition, the horse of indigenisation and the horse of credit-worthiness abroad.

MATCHET'S DIARY

Although it is still over two and a half years away, planning is already well under way for the mammoth Festival of Black Culture (originally the Second World Festival of Negro Arts) which is to be held in Lagos in October-November 1974. Chief Tony Enahoro, Nigeria's Information Commissioner, who is also the commissioner for the Festival, has been visiting Britain and France this month to make contacts for the festival in both countries. He has already visited East and Central African countries and will be visiting West Africa in weeks to come. At the end of the month he is going to the United States, whose contribution is bound to be of greatest importance more so than at the First World Festival of Negro Arts in Dakar in 1966. President Senghor had originally wanted to hold the next festival in the United States, because of the powerful and distinctive culture of the Afro-Americans, but I understand the State Department went cold on the idea. The French contribution to the Dakar festival in terms of funds and technical assistance was an important one, so it is not surprising that they should be strongly interested in the Lagos festival. Chief Enahoro, indeed, saw the Culture Minister, Jacques Duhamel, in Paris, to discuss the participation of French artists and entries from French territories in the Caribbean. In London, however, there was no contact with the British government. Chief Enahoro held a meeting with ambassadors from the Caribbean and Latin America, and also had a get-together with a diverse collection of black creative artists to explain the festival, and to answer questions. He was also anxious to encourage ideas of how best the participation of Britain's black community (Chief Enahoro called them "UK tribe") in the festival should be organised: the information section of the Nigerian High Commission is to act as a kind of postbox for this purpose.

Expressing the opinion that this job was the most satisfying assignment he had ever had in his political career, Chief Enahoro said that the Festival would be the "greatest concourse of the black man the world has ever seen." He expressed the hope that the Lagos Festival will attract double the numbers of Dakar in 1966. From the responses received so far, 7,000 competitors and at least 50,000 visitors are likely to attend, as compared with 5,000 competitors and 25,000 visitors in Dakar. A suitable theatre for the festival is being planned in Lagos, as well as an "African village" arena where performances can be staged. There will also be the new stadium, which is being built for the 1973 Pan-African Games.

Although non-black artists will not be eligible for the competitions, Chief Enahoro expressed the hope that as many countries as possible would be able to send delegations of solidarity, to take part in fringe activities so that the festival might become a great world cultural event. The organising committee has already fixed at least 30 different competition categories ranging from modern drama and traditional dancing to African hairstyles. The festival is being organised by the Nigerian government and the Paris and Dakar-based Society of African Culture, whose head, the perennial M. Alioune Diop, was accompanying Chief Enahoro.

The Bishop and the Pioneers

At Kelham Theological College, headquarters of the Society of the Sacred Mission, of which he was a member for 43 years, Bishop Reginald Roseveare, Anglican Bishop of Accra from 1956 to 1967, has died at the age of 69. Out of a total Christian population of some 650,000 only some 34,000 belonged to the Bishop's own Anglican church in Ghana. But his personal standing had nothing to do with such statistics. He was known throughout the country and it was not only among his own community that there was dismay when, in August 1962, he was expelled from Ghana. His expulsion followed his address to the Synod of his diocese, in which he explained the Church's anxiety about proposed educational changes and criticised the atheistic songs and slogans of the Young Pioneers. He said that all heads of churches in Ghana were shocked by the godlessness of the movement and by some of the songs prescribed for the children. "It is an affront to our age-long traditions that, in Ghana of all countries, a National Institution for the training and development of boys and girls should entirely ignore the existence and claims of Almighty God. Moreover, it seems that the Movement confuses the work and example of a great man with Divine Acts which are unique in history. This incipient atheism is quite foreign to the traditional concept of the African personality."

This was just after the Kulungugu attempt on President Nkrumah's life, and the Ghanaian Government felt it necessary to explain that it was the timing of this address, delivered just three days after the attempt, that made it necessary for the government to show that it remained fully in control and that nobody, particularly no non-Ghanaian, could at this time endanger national unity (the address has been written and printed before the attempt). Archbishop Patterson, the then Archbishop of West Africa, who was visiting Ghana, commended Bishop Roseveare's criticisms in a sermon in Accra, and was himself also expelled. On arrival in Lagos, to which he went from Accra, Dr Roseveare said that politically he had always been a socialist and could not agree with those in Ghana who thought that belief in God was incompatible with socialism. He blamed Ghanaian Government newspapers for "twisting the situation". There could no great agitation in Ghana itself abo the expulsion, although church leade supported the Bishop's stand, a criticism outside Ghana soon died dow But within three months, Dr Nkruma after some correspondence with th Bishop, allowed him to return without conditions. Before returning the Bisho stated publicly that he had not change his view about the Young Pioneers. H resigned in 1967.

Bishop Roseveare always liked t recall that he was not the unworldly prelate that some people thought, since before reading theology he had been a clerk and an assistant salesman with a firm of tea and rubber brokers. Nor was Accra his first African post, since he had previously spent four years in South Africa where he was a notable critic of *apartheid*.

A Lord-in-Waiting

A little noticed change made in his government by Mr. Heath is the dropping of Lord Lothian from the Foreign Office team. Apparently he is now to have duties, so far unspecified, at the Scottish Office where, at a lower salary than he had at the Foreign Office, he will be a "Lord-in-Waiting". It is unkind to say of such a kind and polite man that ever since he was appointed so mysteriously, when the Heath government came to power, he has always seemed like a Lord-in-Waiting. It was, perhaps, his relationship with Sir Alec Douglas-Home, of whom he is a neighbour in Scotland, and for whom he worked as Parliamentary Private Secretary, which explains his appointment.

He was given responsibility for African affairs but has been able to do nothing to improve relations between Britain and African countries or to make his Prime Minister take, at any rate, some interest in African affairs. He was the first to admit that he knew nothing of Africa, and it remains a mystery why, when he had at his disposal such people as Mr. Nigel Fisher, Mr. John Tilney, Sir Bernard Braine, Mr. Richard Hornsby (all of whom were concerned with Africa as Ministers in previous Conservative administrations), or Sir George Sinclair, Mr. Heath turned to this unknown figure as the Foreign Office Minister to look after African affairs. It is clear, however, that none of the men I have mentioned is likely to hold office under Mr. Heath, for he has now appointed in place of Lord Lothian, Lady Tweedsmuir, who was previously Minister of State in the Scottish Office. She, too, is apparently to have special responsibility for African affairs, as Minister of State, but will also be yet another Minister concerned with British entry to Europe. That leaves Mr. Richard Wood, the Minister for Overseas Development, about whose concern for Britain's relations with Africa and about whose department's conduct, I have heard little criticism.

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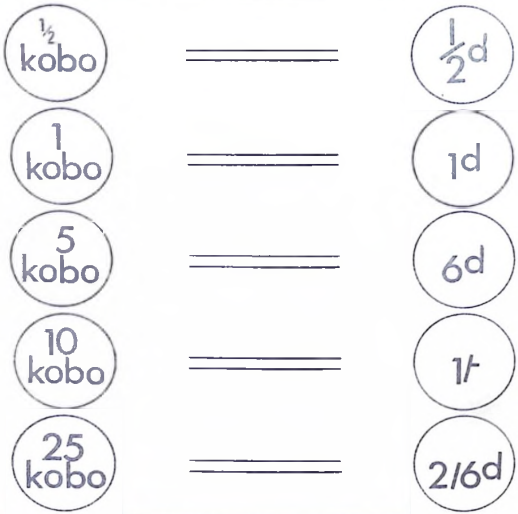

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UNCTAD

ARICAN ANGLES FOR SANTIAGO - DI - CHILE

Some 3,000 delegates from 140 countries and 40 international agencies were expected to attend the third U.N. conference on trade and development (UNCTAD 3), opening this week in Chile. In preparation for this the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has produced a number of papers putting forward the case for the world's poorer countries. In this article a correspondent examines some of these papers.

It is generally expected that the cost of poorer countries of the shipping provided by the richer countries will be a major issue at the UNCTAD conference. In one of its papers ECA notes that African countries in 1970 owned only 0.6 per cent of the world's merchant marine although their share in international seaborn trade amounted to 15.3 per cent of goods loaded. The African countries' share of ships on order was even lower and the paper complains that shipbuilding countries had tightened their credit terms making it even more difficult for developing countries to acquire ships. The paper also complains that African shipping lines, even when members of "conferences", had difficulties in obtaining sailings and high cost cargoes.

The paper notes that in West Africa since 1963 freight rates had increased by 1970 by more than 35 per cent, and that further increases were inevitable. The effect on African trade of these increases, whatever their cause, was obvious. In the matter of shipping, ports, and connected inland transport, African countries were among the "least developed of the developing countries" and special measures should be taken to remedy this situation. Industrialised countries, in particular, should assist the development of African merchant marines. The report noticed that regional co-operation, particularly in technical matters, would assist the African countries, and it suggests that an "African Committee for shipping, ports, and related inland transport" should be established, parallel to the "ECA-OAU joint meeting on trade and development". The report suggests that the committee should establish forecasts of cargo flows and port facilities. It should also arrange for high level training for seagoing staff and management and organise research into such matters as containerisation. As a priority coastal shipping should be encouraged, since in Africa this to a large extent can make up for a lack of land or river links between neighbouring countries.

Shipping charter proposal

The report proposes a "charter on shipping" to be put forward at the UNCTAD meeting. One object would be to reduce maritime transport costs and freight rates and to reverse the flow of foreign exchange now paid by the poor countries for maritime transport. Discussing the establishment of merchant marines in African countries the report suggests various protective measures. It also urges the provision of easy credit for the purchase of new and second-hand ships and an international effort to develop and improve ports, with the cooperation of ship owners and liner conferences from all countries. It suggests that a discount should be given on freight rates to ports where improvements have been made, to compensate for surcharges in difficult ports. The report does not condemn the "conference" system but urges that it should not be discriminatory. It suggests that the capital-intensive character of many innovations in shipping may discourage the participation of developing countries and that this may tend to concentrate power in the hands of outside operators far more than liner conferences might do.

Referring to the landlocked countries the report suggests that a special study should be made of the possibility of aligning their total transport costs with those of countries which are not landlocked, and that they should be provided with cheap transit services through free-trade zones in ports.

Another ECA report urges a study of the "barge-on-board-ship" system of ocean transport and of its effect on inland transport, particularly for West Africa.

The case of the "least developed"

Another issue expected to be raised at the UNCTAD conference is that of the problem of the "least developed" countries. It has now been agreed that these include some 25 countries of which a number are in West Africa: Chad, Dahomey, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Upper Volta. Such countries have a gross domestic product of $100 or less, a literacy rate among people over 15 years of 20 per cent or less, and in them manufacturing has a share of the gross domestic product of 10 per cent or less. An ECA report urges particular assistance for these countries, particularly with regard to their export earnings. It notes that these countries tend to be landlocked and that out of the total of 18 landlocked developing countries 13 are in Africa. They suffer particularly from high transport costs and poor infra-structure. They deserve priority in assistance of all kinds; for example, they should be given preferences in the markets of rich countries for some of their products.

Commodity agreements, particularly for cocoa, are likely to occupy a great deal of the time of the UNCTAD conference. Here again an ECA report, urging the need for world action on commodity prices, notes that African countries have special problems including those of the competition of some of their exports with those of developed countries, and competition, too, with synthetic substitutes in others. There is also the problem of adjusting production to changing consumer tastes. 70 per cent of African exports of the most important commodities considered (citrus, coffee, cocoa, groundnuts, rubber, iron ore and phosphates) go to Western Europe. African countries to some degree are competitors with each other but share the problem of unstable prices, the intervention of middlemen, actual and potential overproduction, costly transport, and difficulties of market access. In only one case, that of coffee, is there an international agreement and even in that case African countries have very serious problems. The report urges joint action by African countries, while noting the immense difficulties in the way of achieving any progress.

Stategies for cocoa

In the case of cocoa the report notes that if any single major importing country refuses to join an agreement producing countries should conclude an agreement with consumers ready to do so. It goes on: "A second possible strategy would be for the producing countries to propose informal arrangements along the lines of those in force for hard fibres, if several major importing countries feel unable to break with another country, or if for domestic reasons they cannot themselves subscribe to a formal agreement. Several importing countries, wishing to placate domestic trade circles, might find it more convenient to give tacit support to arrangements of this kind rather than subscribe to an official agreement along the usual lines. The third possibility would be for the producer countries themselves to try to operate a stabilisation agreement based on floor and ceiling prices and a system of sales quotas. Before doing so, however, they would have to learn thoroughly all the lessons to be derived from the failure of the scheme launched six years ago."

Discussing groundnuts of which African countries, particularly Nigeria and Senegal, produce some 17 per cent of the world's supplies, the report says that world prices are particularly unstable. It urges establishment of a "joint sales bureau" by the African Groundnut Council, to keep member states informed on market development and to introduce controlled marketing, including, if necessary, the stockpiling of the crops of members.

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After the Gambian Elections

Following the Gambian general elections of March 28, the re-elected President, Sir Dauda Jawara announced the composition of his new government. The most important change was that the former Speaker of the House of representatives, Sir Alieu Jack was brought into the government as Minister of Works and Communications. The former minister Alhaji Kalilou Singhateh takes on the portfolio of Education Youth and Social Welfare. Alhaji Garba Jahumpa keeps his chalth portfolio, but loses Education and Social Welfare and gains Labour. There is also a new Minister for State for Information, Broadcasting and Tourism Alhaji M. C. Cham, the former opposition MP (Information was previously in the President's portfolio). The former Minister of State, Alhaji A. B. N'Jie takes on Agriculture and Natural Resources replacing Howsoon Semega-Janneh, who is no longer in the government. The main posts, S. M. Dibba (Vice-President and Finance) Andrew Camara (Foreign Affairs), Alhaji Yaya Ceesay (Local Government, Lands and Mines), Alhaji Lamin Saho (Attorney-General) remain the same. The President has also appointed Saho and Mr. Lallow Sannch as nominated members. A third will be announced in due course.

In the elections, 103,296 votes were cast out of about 130,000 registered voters. No votes were cast in seven constituencies, however, as their members, all of the ruling PPP were returned unopposed. The PPP overall won 28 of the 32 elected seats, with the opposition UP winning three and an independent one. The total number of votes cast for the PPP was 65,388 (about 63 per cent of votes cast); there were more votes cast for independent candidates (20,747) than for the UP (17,161) but this is not surprising as there were 19 independents standing, as opposed to 14 UP members. The candidate who received the most votes was Alhaji Matoday Sonko, in Niumi (PPP), who obtained 1,203, while the least votes were the 126 obtained by a UP candidate Saloum Gaye, standing in Sandu. The latter was applicable by the fact that this was a seat where the independent candidate Batapa Drammeh was very popular. It wsa the only seat won by an independent. There were only seven seats where there were UP candidates standing against independents, and all the rest were won by PPP except Bathurst North, where the opposition leader, Mr. P. S. Njie won with a majority of 313 over Alhaji Ibrahima Kelepha-Samba. The smallest majority was the 101 received by Alhaji Ibrahima Garba-Jahumpa, standing in his old constituency for the first time on a PPP ticket. It was the first time the PPP has ever won a seat in Bathurst. In the other Bathurst seat, the former Gambian High Commissioner in London Mr. H. R. Monday (PPP) was narrowly defeated by the UP candidate, J. R. Forster, who received a majority of 191. All the cabinet ministers were re-elected.

A correspondent in Bathurst adds

While some dubious practices were resorted to by the PPP during the current elections there can be little doubt that in the main the Gambian government has an enviable record of tolerant government and fair elections by comparison with most African states. Most Gambians tend to forget that theirs is the only African government which has consistently used the veritably cheat-proof audible system of balloting (a marble ballot dropped down a tube strikes a bell inside the ballot drum) and at the same time has completed a national system of voters cards which contain the photographs and thumb-prints of voters as well as the more usual statistical details. Both the Elections Office which arranged the elections and the Police who ensured law and order and protect the ballot drums were free from government pressure and conscious of their responsibilities to the Public. A government bent on the rapid destruction of opposition forces could never tolerate such election arrangements. Having said this it is only fair to point out that Chiefs are openly supporting the PPP in contravention of civil service regulations (this of course is a perennial problem in most African states) and UP charges of intimidation on Nomination Day merit investigation.

Below: President Jawara sworn in by Chief Justice Philip Bridges.

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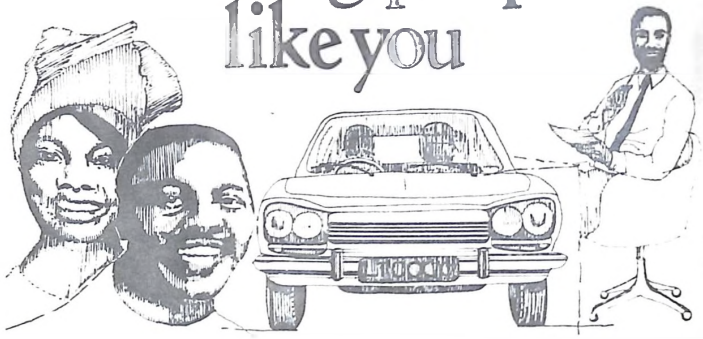

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DAHOMEY

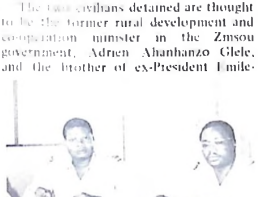
Was it a Coup within a Coup?

By our correspondent

President Hubert Maga of Dahomey has now announced that a seven-man military court is to begin hearing the case of about 20 soldiers detained after the abortive coup of February 23, following the submission of the dossier of a 12-man commission of police and army officers into the affair. There are also, however, civilians under arrest, and although the President is anxious that they should come before the courts, a problem has arisen because, according to sources, civilian magistrates have refused to handle the case.

They demanded assurances that the sentences they hand out will in fact be served and that Dahomey justice will not once again be made a "laughing-stock" by premature release of sentenced men as has been the case in the past. Unless the magistrates agree to serve it would be difficult to activate the court of state security.

The four civilians detained are thought to be the former rural development and co-operation minister in the Zinsou government, Adrien Ahanhanzo Glele, and the brother of ex-President Emile-



Col. de Souza (left) and Col. Kouandeté

Derlin Zinsou, René Zinsou. A third civilian, the head of the Societe Dahomeenne de banque, Idelfonse Lemon, has also been detained, but because he insulted Dahomey's three man Presidential Council.

Mr. Lemon was called before the gendarmerie's commission of inquiry to explain why the money found in the possession of the plotters had come from his bank. Mr. Lemon, a well-known supporter of Dr. Zinsou, insisted on stating some home-truths about the circumstances of the former president's overthrow in December, 1969. He was able to clear himself on the question of the bank-notes, but unfortunately for the banker, when explaining that he had no motive for supporting the coup, he said he had no ambitions for a portfolio for he was already earning enough to pay the salaries of several ministers. This remark was interpreted as insolence by the presidential council, which promptly detained him.

Sources close to the commission of inquiry, chaired by gendarmerie Captain Adjanohoun, now rule out any possibility that President Maga or his supporters were involved in some Byzantine manner in the abortive coup, in spite of the fact that several members of his bodyguard participated.

The rumours of his involvement were put about by the number two in the council, Justin Ahomadegbe, due to take over for his two-year stint of power next May and who is hyper-active at the moment. His supporters, the GVRs (*"Groupements de Vigilance Republicains"*) otherwise known as the *"Groupements des Voyous Retrouvés"*, are ubiquitous and disconnected snatches of conversation about and matters which GVR spies heard at a cocktail party were responsible for the Ahomadegbe pamphlets which accused the French technical assistance of supporting the coup.

It now appears there was a coup within a coup when a commando tried to assassinate army chief of state Paul-Emile de Souza on February 23. Behind coup No. 1 was the assistant secretary-general for defence, Colonel Maurice Kouandeté, the author of the December, 1967, putsch which overthrew Brigadier Christophe Soglo and of the December 1969 coup against Dr Zinsou. Kouandeté is among those arrested.

He put the idea to Captain Glele, brother of Dr Zinsou's former minister, and commander of a unit in Cotonou. Since May, 1970, Colonel Kouandeté has been deprived of operational commands and could not act himself. According to Dahomean sources, Captain Glele and also a former supporter of President Maga, Captain Pierre Boni, decided to go along with the assistant secretary-general for defence. But their real aim, the sources say, was to eliminate Colonel Kouandeté (who merely wanted to become head of state) and bring back Dr. Zinsou. It is not known whether the latter, who lives in Paris, was aware of these plans, but his brother Rene had already been detained for the first time last year after arms were found in his house. The pro-Zinsou aspect of the coup was discovered from an intercepted letter sent to another Glele brother residing in Paris by the former minister.

Significant among all the rumours and intrigues is that this time the coup plotters actually intended to commit murder, for the first time in the long history of Dahomey putsches. Assassination was the only way of neutralising Colonel de Souza, the guarantor of legality and the backbone of the perpetually squabbling presidential council.

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People

After "The devil damn the white though black-faced loon" in *The Black Macbeth* at London's Roundhouse theatre (*West Africa*, w/e March 10) we have "I see an assegai" in *Umabatha*, the Zulu Macbeth, which opened the current World Theatre season at the Aldwych Theatre. Whereas the Roundhouse production, like the Senegalese National Theatre Company's 1969 version, is straight Shakespeare with minor textual changes to support an all-black interpretation, *Umabatha* is a paraphrase. Shaka as much as Shakespeare. The author is Welcome Msomi, songwriter and author of two previous plays about violence in Natal townships. The rise of Shaka, "the black Napoleon," in southern Africa in the early 1800's contains some provocative parallels with that of the Scottish laird. His wife, Pampata, was as capable and forceful as Lady Macbeth and in the words of the great general "she had a mind sharper than that of a ring-headed councillor." **Daphne Hlomuka** gives an outstanding performance as did Mona Hammond in *The Black Macbeth*. The production, however, is mainly memorable for the superb singing and dancing of the 55-strong cast, which virtually converts the play into a musical. Presenting the play as a spectacle it has always previously been staged in the open air blunts the impact of the tragedy and a greater sadness than emanates from the tape is the realisation that these warriors, heirs to one of the best-disciplined armies the world has ever seen, are in fact dancing on a leash extended by the South African Government (although the £30,000 needed to take the company to London was raised by private subscription). Nevertheless, as one critic pointed out, an African presentation certainly puts a different complexion on Macbeth. *Umabatha*, incidentally, continues the tradition of Africanising the names of the characters: Macduff was Machao in the Senegalese version, Mashasha at the Roundhouse and Bhangane at the Aldwych; the witches have been straw-tressed Koumpo spirits of Casamance, the Ju Ju and now three Sangomas, two of them bare-breasted women, who achieve second sight by throwing bones or clearing their heads with snuff and by violent sneezing.

●

Currently driving across the Sahara to Lagos is drummer **Ginger Baker**. Once there he will start rehearsals with his new band, *Salt*, which includes five Nigerians – **Tunde Kuboye** (bass guitar), **Laolu Akins** (African drums), **Berkley Jones** (guitar), and the **Ijadu** sisters **Taiwo** and **Yetunde** (vocalists). He will also be supervising the completion of a multi-track recording studio at Ikeja, the first in West Africa, which he is establishing in partnership with **Bayo Akinnola**, western State Commissioner for Information and Home Affairs. Among the first musicians to use the new recording facilities will be *Salt*, who will record two LPs before making their world debut at the Munich Olympic Games *Jazz Festival* (sharing the bill with *Art Blakey* and his *Orgies in Rhythm*) and then embarking on a tour of the United States and Europe. These activities are a culmination of Ginger's interest in the African music scene: he is largely responsible for the growing interest in Britain in what is generally known as "Afro-rock".

Ginger's first safari to Nigeria ended abruptly when he drove over a cliff. The car's rapid movement downwards was halted by a tree – the only one within sight – which saved him from a 200 ft drop. Unfortunately the crane which pulled them up caused irreparable damage to the vehicle and Ginger was forced to complete the journey by air. His second trip last year was filmed in colour by director **Tony Palmer**. The BBC h expressed an interest in screening t 60-minute documentary, which wi probably also be shown as a warm-up t the Munich concert. The image of Nigeri projected is very favourable and i features many of the country's mos prominent musicians: **Fela Ransome-Kut** and his Afro-70 performing in downpour in Calabar ("It's a wonde no-one was electrocuted"); *Sewa Rackson's Sweet Things* and the *Pretty Things*, three girls whose frenzied dancing drew gasps of admiration at the privat screening in London; **Twins Seven-Seven** and friends; *Chris Okoli's* traditiona dancers. A film is also being made of thi third trip and recordings taken of traditional music along the route through Algeria, Niger and Nigeria. On this occasion, the expedition has a second vehicle, a specially designed and equipped lorry, which will remain in Lagos, where it will be fitted out as a mobile recording studio.

Daphne Hlomuka as Kamadonsela

Welcome Msomi as Mabatha

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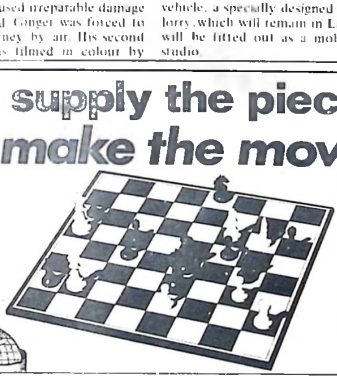
we make the moves



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Books and Publications

THE KANZA VERSION

Conflict in the Congo, *by Thomas Kanza (Penguin, 65p)*

Personal memoirs of the stormy advent of the Congo to independence are still an remarkably short supply. Ganshof Van Der Meersch very early on produced his version of his special mission, which supervised the formation of a government, and the accession to independence, the British Ambassador Richard Scott more recently wrote a readable but not very revealing account called *Dumbbell Diplomat* and for his brief period in Katanga in 1961, Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien made an unrivalled and precious contribution. There are snatches in memoirs like those of Murphy and later of Schlesinger, but most of the key figures never put pen to paper. Many, indeed, above all Lumumba himself, but also Tshombe, Kasavubu, Hammarskjold, General Kettani and Ralph Bunche are dead. Others, such as Mobutu, Bomboko and Nendaka, Baudouin and Eyskens, are unwilling or unable to give their versions. Macmillan may tell us a little in his forthcoming volume of memoirs covering the period, but I doubt it.

This book, is therefore, if nothing else, invaluable historical raw material. Mr Kanza was among the first Congolese graduates in Belgium and he took part in the famous Round Table Conference. He was working in Brussels at the time and later was invited by Lumumba to be the first Congolese Ambassador at the United Nations, at the same time a cabinet minister. The main purpose of the book is to trace the rise and fall of Patrice Lumumba, a tragedy of Shakespearean proportions. But it is also the story of the Congo's coming to independence as seen through the eyes of Thomas Kanza, about whose life story and politics we learn a fair amount in the process.

There is, for example, a little cameo of a conversation he had in 1956 with Paul-Henri Spaak. "He was shocked and affronted to learn that some of his countrymen in the Congo were not behaving as well as they should. He appeared never to have given a thought to the welfare of the Congolese people, but to share the belief held by many of his countrymen that Belgium had accomplished a miracle on the African continent and had nothing to learn from anyone". Independence Day, June 30, 1960, comes across starkly and vividly; it adds curiously to the drama to have the full texts of the speeches of Baoudouin, Kasavubu and Lumumba offset against details such as how Kanza and a senior civil servant tried to tone down some of the more explosive parts of Lumumba's speech in the car as they were driving to the parliament building.

Again, Kanza provides details of the feud between his own father Daniel Kanza, and the wily Kasavubu, including a prophetic warning to Lumumba by "Papa Kanza" (that moved his son to tears), on hearing that Kasavubu was about to be voted President with Lumumba's consent: "If you let him become President, he will behave to you exactly as he has behaved to me. For a time he will appear to collaborate with you, and later he will betray you ... cruelly and cynically. You will be publicly humiliated and God alone knows what will happen afterwards." The atmosphere of high drama and people caught up in forces beyond their control comes through again and again: "Though we sat so comfortably in our sumptuous official cars, driven by uniformed military chauffeurs, and looked as though we were ruling this large and beautiful country, we were in fact ruling nothing, and a prey to whatever might happen". Mr Kanza hints discreetly several times at what one could call the "secret history" of the Congo crisis, at all the activities of agents of the varying different powers, and places great emphasis on the sinister intrigues of the Abbe Fulbert Youlou across the river in Brazzaville. The only actual reference to financial transactions comes when he says of the socialist states "the few Congolese in whom they were interested were paid, but the payments were chicken feed except to one or two ... and these only got more as a result of fierce bargaining". Which could give rise to a number of questions, one of which is, chicken feed in comparison to what?

Kanza also has a brilliant section of thumbnail sketches of members of the first government. Of Gizenga he says, "he was a thoughtful man who acted carefully and whose silence and determination won him respect on all sides ... though he made a splendid second-in-command, I never felt that he would have made a good Prime Minister." And what is one to make of this? "I myself left Belgium without having committed myself politically, ideologically, financially or in any other way to any group in Belgium. Whether the same was true of Bomboko I do not know." Of Mulele "his determination at times verged on parody", and of

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Kashamura: "he had a philosophical conception of power which was far from the obvious realities of democratic life". He is circumspect, however, about Mobutu, although later he refers to Mobutu's first *coup* in September 1960, as when the Congo became a "Western satellite".

But what of Lumumba himself? Kanza is well placed to write of the man who was made a national hero of his country in 1960, although five years before he had been entirely murdered. For although at times Kanza had misgivings over the course Lumumba was pursuing in the chaotic post-independence days, he remained loyal (unlike many others), and went to try to maintain his leader's position at the United Nations. Yet the part of the book on the six months before independence comes across with more force than the turbulent latter part of 1960. It is as if the historical disorganisation of the times has affected the writer. Strange figures such as Andree Blouin and Andrew Cordier flit across the pages, and there is some useful material on what Kanza was doing at the UN, and how Lumumba came to make the disastrous mistake of not even trying to work with Hammarskjold. But one feels that the "fall" has been telescoped, compared with the "rise", and the personality of Lumumba in his agony is more elusive than that of Lumumba in his prime. However this is a minor criticism of a valuable book. The appraisal of Lumumba's faults and virtues, his special greatness and his place in history are objective, and heartfelt, and give the book special distinction.

Kanza's treatment of Lumumba's murder is also worth remarking. He is convinced, and records that he said as much to Mr. Roosevelt, that Lumumba's enemies had to murder him before January 20, 1961, the day of John F. Kennedy assuming executive power, because Kennedy would have tried to deal with Lumumba which could have saved his life. Kanza also says that the transfer of Lumumba to Katanga (which sent him to his death) had been carefully worked out by Nendaka head of the Sureté "in collaboration with his Belgian advisers and such Congolese colleagues as Damien Kandolo, Bernard Kazadi and Jonas Mukamba."

K.W.

Heath and Africa

Crossing the Floor by Humphry Berkeley (Allen and Unwin, £2.80)

Although the occasion for Mr Berkeley's new book is his final resignation from the Conservative party and adherence to the Labour party, it is in no sense an autobiography. Neither his age nor his achievements so far would justify that. It is, instead, largely an examination of the attitudes and policies of Mr Edward Heath in relation to Africa. It was these that finally persuaded Mr Berkeley to leave the Conservative Party. But in any case, as he showed by his championship of legislation

to modify the laws against homosexuals, he never was a typical Conservative. He lost his seat at the last election, but he retains his important African connections and is a successful businessman with some African interests.

If he had not already left the party, the bitterness of his attack on Mr Heath in this book would certainly have obliged him to do so. He says that the Prime Minister takes a "decidedly more right wing position on African matters" even than Sir Alec Douglas Home. He describes Mr Heath's "reaction of Commonwealth events" as that of "an ignorant suburban housewife", a reaction which led to his "complete isolation" at last year's Commonwealth Conference at Singapore. Mr Berkeley complains that although he personally secured invitations for Mr Heath, when Leader of the Opposition, from three African Presidents, the Prime Minister has never visited independent Africa.

Examining the "disastrous pledge" to sell arms to South Africa, the Rhodesian policy, and Britain's role at the United Nations, Mr Berkeley blames the Prime Minister himself for damaging British interests in Africa. Mr Berkeley is particularly unhappy that because of "the obstinacy of the British Prime Minister in advancing dishonest reasons" for his South African policy the Commonwealth may be torn apart.

Nor is Mr Berkeley's criticism confined to Mr Heath's policies. Personally he has found him to be arrogant and incapable of "communication" and, if we are to believe Mr Berkeley, he is curiously impulsive. For example, he said of Lord Caradon (the former Sir Hugh Foot) when he was leading the British mission at the U.N. "He is a traitor to his country". Mr Berkeley also includes in his strictures the now universally praised Mr William Whitelaw, who, as Chief Opposition Whip, accused Mr Berkeley of "disloyalty" because on his return from a visit to Rhodesia he had taken the trouble to inform Mr Harold Wilson, then Prime Minister, of the situation there.

The book, however, is not just an attack on Mr Heath. There is an interesting discussion on the nature of the Conservative Party and of Mr Berkeley's own part in changing its method of choosing a leader. There is a chapter on Private Members Bills, and there are short chapters assessing Lord Butler and Iain Macleod, two of Mr Berkeley's Conservative heroes. There is also a brief sketch of Mr Harold Macmillan, whom Mr Berkeley describes as "the most extraordinary Tory Prime Minister of the century", and for whom the young Humphrey Berkeley, as a new M.P. had a grudging affection and respect. There is another chapter on his new leader, Mr Harold Wilson, which is affectionate but far from fulsome. But this reviewer will not be the only reader for whom the real interest of the book lies in Mr Berkeley's assessment of Mr Heath's African attitudes and policies.

D.W.

Nuances of the colonial scene

Many Thing Begin For Change *by Adaora Lily Ulasi (Michael Joseph £1.90)*

A District Officer disappears completely, with cook, four court messengers, driver and van, with no trace except for the doubtful sound of a van heard by a night watchman, and some tyre tracks which disappear mysteriously after a few hours. The scene is set for a whodunnit with a difference.

The setting is a small village in colonial Africa, some time in the thirties or forties. The difference is that the writer shows a deep understanding of the colonial scene, and some of the situations are pure farce.

Adaora Ulasi, the young Ibo author of *Many Thing You No Understand*, has written an exciting second novel, a sequel to her first. At times tragic, at other times comic, even absurd, as in the unexpectedly dramatic end, it always depicts faithfully the disturbingly transitional scene. She writes skilfully, conveying the atmosphere of slight misunderstanding often present in a colonial situation. She understands and brings to life easily the tensions between people, whether African or European. The dialogue is particularly good, as it might so easily have been contrived. The characters each speak in their own way. For example, the D.C. questions the night watchman.

"About what time of night did you hear the noise?"

"It no be for night-time, it be for early, early, this morning-time."

"But you told Mr Jenkins it was at night that you heard the noise," Hughes reminded him.

"Yes, Sir," Eze agreed, and went on to explain, "It still be dark, but it be early morning. Sun no come yet, and bird no start for cry."

Hughes nodded comprehendingly. "Oh, I see, towards dawn."

Polished, light entertainment. Unfortunately, the shadow of the terrifying first paragraph hangs over the book. But in spite of this, well worth reading. The recent revival of interest in the British Empire and the nuances of the colonial scene ought to ensure this book's success.

M.N.

Books and publications

Colloque sur les Relations entre la communauté Economique Européenne et les Pays en Voie de Developpement. *Papers from the Colloque held in Berlin, September to October 1968 (published by Editions La Documentation Africaine, Paris)*

The Role of the Professions in a Changing World: *Report on a Conference held at the Professional Centre of Singapore, October 1971 (The Commonwealth Foundation, Occasional Paper Number VIII, no price)*

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LIBERIA: STEVE'S MEDICINE

From a special Correspondent

Though Liberia is still in serious financial trouble, foreign creditors are impressed by her efforts to meet her obligations as they fall due, and so to maintain the creditworthiness on which further development largely depends.

The crisis which President Tolbert had to face when he assumed office last July was the cumulative effect of several factors. The main one, perhaps, was the big annual increase in the cost of servicing foreign debt, from $14m. in 1967 to over $20m., or nearly 30 per cent of estimated domestic revenue, in 1972. These charges arise largely from medium term loans, include suppliers' credits, contracted in the early sixties and providing for a growing rate of repayments in the seventies, on the assumption that revenue would increase sharply.

In fact, with rubber prices falling steadily (from 27 cents a pound in 1968 down to 8 cents in 1972) and the slack demand for iron ore limiting production, revenue failed to increase as projected. For three consecutive years it remained virtually constant and even the collection of amounts due to the Treasury fell well behind schedule.

An unprecedented budget deficit of $8m. in 1971, including $4m. due to non-budgeted expenditure, incurred during the first half of the year, further aggravated the situation. Since Liberia has no bank of issue, the Government cannot resort to deficit financing: budgetary imbalances mean bank overdrafts at commercial interest rates. A less serious situation in 1963 prompted the Government to negotiate a re-scheduling of foreign debts, which damaged the country's reputation and brought about IMF control of its financial transactions.

Though the seriousness of the present situation has been apparent for more than a year, remedial measures were delayed until recently. This was partly because the ailing President Tubman had to be spared the strain of taking difficult decisions and partly because, as the crisis developed, the Treasury Secretary (Finance Minister) had to spend nearly four months abroad on medical grounds. When he returned at the end of July, following Mr. Tubman's death, he described his department as "woefully disorganised and painfully demoralised". A few months later the Treasury's annual report revealed that much of the budgetary deficit was due to "ineffective control and management of public funds."

In January 1972, when President Tolbert was forming his new Cabinet, he was faced with the dilemma of making a political appointment at the Treasury at the risk of a further deterioration of the situation, or of picking a technician who, with adequate support from the Chief Executive, might succeed in getting Liberia out of the red and putting some order into her financial affairs.

If a technician was to be selected, it had to be one who could command respect in international monetary and banking circles, in addition to having theoretical and practical knowledge of finance, and the administrative ability to re-organize a key department employing some 800 people. The President's choice was hardly helped by the fact that by far the most experienced man meeting these requirements happened to be his younger brother, Steve, the first and only Liberian national to have built and managed a large, highly successful, business, at a time when others who enjoyed equal or greater political backing failed to make the grade. As a multi-millionaire in his own right, Steve Tolbert was also well beyond the range of temptation to which the head of a Treasury Department is so often subjected.

However, choosing Steve involved also serious disadvantages for both brothers. The Finance Minister would have to relinquish effective control and personal supervision of his business empire, running the risk of a decline in its efficiency and profitability. On the other hand, it was obvious that if he was to succeed in his Treasury assignment, he would have to take a number of drastic measures which might reflect unfavourably on the popularity of his Presidential brother.

John F. Kennedy faced a somewhat similar dilemma before appointing his younger brother Robert as Attorney-General, though a wider choice of qualified people was available to him in Liberia, if country of under 1.5m. with fewer than twenty trained ministers, the President had virtually no alternative once he decided that competency, experience and integrity should be the only criteria.

Clean Sweep at the Treasury

The President's expectations, as well as his fears, have now proved justified. Within three months of taking up his appointment as Finance Minister, Steve has drastically reduced both unnecessary government expenditure and the level of tax evasion, rigorously pursuing defaulters. He has also made a clean sweep at the Treasury, removing a good deal of dead wood and applying strict business efficiency methods.

Financially, the result has been most encouraging, offering the prospect of more foreign investment as well as continued capital formation from domestic sources.

A prospect virtually abandoned a few months ago. Politically, however, Steve's unsugared medicine has naturally attracted the displeasure of those who have a taste of it. Gone are the days when, by hook or by crook, the Treasury had to find money for whatever was regarded as politically expedient. Steve Tolbert has scratched from the popularity contest. He does not expect to be loved, but feels that he is entitled to be respected for what he is trying to do.

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City of the Dualas: 1

Fifty years after Cameroon's administrative capital was moved to Yaounde, Douala not only remains its commercial capital, centre of its road and rail communications, by far its most important seaport, and its most populous city; it also continues to expand rapidly. A pamphlet prepared for visitors to the latest international event at Douala, the eighth African Nations Football Cup (played here and at Yaounde) said it has 450,000 inhabitants. Other estimates are sometimes lower, but often as high as 400,000. Douala has certainly been expanding greatly since 1956, when it had only 125,000 inhabitants, and it is still growing.

One might expect that little remained of the old town of the Duala tribe which was called "Cameroons" — or Kamerunstadt by the Germans, who made it their first capital — until 1901. But not all traces of this old town have gone, even though the Dualas are now a small minority in the city. The traditional names of the Duala districts — Bonanjo, Bonaku (Akwa) and Bonebela (Deido) on the south bank of the Wouri where nearly all the city is situated, and Bonaberi on the north bank — are still used, and, although Bonanjo and Akwa are very Europeanised, Deido is inhabited particularly by Dualas — a quiet, all-African area with many oldish and tasteful houses quite different from Douala's night-time centre, Akwa. At Deido it is possible to imagine the old Douala: fishing canoes still set out from there, close by is Dibdale Island, traditional home of the *mevem*, the water-spirits of old Duala legend, one hears Duala spoken everywhere.

In contrast, Bonanjo and Akwa have smart, well-lit streets, often tree-lined, and modern offices, Western-style houses, hotels, night-clubs, port installations and warehouses, and a generally French-tinted appearance. Nearly all this represents post-war expansion, which also caused the population to multiply tenfold between 1944 and today.

Borrowing from English

The Dualas, fishermen and farmers before, became a prosperous trading people in the 18th and 19th Centuries, living as they did near one of the best natural harbours in Africa. Their prolonged contact with the British, whose consuls in Fernando Po made many treaties with Duala kings in the 19th century, is shown by the large number of words borrowed from English in Duala (the word for "money" is one), and by the common use of Pidgin to this day, when it is particularly useful for West-Cameroonians coming here. During the German period (1884-1914) the Dualas lost their middleman trade, but turned to running plantations inland with considerable success, and became a sort of elite, from whom the German and French administrations, and firms, for long drew senior African employees. Some consider their mass conversion to Protestantism, which was brought here in 1845 by the Baptist, Alfred Saker, to be connected with this change. This conversion was accompanied by a rapid spread in literacy, Saker having committed the Duala language to writing.

Douala became a cosmopolitan rather than a Duala city under French rule. Expanding employment at the harbour, on the railways, in firms, and with administrative offices which were not immediately moved to Yaounde, attracted many immigrants during the League of Nations and U.N. Mandates. Most went to New-Bell, then as now the "strangers' quarter" (though it had originally been intended for Dualas of the Bell clan. In the inter-war period many immigrants were Bassas from nearby, but for long most were of the Ewondo and related tribes, collectively called "Yaoundes". By the late 1930s these were outnumbered by the Bamilekes, the enterprising people from the mountains bordering West Cameroon.

In 1940, when de Gaulle's representative, Colonel Leclerc, landed here to take over Cameroon for the Free French, immigrants were perhaps half the population. Then, and for long afterwards, Douala was mainly a commercial and communications centre. Here the offices of import-export firms such as John Holt, CFAO, R.&W. King, and Peterson Zochonis. There were also the offices of plantation and timber firms operating inland. Despite subsequent changes, Douala is still very important for this transit activity. The import-export trade, shipping line offices, banks, insurance firms, and large-scale retail shops remain the commercial centre. Akwa, now as then, R.&W. King (now a member of the UAC group) is the most visible British firm.

Much of the wealth from all this enterprise was in African hands by the 1930s, when Douala's African upper class, though more recent than those of Freetown and Lagos, was considerable. It was mainly Duala, and included businessmen and senior civil servants, some with modern houses; politicians, too, for Douala was then the home of Cameroon politics. Politics meant petitions by chiefs and others to the League of Nations, and talk of independence in some cases of a return to the German rule in others. The French may have seen all activity directed against them as pro-German, but real support for the Nazi claim to the old German colonies certainly existed here, if on a small scale. There was also the pro-French *Jeunesse Camerounaise Française* (Jeucafra) headed by Paul Soppo Prise and the activity in Paris of Léopold Moumié Etia and a few other Cameroonians, comrades of Senghor and his circle.

After the war (commemorated by the stele marking Leclerc's landing place, and the Boulevard called after him) Douala's great expansion began. It for long remained a major political centre; the *Union des Populations du Cameroun* (UPC) had its headquarters here, and drew considerable support from new immigrants. Douala was an important centre for trade-unionism also, and the scene of major wildcat strikes and rioting in 1945, and of the outbreak of May 1955 (between those two dates, however, nothing of the sort occurred).

Post-war immigrants included many Bamilekes; mostly labourers they also included businessmen who took over lorry transport and other small enterprises. Their business acumen has helped to make Douala what it is, though the numerous African businessmen here are of many different tribes today. Their number is impressive in this respect Cameroon may resemble Nigeria rather than some francophone states.

Buying out Greeks

Nearly all the 72 businessmen who are full members of their association Chamber of Commerce (of 98 all offices are here, naturally) are Africans. Some Africans are buying out the Greeks who for fifty years have been prominent in medium-scale business here as Lebanese have been further West. Last year an important new brewery, the Union Camerounaise des Brasseries, was opened with 25 per cent of the capital held by African interests, headed by M. Joseph Ivadit Defosso, who is now chairman of the *Groupement Professionnel Industriel Camerounais*. The secretary of the Chamber of Commerce is another very successful businessman, M. Samuel Kemajou, chairman of SOBOCAM (société de conditionnement de fabrication et de transformation de Boissons du Cameroun). The President of the Chamber, M. Paul Monthe, is head of an import-export firm.

Besides large businesses Douala's African population runs the small enterprises — bars, hairdressers, tailoring and retail shops, selling everything from records to mattresses. And there are the innumerable roadside vendors.

Dualas have turned less to business than to liberal professions such as the medical but Paul Soppo Prise, well known as a politician from the 1930s to the 1950s, is also a rich property magnate, and Rodolphe Tokoto, Mayor for many years, runs his chemist's shop in New-Bell. The Dualas' dominance in elite positions ended long ago, but their position in the city called after them is still prominent. Their language, in particular, is widely spoken and written, not only in this city but also in West Cameroon; widely sung, also, because some of Cameroon's best-known popular artists sing in Duala. Francis Bebey (also guitarist and novelist), Manu Dibango and Eboa Lotin are particularly famous who are Dualas).

Jonathan Dentel

Letters to the Editor

Nigeria's army Expenditure

SIR—Dr Osuntokun's protest against military spending in Nigeria (March 24) should be considered within the following context.

First, the growth of the army from 8,000 to about 250,000 in four years was an accident of Nigeria's history, responsibility for which must be shared by all interested groups — civilian and military alike.

Secondly, the majority of new recruits were drawn from the unemployed and, without alternative employment prospects, wholesale demobilisation could save the country some cash but must condemn many to misery. The army imparts vital skill to scores of technicians who yearly pass through its engineering corps, wireless and other specialised branches. These people soon leave the forces to play useful roles in areas of the Nigerian economy where there is acute shortage of skilled manpower. This is one reasonable way to reduce the size of the army.

Thirdly, the bulk of military spending is neither on expendable hardware nor on contributions towards treaty obligations, as are those of most countries, but on the emoluments of Nigerian bread-winners (and they do not cease to be heads of Nigerian families simply by donning the uniform). As a Nigerian university lecturer myself, I would argue for an immediate phasing out of unjustifiable fringe benefits and their replacement with more equitable contributory welfare schemes. This is desirable right across the board.

Finally, the basic calculus for maintaining a fighting army is the 1001 chance of an occasion to use armed violence or the threat of it, for the national interest. Nations undertake this enormous burden knowing full well that this chance may never occur. The logic of shop-floor methods for determining productivity is irrelevant in this context.

OBI RC ARIBIAH
Birmingham University

SIR—I agree with Dr I. Osuntokun (March 24) that, compared with the recurrent grant for the University of Ibadan, expenditure on the armed forces appears to be excessive, and that the armed forces should perform engineering and construction works as well as grow their own food. The army is already doing this to a limited extent. I, however, suspect that should the army increase its involvement there will be complaints from Nigerian businessmen and contractors who might feel the army is interfering with their work.

Do we inevitably require armed forces of an estimated 250,000? Could we not usefully reduce the complement to between 150,000 and 200,000 and increase its mobility and strike capacity?

Dr Osuntokun makes a pertinent point regarding petroleum not being an inexhaustible source of money. Nigerians will be well advised to realise that with the discovery of oil in the North Sea the so-called Nigerian oil bonanza may not last long. If we do not take steps to limit the extent to which our oil fields are being drained we will soon find that there is no oil left. Should that happen, the oil companies will all pack up — they are not charitable organisations, but commercial concerns.

OSAITO O. F. GIWA-OSAGIE
London

Nigerian sociology: the debate continues

SIR—Dr Anya's letter on Nigerian Sociology (March 17) was well written and thought-provoking. Dr. Anya raises the question of a need for "a Nigerian sociology, or any other Nigerian science, in the sense ... of a Nigerian history." This is a matter of opinion, since there could, and need, be at least a Nigerian school of sociological thought. It is quite unfair to brand the initial effort at establishing a uniquely Nigerian approach to the study and understanding of our society as a "relapse into chauvinistic posturing" or a "protective cover up", pretty harsh indictments, to say the least.

Another question Dr. Anya raises is whether the Nigerian intellectuals (intelligentsia?) are "part of the ruling group". This will continually be a moot point, as long as the semantics of the context remains nebulous. Fortunately, Nigeria's members of the ruling group seem to enjoy a comfortable versatility in their dual role as "men of ideas" and "men of action", which is what constitutes national leadership.

VICTOR BRAIDE
Cornell University
USA

Akinjide and the Judges

SIR—Those of us who were at the B.B.C. studio when Mr. Richard Akinjide was being interviewed on the recent boycott of the courts by Nigerian lawyers, and who later listened to the recorded programme immediately after the interview, were surprised to read the statement of Mr Justice Adesiyun (March 17). The Judge alleged that Mr Akinjide said that the appointment of judges was on the basis of patronage and state of origin. With great respect to the learned judge, Mr. Akinjide did not use the word "patronage". He states, instead, that judges are appointed by the state governments.

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CTAD III OPENS IN CHILE

5,000 delegates from 140 ...ries and 40 international agencies ...pected to attend the third United ... Conference on Trade and De...ent, UNCTAD III, which runs ...April 13 to May 19 in Santiago. ... background paper prepared by ...CTAD Secretariat points out that ...ping countries have no share in ...national financial decision-making, ... one per cent of gross national ... and target has still not been ... that the developing countries' ... world trade is declining and the ... gap between them and the ...ised world is increasing, and that ... leading up to the realignment of ... parities last year "deepened the ...onment of the people of the ...loping countries." The "Group of ... developing countries — which now ...bers 96 — met in Peru last year to ... out a common programme of ...ands to present to UNCTAD III ... Lima Declaration', as well as an action programme, to enable the living standards of their people to be raised to "a level consistent with human dignity." China, which was absent from the previous UNCTAD meetings, in Geneva in 1964 and New Delhi in 1968, has stated its close alignment with the developing countries.

A meeting of the "Group of 24", a committee of developing countries set up after last year's dollar crisis, agreed in Venezuala before the Chile meeting to press for a direct link between Special Drawing Rights and aid and for the establishment of permanent machinery for participation in decisions on world financial reforms. Commented Venezuala's Finance Minister, Dr. Tinoco, "We believe that a permanent mechanism of negotiation between the developing nations and the Group of Ten industrialised nations must be created and also that the resources of the IMF must contribute in greater proportion to help finance development."

In a London press conference this month the chairman of the Committee of European National Shipowners' Associations (CENSA), Mr. Lindsay Alexander, expressed a concern that decisions on shipping taken in Santiago could "seriously affect the ability of private enterprise shipowners to serve the world trade." The danger was that bilateral agreement might be reached under UNCTAD resolutions which could destroy the commercial nature of the conference system. (The poor countries account for about 60 per cent of the total volume of sea cargoes, but their share of the world's merchant fleet is less than eight per cent.)

Another EEC Commonwealth meeting

A second meeting to discuss relations with the European Common Market is to be held by Commonwealth countries in June or July. There is a possibility that a Ministerial level meeting could then be held before the end of the year. The recent London conference, under the auspices of the Commonwealth Secretariat, also decided that the Secretariat should explore the possibility of a special meeting with the 18 countries linked to Europe through the Yaounde Association. Such a meeting would be held in Africa.

During the two-day conference, delegates mostly officials from High Commissions in London exchanged views and discussed background papers prepared by the Secretariat on the options available to the 20 countries which have been offered special links with the EEC and exchanged views. It is understood that apart from Mauritius which has recently negotiated an agreement with the EEC all the delegations expressed an open mind about the options (a Yaounde-type association, an Arusha-type agreement or a straightforward trade agreement) and felt that it was unnecessary to make firm decisions at this stage. Negotiations between the Commonwealth countries and the Community are due to begin in August 1973 and the new agreement would come into effect in January 1975.

Opening the first conference at Marlborough House earlier this month the Commonwealth Secretary General, Mr Arnold Smith, said that as all existing types of association with the EEC had to be renegotiated before 1975 it was impossible to forecast precisely what the shape of the new arrangements would be although they were likely to be marked different from the Yaounde and Arusha Agreements. "Instead of an essentially Eurafrican agreement between the French-speaking African countries, with a population of 26m and six Continental Western European countries with a population of 180m, the new arrangements, whether association of trade agreements, will involve economic relations

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between, on the one hand, 38 developing countries, in the Caribbean and the Pacific as well as in Africa, with a population of nearly 200m and, on the other hand, 10 West European countries, constituting a single market of 260m consumers."

"He said that it was of great importance to all our countries that the Commonwealth association should remain strong," because this strength could provide some degree of influence in the course of negotiations. It could provide an even greater degree of continuing influence on the policies both of the Community and of the rest of the world after the new arrangements were put into effect. "At all costs we must, in the common interests of humanity, avoid the tendency to polarisation of the world in terms of continental, ideological and economic groupings. I hope, therefore, that the enlarged Europe and the countries which come to be linked with it organically will be outward-looking, so that the EEC itself can become one of the powerful influences against polarisation. Commonwealth countries which are either part of the Community or are closely associated with it will have a certain opportunity, and therefore a responsibility, through the institutions of the Community, to help ensure that it looks outward to the rest of the world, and that it shoulders the full responsibilities towards poorer nations that go with its economic strength."

GROUNDNUT RECORD FORECAST

World production of oils and fats in 1972 is now forecast at a record 42.9m. metric tons. This is 1.55m. tons or 3.74 per cent above calculated production in 1971. This rate of increase, however, was exceeded by the 5.45 per cent increase in 1971, which was the largest precentage gain in more than a decade. These unprecedented consecutive increases, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture *Circular*, reflect foreign producer response to above-average prices for vegetable oils which began in late 1969, continued throughout 1970, and peaked in 1971.

A record volume of groundnut oil will be produced in 1972, the *Circular* forecasts. At the present estimate of 3.5m. metric tons, world production would exceed last year's output by 5 per cent or 160,000 tons. All the estimated net increase can be attributed to larger 1971 crops in Nigeria and Senegal, which together account for 50 to 60 per cent of the world's export of groundnuts and groundnut oil. This represents a complete reversal of the situation in 1971, when over one-half of the increase from a year earlier was due to India – not a significant exporter – and production in West Africa was down sharply.

Nigeria's total production from the 1971 crop, including estimated domestic consumption and estimated quantities smuggled to Niger, is believed to be about 9m. tons, in-shell basis. This compare with 775,000 tons in 1970. Purchases by the Nigerian Marketing Boards for crushing export are tentatively estimated at about 400,000 metric tons, shelled basis compared with purchases from the 1970 crop of only about 281,000 tons. But added to these figures are rough allowances of 70,000 to 100,000 tons for the illegal movement of crushing nuts, so that total oil production from the 1971 crop is estimated at 230,000 tons or about 67,000 tons more than estimated oil output last year. With probably little, if any change in acreage and no official increase in prices to producers, (which, however, had been raised 13 per cent in previous year), it appears that improved weather was the major factor in the increase.

Groundnut production (in 1,000 metric tons)

Country	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Senegal	1,168	870	1,005	830	800	554	875
Niger	277	288	298	252	280	236	240
Mali	117	159	119	96	120	100	150
Nigeria	1,685	1,755	1,260	1,445	1,360	775	1,000
World	15,723	16,321	17,258	15,467	16,685	17,328	18,143

Coffee producers reach agreement

Coffee producing nations have agreed at a meeting in Geneva to establish a commercial trading body, one of the roles of which is apparently to act as a sort of buffer stock, by buying coffee which a producer has to sell to fulfill International Coffee Agreement quotas and thus prevent it from depressing prices. They also agreed to renounce all increases in export quotas until September 31 (the end of the coffee year) and to maintain an overall quota level for the year of 48.4m. bags. A co-ordinating committee has been appointed by the producers, representing almost 85 per cent of world production, and will meet in Paris on May 8 to discuss a mechanism "for the harmonisation and co-ordination of coffee policies". Fears have been expressed in coffee trade circles that these measures are so far-reaching, and are so clearly intended to by-pass certain provisions of the Agreement that the whole future of the world coffee pact may be in danger.

BP paid £726.8m. in taxation and royalties to Nigeria, Libya and Middle East oil producers in 1971, compared with £465m. in 1970.

Action promised on Ghana cocoa

Brig. Napoleon Ashley-Larsen, Ghana's Commissioner for Trade and Industries has said that the Government would not hesitate to weed out those whose actions militated against the cocoa industry. Overseas marketing arrangement would soon be improved and he hinted that London might be the centre for the sale of Ghana's cocoa to the world. The new arrangements would entail the re-organisation of the Cocoa Marketing Board's existing set-up to obviate communications difficulties.

• British exports of chocolate and sugar confectionery and cocoa products in 1971 reached a new record figure of £43.6, an increase of 15.3 per cent over the corresponding figure for 1970. Home trade sales of chocolate and sugar confectionery also increased, and with imports totalled £491m. compared with £435m. the previous year. The industry accounts for over 30 per cent of international trade in these products.

• World cocoa production in the 1971-72 season will reach a record 1,549,000 metric tons compared with 1,495,000 tons last season, according to an estimate prepared by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. Grindings for the 1972 calendar year are forecast at 1,494,000 tons compared with an estimated 1,439,000 tons last year.

• Mr U. K. Hackman, chairman of the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board, disclosed that 11 licensed buying agents owed 23m. cedis to the Board.

• Sir George Bolton, Chairman of the Commonwealth Development Finance Company, has suggested the establishment of a stockpile of basic commodities and raw materials, financed by the surplus in convertible dollars held by European countries. He suggested that Britain could take a lead in establishing the scheme, which would stabilise prices, stimulate world trade ("perhaps the most effective way of reducing world unemployment") and drain off the inflating dollar reserves of the major central banks. The stockpile would buy enough primary materials to restore mining to full production and boost plantation economies, paying the lowest prices that could be negotiated for contracts of five to 10 years duration. The stockpile would not be used for current consumption.

• An agricultural co-operative which hopes to grow about 5,000 tons of pineapples a year for processing in its own factory has been inaugurated at Bonouna, near Abidjan. West Germany has provided about £650,000 towards the project.

WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

ELDER DEMPSTER LINES

OUTBOUND – From Liverpool:- FOURAH BAY due Apapa Apr. 11; FLAN due Lome Apr. 5; KUMBA due Apapa Apr. 20.

From London:- ELEANI due Tema Apr. 16; RELEDOWN due Lobito Apr. 15; LALABA sls. London Apr. 20; EBOE sld. London Apr. 13.

From South Wales/Glasgow:- KADUNA sls. Glasgow Apr. 14.

From Continent:- DARU due Cotonou Apr. 14; AFRICUS due Abidjan Apr. 15; DUMURRA sld. Rotterdam Apr. 14.

NORTHBOUND – To Liverpool:- DUMBALA due Avonmouth Apr. 13; DUNKWA due Liverpool Apr. 9.

To London:- UGONI due Abidjan Apr. 13.

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To North Continent:- CORCADOS due Hamburg Apr. 20; DINGOVE due Continent Apr. 17.

BARBER LINES

OUTWARDS – EURNGATE due Monrovia Apr. 25, thence Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Warri, Douala. AVESSEL sig. New York May 5 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa.

HOMEWARDS – EURENLAND due Lagos/Calabar Apr. 24, thence Savannah, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York. EURNGATE due Lagos Southbound about May 1, Ghana 2nd week May, Abidjan Monrovia and 3rd week May for US North Atlantic.

"C" LINE

WESTBOUND – From Japan via Hong Kong to Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown etc:- CINSESSET MARU sig. Japan May 5 due Lagos Apr. 14.

EASTBOUND – From Lagos, Tema, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. via Hong Kong:- HINNESSET MARU sig. Lagos Apr. 21, Tema Apr. 23, Freetown Apr. 25 due Japan June 6.

WORMANN LINE

IBAVA DUEMAS sig. Bordeaux May 18 due Dakar May 20, Abidjan May 24, LOUELA due Lome May 14, Apapa May 15, Douala May 18.

DAERA LINE

EASTBOUND – BELGIAN sig. New Orleans May 25 due Monrovia Jun. 10.

WESTBOUND – AFRIKA sig. Angola May 2, due Douala May 5, Takoradi May 14.

GOLD STAR LINE

WESTBOUND – SEGRA leaving May 11, Hong Kong May 15, Singapore May 21.

EASTBOUND – DEGANYA Dakar May 6, Singapore Jun. 10.

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WESTBOUND – BRA RIVER sig. Gdansk Apr. 1 due New York Apr. 15, Philadelphia Apr. 17.

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NORTHBOUND – NAKWA RIVER due Rotterdam Apr. 2, AMSTERDAM Apr. 6, AFRAM RIVER due Avonmouth Apr. 12.

DELTA LINE

DELRIO sig. Cotonou May 3, Warri May 5, Pointe Noire May 9, DELSOL sig. New Orleans May 12 due Houston May 7, C. Christo May 9.

PALM LINE

SOUTHBOUND – From London:- LAGOS PALM due Tema May 14.

From Continent:- BUSHA PALM due Dakar May 10.

NORTHBOUND – To Liverpool:- BADAGRY PALM sig. Abidjan May 4.

To London:- KATSINA PALM sld. San Pedro Apr. 30.

NAVK LINE

WESTBOUND – From Japan via Hong Kong to Lobito, Matadi, Lagos, Abidjan etc:- SAIKYO MARU sig. Kobe Mar. 5, Abidjan Apr. 24, Takoradi Apr. 26.

EASTBOUND – From Lagos, Tema, Takoradi, Abidjan, Lome etc:- SAIKYO MARU Tema Apr. 28/30, Japan first port May 29.

CHARGEURS REUNIS

FOURAH LEE due Lagos May 10, Tema May 12; BOURGAINVILLE sld. Kobe May 28.

MITSUI OSK LINE

MONTEVIDEO MARU sig. Kobe Apr. 4 due Lagos May 10; HODAKASAN MARU sld. Kobe Apr. 14 due Lagos May 19; SAUAMBRIA sig. Kobe May 4 due Lagos Jun. 9.

MAERSK LINE

INWARDS – From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan: JOHANNES MAERSK sld. Kobe May 5 due Luanda Jun. 1.

OUTWARDS – From Matadi, Lagos Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi:- JESPER MAERSK sig. Freetown Apr. 23 due Bathurst Apr. 24.

FARRELL LINES

HOMEWARDS – AFRICAN LIGHTNING sig. Matadi Apr. 26 for Luanda, Lobito, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports. AFRICAN MOON sig. Lagos/Apapa May 18 for Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia, US Ports.

OUTWARDS – AFRICAN MOON due Monrovia Apr. 28 for Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema May 6, Lagos/Apapa May 8, Douala. AFRICAN CRUSADER due Dakar May 23 for Conakry, Freetown, Monrovia May 29, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Jun. 6, Lagos/Apapa Jun. 8.

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BALONG sld. Rotterdam Mar. 24, Bremen May 26; VESSEL N sig. Antwerp Jun. 8, Rotterdam Jun. 9.

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SOUTHBOUND – ELISA Middle Bremen Apr. 29 due Lagos/Apapa May 15.

NORTHBOUND – RIVER CLYDE sld. Liverpool Apr. 14.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE

SOUTHBOUND – AMELIE DAN sig. Stockholm early May for discharge WA and Matadi, calls Ivan. BALONG sig. Spain, May for discharge WA Ivan.

NORTHBOUND – HOEGH BURGUNDY WA late May early June for discharge Scania, 2nd Half Ivan. MINNI SOFIA sig. WA late May/early June for discharge Scania 2nd half Ivan, early July.

HOEGH LINES

HOEGH BREEZE due Tema May 7, Apapa May 4. HOEGH BONNY sig. Antwerp May 12, Rotterdam May 16 due Dakar May 24.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINE

INWARDS – STRAAT FRAZER from Japan sig. Mar. 18 due Freetown Mar. 26, Lagos May 23, Port Harcourt Mar. 26, Lagos/Apapa Mar. 28, Takoradi May 4, Abidjan May 7. STRAAT MAGELHAEN from Hong Kong sld. Mar. 7, Abidjan Mar. 16, Monrovia Mar. 19, Freetown Mar. 21, Dakar Mar. 24, Conakry Mar. 27, Takoradi May 6.

OUTWARDS – STRAAT FRAZER from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt. Hong Kong and Japan late Apr. STRAAT MAGELHAEN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt. Hong Kong, Shanghai opt. and Japan Apr./May.

FAL EUROPE – AFRIKA LINE GMBH

AGILA due Lome Apr. 9, Douala Apr. 12, Libreville Apr. 14, Port Gentil Apr. 16.

NOPAL LINES

WESTBOUND – NOPAL ATOA sig. Douala May 12, Douala May 18, Takoradi May 16. NOPAL TELES due Luanda Jun. 3, Douala Jun. 8, Takoradi Jun. 9.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

WESTWIND due Lagos May 1, Luanda May 5, Freetown May 14. SOUTHWIND due Tema May 2, Lagos May 7, Freetown May 11, New Orleans May 29.

Lonrho to promote African management

Lonrho proposes "to pay more attention to bringing on local management in African countries", says the annual report for 1971. "As a Group we seek to identify ourselves with our host countries. Part and parcel of this policy is to recruit and train Africans for top management and senior posts in each country". The review of operations by the joint managing directors, Mr. Alan Ball and Mr. [illegible] Rowland recalls that a restructuring of the company was proposed by a firm of accountants, and "the solution we have chosen we are settling is likely to be a compromise – one where the main types of operation, such as sugar and textiles, are treated as distinct units and the smaller ones where various types of operations are managed on a territorial basis. Each of the territories already has or will have its own managing director and a financial controller to support him and, in certain cases, other services as well".

During the year Lonrho acquired a majority interest in the groundnut processing business of P. S. Mandrides Ltd. "This acquisition fits in well with our present interests in Nigeria where the medium and long term prospects for commodity processing are considered promising". A subsidiary, the John Holt Group, has reached an agreement with Nigerian interests" to establish oilseed processing in the East Central State in 1972. Motor trading in Nigeria, where the Scania vehicle franchise was acquired during the year, was particularly successful and there was a good improvement in the level of profitability of Lonrho's Nigerian textile interests at Kaduna.

Gold remains the principal contributor to the Group's annual revenue, through Ashanti Goldfields. Production increased from 602,000 ozs. to 630,000 oz. A further increase in output is expected this year as a result of a higher milling rate at the Ashanti mine, which is scheduled to mill 560,000 short tons in the current year, compared with 503,000 last year.

Commercial Metals Company has now established by Lonrho is to be used as a vehicle for expansion in the European Common Market. "In the meanwhile we are still working to re-establish Commeterre's position in Zaire, where the Group's operations remain under Government surveillance, arising out of events which occurred before Lonrho became a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Group. (Lonrho is the company registered in Luxembourg through which Lonrho holds just over 50 per cent of Commeterre).

In Ivory Coast, a national insurance company, La Securite Ivoirienne, in which Lonrho is participating with the Guardian Royal Exchange and local interests, has started business and it is hoped that production from the Ferkessedougou sugar factory-to-be complex will begin in December 1973.

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MEETINGS

THE CHURCH OF THE LORD (ALADURA), WEST LONDON

REVIVAL SERVICE

APRIL 23 1972

The Church of The Lord (Aladura), West London, is calling all members of the public, especially Christians of all denominations, to her special service of revival which is to take place on Sunday April 23rd, 1972, at St. John's Wood Presbyterian Church, Marlborough Place, London, N.W.8.

TIME: 5 P.M. — 7.30 P.M.

COME ONE! COME ALL!!

Transport

Go Tube: Bakerloo line to St. Johns Wood St. or Maida Vale

(the latter is 6, 8, 16 to Maida Vale and 59 or 189 to Abbey Road — Marlborough Place Junction).

Any enquiries should be made through the Headquarters in Brixton, Thorpe, London, S.W.8.

Tel. 01 622 6959

IBADAN DESCENDANTS UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

At the annual general meeting held on the 5th March, 1972 at 100 Kennington House, London SE5 the following officers were duly elected for the year 1972:

President	*Late Ladipo*
Vice President	*R. Sanusi*
General Secretary	*Bola Ayanniyi*
Social Secretary	*M. A. Oladiti*
Treasurer	*Ayo Olumyan*
Publicity Secretary	*Lere Adetunji*
Financial Secretary	*Tunji Adepoju*
Auditor	*S. J. Adewolu*
Ex Officio Members	*I. Segun Yerokun*
	J. A. Ayinde

Returning Officer was Mr. L. O. Olubode

All communications should be directed to the General Secretary at the Secretariat 11 Merton St., London SW2.

Publicity Secretary
Lere Adetunji

IN MEMORIAM. In loving memory of my dear father Dominico A. Emmanuel who slept in the Lord on the 15th April 1963. Gone before but not forgotten. Omo Seto of Baba Sola Adebiyi of London.

NOTICES

MUSLIM ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (LONDON BRANCH)

NEW CABINET FOR LONDON M.A.N

The Tenth Annual General Election of the above mentioned association took place on the 30th January 1972, at Islamic Cultural Centre 146, Park Road, London NW8. The following candidates were elected for the current year 1972/73

Chairman	Bro. A. R. A. Dosunmu
Vice Chairman	Hadji B. Adekola
General Secretary	Bro. S. B. Al-Ameen
Ass Secretary	Bro. B. Ola Adisa
Treasurer	Bro. H. A. K. Oderinde
Financial Secretary	Bro. A. A. A. Adeyemo
Social Secretary	Bro. L. A. Salami
Editorial/Publicity Secretary	Hadji W. A. Tiamiyu
Education Secretary	Prince T. A. O. Lawal
Hostel Secretary	Hadji S. O. Alaka
Chief Imam	Bro. T. A. Iginla
Deputy Imam	Hadji M. K. Najimudeen
Welfare Officer	Bro. R. O. Shobo
Unofficial Member	Hadji Bola Adesokan
Unofficial Member	Bro. G. A. Okinikan

Kindly direct all correspondence to the General Secretary, 86 Bethune Road, London N16 (Tel 01-802 7337). Please note that our next monthly meeting will take place at ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE (see above) on the 30th April 1972 at three o'clock prompt. Important matters will be discussed, try to make it a family week-end outing. New members welcome.

Salaam Aluekum.

Yours in Islam,
Hadji W.A. Tiamiyu
Editorial/Publicity Secretary

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London SW9
Phone 01-735 6100

(2) c/o Remi Foley-Tairu
29A Compton Flat
Compton Street
London EC1

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SITUATIONS VACANT

Engineering Opportunities with Nigerian Breweries Ltd.

On behalf of Nigerian Breweries Limited, The United Africa Company Limited invites applications from Nigerians interested in a career in the Engineering side of their operations in Lagos, Kaduna and Aba.

Applicants should have BSc or at least an HND in Mechanical, Electrical or Production Engineering with a minimum of three years practical experience in industry.

Applications should be sent to:–

The Recruitment Manager,
The United Africa Company Limited,
United Africa House,
P.O. Box 1,
Blackfriars Road,
London, SE1 9UG.

VACANCY IN NIGERIA

PRODUCTION CONTROLLER (ASSISTANT GRAVURE MANAGER)

Premier Packaging Limited, located in Apapa and a member of The United Africa Company Group has the above vacancy.

Applications are invited from Nigerians now in the United Kingdom who intend to return to Nigeria within the next six to seven months.

Applicants must be about 30-35 years of age and have had education up to G.C.E. or W.A.S.C. level.

They should have a recognized qualification in Printing Technology and have served an apprenticeship in Printing Press work or have had at least three years practical experience in the industry.

They should in addition have some knowledge of Gravure Printing.

A firm offer of employment will be made to the successful candidate before he leaves the U.K.

Applications giving brief details of qualifications and experience should be sent to:–

The Recruitment Manager,
The United Africa Company Limited,
1 Blackfriars Road,
London, SE1 9UG.

SITUATIONS VACANT Continued

STATUTORY CORPORATION SERVICE COMMISSION

Vacancy for
MEDICAL OFFICER
Nigerian Port Authority

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a post of resident Medical Officer to be stationed in the Delta Ports (Burutu), Mid-west State.

QUALIFICATION:
Applicants must be registered with the Nigerian Medical Council and must have had 3/5 years post registration experience.

SALARY:
ADEBO SAP.2 – £N2,125, £N2,250 x 65 – £N2,380

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:
As now applicable to other officers in permanent pensionable Establishment and are contained in the approved Nigerian Ports Authority Conditions of Service for Officers.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:
Application Forms are obtainable from:
The Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer,
30, Marina,
Lagos,
States Public Service Commissions,
States Statutory Corporations Service Commissions.
and
The Office of the Nigeria High Commission,
9, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2
Completed Application Forms should be returned to the Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer, Statutory Corporations Service Commission, 30, Marina, Lagos, Nigeria so as to reach him not later than *30th April, 1972.*

Bewac Limited

Senior Accountant

We require the services of a suitably qualified and experienced Nigerian Accountant not below the age of 30 to fill the post of Senior Accountant and understudy our Chief Accountant with a view to taking over our accounting activities within the next few years.

We operate advanced accounting techniques and are currently installing a second computer system. The man we are looking for should therefore either be a member of the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Accountants or hold qualifications sufficient for admission to that body. He should have had considerable working experience of compiling accounts up to publication standards, and be able to effectively control a large staff.

Salary is negotiable but it is unlikely that anyone earning less than £N3,000 per annum will have had the required experience. The Company offers various fringe benefits including pension and car loan schemes.

Applications stating full particulars of age, qualifications, experience etc., accompanied by photocopies of certificates and relevant documents should be addressed to:

Personnel Director,
P.M.B. 1016,
Apapa,
Lagos, Nigeria.

SITUATIONS VACANT Continued

African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

UNITED NATIONS

DAKAR

IDEP Bilingual Institute — English-French — will shortly need the services of a statistical clerk for an initial appointment of one year renewable.

REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have a Bachelors Degree or Diploma in statistics; some knowledge of computer programming will be an advantage. They must be fluent either in English or French and have a working knowledge of the other language.

SALARY

According to United Nations scale (P 1).

Applications with complete curriculum vitae should be addressed to

The Director
I.D.E.P.
P.O. Box 3186
Dakar
Senegal

to reach him not later than 31st May 1972.

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN (a) Senior Lecturer in French; (b) Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer in German. Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the above posts in the Department of Modern Languages. Candidates for (a) should have a good honours degree in French or its equivalent and appropriate research experience in one or more aspects of French Language or Literature since C.1600. For (b) candidates should hold a good honours degree in German Language or Literature since C.1700. Appointments, for three years initially and subject to review thereafter, are to commence as soon as possible. Salary scales: Senior Lecturer £N2,515 x 75 — £N2,875, Lecturer £N1,380 x 75 — £N1,830/£N1,905 x 75 — £N2,415; Assistant Lecturer £N1,070 x 50 — £N1,220 (or if holding a higher degree £N1,120 x 50 — £N1,270) a year. Passages are paid for appointee, wife and five children, on appointment, approved overseas leave and termination, where applicable. The successful applicant is also entitled to part-furnished accommodation or housing allowance. Detailed applications (4 copies) stating age, qualifications and experience and naming three referees by 24 April 1972 to the Acting Registrar, University of Ibadan, Ibadan from whom further particulars about the Department of Modern Languages may be obtained.

Multibloc Industry (Nigeria) Limited

Vacancy

MANAGER

Applications are invited for the post of MANAGER of the above Company which is based in Onitsha and manufactures cement blocks and other concrete products on a large scale by mechanised processes. The successful applicant will be responsible for the overall management of the whole of the company's operations including administration, production and sales.

Qualifications and Experience

Candidates should be of high educational standard; preferably university graduates. They should have had several years experience in a managerial capacity with industrial or commercial companies in the private sector and be willing to take full responsibility for the Company's operations.

Terms and Conditions of Service

Salary and other terms of service will be fixed by negotiation but will be competitive taking into account the opportunity to grow with a young expanding company.

Applications should be addressed to:—

Managing Director,
Multibloc Industry (Nigeria) Limited,
c/o Development Finance Company Limited,
P.O. Box 367,
Enugu,
Nigeria.

Closing Date: 25th April, 1972.

Nigerian Industrial Development Bank Limited

Requires

FINANCE EXECUTIVES

Applicant must be prepared to make a career in the field of finance.
Qualification: Degree or Professional qualification in law, finance or related subjects and some post qualification experience.
Terms of employment: To be negotiated.
Apply to:

N.I.D.B. Ltd.,
P.O. Box 2357,
Lagos, Nigeria.

University of Cape Coast

Post of Deputy Chief Accountant

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Ghanaians for the post of Deputy Chief Accountant in the Accounts Section of the University.

Qualification: Candidates must be in possession of any of the following qualifications or their equivalent and must have had at least 5 years post qualifying experience:

(a) A.C.C.A.
(b) A.C.A.
(c) A.C.W.A.

Duties: The successful candidate will assist the Chief Accountant in the general Administration of the Accounts and Stores Sections and perform such specific functions as will be delegated to him by the Chief Accountant.

Salary: (Under Review) *C4500.00 x 180*—C5580 per annum.

(Point of entry according to experience.)

Application forms are obtainable from the Registrar, University of Cape Coast, or the Assistant Registrar, Universities of Ghana Office, 15 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AG with whom completed forms should be lodged not later than 1st May, 1972.

Chief Accountant

The Nigerian subsidiary of an internation company requires a chief accountant at its head office in Lagos.
Applicants must possess one of the following qualifications, viz: ACA, ACCA, or ACWA and should be capable of assuming full responsibility for the control and preparation of the company's accounts. Applicants should have a minimum of three years post qualification experience in a responsible position.

Salary — By negotiation but not less than US$3,000 per annum.

Applications should be addressed to:

Chief Accountant,
P.O. Box 4929,
Lagos, Nigeria.

African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

UNITED NATIONS

DAKAR

IDEP, bilingual Institute — English and French — will shortly need two editors English and French for an initial contract of one year, renewable.

REQUIREMENTS
Applicants must have a Bachelors Degree in Economics with post-graduate work in this field and experience in editorial work. They must be familiar with the current literature on Economic Development and fluent in English or French with a working knowledge of the other language.

SALARIES
According to United Nations scale (P.3).
Applications with complete curriculum vitae should be addressed to:

The Director
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Senegal

to reach him not later than 31st May, 1972.

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SITUATIONS VACANT Continued

Government of the North-Central State of Nigeria

Rural Development Bureau

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following posts:

Agronomist

Qualifications: B.Sc. (Agriculture). Field experience, with bias towards working in rural areas of tropical countries.
Duties: Taking soil samples, and surveying layouts of farmers' settlements, and supervision of their cropping system.
Salary: Group 7Y £N2,750 consolidated.

Planning Officer

Qualifications: B.Sc. (Economics) and experience in Rural Economy.
Duties: Planning of Rural Development.
Salary: Scale AY £N1,548 – £N1,764

Fringe Benefits: Children's allowance payable for up to three children under the age of eighteen years; contract gratuity at the rate of £N25 or £N37.10/- for each completed 3 months of residential service; inducement allowance of between £N180 and £N300 per annum depending on salary; provision is made for car loan and an allowance payable for maintenance; free passages to and fro on first appointment and on leave; baggage allowance; quarters will be provided at a nominal rent not exceeding £N12.10/- per month.

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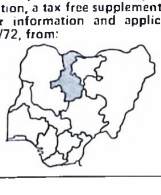
Further information and application forms are obtainable, quoting reference NCS/5/72, from:



The Recruitment Attache,
NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION,
9, Northumberland Avenue,
London, WC2N 5BX

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STATUTORY CORPORATIONS SERVICE COMMISSION ADVERTISEMENT OF VACANCY IN THE NIGERIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION. Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of PROOF READER (Schools Unit) in the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. Qualification: (a) Credits in at least four subjects (including English Language) obtained in one sitting in West African School Certificate or equivalent. (b) At least two years experience as a Proof Reader on a quality publication. Must be familiar with all Proof Reading signs. Duties: Successful applicant will be required to proof-read publications under the supervision of the Schools Publications Editor. Salary: Scale 'B' (Extension) – £N660 x 30 – 810/816x40 – 850x48 – £N1,198 per annum. Method of Application: Application Forms are obtainable from:– The Secretary & Chief Administrative Officer, Statutory Corporations Service Commission, Private Mail Bag 12033, 30 Marina, Lagos. And Overseas at:– The Nigeria High Commission, 9, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2. Completed application forms should be returned to the Secretary & Chief Administrative Officer (at the above address) not later than 30th April, 1972.

CHANGE OF NAME

formerly known as **DAVID OKURE DOMFUK ESSIEN**, now wish to be known, filed and addressed as **AQUAWO ESSIEN**. The former documents bearing my former name remain valid. Aquawo Essien.

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Dateline Africa

GHANA

Food shortage warning

Some international financial organisations might take reprisals against Ghana because of the repudiation of some debts, said an NRC statement that urged Ghanaians to stick to local food where imports were not available. "Such reprisal action as might be taken could take the form of some overseas financial houses refusing to extend facilities which they could have hitherto even to Ghana importers of essential commodities and other items from overseas. The consequence of such retaliatory action might be that some commodities would not arrive at the appropriate times and that shortages might occur in certain lines."

The NRC said the statement, was seeking alternative supply sources "but it is possible that while new arrangements are being effected to bring in goods from sources other than those areas in which retaliatory action is expected, commodities such as cube sugar, pilchards, corned beef, baby food and stockfish may run short for a few weeks. The NRC wishes it to be known that a stage has been reached in the life of this country when shortages occurring in the supply of imported food items such as those already mentioned should be taken by Ghanaians as a sacrifice they have to make to redeem their nation from foreign economic domination." The NRC promised to ensure that its policies do not inflict undue hardship. "Concrete steps will be taken to minimise any shortages which might occur and to get for the Ghanaian public as much of imported commodities that the country can procure from its own resources."

Col. Acheampong appealed to women traders to stop hoarding essential goods, smuggling and other "anti-social practices." He told a delegation of market women that he had discovered on assumption of office that essential commodities such as sugar, milk and soap were being sold at exorbitant prices. The government subsequently spent millions of cedis to subsidise these imports and had created a central pool for their distribution and sale. He added, "Some Ghanaians are, however, trying to defeat the objective of the exercise by hoarding these commodities to sell later at exorbitant prices."

A report in the *Daily Graphic* quoted "informed sources" as saying that the first consignment of about 5m. cedis worth of essential commodities including sugar, tea and corned beef ordered by the Essential Commodities Committee were due by the end of April. These would flood the market through the Ghana National Trading Corp. to check hoarding.

It has been reported that some of the credit organisations, such as the West German Hermes and Britain's ECGD, have suspended credit to exporters of goods to Ghana. An ECGD spokesman said that the suspension was due to "purely commercial considerations". Arrears of payment on short-term commercial debts incurred by the post-Nkrumah governments were said to total some £100m. at the time of the coup.

- A scheme is being worked out by which trade unions will be assisted to raise loans from banks and take up shares in state-sponsored enterprises. Col. Acheampong announced at the inauguration of a 700,000 cedi concrete pipe factory, jointly owned by the Ghana government and Pfeiffer K.G. of West Germany. He estimated that Ghana would save 289,000 cedis annually in foreign exchange, for the factory would use about 90 per cent local materials. The NRC chairman also cut the first sod to initiate work on a 2.5m. cedi asbestos cement pipe factory. This is a joint venture with the government and two West German companies. Expected to start operations later this year, it should produce about 10,000 tons of high pressure pipes annually, saving about 1.2m. cedis in foreign exchange per year.

- Unlawful export of gold or diamonds now carries the death penalty. A new decree makes clear that anyone concealing or carrying away gold and diamonds from Ghana with the intention of evading any enactment relating to the export of those minerals faces the same penalty.

- Mac Gen Awuma, Commissioner for Communications, has called for a review of the Nautical Training College regulations to enable foreigners to enrol as students. He also urged college authorities to allow students to sit for the internationally-recognised certificate of competence in seafaring. The college, established some eight years ago, has only Ghanaians to man the country's ships. The Principal, Capt E. D. Robertson, told the Commissioner that Nigerian students would be admitted next year for training as skippers of Nigerian fishing trawlers.

• Ghana's Medical Association has objected to an article in the *British Medical Journal* which suggested that Negroes should be screened for "sickle cell" before flying. Sickle cell is described in medical dictionaries as anaemia in Negroes, so-called because of the sickle shape of the red blood cells which makes them fragile. The Association wondered why the doctors suggested such a test when it is known that the sickle cell gene is found in much of the non-negro world — especially in people of Mediterranean origin.

• An export promotion unit is to be set up in the Ghana Commercial Bank to expedite export transactions, and a manual of worldwide trade regulations is to be compiled. The bank also announced an increase of 36.7 per cent in the volume of import business handled in 1970-71. During the same period it made a profit of 2,875,872 cedis, an increase of 14 per cent.

• A spokesman for the Ministry of Transport has said that proposals on a change to right hand driving would soon be presented to the government according to the Ghana News Agency. Nigeria switched from right to left on April 2, leaving Ghana the only West African country still driving on the left.

• Anyone convicted of stealing telephone wires or cables will now be liable to a term of imprisonment not below 5 and not above 25 years under a new decree.

• A High Court Judge in Sunyani is reported to have ordered recently the release of 14 persons arrested and detained by the army and police without stated cause since after the January 13 coup. This followed the filing of a *habeas corpus* writ on their behalf. The Judge said that the writ had been granted in the interests of the liberty and protection of the individual which "if not guarded by the Court might break loose to let something akin to the old questionable Preventive Detention Act which resulted in the ignominy of the entire Republic".

• The former secretary to the Cabinet in the Busia Government, Mr Dan Awoliwe is reported to have gone on leave prior to retirement. His departure coincides with changes in certain top posts at the Castle being made by the NRC.

• The National Union of Students has called on the NRC to grant amnesty to Dr Nkrumah and see to his immediate return to Ghana, and on all Ghanaians to bury all former political rivalries.

• Two Indian businessmen and a Nigerian alleged to have conspired to corrupt an immigration officer were discharged by a circuit court after the prosecution withdrew the case, agreeing with the judge that the facts of the case were at variance with the charge.

SIERRA LEONE

At the end of the period of rest which he took on medical advice the President held a new conference at his private residence. He was accompanied by members of the Cabinet. Later he drove around Freetown and was cheered by crowds.

At his conference the President said that smuggling had become a very serious problem. Lorry loads of goods were being smuggled in without paying duty. Rice was also being stolen on a large scale. The President also said that when the Republican anniversary celebration finished later in the month strenuous efforts would be made to "clear" the Kono diamond area of "strangers".

• All Sierra Leone passports are being withdrawn and will be made invalid after a date to be notified in due course. Only persons who can prove beyond any doubt that they are bona fide citizens of Sierra Leone will be issued with new passports. Present possession of Sierra Leone passports will in many cases not automatically entitle holders to new passports, according to an official announcement. The President has complained that there were some 200,000 strangers in the Kono diamond area, many without valid papers, and that many Sierra Leone passports had been improperly issued.

• Addressing hundreds of Nigerian nationals the Nigerian High Commissioner appealed to all Nigerians in Sierra Leone to register at the High Commission and, if they had no valid documents, either to obtain them or to return to Nigeria.

• All District Councils will be suspended from January 1, 1972. A statement issued by the Ministry of the Interior said that for many years the councils had been losing funds through misappropriation; reports of the Auditor-General on the accounts of the councils had been most discouraging. Their functions would now be performed partly by local authorities in each district, and partly by Ministries and departments of the Central Government under the control of a committee for each district composed of Government officers, local officials, and parliamentary representatives of the district.

• Hearings continue in the court martial of Major Ahu Noah and five other members of the Sierra Leone Militia Forces, arising out of the attempted coup of March last year. Major Noah is appearing together with Lt. J. B. Massaly, Lt. G. S. N'bayoh, Sergeant F. Jalloh, Corporal A. Sankoh, and Lance Corporal Gerald Fyne. He is defended by Messrs Arnold Gooding and A. B. Kamara, while Lt. J. G. Amara as Defending Officer.

Members of the Court Martial were sworn-in by the Judge-Advocate, Mr Justice Sydney Warne. They are: Major J. R. Macarthy, President; Captain M. E. S. Massaquoi, Member; Captain A. B. Koroma, Member; Lt. J. O. Y. Toure, Member; 2nd. Lt. Emerie Keitell, Member; and 2nd. Lt. J. G. Amara, a waiting member.

Mr. Berthan Macaulay, QC, subsequently joined defence counsel.

• A monthly subsidy of over Le100,000 has been paid by the Government to keep the Freetown oil refinery going. But, says an official statement, the refinery should cover its own costs and, while keeping the price of kerosene at its present level it has proved necessary to increase the price of all other refinery products, some by three cents a gallon and some by four. The official statement also says that the Government has had to pay the contractors who built the refinery under a "pre-finance" arrangement. The Government now holds 50 per cent of the equity, the balance being held by oil distribution companies operating in the country.

• Speaking to members of the executive of the Electricity Workers' Union the Vice-President said that a country like Sierra Leone could not afford the luxury of strikes. He was discussing with the union leaders an alleged plan to sabotage electricity plants.

• Dr. Gunter Conrad, formerly economic adviser to the Government of Sierra Leone, has been appointed economic adviser to the Government of West Cameroon.

• Le 3m of Government stock has been issued locally to assist in financing road development. Interest is 6 per cent.

• During the first quarter of this year official diamond purchases were valued at Le7,300,000. The corresponding figure last year was Le4,847,000.

The first of the new ferries ordered from West Germany to operate between Freetown and Tagrin on the way to Lungi International Airport has been officially launched. They have air-conditioned passenger accommodation and more vehicle accommodation than the previous ones.

GUINEA

The ruling Guinea Democratic Party (PDG) will hold its annual congress in Conakry on April 24 and 25. The main theme of the Congress is to be "Radicalisation of the revolution as applied to men". It will also formally review the leadership of the party, of which President Sekou Toure is the Secretary-General.

● President Sekou Toure urged the use of an African language as the official tongue in African countries instead of French or English. He was opening the first 1972 session of the National Council of the Revolution, whose main business is to plan education policy. "It is ridiculous to call an African country French-speaking or English-speaking when hardly 30 per cent of the people understand either language ..... The engineer, the doctor, the research worker trained here is better than the one trained in Europe because of his contact with his people and the realities of his country". Delegations from Cuba, Angola, East Germany, North Korea, Mongolia, Gambia, Rumania, Niger, Sierra Leone and Mali who were in Conakry for the congress of the Guinean National Labour Confederation were at the session. In a speech broadcast for the opening of the Confederation's Congress President Sekou Toure warned workers that absenteeism and lack of production would be regarded as "an insidious form of complicity with imperialism". If members continued in their present attitude it would be an admission that capitalism was right.

● A top personality of the the Ivory Coast regime, M. Lanzeni Coulibaly, has been on a visit to Guinea. M. Coulibaly, who is State Prosecutor and a member of the Political Bureau of the ruling PDCI, represented the PDCI at the celebrations for the 13th anniversary of the DGDA (youth wing of the ruling PDG-RDA). Observers interpreted the visit as a sign that Guinea and Ivory Coast were moving closer together. There had been signs of this for some time, but they were interrupted by the tension in Guinea following the invasion of Conakry in November 1970.

IVORY COAST

"Following President Nixon's visit to China, following the difficulties in trying to restore peace to the Middle East and Vietnam, following the Security Council's mandate to Mr. Kurt Waldheim to have talks with Mr. Vorster, I am more than ever convinced of the need for dialogue with South Africa". President Houphouet-Boigny told reporters after he had lunched with President Pompidou during a private visit to France.

Speaking of cocoa, he said that negotiations for a world cocoa agreement in Geneva were "a dialogue between the deaf" and that he had to take austerity measures at home because of the disastrous slump in prices for cocoa, one of the Ivory Coast's main exports. If rich countries really wanted to aid developing nations they should pay fair prices for raw materials, he said.

The President met President Senghor at his farm in Normandy, and President Pompidou, during a brief visit from Switzerland where he has been staying since early February.

CHAD

Fusion of groupings?

President Tombalbaye, speaking after a lunch with President Pompidou, said that he supported the creation of a new regional economic grouping of Central African states, provided the rewards and burdens of the new grouping were equally shared. He could see no objection to the fusing of the two existing regional groupings. These are the Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC) which groups Cameroon, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville and CAR, and the Union of Central African States (UDEAC) whose members are Chad and Zaire. In 1968 Chad left UDEAC to set up UEAC with the then Congo-Kinshasa and the CAR. At the end of 1968 CAR left UEAC and rejoined UDEAC.

On Chad's dispute with Libya, President Tombalbaye said that negotiations taking place in Niamey between Chad and Libya under the auspices of President Hamani Diori were on the point of succeeding. Asked if diplomatic relations would be restored with Libya, President Tombalbaye said "at everything goes well there is no reason why there should not be friendly relations between our two countries".

The Chad President also said he had listed his aid requirements to President Pompidou, and was satisfied with his discussions. These talks were a follow up to several agreements reached during President Pompidou's visit to Chad in January. Prior to leaving Fort Lamy, however, he had said that he would not be discussing Chad's withdrawal from Air Afrique nor his decision to resign as Chairman of OCAM. Those were matters of "Chadian sovereignty" and did not concern the French government.

IN BRIEF

A mission of Ivory Coast army officers, including Deputy Chief of Staff General Ibrahima Coulibaly, have received Senegalese decorations. They were in Dakar for the celebrations of Senegal's 12th anniversary of independence.

● The Interparliamentary Union (IPU) at its meeting in Yaounde approved the entry of Gabon, the re-entry of Upper Volta (which has now had a parliament for more than a year) and the suspension of Ghana, which lost its parliament with the military coup of January 13.

● Gabon has recognised Bangladesh the fourth African country to do so (the others are Senegal, The Gambia and CAR).

EEC

Ministers of the 18 states associated with the EEC (Mauritius, whose association was recently agreed was there as an observer) meeting in Nouakchott have arrived at a common position towards the enlargement of the Yaounde Association which will follow on the enlargement of the EEC. The ministers studied the three most affected areas — the commercial rules of the association, financial aid, and common institutions. They decided to ask the enlarged EEC to give more details of its intentions on these points, and to contact, in a less official manner, the Commonwealth countries which have been offered association by the EEC. The Nouakchott "platform" touched on three main points: on the Eurafrican customs preference, judged disappointing, nevertheless remains an indispensable element of association with the Common Market, and it needs to be perfected by special steps for each product, and which could inspire systems such as the Commonwealth Sugar and Banana Agreements; (2) financial aid through the European Development Fund should be maintained and consolidated taking account of the depreciation in the value of currencies and the arrival of new beneficiaries; (3) the common institutions remain an indispensable element to safeguard a veritable collaboration between states and "added". The meeting also agreed on a coordinated position for the UNCTAD conference in Chile, principally in support of world agreements for primary produce.

Sources at the meeting said that the 18 states broadly welcomed extension of associate status to Commonwealth states. The association would gain in political weight with the new additions, and would give a boost to the campaign for world commodity agreements, and failing these, regional agreements. It was felt the climate for the demands of the associates was more favourable than ever before, after President Pompidou's support for such agreement, and the EEC's undertaking on the future of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. Some delegates also called for further information on the type of associations which were being offered to the Commonwealth countries.

LIPTAKO-GOURMA

Ministers of Mali, Upper Volta and Niger meeting in Ouagadougou have approved the 1972 budget of the Liptako-Gourma regional grouping. The authority's working rules have also been approved. A list of proposed development projects to be submitted to various sources of finance was also approved. The Mali government is to prepare a draft financial convention for the next meeting of ministers in Niamey in June. Communications experts from the three countries are to meet shortly to examine problems and priorities. The ministers also discussed problems related to livestock trade with Ghana.

NIGERIA

Rivers: Abandoned property decision

All property in the Rivers State belonging to citizens of East Central State origin will be handed back to the owners before the end of May, according to Mr Clifford Dunn, chairman of the Rivers State Abandoned Property Authority. He regretted the delay in returning the property, and explained that it had been caused by the state government's determination to ensure that it was returned to the rightful owners. People currently occupying the buildings have apparently been told to leave or face court action. A report in *The Renaissance* said that in January 1970 the value of the abandoned property was estimated at £56m. The report also stated: "It is understood that Chief Obafemi Awolowo — former Federal Finance Commissioner, now a private legal practitioner representing owners of some of the property — had threatened to drag the matter to court but had opted for the exercise of restraint after Port Harcourt had assured him that there would be amicable settlement 'before long'."

• An *Extraordinary Gazette* notice in Port Harcourt has stated that Dr. Melford Graham-Douglas, former permanent secretary in the Rivers State Ministry of Health, has been removed from office with effect from August 5, 1971. Mr. Ekeuku Wokocha was named as acting permanent secretary. Dr. Graham-Douglas claimed, in a telephone interview with the *Daily Times*, that he had put in a notice of voluntary retirement last year, which took effect from January.

Dr. Graham-Douglas has filed a £250,000 claim for alleged libel against the state's controller of medical services, Dr. Michael Peterside. In another suit the former permanent secretary is seeking an order of prohibition to restrain from further proceedings a committee of enquiry set up by the state Public Service Commission into allegations of abuse of office made against him.

Mr. Anthanasios Kalada Hart has been removed from the office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works & Transport.

• Britain is sending a seven-man mission to Nigeria, at the request of the Federal Government to investigate the potential development of the natural resources of the Benue River Valley between Yola and Lokoja in central Nigeria. The mission's objective is to identify areas of high agricultural potential and indicate what further surveys are needed to find out their suitability for development. The study is one of three to be coordinated by Britain's Overseas Development Administration to survey the full potential use of the natural resources of the lower Niger Basin below the Kainji Dam. The first investigation covering the Niger from Kainji to Lokoja was completed in 1971.

• Lagos State government has rejected the joint resignation of over 100 doctors who threatened to resign over poor hospital facilities and low wages. The doctors, members of the Medical Guild, had earlier submitted a letter giving one months notice following a breakdown of two years negotiations on an improved health service and higher wages. Their salary structure, they maintain, should be brought in line with that of their counterparts in teaching hospitals. They also ask for the establishment of medical boards to take over the running of government hospitals and health centres from civil servants.

A government spokesman said that letters had been sent individually and collectively to the doctors rejecting their threatened resignations. "Doctors were employed individually and they should resign their appointments separately through the proper channels."

Last year Lagos State doctors carried out several work-to-rule actions in protest against their working conditions.

• Alhaji Aminu Kano, Federal Health Commissioner, has called for a nationwide medical examination of children to detect heart diseases. In a broadcast to mark World Health Day the Commissioner said that the Federal Government was doing its best to provide improved housing and health facilities (Nigeria is one of the 15 world centres chosen by WHO for a five-year study of hypertension and high blood pressure).

• An official enquiry has been ordered into the breakdown of two Japanese built diesel locomotives acquired by the Nigeria Railway Corporation last year. They were among 12 light-axle engines delivered to the NRC by a Japanese firm at a cost of £10m. Mr. E.I. Nzegwu, acting general manager, said that the remaining 10 had been taken out of service pending results of the enquiry.

• The industrial arbitration tribunal ordered that all Nigerian External Telecommunications staff who were on compulsory leave or suspension must be allowed to resume duty within two weeks and that termination notices served on 450 workers absent in sympathy with their colleagues should be withdrawn immediately.

• Nigeria has formally signed the agreement for the local subsidiary, Niger Oil, of the American oil firm Mosanto to operate an offshore concession of 616 sq. miles. The concession was originally granted two years ago. This leaves the Federal government now free to implement its decision to reserve all other concession areas for the state-owned National Oil Corporation.

• Chief Eke, Federal Commissioner for Education, clarifying newspaper reports of comments he had made at Kaduna, denied stating that the Federal Government had approved universal primary education for the six northern states. Although he had expressed concern about enrolment in the north, what he had told reporters, he explained, was that his Ministry was studying the feasibility, financial and otherwise, of introducing universal primary education throughout the country as soon as possible. He also stressed that universal primary education, however high the standard, would bring problems unless there were plans for the employment of the products of the scheme. Chief Eke recalled that he had also talked of the need to raise the standard of primary education in all parts of the country and had advocated uniformity so that a child could move easily from one state to another.

• Nigeria's Central Bank has instructed the commercial banks to increase the percentage of loans and advances given to indigenous businesses from 35 per cent a year to 40 per cent. The Bank also announced the abolition of ceilings on the banks' aggregate credit expansion. By the end of the 1972/73 financial year it stated, 45 per cent of each bank's outstanding loans and advances should be for manufacturing, agriculture, mining, real estate and construction; 32 per cent for general commerce, 11 per cent for services, including public utilities, transport and communication, and 12 per cent for other categories including state government and financial institutions.

• Unless car dealers reviewed their pricing policies many of them were making a profit of between £300 and £500 on every car sold. Government might intervene, the Federal Commissioner for Trade, Mr. Wenike Briggs, warned. Spare part and servicing costs of certain makes were also disturbingly high.

• The troubles experienced by Nigeria Airways were not really the fault of individual staff, but the absence of staff training in the technicalities of modern air transport, the Federal Transport Commissioner, Dr. Dikko, has said. Outdated ideas and obsolete equipment, coupled with increased demand for services, hampered the airline's efficiency.

Captain Rufus Orimoloye, who resigned from Nigeria Airways together with a number of other pilots and engineers in 1969 after a dispute with expatriate pilots, has been re-employed.

• A Nigerian financial and economic delegation led by Mr. Allison Ayida, Permanent Secretary at the finance ministry, has visited Cotonou to discuss commercial exchanges with Dahomey. They were thought to be discussing aid to Dahomey's investment budget.

• A request for another year's extension to the life of the Interim Common Services Agency has been forwarded to the Federal Government. The Agency, created in April 1967, was originally due to be wound up in 1969.

...s State Development Corporation's pioneer oil mill at Chokocho has begun ...action after war-damage had been repaired. Chairman of the Corporation, Chief ...aniel Oporum, is seen here starting production.

The annual delegate conference of ... Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam ...ided to co-operate with other volun... ...agencies to ensure that the intended ...rnment take-over of secondary ...ools did not materialise.

Prof. Biobaku, vice-chancellor of ...os University, has said that a form of ...tional service compelling all profession... ...-qualified people to spend more of ...ir lives in the rural areas should be ...sidered as a matter of urgency.

- The delivery of 10 diesel engines worth £500,000 to the Eastern District of the Nigeria Railway Corporation would help services in the district to return to their pre-war standard, the Federal Transport Commissioner, Dr. Dikko, announced.
- There has been a sharp decline in armed robberies in the Mid-West since the public execution of armed robbers began. A police statement said that there were 363 reported cases in 1970 and only 187 in 1971.
- Kano Military Governor's office has denied a report that Governor Audu Bako had said "most of us are corrupt". The Governor in fact stated that the eradication of corruption and other social ills was the responsibility of the entire public and a beginning could be made if everyone refused to offer or accept a bribe or use undue influence to secure a job.
- South Eastern State government has purchased consumer goods and food worth £71,000 for sale to the public in a bid to stabilise prices.
- During his week-long visit to Nigeria the Irish Foreign Minister, Dr. Patrick Hillery, visited Lagos, Ibadan, Kaduna and Enugu.
- The East Central State Government is to have a 55 per cent interest in a pharmaceutical industry in Onitsha which is being established with the Squibb Corporation.
- Drivers unable to read or write will no longer be issued with driving licences in the East Central State.
- The two-year-old dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed in Aba to check armed robberies has been lifted.
- A conference on the development of university libraries in Africa has been held at Lagos University.
- This year's national arts festival will be held in Kaduna.

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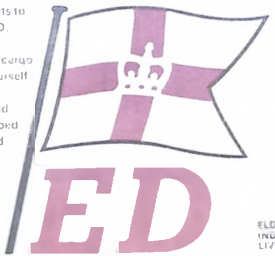

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Published by the Proprietors, Overseas Newspapers (Agencies) Ltd., at their Editorial, Advertisement and Publishing Offices, Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, London, WC1V 6HZ. Telephone: 01 242 0661. Cables: Wesnews London PS4. Typesetting and Printing by Colibri Press Ltd., Amhurst Terrace, London E8 2BT Telephone 01-254 1345/6 and in Nigeria by Times Press Ltd., Apapa. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.